1 Wednesday 17 April 2024 1 Q. I believe there are couple of corrections you'd like to 2 2 (10.00 am) make? 3 MR BLAKE: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear me? 3 A. Yes, if I may. 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you. 4 Q. Absolutely. 5 MR BLAKE: Thank you very much. This morning we're going to A. The first amendment I would like to make is regarding 5 6 hear from Jon Longman. Mr Longman has been given 6 paragraphs 53 and 54. 7 permission to appear remotely today for medical reasons. 7 Q. Thank you. Could I just ask for that to be brought up 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. 8 on the screen, WITN04670100. Thank you. Paragraph 54 9 JONATHAN LONGMAN (sworn) 9 was the first paragraph. 10 Questioned by MR BLAKE 10 **A.** 53 and 54. MR BLAKE: Can you give your full name, please. 11 Q. That's page 24. If we could scroll slightly up. Thank 11 A. Yes, it's Jonathan Geoffrey(?) Longman. you very much. What's the amendment you'd like to make? 12 12 Q. Thank you, Mr Longman, you should have in front of 13 Well, having reviewed the documents E37 and E38 in the 13 14 a witness statement dated 8 November 2023; is that 14 additional documents bundle. I can see that there was 15 correct? 15 a matter in which I acted as a Lead Investigator and the 16 A. I do, yes. 16 subpostmaster had attributed losses to issues with the 17 Q. That should have the Unique Reference Number 17 Horizon system during the initial investigation stages. WITN04670100. Could I ask you, please, to turn to the 18 18 Until receiving the documents, I couldn't recall that, 19 final substantive page, that's page 47? 19 but I'd just like to mention that it was Mrs O'Dell at 20 A. Yes, I have that. 20 Great Staughton Post Office. 21 21 Q. Can you confirm that is your signature? Q. Thank you very much, at paragraph 54, you say, "As I've 22 22 A. It is. never experienced a situation where a [subpostmaster] 23 Q. Can you confirm that that statement is true to the best 23 attributed a shortfall to problems with the Horizon 24 24 of your knowledge and belief? during the initial investigation stages", and now you 25 A. It is. I --25 can see that you were at least involved in the case of 1 Mrs O'Dell --1 now go into evidence and will be published on the 2 Α. Yes 2 Inquiry's website. 3 Q. -- who did? 3 4 A. As Lead Investigator, yes. 4 5 5 Q. Thank you. What are the other changes? 6 A. They're just dates corrections. In my statement, 6 A. That is right, yes. 7 paragraphs 58 and 64 --7 Q. So that's page 27. 8 8 Yes, correct. 9 A. -- it's the date I visited West Byfleet. It's got it --9 you can see it's 14 August 2008. It should be 10 That's right. 10 A. 11 14 January 2008. 11 Q. The further amendment? 12 12 A. That's correct. 13 Paragraph 76, please. 13 14 Q. That's page 39. I think if, we scroll down, is it 14 2013; is that right? paragraph 76, regarding instructions to Mr Jenkins? 15 15 A. Yes, if you can scroll down to the date --Q. Thank you. 16 16 17 Q. It's over the page, I think. 17 A. -- can you see after "The email chain at FUJ00153371" --18 a different job. 18 19 Q. Yes. 19 20 A. -- "seems to indicate this as it shows Warwick emailing 20 Mr Jenkins on" -- and that should be 7 October 2010. 21 in 2016; is that correct? 21 22 Q. Thank you very much. Are those the only changes you'd

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like to make?

Yes, that's correct.

Q. Thank you very much, Mr Longman. That statement will

I'd like to start today by asking you a little bit about your background. You worked for the Post Office for approximately 36 years; is that correct? You started as a counter clerk in a Crown Office? Q. You moved then to a Head Office in Watford? Q. You joined the Security Team in 2000 as an Investigator? Q. You worked as an Investigator until late 2012/early A. I think it was late 2011 or early 2012. A. I can't remember the exact date that I transferred to Q. The job you transferred to was the Network Transformation team and you worked there until you left 22 A. That's correct. 23 Q. Can you assist us with why you left the Post Office? 24 A. Well, there was a number of reasons. The job that 25 I was -- well, the job as a Network Transformation (1) Pages 1 - 4

- 1 Officer, they were looking for people to take redundancy
- 2 or to leave, and just personal circumstances also
- 3 prompted me to decide that was a time to leave, and
- 4 yeah, they're the reasons.
- 5 Thank you. We have your statement on screen. Can we
- 6 just look at a few paragraphs in your statement can we
- 7 start on page 18, please. It's paragraphs 38 to 39.
- 8 I just want to clarify a few matters in your statement.
- 9 Am I right to say that it's your evidence that you
- 10 didn't know what test was applied to those making
- prosecution and charging decisions? We see that at 11
- 12 paragraph 38. I think it's your evidence that you
- 13 didn't know what test was applied by those making those
- 14
- A. Well, just the general comments that there must be 15
- 16 sufficient evidence and I think I've put in my statement
- 17 a bit further down that it should be in the public
- 18 interest. They were the only two things that I --
- 19 So you had a vague idea that they considered two things
- 20 but you didn't know precisely what test they --
- 21 A. Whether they were correct or not. No, I'm not saying it
- 22 from a position of authority. But, yeah, sufficient
- 23 evidence and in the public interest were two things that
- 24 come to mind.
- 25 Q. Could we scroll down, please, to the bottom of page 26.
- 1 the penultimate paragraph of your witness statement.
- 2 You say at paragraph 97 that, at the time, you didn't
- 3 believe that you considered a challenge to the Horizon
- 4 system in one case to be relevant to other cases; is
- 5 that correct?
- 6 A. That's correct, yes.
- 7 That affects things like cross-disclosure between cases;
- 8 do you understand that?
- 9 **A.** Um ...
- Q. We'll come on to look at specifics in due course but, at 10
- 11 the time, you didn't think that a challenge to the
- 12 Horizon system in one case was relevant to another case?
- 13 Α. If a bug had been discovered, then, obviously, it could
- 14 be relevant, thinking of the West Byfleet case, a bug at
- 15 another office had been identified but it was
- 16 an isolated bug and didn't have any bearing on the West
- Byfleet case. 17
- Q. So you say here that you didn't believe that you 18
- 19 considered a challenge to the Horizon system in one case
- to be relevant to another case. So are you saying there 20
- 21 that, irrespective of a number of challenges to Horizon,
- 22 you didn't consider that they would be relevant to
- 23 a case that you were conducting --
- 24 Α.
- 25 Q. -- subject to that one clarification that you just made?

- 1 That's the bottom of paragraph 56. We see there the
- 2 very final paragraph, it's also your evidence that you
- 3 weren't aware of any specific rules governing
- 4 independent expert advice and you can't recall if you
- 5 were given advice or assisted in that regard; is that
- 6 correct?
- 7 That is correct, yes.
- 8 Moving to page 37, please, paragraph 71. We'll look at
- 9 this in more detail in due course but, if we scroll down
- 10 to the bottom of that page, in the middle of that
- 11 paragraph it says that you would like to point out to
- 12 the Inquiry you didn't realise at the time -- this is in
- 13 relation to Seema Misra's case -- that you had the title
- 14 of Disclosure Officer; is that correct?
- 15 A. That is correct. I dealt with the disclosure but
- 16 I didn't know I had that official title of Disclosure
- 17 Officer.

- 18 Q. Could we move on to page 40, please, paragraph 77,
- 19 halfway through paragraph 77 on page 40. You say there
- 20 that you are unaware of what the difference would be
- 21 between an expert or a lay witness; is that correct?
- 22 At the time, yes. I seem to -- as the Inquiry's been
- 23 running, I think I'm picking up some indication of what
- 24 an expert witness is now.
- 25 **Q.** Finally, if we move on to page 46, please, paragraph 97,

- A. Yes, not unless a bug had been found. So, if it was
- 2 just a challenge but it hadn't been a -- a bug hadn't
- 3 been discovered, then I wouldn't have thought it was
- 4 relevant to another case.
- 5 Q. Can we please look at page 42 of your statement,
- 6
- paragraph 86. You say there:
- 7 "I have reviewed the judgment of the Court of Appeal in [Hamilton & Others]. Upon reflection on this case,
- 8
- I do not think that I would have done anything 9
- 10 differently."
- 11 Do you think that you have properly reflected on
- 12 your actions in respect of the cases that we're going to
- 13 be looking at?
- 14 When I say I don't think I would have done anything
- 15 differently, I was talking about the initial
- 16 investigation, the offender report and -- well, up to
- 17 the offender report and the charging. When it got to
- 18 court, obviously, there are things that I wish had been
- 19 done differently.
- 20 Q. Do you think that you would have familiarised yourself
- 21 a little bit better with relevant tests, relevant
- 22 responsibilities that you had at the time?
- 23 Well, this is referring to the West Byfleet case, isn't
- 24
- 25 Q. I think this is a general statement that you don't think

- you would have had done anything differently. Are you
 saying that's --
- 3 A. Well --
- 4 Q. -- simply in relation to Ms Misra's case?
- 5 $\,$ A. Yeah, well, with reflection, then, yes, more ARQ would
- 6 have been obtained, forwarded to Fujitsu. So yes,
- 7 things would have been done differently.
- 8 Q. Do you think you would have thought a little harder
- 9 about how much disclosure you give to defendants, for
- 10 example?
- 11 A. Well, yes. I mean, again, I thought the disclosure
- 12 I had given in the *Misra* case was correct at the time,
- 13 but if there are -- if there was a review of that case
- and I was told I hadn't done this or I hadn't done that
- then, obviously, I would try and correct that in --
- 16 going forward.
- 17 Q. But, I mean, you've read the case of *Hamilton*, you've
- 18 read the Court of Appeal's judgment and, upon
- 19 reflection, you didn't think you would that have done
- 20 anything differently. What do you mean by that?
- 21 A. Well, I would have done -- I think I would have been
- more forceful in making sure that the disclosure
- requests were all actioned, if I had that authority.
- 24 And obviously, yeah, there was a lot of -- there was
- 25 disclosure requests that didn't get actioned, for one
- 1 looking at, Mr Longman, confined to your view of the
- 2 Seema Misra case or is it a general statement about your
- 3 general approach to all the cases you were involved in?
- 4 A. Well, I think that was reflecting on the Seema Misra5 case.
- 6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I mean, I know it's under the heading
- 7 "Seema Misra", so to speak. Well, what confused me
- 8 anyway, paragraph 86 is introduced with the words
- 9 "I have reviewed the judgment of the Court of Appeal in
- 10 Hamilton & Others", all right? Now, do you mean by that
- 11 the whole of the judgment or just that part which
- 12 relates to Seema Misra?
- 13 A. I'd say it's just the part that relates to Seema Misra.
- 14 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right.
- 15 MR BLAKE: Moving on to the topic of training, you say at
- paragraph 41 to 42 of your statement, that you undertook
- 17 a five-week training course. Are you able to assist us,
- 18 was that training while you were working or was that
- 19 separate to your work and just focusing five days a week
- 20 on training?
- 21 A. That was a course that all new Investigators were sent
- on. It was a residential course, at Milton Keynes,
- 23 I think it was and, having applied for the role, I spent
- some time in an office before the course became
- 25 available and then I was sent on this residential

- 1 reason or another, when they should have been actioned.
- 2 Q. We've spoken about the difference between an expert
- 3 witness and a lay witness, for example. Do you think
- 4 you would have brushed up a little more on the
- 5 difference between the two?
- 6 **A.** Yes, once it was brought to my attention, if I was aware
- 7 that I'd done -- that we hadn't treated a witness as
- 8 an expert witness and only as a lay witness, then, yes,
- 9 that would have been a learning -- I'd have learnt from
- 10 that and made sure that, you know, the next case where
- 11 we needed an expert witness it was done in the correct
- 12 manner.
- 13 Q. So that sentence there in your witness statement, do you
- 14 still stand by that sentence or do you think we can
- 15 scrub that one out?
- 16 A. Well, no, I think I would have done -- the initial
- investigation was done properly but the -- after it went
- 18 to trial, there was things that I would have done
- 19 differently, yes.
- 20 Q. I'm going to move on to the training that you were
- 21 provided with. The statement can come down, please.
- 22 You say --
- 23 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Mr Blake, I'm sorry to be pedantic but
- 24 I'm not entirely certain, so let me ask the direct
- 25 question: is your paragraph 86 that we've just been
 - 1
- 1 course, along with other Investigators.
- 2 Q. Do you recall if it was residential for five weeks or
- 3 was there a period of learning prior to the residential
- 4 part of the course?
- 5 A. Oh, prior to going on the course, I was in
- 6 an Investigation Department and I was given a lot of
- 7 work manuals, different modules to just read, work
- 8 through, just continually go through, which covered
- 9 different areas of investigations and the law, while
- 10 I was waiting for the course to become available.
- 11 **Q.** Was there any focus during that training on the Horizon
- 12 system?
- 13 **A.** No.
- 14 Q. You worked for 12 or 13 years in the Security Team.
- 15 Were there any refresher courses provided to you during
 - 16 that period?
- 17 A. I think there were half-day courses here or a day course
- there but I can't be more specific. I can remember
- going to one of the counter training schools for,
- 20 I think, half a day but I can't remember any other
- 21 training.
- 22 Q. So in the 12/13-year period, there was some training
- 23 here and there but nothing so significant that you can
- 24 recall it?
- 25 A. No, not like -- no, not a significant period of

1 training, no.

- 2 Q. Was part of your training about the role of a Disclosure 3 Officer and what that might involve?
- 4 A. Well, again, I'm sure it was covered at the -- on the
- 5 residential course. As to how much detail it went into,
- 6 I can't recall.
- Q. Paragraph 71 of your statement -- and this is in 7 8 relation to the Misra case, you say:
 - "I wouldn't have had any involvement in providing
 - disclosure to the defence team."
- 11 Were you aware at that time that the Disclosure 12 Officer had a separate and distinct role to the 13 Investigating Officer?
- 14 **A**.

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- 15 Q. Were you aware that it was part of the Disclosure
- 16 Officer's duty to disclose material to an accused?
- 17 A. Yes. What I mean in that statement is that I would
- complete the disclosure schedules and would send them to 18
- 19 our Legal Services Team, who would then send them on to
- 20 the defence solicitor if requested. What I mean by
- 21 that, I wouldn't send stuff directly to the defence. It
- 22 would go through --
- 23 Q. We'll come to disclosure in due course but were you
- 24 involved in the decision-making process in terms of
- 25 disclosure or did you see your job principally as
- 1 The subject there is "West Byfleet", so this seems 2 to be an email in the context of Ms Misra's case; is 3 that correct?
- 4 A. That is correct, yes.

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- 5 Q. Thank you. Were you aware that the Callendar Square bug
- 6 was a bug that could cause discrepancies in Horizon?
- 7 A. I became aware of it as the case progressed. I think it
 - was responded to in a statement from Mr Jenkins but
- 9 I had no knowledge about Callendar Square until it was
- 10 mentioned in this particular case of West Byfleet.
- Q. Were you aware, for example, that it dated back to the 11 12 year 2000?
- A. I thought it was around 2005/2006, Callendar Square. So 13 14 no, I didn't know it related back to 2000.
- Q. Who did you discuss Callendar Square with? 15
- A. Well, moving on with the case, I think Gareth Jenkins 16
- 17 dealt with it in a statement but my conversations were
- 18 with Penny, Penny Thomas, and it was responded to about
- 19 this bug by a statement from Gareth Jenkins.
- 20 Q. We see there a reference to Anne Chambers. Anne
- 21 Chambers gave evidence in the Lee Castleton case in
- 22 2006. Had you heard of the Lee Castleton case by
- 23 January 2010?
- 24 A. I don't know. I don't think so but I don't know, is my 25 answer, I'm afraid.
 - 15

- completing that schedule? 1
- 2 A. Completing that schedule, listing everything that was
- 3 unused or if there was any sensitive --
- 4 Q. Thank you. I'm going to move on to the topic of bugs,
- 5 errors of defects in the Horizon system. I'm going to
- 6 focus particularly on the Seema Misra case. Can we
- 7 start by looking at FUJ00152897, please. We're going to
- 8 start on 28 January 2010. If we scroll over the page,
- 9 please, we have an email from you to Penny Thomas. Do
- 10 you remember Penny Thomas?
- A. Yes, she was a contact. She was the sort of like 11
- 12 doorway into Fujitsu. She would deal with any requests
- 13 and she also provided ARQ data.
- 14 Q. Did you see her role as administrative or more
- 15 substantial than that?
- 16 Administrative.
- 17 Q. Thank you. You say there:
 - "Penny

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- 19 "My barrister telephoned me yesterday evening and 20 requested that I found out any information that Fujitsu
- 21 may hold in relation to an office called Callendar
- 22 Square in Falkirk. Apparently, Anne Chambers, a Systems
- 23 Specialist employed by Fujitsu was cross-examined and it
- 24 is said that she had full knowledge of an error in the
- 25 Horizon system at this Post Office."

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- Were you aware of any cases challenging the integrity of
- the Horizon system by January 2010?
- 3 A. My colleague -- from the additional documentation, my
- 4 colleague who I worked with had a case that was going on
- 5 by the name of Hosi -- I think it's Hosi -- and that was
- 6 potentially a challenge to the Horizon system. I think
- 7 there were -- there was rumours about other cases where
- 8 there may be challenges to the Horizon but, no, as far
- 9 as I was aware, no bugs had been identified. I think
- 10 this Callendar Square, Falkirk was the first one that
- 11 I was actually informed that there was bug.
- 12 If we please go to page 1 of this document we can see
- 13 there a reference to the Hosi case. It's an email from
- 14 Penny Thomas to her colleagues, including Gareth
- 15 Jenkins, and it says:
- 16 "Tom/Gareth
- 17 "We have 2 cases running at the moment where expert
- 18 witness input is required -- that's Gareth."
- 19 Then she refers at the bottom to Porters Avenue and 20 that's the Jerry Hosi case that you were just talking
- 21 about.
- 22 **A**. Yes
- 23 Q. Did you have involvement in that particular case?
- 24 A. Again, from the additional documents, yes, I was
- 25 assisting, I think, at the first interview, back in --

- 1 I forget, 2006, I think, around that time. So I sat in 2 on an interview to assist the Lead Investigator.
- 3 Q. And that Lead Investigator was Lisa Allen?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. Yes. Did you speak to Lisa Allen around this time about
- 6 similar issues in your two cases, allegations about the
- 7 Horizon system?
- 8 A. Well, obviously, Lisa Allen knew that I had the West
- 9 Byfleet case and we would have just dealt with our own
- 10 cases, really. I don't think there'd have been much
- cross talk about where you were with your case, so to 11
- 12 speak. But, yeah, from this email you can see that
- 13 expert witness was probably going to be needed for
- 14 Porters Avenue, but you tended just to focus on your own
- 15 case and you wouldn't really have time or get into too
- 16 much detail with discussing other cases with other
- 17 Investigators.
- 18 Q. Can we look at POL00167138, please. Around a similar
- 19 time, a few days later, if we could scroll down to the
- 20 bottom, please. We see there 1 February, and that is
- 21 an email that's sent to yourself, I think, from Dave
- 22 Posnett the Fraud Risk Manager. Was he your manager
- 23
- 24 Α. He was my line manager at some stage before moving on
- 25 to -- he had other roles within the Investigation
- 1 I think it was Computer Weekly, and that sort of alerted
 - me that there was more challenges to Horizon. I don't
- 3 remember The Grocer article but I think there was
- 4 a Computer Weekly article that was --
- 5 Q. That was 2009, the Computer Weekly article.
- 6 A. Right.

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- 7 Q. It says there:
 - "I've been assured previously (Dave Smith) ..."
- 9 It seems as though that's who we know as Dave X
- 10 Smith, the IT Director:
 - "... that our Criminal Law Team are being kept updated regarding questions surrounding Horizon
- 13 integrity."
 - Were you aware from conversations with Dave Smith or from conversations with somebody else that there were a growing number of cases by this stage?
- 17 A. Well, I knew there was -- I knew there was -- seemed to
- 18 be more challenges to Horizon but I can't, I don't think 19
- I spoke to Dave Smith regarding this. As I say, the
- 20 article in Computer Weekly had come out, I think, the
- 21 year before and, later, when I helped the Civil
- 22 Litigation lawyers, I was -- I started putting
- 23 a schedule together, and that's when I became aware
- 24 that, you know, other investigators also had potential
- 25 challenges to Horizon being mentioned at interview.

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- 1 Department.
- 2 Q. If we scroll down here we can see that at this time,
- 3 1 February 2010, he was something called the Fraud Risk
- 4 Manager.
- 5 A. Right.
- 6 Q. Would that have been your line manager?
- 7 A. No, no. He'd have been -- he would have been Security
- 8 Team Leader, if he was my manager. That's the title
- 9 they had when --
- 10 Q. If we could scroll up slightly, we can see the title of
- 11 the email is "Another article from The Grocer re
- 12 Horizon", I believe The Grocer is a magazine, a trade
- 13 journal. It says:
- 14 "This ties in with previous correspondence I've 15 submitted -- in that Defence teams can and do challenge
- 16 Horizon in prosecution cases.
- 17 "Jon Longman is the Investigation Manager in this
- 18 case."

- 19 Do you remember that article in The Grocer?
- 20 A. No, I don't.
- 21 Were you aware at this stage that defence teams can and
- 22 do challenge Horizon in prosecution cases, other than
- 23 the case that you were, at that time, involved in?
- 24 Α. Well. I think, when Mrs Misra's defence team came to
- 25 court on the first occasion, they brought an article,

 - Q. I mean, we'll look at that in due course but I think
- 2 that's much later on, that's at least 2011 at the
- 3 earliest. As at early 2010, it seems to be brought to
- 4 your attention here that there are, it seems, a growing
- 5 number of cases challenging Horizon. What did you do
- 6 with this information?
- 7 A. I can't recall.
- 8 Q. I mean, if we scroll up, please, we can see you sent it
- to counsel in the Seema Misra case, prosecution counsel 9
- 10 and also Jarnail Singh. You say, "FYI". What was your
- 11 understanding of the purpose of that email below?
- A. Well, if I received the -- if I did receive the article, 12
- which I did, then I thought that the barrister and 13
- 14 solicitor should be just made aware of it to see whether
- 15 there should be -- whether it should be disclosed or
- 16 what advice, you know, should be fed back to me
- 17 regarding it.
- 18 Q. At this stage, did you have any concerns about the
- 19 growing number of cases challenging Horizon?
- 20 A. No, I -- we were always told Horizon was robust and fit
- 21 for purpose. So, no, I didn't.
- 22 Q. Can we please look at POL00054430. Moving to 11 March
- 23 2010, can we look at page 3, please. At the bottom of
- 24 page 3 we have an email from you to a number of people.
- 25 You say there:

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1		"Dear All
2		"Following a lengthy hearing yesterday where the
3		defence are claiming abuse of process (because they say
4		not all disclosure has been provided to them) the judge
5		has ruled that the trial will not go ahead next week.
6		He is going to review the arguments made by the defence
7		and will make a ruling on Friday afternoon as to whether
8		you new trial date will be set."
9		If you scroll up, there's an email from you to Mandy
10		Talbot saying:
11		"Carole Cross has asked me to keep you informed in
12		this case."
13		Are you able to assist us with who Carole Cross was?
14	A.	No, I'm sorry, I can't recall who she was.
15	Q.	And Mandy Talbot?
16	A.	I can't remember. I thought she was something to do
17	_	with Legal.
18	Q.	Yes, if we scroll up, we can see her sign-off. She's
19		been a witness in this Inquiry. If we scroll up, we can
20		see there a member of the Dispute Resolution Team. I'm
21 22		going to read the email that she sends to you in
23		response. Can we please just scroll up slightly, she
23		says: "Jon
25		"Thank you for the update. I presume that Rob G 21
		~ 1
1		suspects with a grievance", were you aware who they
2		were?
3	A.	No, I wasn't.
4	Q.	Were you aware of a belief within the business that
5		there were a number of usual suspects with a grievance?
6	Α.	No.
7	Q.	"I contacted the Chairman's Office, the business and

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'I contacted the Chairman's Office, the business and Iron Mountain to retrieve everything we had on these cases. As such I cannot understand how a claim of failure to disclose can be sustained."

Your response is above that. It's you responding to Mandy Talbot. You say as follows:

"Jarnail Singh was present at the hearing so he will no doubt inform Rob of events.

"In relation to the disclosure issue, the defence are suggesting that we have not reacted quickly enough to providing them Fujitsu transaction log data and that it was not until February 2010 that an expert from Fujitsu agreed to talk to the defence expert."

We'll be looking at that in a bit more detail shortly:

"One of the sticking points in all of this was that the defence indicated they needed 5 years of transaction log data, but this would cost the Post Office over £15,000. We asked them to be more precise with what

Wilson and Jarnail Singh have also been notified. Do you or they have an opinion on the inference which will be drawn if the charge of theft is in effect is withdrawn because of the alleged failure in disclosure?"

Just pausing there, what do you understand or what did you understand that to mean? Was there a concern that dropping theft might look bad?

8 Well, in this case, initially, it was going to be false 9 accounting were going to be the charges, and then theft 10 was added to the charge. I was content to go just with false accounting in this particular case. I thought 11 it's what the evidence suggested and I think the 12 13 defendant was going to plead to false accounting. But 14 I don't really know what to say in -- I don't think 15 I had an opinion.

16 Q. It continues:

> "The only information which the prosecution barrister showed me was a copy of a magazine page which named a number of the usual suspects in terms of postmasters with a grievance."

21 Did you understand that sentence? 22 A. I can't remember The Grocer magazine article in detail, 23 but --

24 Q. As you say, that may be the Computer Weekly article, it 25 may be The Grocer article, but "the number of usual

transactions specifically they were looking for on Horizon and to consider a small period of, say, a couple of months. Communications from this point on seems to have been misinterpreted by both sides."

Just stopping there, do you recall cost being an issue with regards to disclosure?

On the transaction log data, I think it was actually three years the defence requested and it was rejected, and then I fed it back to Legal -- to the solicitor dealing with this case and I think he spoke to the barrister about trying to get a smaller period of transaction log data. The data was refused because it would take up a lot of our ARQ requests. We only had so many we could have per month or over the course of the year and, I think, if we needed additional ones then there would be a cost, so ...

17 Q. You then go on to say:

> "As for the inference that may be drawn if a theft charge is 'stayed' I would suggest that you speak directly with Jarnail for his opinion. However, I am sure that the defence solicitor will obviously notify the various publications of this and it may well encourage further challenges as to the integrity of Horizon, something that my colleagues and I are experiencing in a number of other cases."

- So it is clear from that stage that you were aware that Horizon was being challenged in a number of cases?
- A. Yes, I think there were challenges but I can't recall
 how many challenges, when I sent this email, that I was
 aware of.
- Q. Why was there a concern that more challenges would beencouraged if a theft charge was stayed?
- 8 A. Sorry, could you repeat that question, sorry?
- 9 Q. You seem in your response to have been concerned about
 10 encouraging further challenges. Why is it that dropping
 11 a theft charge or staying a theft charge would encourage
- further challenges and why would you be concerned about
- 13 that?
- 14 A. I don't know if that is actually my comment or whether
 15 I've got it from somewhere else --
- 16 Q. It this is your name at the bottom --
- 17 A. Yes, I know that, but --
- 18 Q. Were you concerned about further challenges to theintegrity of Horizon?
- 20 A. Well, I suppose the answer is yes. If -- really,
- 21 I think what I'm saying is that it needed to go up to
- the solicitor for his opinion.
- 23 Q. You didn't hold back on providing your own opinion,
- though, did you?

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25 **A.** Well, I have said that -- I just can't remember, writing

for the losses and refused to make good the audit shortage."

If we turn to page 5, the bottom of page 5, please, you say:

"In my view there is not sufficient evidence to prove that Mrs O'Dell, her son Daniel, or her husband have stolen any monies from the Post Office. However, there are admissions from Mrs O'Dell that she has been failing to make losses good in the Post Office since the end of May 2009 and has inflated the Monthly Branch Trading Accounts to show a balance. Mrs O'Dell was unable to offer an explanation that made any sense as to why multiple cash declarations were made in December 2009. Mrs O'Dell is adamant that the losses are as a result of discrepancies on Horizon but could not suggest exactly what type of transactions have caused the errors. Mrs O'Dell has contacted the Post Office helpline on a number of occasions and informed them of the accumulating losses and that she is inflating the cash on hand to cover the losses. Mrs O'Dell said that she was very disappointed by the lack of assistance she received. Two weeks before the audit was carried out, Mrs O'Dell had written to her Contracts Manager, Sue Muddeman and further expressed her concerns over the balancing within the Post Office. The fact that she

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- 1 that paragraph, what my thinking was when I wrote that.
- 2 Yeah, I'm sorry, I can't really answer that.
- 3 **Q.** Just to recap as to where we are by March, by spring 2010, we've seen that you knew about an issue at
- 5 Callendar Square branch.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. You knew about an article in at least The Grocer and 8 probably Computer Weekly, as well?
- 9 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 10 Q. You knew that Dave Smith and the Criminal Law Team's11 were aware of questions being raised surrounding Horizon
- 12 integrity --
- 13 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 14 Q. -- and you and your colleagues seemed to be experiencingchallenges to the integrity of Horizon?
- 16 A. Yes, that's right.
- 17 Q. Can we please look at POL00105147, please. This is not
 18 long after, it's 14 June 2010 and you're dealing with
- 40
- 19 another case, this is the case of Mrs O'Dell and that's
- 20 the case you mentioned I your clarification earlier this
- 21 morning.

22 A. Yes.

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- Q. Can we please look at the bottom of page 2. We can seethere at the bottom she says that your report says:
- 25 "Throughout the interview, Mrs O'Dell blamed Horizon

raised her difficulties with the Post Office Helpline will in my view provide strong mitigation on her behalf and may lead to some damning questions as to why an audit of the post office was deferred for 5 months after she first raised concerns in early August 2009."

Then you say:

"If charges of false accounting are to be considered then section 1 of the Fraud Act would seem most appropriate."

That's 14 June 2010. Can you assist us, you say that it would provide strong mitigation; I mean, it may also provide a defence, mightn't it?

- 13 A. That's correct, yes.
- Q. It's right to say in your analysis here you couldn't
 show that money had actually been stolen from the Post
 Office, could you?
- 17 A. No, no, and she hadn't been provided with transaction
 18 log data either which she had requested, and --
- 19 Q. She had been reporting, it's clear, to the helplineproblems with the Horizon system?
- 21 A. That's right.
- 22 Q. I mean, a question that, in fact, former Lord Justice
- 23 Hooper raised in his evidence last week was why would
- 24 somebody tell the victim of a crime, so the Post Office
- in this case, that they were committing criminality and

- knowing that they would ultimately be liable for that 1 2 money? Was that a consideration that went through your head at all?
- 3 4 A. Yes, it was. I seem to recall that this was a case 5 where I asked "Why is it being sent over to the 6 Investigation Department" because 95 per cent of the 7 investigation had already been carried out by the Retail 8 Line. So the Retail Line -- most of this information in 9 my report I already knew before I went to interview 10 Mrs O'Dell and, yeah, I don't think this should have 11 ever been an investigation case. It's a one -- because 12 I agree with you, if you're ringing up the helpline as 13 she was, and saying that "I'm incurring losses", and all 14 the helpline, I think, was saying was "Well, you've just 15 got to make it good", and she was said, "I wasn't going 16 to make it good because I haven't taken the money", you

But yes, it was the one case that was allocated to me where I think I did speak to a manager or someone and say why has this been passed over to us? I can't be 100 per cent sure but I did have reservations with this

23 Q. That's because there's a real possibility in this case 24 that it might have been a fault with Horizon that was 25 causing the losses?

know, there wasn't much assistance there.

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1 Would it create problems because it is suggestive of 2 a problem with the Horizon system?

3 A. Yes -- well, as I say, it should have been. This, to 4 me, is a clear case where there's nothing else going on. 5 It's -- you know, with some of the other cases, some 6 subpostmasters have said, "I've had losses", but they've 7 also, other things have been going on as well. This one 8 is just out and out -- it's the system. So yeah, it 9 should have been investigated and it would have -- yeah, 10 there's -- it should have been either proven one way or

11 another whether there were faults or bugs with the

12 Horizon system at this office.

13 Q. I'll ask that question once more about what this is 14 suggestive of. Does it suggest to you that it may have 15 been a problem with Horizon?

16 A. Yes, sorry, yes.

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17 Q. Can we please look at POL00143570, please. This is the 18 same case, 6 July 2010. This is a memo from Jarnail 19 Singh, copied to you, and he says:

> "Having read the papers and also having spoken to [you], the evidence gives rise to an offence of fraud/false accounting.

"Briefly", and then he summarises the issues.

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He then says:

"It is well documented that Mrs O'Dell had contacted

A. Well, it wasn't tested. Transaction log data had been 2 refused on cost grounds but, looking back on it, yeah, 3 this was a case that should have gone up to -- or should 4 have gone through a process of seeing if there was 5 a fault. Most probably, it should have gone up to 6 Fujitsu for review because I think I've said in my 7 statement that I would consider that Fujitsu would be 8 the ones to be able to identify a problem or a fault 9 more than an Investigator.

10 Q. You were still at the investigation stage, though. 11 I mean, it would have been possible to have carried out 12 more of an investigation at this stage. The suggestion 13 here in this paragraph that we've just been looking at

14 is that it's going to be a difficult case because she's

15 has evidence of reporting problems with Horizon. Do you 16 think -- is that fair summary of that paragraph?

17 A. Yes, I do. As I say, I was never comfortable with this 18 case.

19 Q. Is it because there is a possibility that this may have 20 been because of a problem with Horizon?

21 A. Well, we'll never know because it was never tested but 22 the reason that she, Mrs O'Dell, raised it with the 23 Helpdesk on many occasions and told them what she was 24 doing would, obviously, create problems, I think, going 25 forward

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1 the Helpline on a number of occasions informing them of 2 the losses and also that she had been inflating the 3 cash-on-hand figure to cover those losses. The 4 defendant had been notifying the helpline of her 5 concerns since August 2009, five months before she was

6 audited in December 2009. I understand that two weeks 7 before the audit she had written to her Contracts 8

Manager ... highlighting her concerns.

"The circumstances of the facts will cause difficulties in proving this case and the Business will come under grave criticism which the Defence will exploit as can be seen in recent prosecution cases."

Was that a concern that you shared?

14 Α. Yes, I would say so.

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15 Q. If we go over the page, please:

16 "I Also understand the losses fall short of the 17 £15.000 threshold and therefore this case will not be 18 recovered by means of confiscation."

Were you aware of whether or not a matter can lead to confiscation being a factor that's taken into account as to whether to prosecute?

22 A. Well, yes, I think it may have been that I was asked to 23 investigate this case despite my concerns because 24 Mrs O'Dell wasn't paying back the money, maybe to have

25 it -- have an investigation interview. There would have

- 1 been more -- I don't know -- then it could have gone 2 through a recovery process, if there was a prosecution.
- 3 Q. Was confiscation, whether money could be confiscation, 4 whether it was over a particular threshold, relevant to
- 5 the decision to whether to prosecute or not?
- 6 Α. No, I don't think so.
- 7 Q. He then says:

8 "In the circumstances, my view is that a caution 9 should be administered in this case."

10 He sets out there terms of the caution. Were you 11 aware of whether or not the Post Office had the ability 12 to issue a caution?

- 13 Yes, I think it was -- I think I was aware. Α.
- 14 Q. I want to take you back to your witness statement
- 15 WITN04670100. Am I right in saying that this case,
- 16 therefore, didn't proceed?
- 17 A. Well, a caution was drawn up and I telephoned Mrs O'Dell
- to say I had the caution. She says she wasn't going to 18
- 19 sign it and it was just left on file.
- 20 **Q.** So the matter proceeded no further. A. That's correct.

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- 22 **Q.** If we go back to page 46 of your witness statement,
- 23 paragraph 97, it's a paragraph we've looked at already
- 24 this morning. 97, paragraph 46, if we scroll down, this
- 25 the paragraph where you say:

- 1 should have been at least mentioned to the solicitor or
- 2 the barrister in our Misra case -- Mrs Misra's case.
- 3 Q. Looking back at that memo from Jarnail Singh, was the
- 4 concern one that the business will come under grave 5 criticism if it were known about?
- 6 A. Well, that wasn't my view. Yeah, as an Investigator,
- 7 you should be fair and open. I take what you're saying,
- 8 this should have been disclosed or mentioned at least
- 9 and then advice given from our barrister as to what
- 10 should happen in terms of whether it should be
- disclosed. 11
- 12 Q. Trying to think through the reason for its
- 13 non-disclosure, was it simply because you didn't
- 14 consider that those matters should be disclosed or was
- 15 there a wider concern for the business, as suggested by
- 16 Jarnail Singh's memo?
- 17 A. No, I would say because this hadn't been fully
- 18 investigated and a bug had been identified, and that's
- 19 the reason it wasn't disclosed.
- 20 Q. But it wasn't fully investigated, was it --
- 21 A. Well --
- 22 Q. -- and nobody looked into whether a bug did or didn't
- 23 exist?
- 24 Again, costs come into it, transactional data and --
- 25 Can you see I problem, though, in where you don't

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1 "At the time, I did not believe that I considered 2 a challenge to the Horizon system in one case to be 3 relevant to other cases."

4 Looking back at the case that we've been looking at, 5 the O'Dell case, isn't that a case that would have been 6 relevant to the case of Seema Misra?

- 7 A. Looking back at it now, yes. It was another case where 8 Horizon was being blamed for losses, so yes.
- 9 Q. It's not just -- I mean, you said earlier today that
 - where there is a proven error with Horizon, that would
- 11 be something you should have disclosed. Where there was
- 12 a case that was discontinued because of a concern that
- 13 there may have been a problem with Horizon, do you
- 14 accept now that that is something that should have been
- 15 disclosed in Seema Misra's case?
- 16 A. Yes, my thinking at the time was only cases where a bug
- 17 had been identified needed to be disclosed but I can see
- 18 what you're saying now, that, yes, this should have been
- 19 mentioned, or presented to the defence so that.
- 20 obviously, they could make their own enquiries or
- 21 representations about this.
- 22 It's a similar time period, it was you who was involved
- 23 in that case. It must have been in your mind at the
- 24 time to some extent, mustn't it?
- 25 **A**. Well, yes, I'd say so. It was around the time and it

- 1 continue with the case because there may be a bug but
- 2 you don't look into that bug and, therefore, you don't
- 3 consider it to be a case that merits disclosing because
- 4 you haven't identified that bug?
- 5 A. Yes, I understand what you're saying and, with
- 6 hindsight, that was the case that, as I said earlier
- 7 should have gone up to Fujitsu for an investigation.
- 8 Q. Was a tactical decision taken not to investigate it 9 further because it might actually show a bug?
- 10 A. No, I wouldn't say that, no. There was no deliberate
- 11 attempt to not -- I think the -- to not investigate it,
- 12 I think it was because the transaction log data had been
- 13 refused on cost, so, without transaction log data, you
- 14 can't investigate, you know, for faults or bugs on
- 15 Horizon. That's my understanding.
- 16 Q. At the time, though, that you wrote that investigation
- 17 report, you still could have requested transaction data.
- 18 It hadn't been deleted by that time, had it?
- 19 No, I just went by the fact that the costs was
- a prohibitive factor, and it wasn't being provided. 20
- 21 I also think I said -- I was asking Mrs O'Dell if there
- 22 was a smaller period of time where she could identify
- 23 problems, during the interview, so that a smaller and
- 24 less costly amount of data could be achieved or
- 25 obtained, sorry.

- Q. Do you think putting a burden on a defendant to identify
 a smaller period, do you think that is a difficult
 burden to put on them?
- A. Well, yes, and I think when Horizon was mentioned at an interview or there's been problems with the system, as an Investigator, I wasn't really aware of what that meant, so I always thought was it a certain transaction, you notice it during this week that you started having problems? So I didn't know that we're talking about the whole Horizon system that was possibly having glitches or faults. I thought it could be certain transactions that they were putting through or, you know, did it happen during a certain time period.
- Q. Do you recognise now that that is a difficult burden toput on defendants in criminal proceedings?
- A. Well, yes but I'm also trying to say that I wasn't fully
 aware of what these faults or potential bugs with
 Horizon were.
- Q. Can we look at FUJ00122928, please. We're on 15 July
 20 2010. We can see, at the bottom of this, page an email
 from yourself and it relates to Gareth Jenkins' witness
 statement in Mrs Misra's trial and an issue with ARQ
 data. If we turn to page 5, please, we can see
 an explanation of what that issue was with ARQ data.

25 It's an issue that the Inquiry has heard quite a lot 37

"We had a meeting with Penny from Fujitsu today in respect of a problem that has potentially been in existence since January."

This is 2 July that he's writing. Were you in that meeting?

- 6 A. No, I don't believe so.
- Q. So it's since January, we're now in July, so it's beenhappening for about five months or so; is that correct?
- 9 A. Sorry, when ...

- 10 Q. So he says there it's potentially been in existencesince January and he's writing in July?
- 12 A. That's about five/six months, yes.
- Q. "It appears that the audit data has a number of duplicate transactions contained within ... It is potentially as a result of systems backing and rechecking itself up towards the close of play as it appears to affect data from around 16.40 until close."

He says as follows:

"The duplicate transactions have the same transaction number so can be readily identified, so there is no danger of mistaking them for fraudulent duplicate transactions such as POCA [I think that's Proceeds of Crime Act] duplicate withdrawals. Unfortunately you may feel this works in favour of the defence as this may strengthen claims as they question

about in Phase 4. We can see there an email from Penny Thomas, so that's in the bottom of the chain that you ultimately are involved with, and she describes it as follows. She says:

"However it has recently been noticed that the HNG-X [that's Horizon Online] retrieval mechanism does not remove such duplicates and a quick scan of the ARQs [audit transaction data] provided to Post Office Limited since the change to the new system indicates that about 35% of the ARQs might contain some duplicate data. A PEAK has been raised [that's an error log] to enhance the extraction tool set and remove such duplicate data in the future. However, until the fix is developed, tested and deployed, there is a possibility that data is duplicated."

If we scroll up, please, we have an email from Mark Dinsdale, who was the Security Programme Manager. At this stage was he a member of your team; was he senior to you; where did he fit into the overall scheme of your department?

- A. He was senior, more senior to me, and I think he worked
 in a sort of like an old Casework Team sort of
 department.
- Q. Thank you. This is his email and he says as follows, hesays:

the integrity of Horizon."

We see there another concern about questions being raised about the integrity of Horizon. We've seen that in a number of emails so far. So, by this time, the summer of 2010, was there a general concern within your department about defendants questioning the integrity of Horizon?

- A. I would say -- well, looking at that email, yes.
- 9 Q. He continues and he says:

"The duplication of audited records has not, in any way, affected actual physical transactions record on any counter at any outlet. The duplication of records has occurred during the auditing process when records were in the process to of being recorded purely for audit purposes from the correspondence servers to the audit servers. It should be noted that this duplication of data in the audit stream has always been happening. However the Horizon retrieval process automatically discarded duplicate records before creating the ARQ spreadsheets, while the current [Horizon Online] retrieval process for Horizon data does not do so.

"Therefore I'm not sure of the course of action we should take. My initial response was to CEO that Fujitsu provide a witness statement to quantify the above that we could attach to each case (as

appropriate), and treat each case where this is not accepted individually."

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Just looking at that, were you concerned about historic cases? We've seen that you were involved in a number of cases prior to this. Were you concerned about the potential for audit data to have been provided that wasn't accurate?

- A. I can't say that -- well, my dealing with duplication
 data was sort of limited to West Byfleet but I take your
 point that it maybe should have been a trigger to sort
 of look back at other cases to see if there was any
 duplicated data in those, but it wasn't undertaken, no.
 - Q. Can we please look at FUJ00122929. Sorry, actually, if we could just go back the previous one, FUJ00122928. In the first of the emails that I showed you, I just draw these to your attention,

"Gareth's statement is fine. It explains why the duplicates occurred and most importantly of all it confirms that it has no affect on Horizon's accuracy. I have added an extra paragraph to tie it in with the trial of Seema Misra and can confirm that only ARQ447 has any duplications within the disk you produced ..."

you say there on page 1, the bottom of page 1, you say:

So it seems as though a statement has been obtained from Gareth Jenkins explaining the duplication issue in

Q. Did you at that stage still believe that what occurred in one case was not necessarily disclosable in another case, with regards to issues with the Horizon?

A. Well, again, not at the time but I can say that it
 should have been disclosed, even though this duplicated
 data didn't cause any discrepancies within Horizon.

Q. Because potentially it shows that the system itself isprone to errors?

9 A. Well, it's prone to errors, albeit maybe my thinking was
10 because it didn't create, or that it didn't create any
11 data integrity issues then, it wasn't going to affect
12 anything.

Q. It did create data integrity issues: it affected the
audit data and resulted in them being duplicated but it
seems that a workaround was in place and that, in
future, it wouldn't show up.

17 **A.** That's right. But when there was duplicated
18 transactions I think the statement makes it clear that
19 it wouldn't have affected the data, although it was
20 a fault, it didn't actually affect --

Q. It wouldn't have affected the terminal data; it wouldhave affected only the record of the audit data?

23 A. That's right.

Q. I want to move on to conducting investigations. At
 paragraph 6 of your witness statement you say that you

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1 this particular case but, as you just explained, that

doesn't necessarily address what happened in previouscases or previous investigations?

4 A. No, I think his statement initially addressed duplicated

transactions generally. There was a general statement

6 about duplicated --

7 **Q.** Yes.

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A. This additional paragraph was just to make the reader of
 that statement aware as to which particular ARQ had the
 duplications in the Seema Misra case.

11 Q. If we look at FUJ00122929, that's the witness statement,
12 if we scroll down to the second page, I think we can see

the words that you added in are in bold on that second

14 page, if we scroll down.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Are those the words that you added in to that statement?

17 A. I can't recall exactly but, because it's in bold,

18 I would say, yes.

19 Q. Thank you. Just pausing there and trying to identify
 20 where we're at in terms of timing, this is the summer of
 21 2010. In addition to Callendar Square and all those

22 other matters that I mentioned previously, by the summer

of 2010, you had also been told about an error that

24 occurred that affected auditing data?

25 **A.** Mm-hm, yes.

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were aware of the duty placed on investigators to follow all lines of inquiry; is that correct?

3 A. That's correct.

Q. You were aware that you needed to pursue lines of
 inquiry that pointed away from the guilt of a suspect;
 is that correct?

7 A. That is correct.

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Q. I want to begin by looking at a statement that you produced in Seema Misra's case. Can we please look at POL00054041, please. Thank you. These redactions are slightly heavy and they should have been removed but we'll try and make the best we can out of it. If I tell

you that that was 5 February 2010, that will assist youwith the date.

15 Could we scroll down, please. Do you remember 16 preparing this statement and submitting it in Seema 17 Misra's case?

A. This might have been in relation to the defence expert
 questioning what knowledge Investigators had about the
 system, I think.

Q. I'll take you through it. If we look at that secondsubstantive paragraph, the final sentence, it says:

"Also have no IT knowledge as to the workings ofHorizon equipment or data transfer."

You then, in the next paragraph, say you have had

		The Post Office	ce Horizon IT In	equiry 17 April 2024
1		minimal training on Horizon.	1	If I'd used the system and I had encountered a problem,
2	A.	That's correct.	2	then I would have you know, that would have been
3	Q.	Then the final sentence on that page and over to the	3	something that I would have mentioned.
4		next page, it says:	4 Q	. Did you think at that time that that supported the
5		"I have never experienced any problems with the	5	reliability of the Horizon system or that it didn't take
6		Horizon system other than pressing the wrong icon on the	6	matters
7		screen and requiring assistance from a more experienced	7 A	. No, it's just reporting what my experience was. I'm
8		clerk to get me back to the correct screen."	8	not I wasn't trying to defend Horizon with that
9		Now, I'm not suggesting that that is untruthful	9	sentence, I'm just saying that that was my experience of
10		because you've made very clear that you don't really use	10	Horizon when I used it, that I hadn't had any issues.
11		the Horizon system, but what was the purpose of that	11 Q	. If we scroll down and this is the paragraph that I want
12		sentence?	12	to ask you about with regards to investigations, you
13	, , ,			say:
14		when I used Horizon on those very few occasions, that,	14	"When conducting enquiries at Post Office, if any
15		you know, it was fairly straightforward to use,	15	interview with a member of staff reveals a system
16		although, on occasions, when I was working on the	16	problem as a possible cause for the loss then this would
17		counter, I did get into a bit of a pickle, if I can put	17	be followed up as a matter of course by making the
18		it in that way, and needed someone to come and help me	18	necessary enquiries with our Financial Department at
19		get back onto the right screen.	19	Chesterfield in the first instance. If during interview
20	Q.	Why would you want say in criminal proceedings that you	20	no mention is made of system failures and other reasons
21		have never experienced problems with the Horizon system?	21	are given for the cause of loss such as thefts then
22		Was it in some way meant to be supportive of the	22	I would not as an Investigator make [such] enquiries."
23		reliability of the Horizon system?	23	So it seems then that this is consistent with the
24	A.	Well, I suppose it was just saying that, when I used	24	evidence you have given in your witness statement for
25		Horizon, albeit briefly, I never encountered a problem. 45	25	this Inquiry, that the burden is very much on 46
1		a subpostmaster to raise system problems and, if they	1	but what I don't believe is that the losses are genuine.
2		didn't raise system problems, no such problems would be	2	I think you have taken the money that belongs to Post
3		investigated; is that right?	3	Office Limited."
4	A.	Well, that is correct, if a subpostmaster or manager or	4	He says:
5		whatever at interview did not mention system failures	5	"This is what you believe because you see that, that
6		but explained other reasons for why there was	6	is the only thing
7		a deficiency in the cash, then you would write up your	7	"Question: I have no evidence to suggest otherwise.
8		report, and forward it to Legal Services for review	8	"Answer: No, no, no, what evidence can you you
9	Q.	What if they didn't know? What if they were	9	say that you believe that I took the money.
10		experiencing shortfalls but didn't know what caused	10	"Question: The money has been stolen from the Post
11		them?	11	Office.
12	A.	Well, normally, there was a reason given for the	12	"Answer: Why do you believe that?
13		shortfall.	13	"Question: Well, where is it, £70,000-odd?"
14	Q.	Perhaps we can look and see how this worked in practice.	14	Then there's discussion about working on the Post
15		If we look at the interview with Jerry Hosi, that's	15	Office Counter, and Mr Hosi says:

FUJ00123110. So that's a case that was proceeding along the same track as Seema Misra. You've already explained

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£70,000-odd?" working on the Post "This was my first experience and I didn't take the money, but the money is lost, what can I do? She says: "Well, there's only three people that work in the post office, isn't there, there's you, your son and your wife. I can't see how £70,000 can get lost in the system anyhow. "Answer: Because it's not one day." She says, "It's not one day? "Answer: Yeah.

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you weren't the Investigating Officer, that was Lisa

Allen, but you were present at that interview. That

turn to page 10, I'm just going to read a little bit of

the transcript. If we could scroll down, please, Lisa

"I believe you when you say you've been inflating

interview took place in November 2006. If we please

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Allen says:

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"Question: Well what evidence have you got for this £70,000 of errors with the system? You've talked about your error notices and transaction corrections but nothing in the region of £70,000. The £70,000 one has already ..."

He says:

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"My dear, I told you and if there us [maybe 'is'] something you can check with your data, then please I would ask you to do that because I don't take the money and my wife, my son, no one of us would take of the money. Even if you see they are chasing me [the council for] this thing", and he goes on.

Do you accept that it wouldn't have been possible for somebody like Mr Hosi to have said "There is a bug in Horizon, I know that there is a bug, identify a bug that you can investigate". I mean, it's pretty difficult isn't it for somebody who is being interviewed to raise issues with Horizon to the level that you seem to have expected?

A. Yeah, I -- you know, from what you've just read, then there should have been an investigation into what he was saying to see if Horizon was at his office causing glitches or problems. I think the hardware was analysed but, again, I agree there should have been some investigation into whether what he was saying about the

"I believe there to be a loss of around £40,000 in the office. It seems to have been building up over a period of several months. It appears to be in the main safe which is MM stock. To make the stock unit balance I declare cash that wasn't there. How this has accumulated I do not know. I have tried to search the units before but haven't been able to find where the loss could be. I do feel that none of the staff have been involved in the loss."

Then, if we go over the page to page 3. She's asked:

"What can you tell me about that?"

She says:

"I really can't tell you anything about that. It seemed to start some time last year in the middle of the year, about July or something."

Pausing there, we seem to have a number of interviews where those who are being accused of having stolen from Horizon aren't able to pinpoint exact transactions, exact periods. They know that significant periods of time have passed and losses have developed over that period. Reflecting on that, do you think that it was unrealistic to expect them to provide you with more specificity about when these losses were incurred?

Yes, I would agree, from my point of view, I always Α.

1 Horizon system had any merit.

2 Q. But is that sufficient for your purposes to trigger your 3 investigation into the Horizon system? What are you 4 going to be looking for there?

A. Well, I -- well, again, I would be looking at -- if it 5 6 was me, I'd be asking "Can you remember specific 7 transactions or a time period when you think this 8 started?" But, yeah, transaction data should have been 9 obtained. But I do -- I seem to recall that the 10 computer system was analysed at this branch but, not 11 being my case, I'm not 100 per cent sure. There were 12 some checks carried out but --

13 Q. Let's look at one more which is the interview with Dawn 14 O'Connell and that's at UKGI00015099. I can take this 15 one quite briefly. You, again, are not the main 16 interviewing officer but you are present and do ask some 17 questions in interview. If we scroll down, Ms Allen 18 says:

> "This morning the Investigation Team received a call to say there was going to be an audit shortage at West End Post Office. The Auditors have gone to the office and you have spoken to the Auditor and said it is going to be about £40,000-odd short."

If we go over the page, please. Ms O'Connell says as follows:

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1 thought that you may -- as a subpostmaster you may be 2 able to identify when the losses started and give some 3 steer on to what sort of data to obtain but, yeah, in 4 these cases you just read out, there's no -- they're not 5 able to give a specific date or transaction. So what 6 we -- or what I would be asking for doesn't always seem 7 possible for a subpostmaster to give me back, you know, 8 a response to when this started.

9 Q. The first was an interview in 2006, this one is 10 an interview in 2008. Knowing what you knew in 2010, 11 we've looked at Callendar Square, we've looked at the 12 ARQ issue, we've looked at the growing number of cases, 13 The Grocer, the Computer Weekly article. Did that make 14 you rethink those cases that you had previously been 15 involved in at all?

16 A. Well, yes. There should have been much more 17 investigation in regards to claims where they've had

18 unexpected losses. 19 Q. Going back to where we started today, about the part of

20 your witness statement that said that you wouldn't have 21 done anything differently, I know it's been your 22 evidence that that related to the Seema Misra case only.

23 Looking back at these cases and knowing what you know 24 now, would you have approached them differently?

25 A. Yes, I think I would have applied for transaction log

1		data and, really, I think we probably needed a process	1		compiled this list of unused material, didn't you?
2		in place so that it was a consistent approach by all	2	A.	Yes, I did.
3		Investigators, so that, if you came up across examples	3	Q.	•
4		like you've just put up, there was a process to follow.	4		your signature is covered by a restriction order. You
5		Whether Horizon could cope with all these extra	5		can see there that you were, it says, "Signature of
6		enquiries, I don't know, but that's by the by, that's	6		officer", and if we look at the very top of the list,
7		for you know, there should have been a process and	7		sorry. If we scroll up, it says:
8		a protocol maybe in place earlier for dealing with	8		"The Disclosure Officer believes that the following
9		unexplained losses.	9		material which does not form part of the prosecution
10	MR	BLAKE: Sir, that might be a convenient moment for us to	10		case is [non-sensitive]."
11		take our mid-morning break.	11		You've very candidly admitted in your evidence that
12	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.	12		you weren't aware that you were something called the
13		BLAKE: Could we please come back at 11.45.	13		Disclosure Officer. Who did you consider to be
14		WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, certainly.	14		responsible for disclosure?
15		BLAKE: Thank you very much.	15	Δ	Well, me. But I didn't know I held I was actually
16		26 am)	16	Λ.	called the Disclosure Officer.
17	,	(A short break)	17	0	You've said that you understood your role to include
18	(11	45 am)	18	ų.	updating this schedule.
19	•	BLAKE: Sir, can you see and hear us?	19	٨	Yes.
20		WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.	20	Q.	
21		BLAKE: Thank you very much.	21	Q.	the disclosure and the timing of disclosure?
22	IVIIX	Mr Longman, I'm going to move on to the issue of	22	٨	What do you mean by that, sorry?
23		disclosure in Seema Misra's case and it's a matter we	23		Well, we'll come to look at the approach that was taken
24		have touched upon. Could we look at POL00050750. It's	24	Q.	to disclosure. Do you feel that you were just somebody
25		the Schedule of Non-Sensitive Unused Material. You	25		who compiled a schedule or were you also somebody who
23		53	25		54
1		either provided instructions on whether or not to	1		at a particular time?
2		disclose or at least inputted on the timing that the	2	Α.	That's correct.
3		disclosure was provided, whether or not something was or	3	Q.	Can we please look at POL00107817. The bottom email is
4		was not reasonable?	4		from you to Jarnail Singh, and you say:
5	Α.	No, I just compiled the schedule. That's how I saw my	5		"At the hearing on 14 July 2009, the defence
6		role, just to list the items on this schedule.	6		indicated that they would be seeking the services of
7	Q.	Can we please look at FUJ00152817. I'm going to start	7		a forensic accountant to analyse the Horizon data as
8	~	in June 2009, so very early on and, if we scroll down,	8		Ms Misra is now challenging the accuracy of Horizon.
9		it's an email from you to Andrew Dunks, and you say:	9		I have tried to order the data for the time Ms Misra was
10		"Let's run with this statement as it is. If the	10		subpostmaster (3 years) but as you can see from the
11		defence wants details of the 107 calls then a further	11		email from Dave Posnett there are a number of issues."
12		statement will be needed at a later stage."	12		Perhaps we can scroll down to those issues. He has
13		That's a reference to Helpdesk calls?	13		said to you as follows:
14	Α.	That's correct.	14		"Due to the size of the ARQ request I cannot
15	Q.	It seems from that email that you took the decision that	15		authorise Fujitsu to proceed at this stage. This
16	Q.	you didn't need to provide the Helpdesk calls to the	16		equates to approximately 31 ARQs (1 per month of data).
17		defence as at June 2009; is that correct?	17		We have an annual allowance of 670 ARQs, so the defence
			18		·
18		Yes, that's what the statement says, yes.	10		request represents quite a chunk of our quota. Also, we
19	Α.	So insofar as those kinds of things were concerned way	10		
	A. Q.	So, insofar as those kinds of things were concerned, you	19		can only Request 60 ARQs per month, so this defence
20		did input as to whether or not it was necessary to	20		request could be detrimental to other prosecution
21	Q.	did input as to whether or not it was necessary to provide something to the defence?	20 21		request could be detrimental to other prosecution requests."
21 22	Q. A.	did input as to whether or not it was necessary to provide something to the defence? That was my view at that time, yes.	20 21 22		request could be detrimental to other prosecution requests." Just pausing there, did you think that was
21	Q.	did input as to whether or not it was necessary to provide something to the defence?	20 21		request could be detrimental to other prosecution requests."

disclosed to a defendant?

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matters, whether or not something needed to be disclosed

- A. Well, with hindsight, I wish all the data requested had
 been provided but, at the time, when I put the
 application in, I knew it was going to take up a lot of
 our requests, so I probably wasn't surprised that it was
 turned down in the first instance.
- 6 Q. He says:

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"We have a contract with Fujitsu to acquire ARQs for our prosecution cases, and we pay for these. We do assist where we can and where requests are reasonable in terms of our quota, eg police, other parts of the business, small defence requests, etc."

So it seems to distinguish between where requests are needed for the police and where requests are requested by the defence. He says:

"For 'lumpy' defence requests, we can obtain a quote from Fujitsu for the work, which will then sit outside our quota. Defence can then 1) pay-up, 2) seek [legal advice] and pay up, 3) cancel the request, or 4) seek authority from the court to insist that the request is carried out."

Were you aware that that was the approach that was taken to ARQ requests by defendants that are considered to be "lumpy"?

24 **A.** Well, all the ARQs that I'd got previously were for smaller periods. This is, I think, probably the first

second paragraph, isn't it, saying police would get the
data, other parts of the business and small defence
requests would get the data but large defences wouldn't
get the data. So that's clearly not really right.

- 5 Q. Did you take it up with Mr Posnett at all?
- A. I didn't. I referred this to Mr Singh, that therequests had been refused.
- 8 Q. Did you have a discussion with Mr Posnett where you took9 issue with his approach?
- 10 A. No, I just referred it to Mr Singh.
- 11 **Q.** If we scroll down the page over to page 3, please, we
 12 can see that there are three requests. The second there
 13 is for transaction data which is the ARQ data, the third
 14 is for the Helpdesk logs, and that's a matter that we've
 15 seen earlier in that earlier email from 2009 and we'll
 16 come on to look at the approach taken to those two
 17 things: transaction data and Helpdesk data.

Can we start by looking at the Helpdesk logs, POL00052234. If we scroll down, please. It's headed, the subject, "[Witness statement] for West Byfleet HSH calls", so it looks as though this email is about the Helpdesk logs, and Mr Posnett says that it's going to take around six weeks to obtain. Is my reading of that correct?

25 **A.** Yes, it would take about six weeks to obtain.

ARQ for, you know, a wider period, a longer period. So
this was probably my first -- I can't say this was my
first time I'd had an ARQ request turned down.
I can't -- I'm pretty sure that it may have been my only
ARQ request that had been turned down but I'm not
positive on that. But, yes, it was because it was such
a long period that was requested.

8 Q. It goes on to say:

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"Aside from the costs and our quota, another reason for this approach is because many cases plead guilty at the eleventh hour and/or nothing is found by 'experts' to challenge Fujitsu data -- the usual attempts of muddying the waters."

Was this is an email that came by surprise at all?

A. Not the rejection. You know, when I put it in, maybe
I was expecting a response "Maybe could the defence
consider maybe only a year's worth of data initially
and, if something is found, then further data could be
released". But yeah, I suppose the last -- the two
paragraphs are a surprise.

- 21 **Q.** You were surprised or, on reflection, you're now surprised?
- A. No, I am surprised. It's basically saying that, you
 know, that some people can have -- or some organisations
 can have the data and some can't. So, sorry, that's the
- Q. These were the Helpdesk logs that we saw in that email
 that you didn't consider it necessary to obtain back in
 June 2009?
- 4 **A.** What, the ones that were refused? You're talking about the ARQ data?
- Q. No, so we looked at an email from June 2009 where you said, "Let's run with the statement as is, if the defence do want details of the 107 calls, then a further statement will be needed at that stage". It seems that things had moved on by August and that there is a request for those 107 calls.
- 12 A. That's right, yes, sorry. I'm with you now. Yes. So13 it's taken six weeks to get that data.
- Q. If we scroll up, you tell Phil Taylor that it's about
 six weeks for that data. So a witness statement, by
 this stage, had already been submitted which suggested
 that the number of calls wasn't actually particularly
 high; do you recall that? I think it was three to four
 per month was not seen as high?
- A. Yeah, a review had been undertaken, I think, of that
 data and, yeah, that the number of calls per week or per
 month were not deemed excessive or, you know, alarming
 by Fujitsu.
- Q. But it would still take six weeks to obtain that data orthat information?

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1 A. To get the underlying data, you know, the raw data for2 it, yes.

Q. Can we look at FUJ00154851, please. A letter is written to the defence. Dave Posnett emails you to say:

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"A good letter -- I like it."

If we scroll to page 4, please, we can see the letter that had been written to the defence. Thank you. If we scroll down, please, it's a letter, I think, from Jarnail Singh although -- oh no, it's from Phil Taylor, if we scroll down, over the page, please, we can see it's signed off by Phil Taylor, Legal Executive, Criminal Law Division. If we scroll up, please. Are you able to assist us with who wrote this letter? Did you input into it?

- A. No, I don't think I did. This is from somebody who
 worked in the Legal Department, probably somebody more
 junior to Mr Singh.
- 19 Q. I'm just going to read to you a few paragraphs. It20 says:

"The data will take some 6-8 weeks to produce. Additionally your client made 107 calls to the Horizon Helpdesk during her period of tenure which equates to roughly 2-3 calls per month. In order to provide the data Fujitsu will wish to know exactly what is required

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having -- you just read it back to me and I didn't haveany input into this, this was -- this letter was written

3 by the individual who's obviously signed it, without any

4 input from me whatsoever.

- Q. You were the Disclosure Officer in this case, as we've
 seen from the schedule. Are you were you concerned at
 all? I mean, you did receive this. You've sent it on
 to Dave Posnett. Were you concerned at the time about
 the tone and the content?
- A. Well, no, because it came from the Legal Department,
 I accepted it, you know, on face value that this is this was their view. If they said, "No, we will
 retrieve the data", then, obviously, we would have got
 the data straight away but, because it's come from the
- 15 Legal Department, I didn't question them.
- 16 Q. So was your view at this stage that you didn't mind17 providing disclosure to Seema Misra?
- 18 A. No, I would provide any disclosure to Seema Misra that19 I was asked to.
- 20 Q. You weren't reluctant in any way to provide disclosure21 to Seema Misra?
- 22 **A.** No, not at all. I wish that everything had been
- 23 provided but, when I had asked for -- when I was given
- 24 a list of disclosure or asked to get this or asked to
- get that, if there was a barrier to getting that

and for exactly what period. Please could you also advise as to why you consider the data relevant. You will already have the Notice of Additional Evidence from Andrew Dunks of Fujitsu dealing with the calls to the Helpdesk.

"The retrieval of data by Fujitsu is not a free service. It is very expensive and depends on the amount of that which has to be retrieved which is why you are requested to be very precise. At that stage a firm quotation can be obtained and counsel will be asked to give further advice as to disclosure and payment for this service. The Post Office will not underwrite the cost if counsel considers the data irrelevant. You will of course be aware that the same system operates throughout the country and was not particular to your client's sub post office.

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

Now, that letter is clearly an attempt to dissuade the defendant from seeking the underlying data; do you agree with that?

25 A. Well, I agree with that and I have to say that I --

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disclosure, then I'd have to refer it to somebody else to see -- to take advice.

- Q. But your personal view was neutral on the subject, wasit?
- 5 **A.** No, my role would have been much easier if I'd just been able to get every disclosure item to the defence. We
- wouldn't have had all this toing and froing of -- youknow, and all these legal arguments about disclosure.
- 9 I genuinely wished that all the requests that had come
- in from defence I'd been able to obtain without question
- and provide it. So, you know, I wasn't objecting to any
- disclosure being sent to Mrs Misra but, obviously, therewere barriers in terms of costs that were put up by
- 14 others as to why this information should be provided.
- 15 **Q.** Can we please look at POL00053527. This is an email from you to Phil Taylor and others, November 2009, and

17 you say:

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"Phil

"She will be lucky to get any of it at this ...
stage. Is she attending at 10.30 tomorrow at West
Byfleet."

That appears to be showing a lack of concern in respect of disclosure and, contrary to the evidence you have just given, what do you say about that?

25 $\,$ A. No, I think it must be some information -- information

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that's due to come from Fujitsu or some other
department, and I'm just really saying that there's no
way we're going to get it by the hearing tomorrow.
I mean, yeah, my phrasing could have been a bit more
professional at the beginning but, no, it's not -- it's
not --

7 Q. I think the trial was 30 November, this was 16 November.

A. There must have been a request for some data, I must have been asked when is this data coming and I'm just replying quickly saying "At the moment, there's a hold-up and, you know, they'll be lucky to get it at this late stage".

13 Q. Was there a deliberate attempt to delay disclosure until14 as late as possible in the day before the trial?

A. Not on my part, no. As I said to you, all the 15 16 disclosure requests that I received I tried to action 17 and get the data. The transaction log data -- I think 18 there was some -- when that was refused, the three years 19 worth of data, it did take a long time for the -- to 20 come back with what data was acceptable. But that 21 wasn't my doing. I just referred it -- any rejections 22 to disclosure being made and there always seemed to be 23 discussions between our Legal Services and the defence 24 solicitor as to whether they would accept a smaller 25 sample.

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where there was going to be proceedings taken for theft and false accounting but that weren't proceeded with because of potential issues with Horizon?

- 4 A. Yeah, sorry, can you just -- this advice has come from?
- 5 **Q.** This is a request from the defence in the *Misra* case.

6 They're seeking information.

- 7 A. Right.
- Q. That request for information seems to be very much
 a request of the kind of knowledge that you had in
 relation to the O'Dell case.
- 11 A. Right, and this advice would have been sent to?
- 12 Q. Well, it's a request for disclosure. You were the
- 13 Disclosure Officer. Did you see this request for
- 14 disclosure? If we scroll up, you can have a look at the15 format.
- 16 A. I don't know if I received it in this format or whether
- 17 it was sent to the Legal Department and then a memo sent
- 18 regarding this. I can't really comment.
- 19 Q. Am I right to say that at no point during the Seema
- 20 Misra case did you consider whether you should or
- 21 shouldn't disclose information relating to the O'Dell
- 22 case?
- 23 A. No, I didn't consider disclosing that, no.
- ${\bf 24}~{\bf Q.}~{\bf If}$ we scroll down, please, there are a number of other
- 25 requests. We won't go through them all. I'll take you

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But I want to make it clear that I never delayed or -- getting disclosure. Wanted to get the disclosure as I was asked but --

Q. Can we look at POL00054008, please. This is a document entitled "Third request for disclosure". By this stage it seems the trial has been adjourned and there has been an order made by the judge on 1 February 2010, and the defence have submitted a request for disclosure. If we look to take some examples, if we scroll down, "Contract" 2, the request is:

"The Post Office case has always been that the Horizon system is robust and does not have any problems. If there are subpostmasters who have had losses on the Horizon system, but have not been prosecuted for theft and false accounting, this would tend to suggest an acceptance by the Post Office that problems can exist, a situation which is borne out by the immediate recognition of Callendar Place [I think that's meant to be Callendar Square], Falkirk by a Fujitsu analyst as referred to in paragraph 23 of the *Castleton* judgment. This information would, therefore, potentially undermine the prosecution case and/or assist the defence case. Please comply with the request."

Now, isn't that exactly a request for the kind of information that we saw in the O'Dell case, somebody

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through this relatively quickly. Over the page, please, paragraph 6, we see that that's, 6(a), still requesting the Helpdesk logs.

If we scroll down to 7, please. There's a reference there to EPOSS transactions that can get lost. That's something that the Inquiry has heard quite a lot about in Phase 2.

8 A. Right.

Q. If we scroll down, please, to 8, that's just a repeat of
 the request regarding information about other cases.

Paragraphs 9 and 10, there's a request for a witness statement and that's one that we've seen -- your witness statement that we see later.

Then, at 10:

"We repeat the second half of this request. Given the Investigator's lack of understanding of the system and his reliance on counter clerks who, by your own view, can be of questionable quality, what back-up teams does the Post Office have to ensure that all reasonable explanations are considered before a criminal investigation is commenced?"

What they seem to be questioning there is, given your own evidence that you weren't very familiar with the Horizon system, how can it be that the Post Office ensures that all reasonable explanations are considered?

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- Do you think that there was an issue there, at the Post
 Office, with having somebody who was in charge of
 pursuing reasonable lines of inquiry but who didn't have
 a significant knowledge of the Horizon system?
- a significant knowledge of the Horizon system? 5 A. Well, yes, I mean, the onus was then on the Investigator 6 to find the people who could explain how the system 7 worked, hence, I think in the Seema Misra case, we had 8 to get a statement from a Mr Bayfield to outline some of 9 the Post Office procedures. But, yeah, it was -- when 10 putting a case together, if there were questions about 11 Post Office procedures that I couldn't answer, yeah, it 12 was a task to find someone who could provide a statement 13 to that effect, and --
- Q. If we scroll down to number 11, this is a repeated
 request for the transaction data. Do you see that
 there?
- 17 A. Which paragraph is it?
- 18 **Q.** 11(a).

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- 19 A. Yeah, can I just -- was this not responded to by Legal
 20 Services and some of it rejected or --
- Q. Absolutely. We will come to that but the question
 really for you is -- and we're now in 2010, February
 2010 -- the impression that you get from the documents
 might be that Seema Misra really needed to fight for
 disclosure, particularly in relation to those logs, the

He is there providing Gareth Jenkins' witness statement,

see there. He says:

"One concern is that [the Post Office] have not apparently requested transaction data for West Byfleet for the period and transactions in question. This would normally be provided in previous cases and would include Fujitsu extracting log files from the system to enable us to provide details of transactions. Surprisingly this has not been requested in this case. Perhaps you would consider the need for this."

and he says as follows in the bottom paragraph that we

So you have there Fujitsu themselves questioning why transaction data hasn't been obtained; do you recall that at all?

- 15 A. Well, I do. I mean, what was the date of this email?
- 16 **Q.** If we scroll up we can see 5 February 2010, so quite
 17 late on, really. We've looked at emails from 2009, we
 18 see November 2009 there was meant to be a trial, the
 19 trial was postponed, we then have the defence request
 20 for disclosure and you have there, in February 2010,
 21 Fujitsu raising a concern that the transaction data
 22 hadn't been obtained.
- A. Well, I think in August '08, or was it '09, that the
 initial transaction log data for three years was
 requested. I fully accept that transaction log data

Helpdesk logs and the transaction logs; is thatsomething you agree with or disagree with?

3 A. I'd have to agree with it, yes.

4 Q. Can you assist us with why that might be?

5 A. Well, some of it was costs, as we've -- the transaction 6 log data. As for the rest, why it wasn't provided, that 7 wasn't my decision. You know, if it -- if this request 8 had gone thorough to Legal Services and then it said, 9 "Please obtain all this as soon as possible", and I'd 10 received that, then I would have got all this data 11 together. Again, if I came up against any other 12 department not providing the data within Post Office, I'd have had to refer it back for advice but, what I'm

13 I'd have had to refer it back for advice but, what I'm
 14 trying to say is, if I was asked to get this data, I'd

15 have made every effort to get this data.

Q. Is there any point at which you think "Well, I'm the
Disclosure Officer, I'm the Investigator, as well,
I think that it's only fair to obtain this data

19 irrespective of cost"?

20 A. I agree. Costs shouldn't have come into it.

Q. Can we please look at POL00029369, please, page 3.
 We'll see shortly that you are on this email chain
 eventually, you're not on this particular email but it's
 an email to Jarnail Singh from David Jones, who is the

25 Head of Legal, UK Private Sector Division at Fujitsu.

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should have been provided to both experts for analysis,

but the data was refused for three years, the amount of 2 3 that was refused and it went back to Legal Services and 4 then, for some reason, it's taken a ridiculously long 5 period of time before -- I don't know how the agreement 6 was made that only a year's data would be given but, you 7 know, data should have been provided and I can't explain 8 why it took so long to just finally supply a year's amount of data. That was -- that had been referred to 9 10 Legal Services, so I can't tell you why it took that 11 amount of time.

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12 Q. If we could scroll up, this chain addresses a number of
 13 other issues, requests for disclosure or requests for
 14 explanation. If we go to page 1, we see at page 1
 15 an email from Warwick Tatford to Jarnail Singh, and he
 16 says:

"Dear Jarnail,

"Jon Longman sets out in his email below the extra matters that I asked Mr Jenkins to look at."

They relate to the Callendar Square issue and also whether there were any known problems with the Horizon system. He says as follows, he says:

"The areas where Mr Jenkins says 'for POL to respond' should be deleted from the statement. These areas will only lead to a flood of further disclosure

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requests and I am afraid that POL will never respond."

Are you able to assist us with that? I mean, how

did you understand Mr Tatford's approach to disclosure

to be? Were you content with the advice he gave in

respect of disclosure?

- 6 A. Are you referring to that second paragraph or --
- 7 Q. The second paragraph and also your general reflections?
- 8 A. Well, my understanding of the second paragraph is that
- 9 Mr Jenkins did do a draft statement and, on certain
- points, he said that it was for POL to respond and we
- 11 did find somebody within POL to respond and provide
- 12 a statement.
- 13 Q. But the reference there to a "flood of further
- 14 disclosure requests", was the general atmosphere by
- 15 February 2010 that there were too many disclosure
- 16 requests coming from Ms Misra's team?
- 17 A. Yes, I'd say so. Again, it wasn't my view, but --
- 18 Q. Whose view was it, to the best of your recollection?
- 19 **A.** Well, I have to say it's Mr Tatford's, if he's written20 that.
- Q. How about Mr Singh, were you aware of his views on thematter?
- 23 A. Well, Mr Singh would deal with -- I recall that when
- 24 there was a lengthy amount of disclosure requested by
- 25 the defence, he made mention that we wouldn't provide it
- 1 requesting what they wanted and actually getting some of
- 2 the items or not getting the full information but
- 3 I stress it wasn't my -- I wasn't trying to delay or
- 4 prevent the defence from getting any of this disclosure.
- 5 If I was asked to get this disclosure, or get this item
- 6 or this item on the disclosure list, I would try and, if
- 7 it wasn't a positive response from whichever department
- 8 I went to, then I would refer it back to discussion,
- 9 I presume, between Mr Singh and the defence solicitors.
- 10 Q. Can we look at FUJ00153157, please. We're now in July
- 11 2010. If we look down to page 2, we see there a request
- 12 from Ms Misra's solicitor, Issy Hogg and it relates to
- a meeting that's taken place between the defence expert,
- 14 Charles McLachlan, and Gareth Jenkins. She's requesting
- 15 access to the system in the Midlands where it appears
- 16 there are live, reproducible errors. She refers there
- 17 to the Known Error Log in that third bullet point?
- 18 **A.** Yes.

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- 19 Q. If we scroll up, please, Jarnail Singh is sending20 an email to you and to Warwick Tatford saying:
 - "Could you please be kind enough to let me have your urgent instructions as to access and information she is requesting in respect of the system in the Midlands and the operation at Chesterfield and the error logs."
 - Now, who did you understand Mr Singh to be asking

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1 and that they'd have to do something called a Section 8

- 2 statement or Section 8 application at court. I can
- 3 remember that about some of the disclosure requests and
 - also that we weren't obliged to supply this or that. So
- 5 they're the things I can recall about disclosure by
- 6 Mr Singh.

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- 7 Q. Can we please look at POL00054557, please. This is
- 8 a message from Jarnail Singh to yourself of 6 April
- 9 2010. If we have a look there, it looks as though it
- 10 took until approximately that time to disclose the
- 11 transaction logs and also the Helpdesk logs?
- 12 A. Yes.

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13 **Q.** It says:

"I understand that the defence have now reviewed the disk containing", and it refers to the 430,000 transactions.

17 Then it says, if we scroll down:

"With regards to the defence request for all the Helpdesk calls ... I now have the disk containing the information which I have copied and will forward ... you

22 Am I right to understand your evidence that you 23 accept that that's all rather late in the day and it 24 simply shouldn't have taken this amount of time?

25 **A.** Yes, there was a really long period between the defence

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- 1 for instructions with regards to disclosure?
- 2 A. Well, I'd have thought it would be to me, to find out
- 3 about the system in the Midlands and the operation at
- 4 Chesterfield. I can remember dealing with those or
- 5 trying to deal with those items.
- Q. Did you regard yourself as somebody who could giveinstructions?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Who, in your view, would have been the appropriate10 person to provide instructions?
- 11 A. Well, Mr Singh -- or, sorry, Mr Tatford.
- 12 Q. Mr Tatford was counsel in the case, so counsel
- 13 traditionally takes instructions, rather than gives
- 14 them.
- 15 A. I'm a bit confused by the question. If I can just take16 a moment --
- 17 $\,$ **Q.** Who did you regard in this particular case to be the
- 18 client who provided instructions to their Legal Team?
- A. Well, that would be Mr Singh, wouldn't it? He would
 provide instructions to -- I'm not sure.
- 21 Q. If we scroll up, you have emailed Penny Thomas asking
- Gareth to explain in more detail those points and, if we
- 23 scroll to page 1 we see a detailed response from Penny
- 24 Thomas. She refers to access to the system in the
- 25 Midlands and she says:

1	"It would appear that challenges is aware of a Post
2	Office which was having issues similar to those which
3	have resulted in prosecution"

Are you aware of which case that is, at all?

- 5 A. It doesn't mention it, does it?
- 6 No, it just refers to a system in the Midlands.
- 7 Α. No, I don't. I don't believe I do, no.
- 8 "System Change Requests", at the bottom, it says:

"Basically, he was asking to look at all system faults. I suggested that as we kept all testing and Live faults in the same system and there were about 200,000 of them then this wasn't going to get him far."

After that she says:

"My view is that Charles is 'fishing' and I don't personally support any of these requests. However they seem harmless -- other than wasting a lot of people's time -- and hence money."

We're now very far down the line, July 2010. You're being told about something called a Known Error Log. Did you know what the Known Error Log was?

21 Α. No.

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22 Q. No? A post Office in the Midlands experiencing 23 problems, 200,000 system faults: when you add that to 24 the knowledge that we've established that you had about 25 Callendar Square, about magazine articles, growing

1 more able witness to be cross-examined [than] Anne. 2 Penny is unaware at the moment as to what the issue was 3 with Callendar Square but hopefully a statement should 4 be with me by the end of [the] week."

> Are you able to assist us with what was meant there by the fact that Gareth Jenkins would be a "more able witness" to be cross-examined?

- 8 A. I think this is what I was -- again, I think I recall 9 there were some emails from Anne to Gareth asking if he 10 could deal with it and Gareth agreed, I think.
- Q. Were you aware, for example, of any concerns that Anne 11 12 Chambers had expressed after the Lee Castleton trial in
- 13 January 2007 about giving evidence?
- 14 A. I think there's a document that was served late 15 yesterday that I was asked to look at, and I think, in
- 16 there, Anne Chambers has said that she was approached by
- 17 an Investigator to give some evidence but she --
- Q. So you've seen now this reflections document that the 18
- 19 Inquiry has seen but, at the time, as at January 2010,
- 20 were you aware of concerns that had been expressed by
- 21 Anne Chambers about giving evidence?
- 22 A. No, I don't recall. I don't recall much about Anne 23 Chambers.
- 24 Q. So "more able to be cross-examined". What does that 25 mean? Does that mean --

1 number of cases, the issue with ARQ data, why didn't all 2 of those together change your view as to the reliability 3 and integrity of the Horizon system?

4 A. Well, with hindsight, it should have done but, at the 5 time, I was probably focused on only offices where 6 an actual fault with Horizon had been identified.

7 Q. I'm going to move on now to expert evidence and I'll 8 only be relatively brief on this. Jarnail Singh has 9 given evidence that you were Gareth Jenkins' main point 10 of contact. Would you agree with that?

11 A. Well, I would go through Penny Thomas, we used Penny 12 Thomas and then she would -- I'd contact Penny Thomas

13 and say, "Can we have this, this, this and this", and

14 then she would probably forward it to Gareth.

15 Q. You've been very open in your witness statement about 16 not being aware of the various duties of an expert and

17 I'd just like to ask you a little bit about your

18 relationship with Mr Jenkins and your level of

19 involvement with the evidence that he gave. Can we 20 please look at POL00167129. So we're going back in time

21 now to January 2010. This is in the context of

22 Ms Misra's case. You say to counsel, Warwick Tatford:

"Penny Thomas telephoned me late yesterday and said that their expert, Gareth, would compose a witness statement dealing with Callendar Square as he would be

Well, maybe had more knowledge about the Callendar Square bug. That's --

3 "More able witness to be cross-examined" though. It 4 suggests that some sort of judgement has been made about

5 how they would present to the court or whether they

6 might be undermined; do you recall making any kind of 7 judgement along those lines?

8 A. No, I wouldn't. I really can't add much to that at all.

9 Q. Can we move on then to FUJ00153029. 5 March 2010, if we 10 look at the bottom email we have an email from Penny Thomas to Jarnail Singh and to you and she says: 11

"Jon

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"We need some help with analysis and witness statement generation for Gareth, would you be available Monday or Tuesday to visit us and help?"

16 Are you able to assist us with what she may have 17 meant by "analysis and witness statement generation for 18 Gareth"?

19 All I can recall, my only -- my intention was to go and A. 20 take a witness statement from Mr Jenkins, and I actually 21 travelled to their Fujitsu Head Office with my laptop to

22 sit down with him and to obtain a statement but he

23 advised me that he would write his own witness 24

statement, so ... 25 Q. Did you help him with some analysis, though?

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- A. No, I've got no knowledge in that area or -- you know, 1 2 to offer any help with analysis for Mr Jenkins.
- 3 Q. Could we please look at FUJ00122906. This is the 4 witness statement we looked at before, where you did 5 insert a paragraph relating to Seema Misra's case, 6 a Seema Misra-specific paragraph. It's also the 7 statement where he describes the issues with Horizon 8 Online and the duplication in ARQ data and I'd like your
- 9 assistance, please, with the handwritten note that's on
- 10 page 2. Is that your handwriting there?
- No, I've tried to read it but I can't, if --11 Α.

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12 Let me tell you what I think it says and you may be able 13 to assist us with whether that jogs your memory about 14 a conversation. It looks like it says:

> "Rang Jon Longman 12.00, 21 July and advised that contrary to paragraph 2, page 2, POL had not greet to this workaround."

> It may say "workaround", that's one reading of it: "He said he was happy that as a representative of POL he had agreed this process in this case. He will come back to me if he requires a replacement statement."

Do you recall a discussion about the workaround to provide in respect of the duplicate ARQ issue and that it seems as though, on one reading of this, you were content for it to happen in this particular case but you

we're now in October 2010, and you say:

"Gareth

"I have scanned a few of the Branch Trading Accounts for analysis as agreed last night. I have more, but would envisage that this sample should be enough for you to prove whether she was hiding money in the cash in pouches awaiting collection figure and more importantly whether it was increasing."

Are you able to assist us with the work that you were carrying at there and whether or not this was some sort of analysis or assistance you were providing to Gareth Jenkins?

- 13 Α. No, it's no form of analysis. It was just sending 14 Mr Jenkins branch trading accounts for him to look at, 15 and do what whatever analysis he thought he needed to do 16 to see if there was any money that was being hidden in 17 cash and pouches.
- Q. Wasn't that something -- I mean, Mr Jenkins, presumably, 18 19 would have had access to the Horizon data from the 20 Fujitsu side. Why would he need you to assist him in 21 providing information like that?
- 22 A. Well, I had the copies of these branch trading accounts 23 so I just copied them and sent them to him.
- 24 Did you see the two of you in some way working together?

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25 No, not at all. All I'm doing is just sending him some 1 weren't giving a view as to, for example, whether the

2 Post Office was happy with that going forward?

3 A. I'm afraid I can't recall what was meant by that or 4 what's meant by that note. I really don't know what it means or why -- and, you know, what my thoughts were at 5 6 the time on this. I'm sorry, I just can't offer any --

7 Q. That's absolutely fine. There's another statement 8 that's produced by Gareth Jenkins. Very quickly go to 9 FUJ00122999. I'm only taking this really for 10 chronological reasons. We're now in 6 October 2010 and 11 he emails to say:

> "It was good to meet you last night and put some faces to names and voices. Following that I've now attempted to draft a witness statement ...

"Here is the first draft and I'd appreciate feedback as to whether I have captured your requirements as to style and approach. I appreciate that you probably cannot comment on factual content."

Then behind that we see a further witness statement. and perhaps, if we just look at page 9, we can see that this is the statement that refers to Callendar Square, at page 9.

In respect of whether you assisted Mr Jenkins with some analysis, can we please look at FUJ00154934, please. It's an email sent by you to Gareth Jenkins,

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documents. Nothing more than that.

2 Q. I'm going to move on now to my final topic, which is 3 specific, really, to this phase, Phases 5 and 6, and 4 growing concerns about Horizon within the business.

> Can we start by looking at POL00175972. So we're here in the summer of 2010, 19 July 2010, and this is an email chain that is sent to you. But I want to start at the bottom of the chain, so over the page, please. There's an email from somebody called Andrew Daley Security Programme Manager. He was part of your team?

11 A. Yes, he was.

12 Q. He says "Hi All", and I don't think this one is sent to 13 you but you're on the chain higher above:

> "Have you guys heard anything from the [Post Office] Executive on the Horizon integrity risk?

"The Investigators are concerned that if we lose a case based on the Horizon integrity, we'll be in a world of trouble. They have also been getting queries from solicitors during case briefings. So this is still very much in the spotlight and not going away."

Now, this is during the time that we've seen quite a lot of the correspondence relating to Seema Misra's case. What were you aware of, in respect of the Post Office Executives concern regarding the Horizon integrity risk?

1	Α.	No, I had not heard anything or about the Post Office
2		Executive or, you know, on the Horizon integrity risk.

3 Q. It says:

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"The Investigators are concerned that if we lose the case based on Horizon integrity, we'll be in a world of trouble."

You were one of the Investigators dealing, at that moment in time, with a case relating to Horizon integrity. Are you one of those Investigators who thought that you might be in a world of trouble?

A. Well, no, I mean, all I can say is that Andrew Daley
 wasn't an Investigator in my team. I think he was maybe
 up north somewhere, so maybe it's his particular team
 that ---

15 Q. Yes, so if we scroll down, it says he's part of FraudStrand North?

17 A. Yeah, I think he was up in Scotland.

18 Q. So you weren't aware at that stage about concerns19 amongst the Post Office Executive?

20 **A.** No.

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21 Q. If we scroll up, please, we have an email from AndrewHayward, I think, to Andrew Daley. He says:

23 "Andrew,

"Sue Lowther's team have reviewed this on behalf ofSecurity ... "

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email from Andy Hayward and he says to Graham:

"At yesterday's SLT [I think that's Senior Leadership Team] Nigel Viles ..."

Do you recall Nigel Viles?

5 A. I haven't heard of Nigel Viles.

6 Q. You have or haven't, sorry?

7 A. I haven't sorry.

Q. "... mentioned that one of the Investigators had mentioned concerns re: Horizon challenges in one of his cases (this being you I believe). Please see my recent reply to the team on this matter. If however you need further and specific support please let Jason/myself know or if required contact Dave K."

Then above there's an email copied to you. It says:

"I know my memory isn't what it used to be but I think this might relate to Jon Longman's West Byfleet case. Apparently it was raised by a couple of the team (not Jon) at a recent focus group meeting led by Nigel."

So it seems to have been sent to you because you were involved in Seema Misra's case, in July 2010, so prior to the conclusion of Seema Misra's case, and referring to concerns within the business, the Senior Leadership Team, also a reference to the Post Office Executive, and concerns regarding the Horizon integrity risk. Is this not something that would have jumped out

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1 Was that your team?

2 A. Security, yes, well --

3 Q. Sue Lowther's team?

4 A. I wasn't in Sue -- no, Sue Lowther, she wasn't in the
 5 Investigations Strand. She might have been in one of
 6 the other strands in Security, I don't know.

Q. "... and will be producing a briefing summary for the
 stakeholders. In essence it will state that there are
 no underlying issues or trends identified regarding the
 Horizon challenges to date and that we will continue to
 'manage' each case as and when further challenges arise.

12 This is also the recommendation from the Legal Team in

that if we carry out a 'drains up' exercise we are

leaving ourselves open to an even greater risk ofchallenge (ie in simple terms: why are you looking if

16 you say everything is okay!)."

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What did you understand by that when you received this email? I know that you're not a direct recipient here but you are -- if we look above, this is an email that was sent to you. Do you recall receiving that email?

A. I don't recall the contents of it, no. If I'm copied
 in, I must have received it, but --

Q. So we see the top email from Graham Brander to yourself.I'll just read the one just below that first. It's an

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1 at you at the time, as being a real concern?

A. I just don't recall these. You know, I can see that
 I've been copied in there. I really can't comment -- it
 doesn't, you know, jog any memory at all. Never heard
 of Nigel Viles that I can recall, anyway.

Q. Let's move on in time, to POL00055590. We're now in
 October 2010. This is the well-known email that we've
 seen a number of times in the Inquiry from Jarnail
 Singh, congratulating people on the success in the Seema

10 Misra case:

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"We were beset with an unparalleled degree of disclosure requests ... we were able to destroy to the criminal standard of proof ... every single suggestion made by the defence.

"It is to be hoped the case will set a marker to dissuade other defendants from jumping on the Horizon bashing bandwagon."

Was that a view that you shared at the time, that there was a Horizon-bashing bandwagon?

A. No, not at all. I do recall this email. I think I had
 to read it twice to sort of really make sure what -- you
 know, just to confirm what had been written and I'd have
 to say that I don't know why that comment was put in.
 I mean, it wasn't necessary and I didn't respond to that

25 email. I remember. I remember it clearly and, you

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ve jumped out 25 email. T

- 1 know, I don't see that there was a Horizon-bashing 2 bandwagon going on.
- 3 Q. Well, it is, though, consistent with that previous email 4 that we just looked at, relating to the large number of
- 5 challenges that are going on at that time relating to
- 6 the Horizon system. Were you aware --
- 7 A. Sorry --
- 8 Q. Did you think that the Seema Misra case was significant
- 9 in relation to dissuading other defendants from
- 10 challenging Horizon?
- A. No, I don't think it was going to dissuade. It 11
- developed, if you like, into -- and I didn't know this 12
- 13 at the time but I think there was a lot of people in
- 14 different departments within the Post Office watching
 - the outcome of this very closely. So it sort of
- 16 developed into a bit of a test case, I suppose you could
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- Q. 18 You say you didn't know it at the time. Can we please
- 19 look at POL00169170. This the follow-up email from Rod
- 20 Ismay that the Inquiry has also seen, 22 October. He
- 21 says there, and you're included in this email:
- "... please note Dave Smith's thanks to all of you 22
- 23 for your work on this important case."
 - I think that's who we know as David Y Smith, former
- 25 Managing Director.

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- 1 By 22 October 2010, were you aware of very senior 2 interest in your case?
- 3 A. Well, I can see from that email, yes, that what I was
- 4 trying -- the point I was and to make is I didn't know
- 5 at the time the case was progressing that it had gone up
- 6 to a senior level and that there was a -- you know,
- 7 there was a close eye on the case because I wasn't
 - reporting to anybody -- any of these people. Obviously,
- 9 Jarnail and Mr Tatford but I wasn't really talking to
- 10 any of these other people.
- **Q.** Putting this email to one side, by this stage, were you 11
- 12 aware that members of the Executive Team had been
- 13 interested in the case? Even if you weren't aware
- 14 during the case, were you aware at that stage that they
- 15 were, by then, interested?
- A. Well, only by seeing this email. Sorry, did you say 16
- 17 "put this to one side"?
- Q. Yes, if we put this email to one side, do you recall any 18
- 19 conversations or anyone telling you?
- 20 Α. No, no. Not at all, that I can recall.
- 21 Q. Can we please look at POL00176080. Moving to the next
- 22 month, November 2010, we have an email at the bottom
- 23 there from Ann Bailey, Former Agents Accounting, and she

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- 24 savs:
- 25 "On the West Byfleet case have you received the

A. Right.

2 Q. It says:

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"Dave and the ET [the Executive Team] have been aware of the significance of these challenges and have been supportive of the excellent work going on in so 6 many teams to justify the confidence that we have in Horizon and in our supporting processes."

> So you were presumably aware at that time, October 2010, that there was quite senior people discussing, aware of and interested in the result of your case?

- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Were you not aware of that?
- 13 No, this case came to me and I dealt with Mr Singh and
- 14 Mr Tatford, and that's -- it was the three of us who
- 15 just dealt with this case. I didn't know that anybody
- 16 was reporting to anybody on the Executive Team or
- 17 keeping them informed on this case. I don't --
- 18 **Q.** I mean, you're copied into this email. Didn't you think
- 19 "Oh, gosh, you know, some very senior people in this
- 20 business are very happy with the work that I've done"?
- 21 A. Well, yes, I can see that but, during the conduct of the
- 22 case and going to trial, I wasn't aware that, you know,
- 23 other than the three names I mentioned, myself, Mr Singh
- 24 and Mr Tatford, that anybody else was watching this case as closely as they were.
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1 official notice from the court yet and would it be 2 possible to let us have anything or would you know of 3 where we could get the court transcripts?"

Then she says:

"I was [very] surprised to hear from Sarah that Mrs O'Dell is now trying to go down the route of blaming Horizon for the loss."

Now, this is quite late, November 2010. We started today looking at the O'Dell case. Who was Ann Bailey 10 and why, as far as you were aware, would she be interested in those two cases? 11

- 12 Well, it says she's a former agent, so I don't know if 13 she's tasked with trying to recover monies as a result
- 14 of losses. She's based in Chesterfield and that's what
- 15 she's typed and that's what's she's made her view to be,
- 16 that Mrs O'Dell was going down the route of blaming
- 17 Horizon for the loss. But I'd like to say that that
- 19 wasn't my view.
- 20 Q. I mean, we spoke earlier about your thoughts about 21 whether or not you should have been disclosing in the
- 22 Misra case the facts relating to the O'Dell case. Did
- 23 this November 2010 email not make you think "Ooh, gosh,

wasn't my -- you know, there's no input from me and that

24 maybe I should have been drawing some dots between the

25 two"?

1	A.	No, it didn't. Maybe I should have done but, at the
2		time, it didn't. It didn't occur.

- 3 Q. We're going to move on now to September 2011. Can we 4 look at POL00056857, and we see an email here at the 5 bottom from Penny Thomas to you, and the title there is 6 "Horizon Integrity Challenges", and it refers to the
- 7 cases of Scott Darlington and Julian Wilson. Are you 8 able to assist us with what your involvement was with
- 9 Horizon integrity challenges by September 2011?
- 10 A. I'll try to give you a shortened version but, after
- 11 Ms Misra's trial, it was either the -- some solicitors
- 12 sitting at London asked either Dave Pardoe or John Scott
- 13 who worked in Security whether I could go and assist
- 14 them with getting some of the documentation, because
- 15 they were having -- I think Shoosmiths was the
- 16 solicitors acting for these two post offices and they
- 17 were making quite a number of disclosure requests and
- 18 they thought that I could be -- you know, I could be
- 19 useful in helping them get these disclosure requests.
- 20 Q. Thank you. I'm going to take you to one other document 21 around the same time, POL00056928. Did you have formal
- 22 role at all in relation to drawing together these
- 23 various cases by 2011?
- 24 Α. Well, they were trying to free up some of my workload in 25 the Investigation Department, so that I could spend more
- 1 yes.
- 2 **Q.** If we turn to page 3, please, the bottom of page 3.
- 3 I think the evidence that you've just given is that you
- 4 were concerned about having sufficient time to dedicate
- 5 to this particular task; is that right?
- 6 A. Yes, that's right. I was -- they wanted me to assist
- 7 them as much as possible but I still had other jobs to
- 8 do within the Investigation Department. So I had to
- 9 bring it up with my manager to try to free up some of my
- 10 investigation cases, so that I could spend more time
- 11 helping the -- the solicitors.
- 12 Q. If we scroll up, we can see there that you're described
- as, it says there -- "his help" -- sorry, the top of 13 14 page 3:
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- "... it looks as though there may be an issue with Jon Longman's ability to assist on the Horizon claims. His help is extremely valuable and is saving
- 18 considerable legal cost, so I wonder if anything can be 19 done to free him up ..."
 - If we keep on scrolling up to page 2, there's even a reference at the top of page 2, from Hugh Flemington, saying:
 - "Apparently having Jon Longman help us is saving us hundreds of thousands in external fees.
 - "Problem is [he] is being pulled in [many]

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- 1 time trying to, you know, retrieve documents, training
- 2 records, whatever was requested. So I was doing a bit
- 3 of my existing job and trying to dedicate as much as
- 4 I could to retrieving documents to help serve on
- 5 Shoosmiths.

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- 6 **Q.** Can we please turn to page 5 of this email chain.
- 7 There's reference at the bottom email there, or the
- 8 middle email, to the case of Julian Wilson, do you
- 9 recall being involved in that?
- A. In terms of retrieving documents, yes, but I had no 10 11 involvement in the actual investigation.
- 12 Q. So is this the same job? I mean, we saw there before 13 Scott Darlington and Julian Wilson. I'm just going to 14 read a little bit to you here, it says:

"As you may be aware, we have just received two claims from former subpostmasters challenging the integrity of Horizon and claiming they did not receive adequate training -- we expect to receive more in the next few weeks as this has been building a head of steam

Was that a sentiment that you shared at that time, that Horizon challenges had been building a head of steam for years?

24 A. Yes, I think they'd been increasing, the number of 25 challenges. So I would have agreed with that comment,

directions."

2 How is it you were saving them hundreds of thousands 3 in external fees; what is it you were doing?

- 4 A. All I was doing was trying to retrieve documents, like
- 5 training records -- well, just dealing with any
- 6 disclosure requests that the Shoosmiths solicitors --
- 7 I think it was Shoosmiths -- wanted. So maybe I was
- 8 cheaper to employ than a solicitor to employ and do this
- 9 type of work. That's -- I don't know of hundreds of
- 10 thousands but, yeah, that's all I can offer on that 11 point.
- 12 MR BLAKE: Sir, I only have two more documents to go to.
- 13 Would you like to take our lunch now, and come back
- 14 perhaps ten minutes early? We do, I'm told, have
- 15 sufficient time this afternoon.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, I am in your hands, really, 16
- 17 Mr Blake, as to what you think is the more efficient.
- 18 MR BLAKE: Perhaps if I could finish now, so if we could sit 19 until 1.10, I think that would be helpful.
- 20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, fine.
- 21 MR BLAKE: Thank you very much.
- 22 Can we please look at POL00056927, please. We're 23 now on 15 September 2011. Over the page, please.
- 24 There's an email from Dave Pardoe saying:
- 25 "Jason, would you please give me a feel for what Jon 96

has on at the moment -- has he discussed with you his Horizon commitment? Other than the FS piece what else has he got on please? Clearly, the Horizon issue a biggie and we may need to look at stripping out his workload to accommodate."

Then if we scroll up, we see an email that sets out your current workload. You had 12 operational cases on hand, various other matters. If we look down, it says:

"10 cases have been identified by Civil Litigation in regards to potential challenges, when engaged in seeking recovery for outstanding debts to former [subpostmasters], of these 10, 2 have enacted no win, no fee lawyers and were challenging the business."

Then it explains what you were doing. You were a facilitator to the matter, assisting in the provision of evidential information or individual experts in areas that require witness statement support and, moving forward, you have asked for a steer.

I'm going to move on to one other document on the same point and that is FUJ00155070. So you were gathering all this information for the civil litigation or potential civil litigation, presumably using the knowledge that you had obtained over the years in dealing with cases?

A. Well, a lot of the retrieval of information where I had

four post offices for the following periods."

the criminal cases that you were doing now to the civil cases, that it's all going to cost too much and, therefore, the number of requests should be limited?

A. Well, can I just make it clear that that wasn't my comment. That was what was said by the solicitors at the meeting. So I didn't go there and say, "Oh, it's very costly, you should challenge it". I just want to make that clear. It came out from the meeting with the solicitors that this was their feeling and I hadn't -- you know, I had no involvement in that. They just came up with this, so I can't comment whether it's crossed over from the criminal side of the investigation to the

I mean, is this a theme now that has translated from

16 Q. But did you notice a similar approach taken by the Post
 17 Office with regards to disclosure of information to
 18 those requesting it?

19 A. Well, again, as you can see, costs was a big issue to --20 in disclosing this information.

Q. Was it just costs or were there other concerns? Let me take you to another document, it's POL00057175. Thank you. If we scroll down to page 3, we have an email from Emily Springford, who is a principal lawyer and in dispute resolution. This is an email not sent to you,

knowledge was about Fujitsu data and a lot of it was that they wanted costings for this amount of ARQ data. I wouldn't say I had a lot of knowledge about retrieving our training records and records from within the Post Office because that turned into a bit of a nightmare at times, trying to retrieve stuff like that. But I think the main point they might have wanted to use me for was to access or be the key to the door to get into Fujitsu and, you know, knowing the relevant people there for getting the information from them.

Q. If we look at page 3, there's an email from you raising some concerns about the costs of that work. You say, as follows:

"I have just had a meeting with some of our lawyers who are dealing with the Horizon integrity issues ...

"The requests for information are getting very large and the feeling from the meeting is a lot of this information is unnecessary and should be challenged. A decision was also made that we need to make the solicitors acting for subpostmasters aware of the cost of retrieving the data from Fujitsu and get an undertaking that they are willing to meet this cost. Therefore, I would be grateful if a costing could be obtained as soon as possible from Fujitsu for the Transaction Log data and Fujitsu error log data for all

it's sent to a number of senior individuals within the Post Office business. She refers to the four letters of claim. This is an email regarding document disclosure and preservation and also addresses future communications. She says, for example:

"Please ensure that this communication reaches everyone in your department who has access to, or who is in a position to create, documents relating to the issues arising in the claims ..."

This is an email that we may well come on to in due course in this phase. If we scroll down, it addresses documentation preservation and also document creation. But I want to ask you about the very final paragraph. So, over the page to page 5, please. It says:

"The volume of information required is significant, so in order to make this fact-finding exercise as manageable as possible, our external lawyers have highlighted in yellow the information which it is absolutely necessary to gather in the next week or so. The information which is not highlighted is less urgent. Jon Longman in [Post Office] Security has been tasked with gathering this information but he is encountering some difficulties from various business areas in getting responses back quickly. Please would you support Jon as much as possible in the process ..."

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2		within the Post Office in respect of the civil
3		litigation?
4	A.	Yeah, as I think I mentioned it briefly earlier, things
5		like training records were some of the documents that
6		were requested, and you'd ask for the training records,
7		and they weren't where they should be. And we were
8		having real issues trying to track down that sort of
9		information. It became a bit of a nightmare for certain
10		items. So that's what I'm referring well, that's
11		what I think she might be referring to, that I was
12		having difficulty, you know, I was getting mainly
13		cooperation from all the other departments but there
14		were some documents that were difficult to pinpoint and
15		find.
16	Q.	Thank you very much.

Did you experience problems in obtaining information

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Looking at your work during 2011 on all of those Horizon integrity cases, the civil challenges, did you ever reflect on the work that you had undertaken as an Investigator and did that make you question some of the lines that you had taken over the years regarding

22 the reliability and robustness of Horizon?

A. The -- Horizon -- we've never been made aware that
 Horizon had any bugs or issues. All our cases where we
 used ARQ data was always supported by statements from

1 Participants. Perhaps we could come back at 2.00. 2 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, fine. 3 MR BLAKE: Thank you very much, sir. 4 (1.10 pm) 5 (The Short Adjournment) 6 (2.00 pm) 7 MR BLAKE: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear me? 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you. 9 MR BLAKE: Sir, we have some questions from Core

Participants, they should last around 30 minutes. First
we're going to hear from Ms Oliver, on behalf of Gareth
Jenkins, and then from Mr Henry, and then from Mr Stein,
and then we'll proceed to a very short break while
everyone will stay in the room for five minutes, and
we'll go on to hear from Mr Leighton.

16 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Very well.

17 MR BLAKE: Thank you.

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Questioned by MS OLIVER

19 MS OLIVER: Good afternoon Mr Longman, I ask questions on20 behalf of Gareth Jenkins.

I just want to look at two occasions, if I may, where you received information from Mr Jenkins during the course of the *Seema Misra* case. Firstly, if we can have up, please, POL00175703, please.

Thank you very much. This is an email from you to 103

Fujitsu saying it was in working order. So -- but as I performed this role, I began to get even more aware that there was more challenges coming in. Now, if these challenges had been investigated and they all had bugs then, obviously, that would have, you know, had a greater emphasis that there was something wrong with Horizon.

At this stage, they were just -- they'd -- nothing had been proven with the Horizon system. So yeah, I was becoming aware that Horizon integrity challenges were increasing.

12 Q. But did it not make you think "Ooh, I was involved in
13 the prosecution of Seema Misra, there seemed to be
14 a number of people who are saying that they've had
15 serious problems with Horizon, maybe she was right all
16 along"?

A. Well, the fact that we were successful in the case of
 Seema Misra probably suggested to me that there wasn't
 anything wrong with Horizon.

Q. Did it make you question the disclosure decisions thatyou had made throughout that case?

A. No, not until this Inquiry came about did I realise thatthere were issues with disclosure.

24 MR BLAKE: Thank you, sir. I think that is an appropriate
 25 moment. There will be some questions from Core
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1 Penny Thomas on 29 January 2010 and it says:

"Penny

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"When Gareth completes his statement about Callendar
 Square could he also mention whether there are any known
 problems with the Horizon system that Fujitsu are aware
 of. If none could this be clarified in the statement."

7 Do you remember making that request?

8 A. Yes, I do.

Q. Did that request derive from some advice that you had
 received from Mr Tatford --

11 A. It did, yes.

12 Q. -- in relation to POL's disclosure obligations?

13 **A.** Yes

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14 **Q.** Thank you. If we can have up, then, please,

FUJ00167159. It's FUJ00167159 -- let me check that reference, I'm sorry.

17 It is an email we've looked at over lunch on the 18 system, so I'm hoping that it will be available. Can we 19 try it, this may be my error, I'm sorry if it is.

Can we try POL00167159. Apologies.

21 Thank you. That's the one, I apologise.

22 Can we scroll down, please, thank you. This is 23 an email from David Jones to Mr Singh that was forwarded 24 to you on 8 February 2010. Do you recall that email?

25 A. Well, if I was copied into it, you know, I would have

1 read it at the time.

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Q. All right. Thank you. If we can look at paragraph 3,what Mr Jones says there is:

"He is not currently in a position to make a clear statement. It is possible for there to be problems where transactions have been 'lost' in particular circumstances due to locking issues. When this happens then we have events in the underlying eventing logs to indicate that there was an issue. Whenever we provide transaction logs to POL we check for any such events. In the case of West Byfleet we have not been asked to provide any transaction logs and so have not made these checks."

This, I suggest, was a response to your question of the 29 January as to whether there are any known problems within Horizon; do you recall that?

- 17 A. I remember asking, obviously, the question on the
 18 previous statement. Whether this particular paragraph
 19 relates to that, I'm not sure.
- Q. All right. But what is clear, isn't it, is that what
 Mr Jenkins or what you are being told from Mr Jenkins is
 that he can't make a clear statement to that effect and
 that there are possibly problems where transactions can
 be lost within Horizon; do you agree with that?
- 25 **A.** Yes, and that it needs transaction logs to make checks 105

1 and, if I can please have up -- and I hope I've got the 2 reference right -- it's FUJ00153157. If we can scroll 3 down, please. You've been taken to this document 4 earlier in your evidence. If we can scroll down, 5 I think to page 2, please -- a little further -- the 6 email from Issy Hogg, who was the defence solicitor for 7 Mrs Misra. We can see here that the defence have made 8 some further disclosure requests and the third of those 9 is access to the system change requests, Known Error Log 10 and new release documentation to understand what 11 problems have had to be fixed. Do you recall that 12 disclosure request?

13 A. Yes, I do.

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Q. Thank you. Then, if we can scroll right up to the top, please -- thank you -- to point 3 within that email. So this is an email from Penny Thomas to you indicating that she's had a discussion with Gareth and outlining what his views -- or at least what his recollection of his discussion with Charles McLachlan was. At point 3:

"System Change Requests: Basically, he was asking to look at all system faults. I suggested that as we kept all testing and Live faults in the same system and that there were around 200,000 of them, then this wasn't going to get him far. He then suggested looking at system changes and would like to see all the changes

for the West Byfleet case to see if there was any issues.

Q. Can you recall whether this information about
 potentially lost transactions prompted any further
 investigative steps by you?

6 A. I can't recall any, no.

Q. Did you consider this material from Mr Jenkins in lightof your disclosure obligations?

9 A. No, I probably didn't at the time.

10 Q. Do you recall whether you sought any advice about this11 material from Mr Singh or Mr Tatford?

12 A. Well, I don't know. I don't think so but I'm not sure.

13 Can I just -- who was copied into this email?

Q. So if we scroll up, we can see that the original emailgoes to Mr Singh and is copied to Mr Jenkins, and then,

if we scroll up to the top of that page, please, it's

17 forwarded "Warwick and Jon for your information and

18 comments", from Mr Singh?

A. So myself, Mr Singh and Mr Tatford knew about thatparagraph.

Q. Yes. Can you recall if there was any discussion between
 you as to what to do with that material you'd been told
 by Mr Jenkins?

24 A. No, I can't, I'm afraid.

25 **Q.** Thank you. If we can turn, then, to the second topic 106

that have happened to the system. Again, I don't thinkthis will help and I don't know how practical it is for

Fujitsu's Release Management to provide that. I think all we can do is ask the question."

5 Do you recall that email?

6 A. Yes, I do.

7 Q. Thank you. This, isn't it, is Mr Jenkins saying that8 this information that the defence have mentioned about

9 system faults and changes exists and could be

10 investigated by Fujitsu?

11 A. Yes. I'll go along with that.

12 Q. Thank you. A final document, please. Can I have

13 POL00055073. Thank you. This was forwarded on by you

14 to Mr Singh -- sorry, if we can just scroll down

a little bit please. We see on 27 July 2010:

"Jarnail,

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17 "This is the response that I have received from18 Penny following Issy Hogg's email."

If we can scroll down to the bottom of that page, please. Thank you:

"As for point 3, I will ask Penny Thomas whether Fujitsu's Release Management Team can provide the defence expert with system fault data."

So this is you indicating to Mr Singh that, in line with what has been suggested by Mr Jenkins, further

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- 1 enquiries can be made of Fujitsu about this material; is 2 that right?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Did you receive any guidance from Mr Singh or Mr Tatford
- 5 about investigative steps that ought to be undertaken in
- 6 relation to what you've been told about system faults
- 7 and changes?
- 8 A. I don't recall any guidance given.
- 9 Q. Do you recall any guidance being given by Mr Singh or
- 10 Mr Tatford in relation to how that material and
- 11 information might impact on POL's disclosure
- 12 obligations?
- 13 A. Again, I can't recall any.
- 14 Q. Did you consider how that material might impact on POL's15 disclosure obligations?
- 16 A. It depends on what -- where this went, when I asked
- 17 Penny Thomas -- sorry, I said I will ask Penny Thomas
- 18 whether Fujitsu's Release Management Team can provide
- 19 the defence expert with system fault data; it depends
- 20 what was -- what happened thereafter.
- 21 Q. Well, were you aware that work was done within Fujitsu
- as to what investigating that system change data would
- 23 involve?

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- 24 A. No, I wasn't aware.
- 25 **Q.** Okay. But, nonetheless, the defence requests regarding
- 1 That indicates a degree of communication, doesn't 2 it?
- 3 A. Yes, because when I picked up the civil litigation --
- 4 when I was asked to assist with civil litigation,
- 5 another thing that came out was that, because there
- 6 could be more challenges, that any documentation for
- 7 offices where Horizon could be raised as a challenge, we
 - should make sure that we secure all documentation and
- 9 don't shred anything or destroy it in line with our
- normal retention periods; we should keep it longer.
 - So I was asked -- I can't remember how it came about -- but I was asked to devise a schedule or find out if anybody had any potential offices or had done any interviews where Horizon integrity may be raised and, if so, I was then trying to save all that data from being destroyed in line with retention policies, and that's
- destroyed in line with retention policies, and that's
- 17 how that schedule came together.
- 18 Q. Thank you, Mr Longman.
- 19 You had good communication with the Criminal Law
- 20 Team, didn't you?
- 21 A. What, during this case or --
- 22 Q. Yes, during Mrs Misra's case.
- 23 **A.** Yes, yes.
- 24 Q. You also had liaison with Mr Jenkins, didn't you?
- 25 A. Through Penny Thomas, yes.
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- 1 system changes, the known error log and new release
 - documents were refused before Fujitsu could feed back on
- 3 that work. Were you aware of that?
- 4 A. Again, because of the passage of time, I know certain
- 5 disclosure requests were refused and this may have been
- 6 one of them but I can't actually recall without seeing
- 7 a document that says that.
- 8 MS OLIVER: Thank you very much, Mr Longman, that's all
- 9 I had.
- 10 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms Oliver.
- 11 Next, please.

Questioned by MR HENRY

- 13 MR HENRY: Thank you, sir.
 - Mr Longman, I represent Seema Misra.
 - Communication between you and your colleagues as
- 16 Investigators in the Security Department, there must
- 17 have been good communication between you?
- 18 A. Well, between -- as an Investigator, you normally work
- 19 with one or two colleagues on a regular basis and you'd
- 20 probably have communication with them but, as a national
- team, I wouldn't say there was a good communication, no.
- 22 Q. Well, you said earlier today:
- "When I started putting schedules together I became
 aware that other investigators had potential challenges
 to Horizon."
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 - Q. But you felt able to, as it were, make changes to his
- 2 statement and you must have had direct dealings with him
- 3 during the course of the trial and in the run-up to the
- 4 trial?
- 5 A. No, I wouldn't -- I would say Mr Tatford really would
- 6 liaise with Mr Jenkins more than I did.
- 7 Q. Are you saying that you had no contact at all with
 - Mr Jenkins in the run-up to the trial and during the
- 9 trial?

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- 10 A. Well, I'd have limited contact, yes. I'd speak to
- 11 him -- with regards to the statement that you mentioned,
- 12 that paragraph was -- I was asked to review his
- 13 statement. I don't recall a great deal of conversation
- or communication between me and Mr Jenkins.
- 15 Q. Right. I'm moving on to a different topic now. The
- 16 receipts and payments mismatch bug, when did you first
- 17 hear of that bug?
- i i near or that bug?
- 18 **A.** I'm not sure what you're referring to.
- 19 **Q.** On 12 December 2023, when answering my questions,
- 20 Mr Wilson said that he and Mr Jarnail Singh and
- 21 Ms Juliet McFarlane became aware of the receipts and
- payments mismatch bug on 8 October 2010. You know that
- 23 Mrs Misra's trial began on 11 October 2010.
- 24 **A.** Mm
- 25 Q. I asked Mr Wilson what he did in respect of that

- 1 information and he said this:
- 2 "I think what I did was I spoke to Jon Longman."3 Did he?
- 4 A. I don't recall that. I don't recall. I'm not familiar
- 5 with what you've just mentioned. So he said he thinks
- 6 he mentioned it to me but I've got no recollection of
- 7 a conversation about it. That's not to say that
- 8 I didn't but it doesn't ring any bells.
- 9 Q. I see. "I think what I did was I spoke to Jon Longman";
- 10 you're not saying these lying, are you?
- 11 A. I'm saying I don't know.
- 12 Q. So you're prepared to accept that what he said is
- 13 potentially correct?
- 14 $\,$ A. It might be right, it might be wrong. That's all I can
- 15 say.
- 16 Q. All right. You were surely -- I mean, Gareth Jenkins,
- 17 he was aware, we know this -- he was aware of the
- 18 receipts and payments mismatch bug. Did you discuss
- 19 that with him?
- 20 A. No, not that I can recall.
- 21 Q. It wasn't disclosed in Mrs Misra's trial, the existence
- of an important bug: the receipts and payments mismatch
- 23 bug was not disclosed in Mrs Misra's trial. Was that
- 24 deliberate?
- 25 **A.** Not on my part, no, because I don't think I was aware of
- 1 was summarised I thought there was a further two
- 2 statements containing the full raw data that those --
- 3 I'm sure it was disclosed to the defence.
- 4 Q. Her calls to the helpline were effectively censored to
- 5 remove complaints about the Horizon system. Was that
- 6 anything to do with you?
- 7 **A.** No
- 8 Q. ARQ data was not provided in an unfiltered state but was
- 9 culled and didn't cover the indictment period. Was that
- 10 anything to do with you?
- 11 A. No, as previously explained, that was -- I had asked for
- the full three years of data, but it was refused on
- 13 costs grounds.
- 14 Q. No examination of that data for bugs, errors and defects
- or to justify evidence of theft. Was that anything to
- 16 do with you?
- 17 **A.** No.
- 18 Q. No evidence to corroborate the Horizon evidence. You
- 19 were the Investigator and Disclosure Officer: was that
- anything to do with you?
- 21 A. Well, to identify any bugs with Horizon, we would have
- 22 been relying on Fujitsu. So -- to analyse the data that
- 23 was provided, which was one year. So I wouldn't be able
- 24 to identify a bug or a glitch in the system.
- 25 **Q.** So what are you apologising for because you don't appear 115

1 it.

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- Q. Look, I'm now going to ask you, what did you do wrong in Seema Misra's case?
- 4 A. Well, at the time, I didn't think I'd done anything
- 5 wrong but, obviously, since the Inquiry, it seems that
- 6 the disclosure of other potential Horizon integrity
- 7 issues should have been made known to the defence.
- 8 Q. Right. You stated, of course, at page 42, paragraph 86
- 9 of your statement, it appeared, at least, that you'd
- 10 read the *Hamilton* judgment and you had no regrets. So
- 11 I just want to now go through some evidence that we've
- 12 heard in the Inquiry and also the Court of Appeal's
- 13 findings, very quickly.
 - First of all, you did not ensure that full and
 - accurate records of her calls to the helpline were
- 16 disclosed and presented at her trial; do you accept
- 17 that

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- 18 A. Is this to the Fujitsu helpline you're referring to?
- 19 **Q**. Yes
- 20 $\,$ A. A CD containing it was, I thought, exhibited by Mr Dunks
- 21 to the defence.
- 22 Q. It was summarised Mr Longman. That CD. They were
- 23 summarised in ways which left out significant technical
- 24 problems. Did that have anything to do with you?
- 25 **A.** Well, no, but I thought the actual raw -- although it 114
- 1 to be accepting responsibility for any of the matters
- 2 I put to you?
- 3 A. Well, I'm apologising because, with hindsight, maybe
- 4 I should have been a bit more forceful with trying to
- 5 get this disclosure to the defence and realising that,
- 6 where there were previous cases where there are
- 7 unexplained losses, that these should also have been
- 8 made available to the defence.
- 9 Q. Right. Well, last topic about hindsight. We've seen
- 10 your statement, which was POL00054041, dated 5 February
- 11 2010. I don't want to put it up on the screen but you
- said at the bottom of page 1, going over to page 2:
- "I have never experienced any problems with theHorizon system other than pressing the wrong icon",
- 15 et cetera, et cetera.
- You were trying to insinuate the reliability of
- 17 Horizon, weren't you?
- 18 A. I was trying to explain that when I used the system I'd
 - had no problems, although my involvement with using
- 20 Horizon was very limited to Christmas pressure time or
- when there was strike action. That's all I was doing.
- 22 **Q.** I see. At the time you signed that statement, you had
- 23 information about Mrs O'Dell's case and Mr Hosi's case,
- 24 didn't you?
- 25 **A.** Yes.

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- 1 Q. Mrs O'Dell, you knew she hadn't committed theft and
- 2 neither had her family; you said that and you also said
- 3 that she'd made numerous calls to the helpline telling
- 4 them everything in the five months before she was
- 5 audited. So you knew all about Mrs O'Dell's case and
- 6 the decision not to prosecute because you knew, didn't
- 7 you, that there was no basis to prosecute?
- 8 A. Yes, I wasn't happy with being given that case.
- 9 I really wasn't.
- 10 Q. Yes, and, if an unjust decision to prosecute had been
- 11 made, it was highly likely you'd lose with massive and
- 12 embarrassing publicity undermining the myth of Horizon,
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. I didn't think a prosecution should take place because
- she'd been refused the transaction log data and that is
- 16 a clear case where that should have gone to Fujitsu for
- 17 investigation.
- 18 $\,$ Q. It was out and out, as you said this morning, to do with
- 19 the system. Your words.
- 20 A. Sorry?
- 21 Q. You said this morning "It was out and out to do with the
- 22 system", in other words the system was at fault, in your
- view, looking at all of the evidence.
- 24 A. What in Mrs O'Dell's case?
- 25 Q. Yes.

- 1 help. You should have disclosed both cases to
- 2 Mrs Misra's team, shouldn't you?
- 3 A. With hindsight, yes.
- 4 Q. You should have revised your statement of the 5 February
- 5 before her trial in October, shouldn't you?
- 6 A. To reflect this thing?
- 7 Q. Yes.
- 8 **A.** Yes.
- 9 Q. What I'm going to ask you to do in conclusion is to tell
- 10 the truth. There was no inclination to investigate
- 11 unexplained losses or shortfalls on behalf of SPMs, was
- 12 there?
- 13 A. Well, there was, in terms of -- it probably wasn't as
- 14 thorough as it should have been. As I say in my
- 15 statement, it would always be Fujitsu who would say --
- who would need to analyse all the transaction log data,
- 17 and not an Investigator, because they would have far
- 18 greater knowledge of the systems, to see whether there
- 19 was a glitch or a bug.
- 20 $\,$ Q. You and your colleagues, with the advice and counsel
- 21 I suggest, of the Criminal Law Team, did not wish to
- 22 investigate anything that might undermine Horizon's
- 23 infallibility or might assist the subpostmasters. What
- 24 do you say to that?
- 25 **A.** I would say that our training was to put in -- to 119

1 A. I couldn't say the system was at fault but we hadn't

done enough in that case to prove one way or another and

3 as we hadn't done anything about to enquire about the

- 4 workings of Horizon, I felt it was a bit of an unjust
- 5 case

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- 6 Q. You said this morning, sir, "Out and out, it's the
- 7 system. It should have been further investigated".
- 8 A. Yes, that's right.
- 9 Q. But it wasn't investigated, I suggest, because you knew,
- 10 together with Mr Singh, that you'd get the wrong answer;
- 11 isn't that right?
- 12 A. No, not at all.
- 13 Q. So it was swept under the carpet, wasn't it?
- 14 A. No. The transaction log data wasn't provided. With
- 15 hindsight, I should have been more forceful and said we
- need transaction log data and this should go to Fujitsu
- 17 for analysis of any bugs or glitches.
- 18 Q. Mr Hosi, you knew about his case as well because you,
- 19 together with Mrs Allen, had interviewed him, correct?
- 20 A. I only knew about it when I saw the additional documents
- 21 and it was from some time ago. You don't always
- 22 particularly remember somebody else's case.
- 23 Q. He'd made multiple calls to the helpline in the five
- 24 months, again, coincidentally, five months before he was
- 25 audited and he had even urgently asked for face-to-face

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- 1 investigate, put in an offender report and, you know,
- 2 and see what the reply was from Legal Services. If it
- was for further enquiries, then we would undertake that.
- 4 But, yes, looking back, more work should have been done,
- 5 where unexplained losses had occurred. But it wasn't
- 6 part of our training, it wasn't part of our thinking at
- 7 the time, if I can put it that way.
- 8 Q. There was institutional bias to do precisely the
- 9 opposite of what you ought to have done, wasn't there?
- 10 A. Yes, I can't disagree. We should have -- there should
- 11 have been more enquiries with Fujitsu in a lot more
- 12 cases than what actually did occur, I think. I don't
- 13 know how many cases Fujitsu have actually looked at for
- 14 glitches and bugs but it's clear now, looking back, that
- there should have been more cases referred to them for
- 16 analysis.

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- 17 MR HENRY: Nothing further. Thank you.
- 18 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr Henry.
- 19 Mr Stein?

Questioned by MR STEIN

- 21 MR STEIN: Mr Longman, I represent Jennifer O'Dell. I'm
- going to take you straight to a document, please, which
- is POL00105147. Thank you. Could you go, please, to
- page 6 of that document. Thank you.
 - Now, in your evidence today, you've said this, that

in relation to Mrs O'Dell's case you said that "It was the one case that was allocated to me when I think I did speak to a manager or someone else saying why had this been passed over to us?" You made a variety of other comments about this case, saying essentially that you felt that there was something wrong with it. All right?

So can we have a look at what you said in relation to matters going back to 2010. So under the words "Legal", there's then:

"... Trading Accounts to show a balance. Mrs O'Dell was unable to offer an explanation that made any sense as to why multiple cash declarations were made in December 2009."

Then she is referred to as being adamant about the losses as a result of discrepancies in the system and you're aware and will recall, giving evidence today, about Mrs O'Dell repeatedly contacting the helpline, trying to get some assistance in this matter, where you have also said today that she wasn't helped by the helpline, okay?

21 A. That's correct, yes.

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- 22 Q. All right. Okay. So let's have a look at the last few 23 lines of that paragraph under "Legal", okay?
- 24 It says this:
- 25 "If charges of false accounting are to be

1 in there.

2 Q. Let's go to another document if we can, please. The 3 document is POL00143570. Thank you. Go to the bottom 4 of the first page, please. Now, this document is 5 a correspondence between yourself and Jarnail Singh. 6 This is from Mr Singh to you and it says this, at the 7 bottom there:

> "The circumstances of the facts will cause difficulties in prosecuting this case and the Business will come under grave criticism which the Defence will exploit as can be seen in recent prosecution cases."

Mr Longman, can you help us understand why on earth is the question of the business coming under criticism anything to do with whether someone should or should not be prosecuted?

- A. Well, it shouldn't. It shouldn't apply. That was 16 17 written by Mr Singh, so it shouldn't have been a factor, 18
- 19 Q. Was the reputational question that related to Post Office as a business something that intruded into 20 21 considerations as to prosecutions?
- 22 A. I would say no. Not on --
- 23 Q. Go to the bottom of the second page, please. Now, here,
- 24 Mr Singh is saying this, that, in his view, a caution
- 25 should be administered in this case. 123

considered, then section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006 would 2 seem the most appropriate."

3 Now, Mr Longman, for someone that is concerned about 4 a case as to why it's been allocated to your team and 5 about someone who has made a number of complaints to the 6 helpline with no help from the helpline, why are you 7 even considering the possibility of an allegation of 8 false accounting against Mrs O'Dell?

- 9 A. I suppose there was -- there still was 10,000 or close 10 to 10,000 missing and false accounting had been done, by 11 her own admission. But, with hindsight and looking at
- 12 it now, I should have marked it as "no further action",
- 13 or something to that effect, I accept that.
- 14 Q. It's not with hindsight, Mr Longman. That's why 15 I pointed out your evidence earlier. You have said 16 already at the time you thought there was something 17 wrong with this case.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. But you're going around suggesting that they might want 20 to consider false accounting against Mrs O'Dell. How on 21 earth does that make any sense, Mr Longman?
- 22 A. Well, all I can say is that there was an amount of money 23 that was missing and there was -- well, I accept your 24 point. I -- it should have been -- it should have been
- 25 "no further action" and that line should not have been 122

1 A. Yes.

- 2 Q. Now, you've said there's something wrong with this case, 3 you've agreed with me, you wish you hadn't written
- 4 something about the possibility of false accounting.
- 5 What on earth was going on that Mr Singh is proposing 6 a caution in relation to a case that you thought frankly

7 was wrong?

- A. Well, yeah, between me and Mr Singh, I think it -- yeah, 8 9 it should have been, as I say, the case should have been
- 10 looked at and no further action. 11 Q. Did you ever consider Mrs O'Dell's background, in that
- 12 she'd used to work for HM Prison Service in a clerical 13 role, she'd worked for the Cambridgeshire Police at
- 14 their headquarters in the control room answering 999 15 calls and she'd worked at a Housing Association in her
- 16 time and, at the time of these matters being
- 17 investigated, she was seeking to run as a Parliamentary
- 18 candidate. Did any of those matters ever come into your
- 19 head when thinking about what on earth has happened here
- 20 with this poor lady who is making repeat at the time
- 21 complaints to a system that doesn't answer her question?
- 22 A. Well, I wasn't aware of -- I was aware of some of what 23 you just said but, you know --
- 24 Q. Lastly, Mr Longman, when investigating this matter, if 25 that's the right word to use, did you once pull aside

- 1 her son Daniel, aged 20, and ask him whether he loved
- 2 his mother and basically suggested to him the question
- 3 whether his mother might have been nicking money from
- 4 the Post Office; do you remember doing that?
- 5 A. I remember receiving a letter from her son and we
- 6 interviewed him, not under caution but on a friend
- 7 interview. I can't remember what was said, but -- and,
- 8 if it was said, it wasn't in that context.
- 9 MR STEIN: Thank you, Mr Longman.
- 10 MR BLAKE: Thank you, sir. Those are all the questions for
- 11 Mr Longman.
- 12 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr Longman, for making
- 13 a detailed witness statement and for answering the
- 14 questions put to you by a variety of people today. I'm
- 15 grateful to you for participating in the Inquiry.
- 16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 17 MR BLAKE: Thank you, sir.
- 18 We're going to have a very quick change around, so
- 19 if I could ask everybody to remain seated.
- 20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: That doesn't include you, Mr Longman.
- You are now free to go, so to speak, all right? 21
- 22 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Sir Wyn.
- 23 (Pause)
- MR STEVENS: Sir, can you see and hear me? 24
- 25 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.
 - 125
- 1 you wish to make, page 20, paragraph 38.
- 2 A. That's correct. It's the third up from the bottom. It
- 3 says, "I note from POL00095531 that in August 2005", it
- 4 should actually read October 2008.
- 5 Q. That should be October 2008, thank you. Can we please
- 6 turn to page 30 of your statement. Is that your
- 7 signature?
- 8 A. Yes, it is.
- 9 Q. Subject to that one clarification that you've just made,
- 10 are the contents of the statement true to the best of
- your knowledge and belief? 11
- 12 A. They after.
- Q. Thank you, Mr Leighton. That stands as your evidence to 13
- 14 the Inquiry. The witness statement will be published on
- 15 the website shortly. I'm going to ask you some
- 16 questions on it but, before I do, I understand you wish
- 17 to say a few words?
- A. Yes, I do. What has happened has been a terrible thing 18
- 19 for everybody who has been involved in it, particularly
- 20 the subpostmasters and subpostmistresses. It's
- 21 unbelievable that it's happened and I just wanted to say
- 22 that I'm sorry that the elements of that that occurred
- 23 while I had my tenure at the Royal Mail, I'm sorry for
- 24 that happening.
- 25 Q. Mr Leighton, I'll move on to my questions. Your

- 1 MR STEVENS: Thank you. If I can call Mr Leighton.
- 2 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Before he is sworn, I just want to make
- 3 it clear to everyone that I had an appointment arranged
- 4 for this evening, which I have tried to change but
- 5 I cannot. So I'm afraid I do have to finish promptly at
- 6 4.30. That is not a declaration that Mr Leighton's
 - evidence has to finish by then but it is an indication
- 7 8 that, if it hasn't finished by then, he will have to
- 9 return at some other time which is suitable for
- 10 evervone

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- 11 MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir. In that case, if I may call
- 12 Mr Leighton now. Thank you.

ALLAN LESLIE LEIGHTON (sworn)

Questioned by MR STEVENS

- 15 MR STEVENS: Please take a seat. Mr Leighton, can I ask you
- 16 to state your full name.
- 17 A. Allan Leslie Leighton.
- 18 Q. Thank you for preparing your witness statement and for
- 19 coming to the Inquiry today to give evidence. I want to
- 20 start with your witness statement. It should be in
- 21 front of you, dated 28 February 2024?
- 22 A.
- 23 Q. Do you have that, yes? For the record, the URN is
- 24 WITN04380100. Before I take you to your signature,
- I understand there's a small typographical correction 25 126
- 1 evidence today concerns the role you held whilst at
- 2 Royal Mail Group. Before you joined Royal Mail, your CV
- includes being group CEO of ASDA Group Plc and, 3
- 4 following a takeover you were President and CEO of
- 5 Walmart Europe until November 2000?
- 6 A. That's correct.
- 7 You were appointed as a Non-Executive Director of
- 8 Consignia Plc in April 2001?
- 9 A. Yes.
- Q. Now, we'll see documents that say Consignia Plc. That 10
- 11 shortly -- well, the year after -- became Royal Mail
- 12 Holdings; is that correct?
- A. Correct. 13
- 14 Q. I'm going to refer to the Group as Royal Mail. If
- 15 I need to, I'll distinction Royal Mail Holdings and
- 16 Royal Mail Group as we go through. So after being
- 17 appointed a Non-Executive Director, you were appointed
- 18 Interim Chair of Royal Mail in January 2002?
- 19 That's correct.
- 20 Q. Then a permanent Chair in March 2002?
- 21
- 22 Q. Between January 2002 and April 2003, you were Chairman
- 23 of Post Office Limited?
- 24 That's correct.
- 25 Q. Could we please look at POL00021476. These are minutes 128

of a Board meeting of Consignia, we said Royal Mail. You attended as a Non-Executive Director, we can see, on the "Present" list. Can we turn to page 4, please. No surprise I'm not going to the "Irrelevant" part. I'm going to (h). It says:

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"Horizon: the Board also expressed its congratulations and thanks to the team working on the Horizon programme, on the successful completion of the installation of over 40,000 machines and training of over 60,000 people in Post Office Network ..."

What were you told about Horizon when you joined Royal Mail?

- A. This was in the early days of Royal Mail/Consignia as it was. Basically, I was told about the programme, the scale of the programme, the size of the programme and that this was the stage that people were at, and it was long time ago so I'm just sort of looking at the data. I think this was a stage where people felt that they put 40,000 machines in and trained 60,000 people, and that had been something that warranted some congratulations to the team who'd done it.
- 22 Q. So it was congratulations. Was there any feedback or 23 discussion on things that had gone wrong?
- 24 I, again, it's a long time ago, I don't recall that, but A. 25 not that I can recall.

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- Q. Please can we turn to page 7., and to the bottom of the page, please. Thank you. So this refers to boundary and scope decisions in the context of creating Post Office Limited, noting a paper by Stuart Sweetman:
 - "... which identified the outstanding issues of boundary and scope related to the creation of Post Office Limited under partial and total separation, along with the high level implications for Consignia and Post Office Limited ..."

The next one refers to:

"... final decisions on total separation could not be taken until the precise purpose of total separation, and associated valuation issues, were known ..."

So it was just an "in principle" decision. Could you briefly just summarise the background to what this decision was about?

16 17 A. Yeah, I think a decision had been made by the Government 18 that actually POL -- Post Office Limited -- should be 19 separated from the Royal Mail at some stage. It was 20 a lot off the back of there'd been conversations when 21 I joined of selling the Mail's business to the Dutch 22 Post Office, as a solution to some of the modernisation 23 costs. That conversation would entail POL, as 24 a government-owned social responsibility, to be separate 25 from the rest of what was then Consignia, let's call it

- Q. Do you recall asking anyone about either the pilot, 1 2 design or rollout of Horizon?
- 3 A. When I joined the organisation and, particularly -- yes, 4 I did, and, I sort of -- I met a number of people who
- were in charge of the projects. I'd spent a bit of time 5
- 6 looking outside what was happening in the Post Office,
- 7 as well, and, basically, the view was it's like all big
- 8 programmes. It's a massive programme, thousands of
- 9 people, thousands of offices, thousands of processes
- 10 and, like all those big programmes, it was moving
- 11 forward but there were issues as it went and those
- 12 issues were being resolved.
- 13 When you say there were issues, could you describe what 14 you were told about them?
- 15 A. No, I mean, they were just described as the normal
- 16 issues that you would have when you were rolling out one
- 17 of these large programmes and a lot of the conversation
- 18 was about process, ie because when you changed something
- 19 like this, the process change is as big as the tech
- 20 change, in a strange way. A lot of it was about process
- 21 and getting bedded in to using it.
- 22 Did anyone say anything to you that would give rise to 23 suspicion that the accounting data generated by Horizon
- 24 may be unreliable?
- 25 A. Absolutely not.

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Royal Mail, and that this, I think, is -- this is part 2 of that piece of thinking.

Subsequent to that -- I think, as I say in my witness statement -- myself and a number of other directors felt that this was not a sensible thing to be selling the Royal Mail's Letters business to the Dutch at that particular time because it was unprofitable, would have had a real declination of value for the country and was saddled with industrial action issues and our view was on two fronts: one is financially this is not a sensible thing; secondly, there would have been a high degree, I think, of union unrest and industrial action, which would have been crippling for the organisation and for the country.

- 15 Q. We know that separation -- sorry, that document can come 16 down for the time being -- didn't occur until 2012.
- 17 A. Sorry, yeah. But no, I think the other piece of this 18 was that as planning for that separation, which some 19
- people had thought would come earlier, ie if the 20 business was sold to the Dutch, then clearly POL would
- 21 be left on its own, then this work should take place and
- 22
- that POL should be run slightly separately from the rest 23 of the business anyway to get that particular focus, and
- 24 the fact that, of course, it was heavily subsidised,
- 25 because it was heavily loss-making, by the Government.

- 1 I think it was to really just, you know, get POL in
- 2 its -- on its own in its own format, so it could be run
- 3 separately if and when this sort of change took place.
- Q. So more like in more of an autonomous subsidiary than
 a business unit, within --
- A. Yeah, I think a bit of both but I think the idea was not
 for it to be a subsidiary eventually but, to start with,

as we decided not to sell it to the Dutch, then it would

- 9 make sense to at least go to this first stage at this
- 10 stage.

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- Q. Please could we bring up POL00021480. A minute of
 a board meeting on 26 September 2002 for Post Office
 Limited. This is when you were Chairman of that
 company. Please can we turn to page 2 of those minutes.
- 15 It says under "Chairman's Business" at (a) that:

"Interviews had taken place with several candidates for the position of Post Office Limited Chairman, and for Non-Executive Directors of Consignia. Consideration was also being given to the appointment of a Non-Executive Director on to the Board of Post Office

Limited."

Was it your responsibility to find a Chairman for

A. Yes, because the original idea was, when I was initially
 recruited, is I would be the Chairman of Post Office
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Post Office Limited at this stage?

- being withdrawn. 40 per cent of its income was going to
 disappear, those products needed to be replaced with
 something else and, to a degree, somebody who had worked
 in a regulated industry and, over time, had been in
 organisations with a number of people.
- Q. We've heard evidence of the financial position Post
 Office Limited was in at that time. Would you accept
 that there was an overwhelming priority to make Post
 Office Limited solvent, bring it to profitability?
 - A. Well, I think solvent, I'd start with solvent. I mean, all of the businesses were in a dire strait. I mean, Post Office was losing a lot of money, the size of the network couldn't be supported with the money that there was in the organisation. It was dependent on Government money into the mix and 40 per cent, often 60 per cent of its revenue was going to disappear at some stage. So that's -- you know, that's pretty dire. That doesn't happen to many organisations and, therefore, the most important thing to start with was to get the solvency

And remember, the directors of the company -- that the solvency, the going concern of the Post Office, is a massive issue. But, in parallel with that, the only way that you were ever going to solve the issue was you had to have new products, you had to do something about 135

and you can see, that took a period of time.

1 Limited and, as you know and as you can see, that got

2 changed in a relatively short period of time, but it was

- 3 always the idea that the Post Office should have its own
- 4 Chairman and, at least, probably one independent
- 5 director on its board.
- Q. David Mills has given evidence to this Inquiry that no need to turn it up -- but the effect of it was that
- 8 you had been instructed by the Department for Trade and
- 9 Industry to appoint an independent Chair of Post Office
- 10 Limited and a Non-Executive Director; is that correct?
- 11 A. I think "instructed" is probably a bit too far. I mean,
- we agreed that that was a sensible thing to do for the
- organisation depending on now what we decided we were
- 14 likely to be and of course, obviously all those people
- went through the Nolan process, which is the process
- which the government, you know, recommend and commend,
- 17 you know, people into their organisations.
- 18 Q. When you were looking for a new Chairman and
- 19 Non-Executive Director, what sort of experience and
- 20 qualifications in a person were you looking or?
- 21 A. I think two or three things, really. One, a sort of
- 22 broad commercial experience. Also, helpfully, if that
- 23 person had worked in, you know, consumer goods type
- products, because, clearly, one of the issues that was
- 25 facing POL was a lot of the Government products was 134

1 the network and you had to have a system, Horizon, that

- 2 enabled those changes to take place at
- 3 a branch-by-branch level.
- 4 $\,$ **Q**. When you were looking for Non-Executive Directors or
- 5 chairs for the Board, did you primarily have in mind
- 6 people who would be able to bring it to solvency?
- 7 $\,$ **A.** Well, yes but let me say you don't just bring something
- 8 to solvency. The way you bring any business into
- 9 a better position is, basically, you have a better
- 10 business. And so, you know, the product development
- 11 side of POL was really, really important, because
- 12 something had to replace the products that were being
- taken away. So it wasn't just, you know -- solvency is
- not something you can just wave a flag and it appears;
- 15 you have to do a series of things to get there and, one
- of the things to get there, is to obviously maintain
- 17 your sales or grow your sales but also to try to do that
- in a way which is more efficient and part of the reason,
- 19 I think, of Horizon, was that it was supposed to deliver
- the opportunity for the organisation to be more
- 21 efficient in a way in which it did its business.
- 22 **Q.** By 2003, that's where I want to look now, at that point
- 23 Sir Michael Hodgkinson is appointed as independent
- 24 chair?
- 25 **A.** Yeah.

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- Q. In the same year Adam Crozier was appointed as CEO to
 Royal Mail, yes?
- 3 **A.** Yes.

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Q. Mr Crozier, when he gave evidence, he accepted that, at that point, 2003, Post Office Limited was a subsidiary within the group that had the greatest level of autonomy, and that it was the only one with its own

governance centre; would you agree with that?

- 9 **A.** Yeah, I think, well, a lot of the business had autonomy,
 10 I think the idea was to try to get POL to focus on the
 11 issues that were really POL issues, rather than
 12 necessarily be influenced by what was happening in the
 13 Royal Mail. There was a lot of interaction between the
 14 two because, obviously, the two organisations were very,
 15 very connected, in terms of the mix. But the idea was
- very connected, in terms of the mix. But the idea was to try and give a degree of independence to POL that perhaps wasn't afforded to the other pieces of the Royal Mail business.
- 19 Q. You said that Post Office Limited should really focus on
 20 the Post Office Limited issues. What did you see the
 21 Post Office Limited issues as being?
- A. I mean, I think it -- I recall there were four big
 issues. I mean, the first one was this -- the revenue
 was disappearing. Products were going to disappear,
 there would be no revenue; with no revenue there's no

important thing is, when you are setting these things up and you're setting the organisation up, when you're the Non-Exec Chair, as Mike was and I was at the Royal Mail, then what you've got to make sure or try and make sure is that the structures are in place, for these things to be managed because obviously there's many, many things you're trying to manage at one time. You've got an Executive group.

I mean this is -- I think people do get this, is there's a big difference between non-exec and exec. Non-execs are called non-execs because they don't execute; executives are called executives because they do execute. So our role, I think, really is to make sure the structures are in place to enable any issue in the business to be raised up the organisation. And, therefore, you've got -- you have the, you know, the Executive Management Team who are responsible do that. You've got all the meeting structures from the POL Board to the Royal Mail Board to the Audit and Risk Committee to the subcommittees of all of those organisations, to the Management Boards of those organisations that move all the time and, over time, you know, we put in this thing called Have Your Say and Have Your Say was the ability for people in the organisation at all levels to say what they were feeling about the business. So were

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replace the products that are going to be disappearing?
 Just to scale that, you know, one thing -- the
 Benefits Agency, 40 per cent of the revenue. I mean,
 there are not many organisations that can lose 40 per
 cent of their revenue and survive. And, remember, this

business. So there's a massive issue over how do you

7 was already an organisation that was pretty much 8 insolvent in reality. So number 1 thing is we've got to 9 get the products right in terms of the mix.

The second thing was all about the network, you know, what should the size of this network be? How much of network should be Crown how much of the network should be rural and, to a degree, negotiating with the Government as to how much they would be prepared to pay for the unprofitable parts of POL because that was obviously going to delivery a social service, for want of a better description, which is what it did.

Then the third piece was really all about the implementation of the Horizon, that was the enabler, and those three things were the three critical areas, I think, that POL was focused on.

- Q. With hindsight, should added to that list be
 prosecutions of subpostmasters and oversight of
 prosecutions of subpostmasters?
- 25 **A.** Well, I think in hindsight, yes. But I think the most 138

all those structures in place? Absolutely. And that's I think what you can do as a non-exec.

What -- the execution of that, I think, as we've seen tragically, was not always what it should be.

- Q. We'll come to that shortly. Before we do, can I ask you
 about corporate codes. Did you apply or take into
 account any codes relevant to corporate governance and
 management when you were at Post Office Limited?
- A. I mean, in the broadest sense, yes, that's what we did.
 And, you know, I would say that all of the boards from
 a governance perspective, from a corporate governance
 perspective, I think were very much in line with some of
 that code.
- 14 Q. Which code are you referring to?
- A. Well, I think there's a general code of how you govern
 an organisation. And there was -- you know, there were
 a lot of best practices about how you do that. A lot of
 us had come from organisations where that had -- you
 know, that was taking place. So, you know, certainly in
 my experience, all those businesses were set up from
 a governance perspective in completely the right way.
- Q. Just for clarity, are you referring to the Financial
 Reporting Council's Combined Code of Corporate
 Governance?
- 25 **A.** Probably. I don't remember it in that detail.

- 1 Q. Were your expectations for the standards of corporate
- 2 governance in a publicly owned company, like Post Office
- 3 Limited, different to your expectations for a publicly
- 4 listed company?
- 5 A. I think the right answer is no, and the reason I say
- 6 that is I think there is only one good way to run
- 7 an organisation and I think you set up the governance
- 8 for any organisation in what you think is the right way,
- 9 and you get everybody to buy in to that. I think the
- way that the governance was set up and the way the
- 11 organisation was run, actually made it easier for the
- 12 Government, as the major shareholder, to have a view of
- 13 what was happening in the business than probably it did
- 14 before
- 15 Q. Can I just say, I think you prefaced the start of your
- answer with "I think the right [response] is" and then
- you started. Is that actually your view, that there
- 18 should be no difference between a particularly listed
- 19 and --
- 20 A. I think there's a subtle difference in the shareholding.
- 21 But I think the majority of things that you do are
- 22 exactly the same. I think there's, you know, there's
- one good way of running organisations.
- ${\bf 24}~{\bf Q}.~{\bf Could}$ you expand on what that subtle difference is, to
- 25 which you referred?

- 1 and agreed with the Secretary of State and the officials
 - of the DTI, that would be number 1 thing. There would
- 3 have been a lot of dialogue at this stage about the
- 4 solvency of the Post Office and a lot of conversation
- 5 with officials at that stage.
- 6 Q. How much of your discussions was directly with DTI or
- 7 with Shareholder Executive?
- 8 A. Well, it changed, as I think as you can see here.
- 9 I think, if I'm correct, it started off with the DTI,
- 10 then it moved to the Shareholder Executive.
- 11 **Q.** Yes.

2

- 12 A. So, initially, the conversations would have been the
- 13 DTI. Most of my conversations were with the Ministers
- 14 because, obviously, there'd been a plan for what should
- 15 happen to the Royal Mail, as I say, selling it to the
- Dutch, and then Post Office being left behind, and run
- in a different way, and that plan was no longer going to
- 18 happen. So there was a lot of discussion about, okay,
- 19 we'd better start again, and we already started both in
- 20 POL and the Royal Mail, the renewal of those companies.
- 21 Q. When you were discussing -- well, let's start with the
- 22 DTI first. When you were having discussions with DTI,
- 23 did you ever discuss Horizon?
- 24 A. Again, I honestly can't remember. It's 20 years ago.
- 25 So -- but I would imagine that we did. But I think it 143

- 1 A. I think it is just that you've got the Government as
- 2 a shareholder and the thing with the Government as the
- 3 shareholder is, you know, governments change, and so do
- 4 ministers, and so do civil servants. So you've got
- 5 more -- you're dealing with slightly more churn than you
- 6 probably would do in the outside world.
- 7 Q. When you were Chairman of Post Office Limited, to whom
- 8 did you consider yourself to be accountable?
- 9 A. Sorry?
- 10 Q. Who did you consider yourself to be accountable to?
- 11 A. To the shareholder.
- 12 Q. The Government?
- 13 A. Yeah.
- 14 **Q**. How --
- 15 A. And as Chairman of Royal Mail, exactly the same.
- 16 **Q.** How often did you meet Government when you were Chair of
- 17 Post Office Limited?
- 18 A. Probably -- again, I can't recall exactly but I would
- 19 probably -- we would probably have met Government two or
- 20 three times in that period of time. One of the things
- that we set up, both in POL and the Royal Mail, was you
- built a plan for the year and that plan was presented to
- 23 the Minister and his officials, and that plan was signed
- 24 off by them. So the whole planning of the business and
- the business plan for the business would be signed off
 - 142
- 1 would have been more along, you know, how's it going?
- 2 I don't think there would have been any detail -- there
- 3 certainly -- I certainly would recall any detail or
- 4 would think there would be any detailed conversations
- 5 about Horizon.
- 6 Q. Did you ever talk about prosecutions of subpostmasters?
- 7 A. Never.
- 8 Q. Did your discussions on either of those topics change
- 9 when you moved to Shareholder Executive? So in other
- 10 words did you --
- 11 **A.** No.
- 12 Q. No. David Mills was pointed to the board of Post Office
- 13 Limited as Chief Executive in April 2002, that's when
- 14 you were Chairman?
- 15 **A.** Yeah.

23

25

- 16 Q. What was your working relationship with the Directors of
- 17 Post Office Limited before David Mills assumed his
- 18 appointment?
- 19 A. Sorry, can you just repeat that?
- 20 Q. What was your working relationship with the directors of
- 21 Post Office Limited prior to David Mills' appointment?
- 22 $\,$ A. In essence, I would talk to them on a regular basis and
- 24 **Q.** So were you, effectively, overseeing the Executive at
 - that point?

Chair the Board meetings.

5

8

- 1 A. To a degree, yes, would say.
- 2 Q. Would you accept that one of your roles as Chairman was
- 3 to ensure that new appointees to the board received
- 4 an appropriate induction?
- 5 A. Again, I think that is a combination of things between
- 6 the chair and the HR team, but would expect that there
- 7 well up some degree of induction taking place, yes.
- 8 Q. David Mills -- ooh, sorry, were you --
- 9 **A.** No.
- 10 Q. David Mills gave evidence to the Inquiry yesterday and
- in his witness statement he said that he was barely
- 12 briefed on anything by anyone when he joined:
- "Even the building security was not expecting me on
 my first day. I arrived to an empty open-plan office
- 15 and began work."
- 16 Would you accept that?
- 17 A. Well, first of all, I can't recall that, it's a long
- 18 time ago. I had a very good working relationship with
- 19 David and I thought he did an extremely good job but
- 20 it's slightly -- I find it slightly curious that, if
- you're going to join the Post Office as its Managing
- 22 Director, that you don't really have any idea about any
- of the issues and they wouldn't have been discussed in
- 24 any of your interviews.
- 25 **Q.** When you say "any of the issues", what do you mean?
- 1 these all appointments that were made in 2000, in the
- 2 first sentence, from BSkyB, Deputy Chairman of Leeds,
- 3 were they all in the year 2000.
- 4 A. Yeah, I think so. I can't remember, yes.
- 5 Q. It says appointed as a Non-Executive Director to BSkyB
- 6 Plc?
- 7 **A.** Yes.
- 8 Q. Do you remember when you stood down from that role?
- 9 A. I think it says later on -- actually, I can't recall
- 10 exactly. Let's have look at the -- sorry, I can't
- 11 recall exactly on that, yeah.
- 12 Q. It says a Deputy Chairman of Leeds. That came, you say
- 13 came to an end in 2003?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Chairman of Lastminute, that stopped in 2004?
- 16 **A.** Yeah.
- 17 Q. Chairman of BHS, do you remember when that came to
- 18 an end?
- 19 **A.** Again, I can't quite recall, I think probably around
- 20 2007, or something like that.
- 21 Q. Chairman of Cannons, that came to an end in 2004?
- 22 **A.** Yeah.
- 23 $\,$ Q. Non-Executive Director of Dyson; do you remember when
- that came to an end?
- 25 A. 2004, it's in the witness statement.

- 1 A. I'm just saying, you know, I would -- certainly in the
 - interviews with David and discussion with David we'd be
- 3 talking about what needed to happen in the Post Office
- 4 Limited. But I wouldn't -- I couldn't comment on
 - whether he did or didn't get an induction program.
- Q. Please could we bring up RMG00000345. This is a letter
 to you setting out -- it says:
 - "I am writing to confirm the terms of your
- appointment as Non-Executive Chairman."
 We see at the top it is dated 26 November 2003,
- 11 which is significantly after when you were actually
- 12 appointed, but does this represent your settled terms of
- 13 appointment?
- 14 A. Yes
- 15 **Q.** At 1(c), one of the terms of appointment is to spend at
- 16 least two days a week with the company?
- 17 A. Yes.

3

- 18 Q. Did you do that?
- 19 A. Absolutely.
- 20 Q. That can come down.
- 21 Please can we bring up the witness statement at
- page 4, WITN04380100. If you could go to the bottom,
- 23 please. So you say after leaving ASDA you were
- 24 appointed to a number of executive roles and
- 25 non-executive positions, and you list these out. Were 146
- 1 Q. 2004. What were the time commitments for these roles?
- 2 A. They varied because, obviously, they're different sizes,
 - some of them are NED roles, some of them are iNED roles.
- 4 I think the important thing about this is that, when
- 5 I left ASDA, I decided I'd work full time, so I have
- 6 worked full time, still do, on all of my roles. And
- full time to me is I work six days a week and I do
- 8 12 hours a day. So I can spend 60/70 hours a week
- 9 working in my organisations because I work on
- 10 a full-time basis, where most other chairs and NEDs do
- 11 not do that. And so if I then look it my commitment to
- the Royal Mail, it was two days a week, which I see as
- 13 40 per cent of my time, rather than two days a week and,
- therefore, let me be very clear, I would have spent more
- than 40 per cent of my time on Royal Mail business the
- whole of the time that I was chair of that organisation.
- 17 I work in a very different way to other people.
- 18 I probably would spend time nearly every day on the
- 19 Royal Mail or on POL, because what I don't do is sit in
- an office and talk to people. What I try to do is get
- 21 out and about, and I would be in mail centres and
- delivery offices 5.00 in the morning, 10.00 at night.
- So I want to be very, very clear that I absolutely spent the time that I required to spend on the Royal
- 25 Mail and on Post Office Limited. I don't take on any

- 1 roles that don't think that I can commit the time to and
- 2 I think my reputation whilst in the Royal Mail was
- 3 probably of the most visible and accessible Chair that
- 4 there'd been. So I'm categoric about this.
- 5 By my count, in 2001, you -- that's when you were
- 6 appointed as a Non-Executive Director of Consignia.
- 7 You're also appointed Chairman of Wilson Connolly, and
- 8 Non-Executive Director of Scottish Power. That's eight
- 9 other appointments outside of Consignia.
- 10 A. At that time?
- Q. At that time. 11
- A. Yeah. Then over a two-year period I reduced those by 12
- 13 half but I want to be very categoric that I absolutely
- 14 spent the time, more time than I was required to do in
- 15 the Royal Mail and Post Office.
- 16 Q. Were any of those FTSE 100 companies?
- 17 A. No. Only BSkyB.
- Q. BSkyB? 18
- 19 A. Yeah.
- 20 Q. Was Royal Mail a FTSE 100 company at the time?
- 21 A. Royal Mail? No. Royal Mail has never been a FTSE 100
- 22 company until now.
- 23 Q. One of the things the Inquiry is looking into is the
- 24 concept of overboarding, being on too many boards at the
- 25 same time. What would you say if someone suggested that 149
- 1 come back to complete his evidence in due course. That
- 2 cannot be tomorrow, unfortunately. But the Inquiry will
- 3 liaise with his team in due course to arrange a date in
 - the future which will be communicated to other Core
- 5 Participants.

4

- 6 I hope you're content with that approach, sir,
- 7 rather than seeking to rush the evidence now.
- 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I certainly don't want to rush it and I'm
- 9 very grateful to you, Mr Leighton, for accommodating me
- 10 in effect. But I'm very sorry that I can't go on beyond
- 11 4.30 today.
- THE WITNESS: That's fine. 12
- 13 MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir.
- 14 On that, I will bear in mind an appropriate time to
- 15 stop, considering topics but will continue with my
- 16 questioning.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr Stevens, just choose a time 17
- 18 between 4.15 onwards --
- MR STEVENS: Yes. 19
- 20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: -- to suit where you are, so to speak.
- 21 MR STEVENS: Thank you.
- 22 Mr Leighton, I want to look at risk management.
- 23 Would you accept that the identification, analysis, and
- 24 management of risk is an important function for the
- 25 running of a business.
- 151

- 1 you were overboarded at this point?
- 2 A. I would repeat what I've just said. I worked full time,
- 3 long hours, very hard and I never take on any role that
 - I don't think I can put the time to that I need to.
- 5 I still am still doing exactly the same today. 20 years
- 6 on, I'm still doing exactly the same.
- 7 MR STEVENS: Sir, I appreciate we only just started the
- 8 evidence but, for the transcriber we do need to take
- 9 a break now. I'm going to ask is a five-minute break
- 10 enough? No. It needs to be a 10-minute break, sir.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Sure. So what time shall we resume? 11
- MR STEVENS: 3.30, please, sir. 12
- 13 (3.19 pm)

14

24

25

- (A short break)
- 15 (3.30 pm)
- 16 MR STEVENS: Can you see and hear me?
- 17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
- MR STEVENS: Before I carry on questioning, I've looked at 18
- 19 my note and what's left to cover and the time available
- 20 and, with apologies to Mr Leighton, I don't think I can
- 21 fairly finish his evidence today in the time available,
- 22 and in fairness to Core Participants who may wish to ask
- 23 questions too.
 - I've discussed with Mr Leighton's recognised legal
 - representative and he has kindly agreed to arrange to
- 1 Absolutely.
- 2 Q. And it goes to the heart of the role of the executive?
- 3 A. Absolutely. And I think if you read in the Royal Mail
- 4 accounts, it makes that very clear, that the major
- 5 principle of risk management is with the management of
- 6 the organisation.
- 7 Q. What is the Non-Executive Director or Non-Executive 8
 - Chairman's role in respect of risk management?
- 9 A. To make sure that the processes are in place that enable
- 10 that to happen, in terms of risk management, Audit and
- Risk Committee obviously are a big part of that, but 11
- 12 also a lot of risk doesn't just come through the Audit
- 13 and Risk Committee, it comes from the day-to-day
- 14 interface you have with people. So the most important
- 15 thing is to have some set processes, to make it clear
- 16 where the responsibility lies and, again, I think you
- 17 can see, certainly in the Royal Mail pieces of the
- 19 management was built up from the bottom of the
- 20 organisation.

18

- 21 Q. I want to look at Post Office Limited first. Mr Mills
- 22 gave evidence to the Inquiry yesterday and his evidence
 - 23 was that, when he joined Post Office Limited, it did not
 - 24 maintain a risk register; would you agree with that?
 - 25 A. I really can't recall that. It was -- you said the Post

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report and accounts, that there were -- you know, risk

- Office Limited didn't --1
- 2 Q. Yes, Post Office Limited.
- 3 I'm not aware of that and Mike Hodgkinson, when he came Α.
- 4 in, I know, set up a risk committee for the Post Office
- 5 Limited but I don't know the detail underneath that.
- 6 Q. Could you just explain what your understanding of a risk 7 register is?
- 8 Α. Well, I probably don't think about a risk register. It
- 9 is -- on risk, the way that it comes to me as
- 10 a non-executive, is there's a risk report, and it
- identifies the major risks in the company. Today it 11
- 12 puts some -- you know and then looks at constantly where
- 13 are we with those particular risks.
- 14 Q. So, in terms of Post Office Limited, when you say
 - Sir Michael Hodgkinson was in post and you were
- 16 Non-Executive Chair -- sorry, you were Chairman, is that
- 17 what you'd get: you'd get a risk report to read?
- 18 No, you wouldn't necessarily get a risk report, you'd Α.
- 19 get a report from the Risk Committee, I think that's
- 20 a very different thing. So the work that was being done
- 21 down the organisation, you probably wouldn't see, you'd
- 22 see a summary of that in some way, shape or form, and
- 23 that would also go to the audit Risk Committee of the
- 24 Roval Mail.

15

- 25 Q. So in terms of what -- I'm trying to summarise this --153
- 1 Your major point is the heart of risk management is the
- 2 management takes responsibility for identifying and
- 3 managing the risks and escalating those risks where they
- 4 need to.
- 5 Q. Was there a difference between how risks was managed in
- 6 Post Office Limited, as you've described, and at the
- 7 Group level?
- 8 A. I can't really recall. I doubt it. I mean, there's
- 9 only one way of looking at risk and a lot of the Post
- 10 Office Limited risk work would have migrated up into the
- Audit and Risk Committee, which looked at the whole of 11
- 12 the Royal Mail Group not just the letters/parcels
- 13 business the looked at all the risks in all the
- 14 organisations.
- 15 Q. That pre-empted my next question.
- 16 A. Sorry.
- 17 Q. No, not at all. We've heard evidence that at the Group
- 18 level, there was an Audit and Risk Committee --
- 19 Α. Yeah
- 20 Q. -- and in Post Office Limited there was a Risk and
- 21 Compliance Committee. Was audit a Group function?

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- 22 A. Again, I can't recall 100 per cent. I think internal
- 23 audit, from what I can recall, probably was a Group
- 24 function.
- 25 Q. Why was it kept as Group function?

- in terms of what you see, does that depend on people
- 2 lower down the business --
- 3 A. Absolutely.
- 4 Q. -- identifying those risks --
- 5 A. Absolutely.
- 6 -- and then it's filtered through to you?
- 7 A. Yes, and, well, remember the way you build risks is
- bottom up, top down. So there's a top-down view of what 8
- 9 the risk may be and then there's a bottom-up view of
- 10 what the risk may be, and that's how it's put together.
- 11 What's the top-down view? How does that come into play?
- Well, it is that you would -- in the Audit and Risk 12
- 13 Committee, they would have a conversation about what
- 14 they felt the major risks were that were facing the
- 15 company.

1

- 16 Q. What, if any, steps can you take to ensure that the
- 17 risks that are being identified to you are the proper
- 18 ones, and there's nothing falling through the cracks?
- 19 A. Well, two reasons. First of all, you've got not just
- 20 the Audit and Risk Committee, you've got internal audit,
- 21 you've got the management, you've got the executive
- 22 management, you've got line management. So that whole
- 23 group is involved in putting together those risks. So
- 24 you pretty much imagine that that group would be cover
- 25 off all the major risks that there were in the business.

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- I think a bit of history. I mean, the way I've thought
- 2 about this is that, when the company was called Post
- 3 Office, which had the Letters of every other business in
- 4 it, then I think each one of the individual businesses
- 5 ran the operational side of things but, actually, there
- 6 was a central group, which was pretty consistent,
- 7 I think on risk, on legal, on all of those things. When
- 8 it moved across to Consignia and then to Royal Mail,
- I think that same core idea was kept in place. 9
- 10 But you -- again, I'm not sure but I'm pretty much
- 11 sure you would have people within those groups dedicated
- 12 to one part of the business.
- 13 Q. So there would be someone at the Group or in Group on
- 14 audit that would be dedicated to Post Office Limited?
- 15 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure but that's what I would sort
- 16 of think would be the case.
- 17 Q. Just so I'm clear, when you are referring to, before,
- 18 when it was Post Office, that's when it was a statutory
- 19 corporation?
- 20 A. Yeah, when Post Office was what the Royal Mail became.
- 21 Q. Yes.
- 22 A. Yeah
- 23 There was the change in 2001, where it became Consignia
- 24 then Royal Mail?
- 25 A. Yeah.

- Q. At that point, was there ever a review or thought about 1
- 2 where audit should sit or was it just had the continued
- 3 from how it had always been?
- 4 A. Again, I can't -- I mean, the honest answer is I don't
- 5 know, but would imagine that it just was -- the idea was
- 6 keep those central functions where they're central
- 7 functions
- 8 Q. In respect of audit, do you see there being any
- 9 disadvantages with audit being a Group function and not
- 10 something that the subsidiary had ownership of?
- No, I mean, it's -- the issue is -- the thing about --11 Α.
- 12 everybody thinks it's about structure, it's not. It's
- 13 about what people do. You can have any structure in the
- 14 world and it will either work or it wouldn't work. What
- 15 the makes it work is what people do. So whether you
- 16 have a central function or a local function, they do the
- 17 same thing. So I think, as long as there's some degree
- 18 of focus, then it doesn't matter where it is, in
- 19 reality.
- 20 Q. What about for the directors on the Post Office Limited
- 21 Board or the Executive Team on the Post Office Limited
- 22 Board, did they have access to the group audit's staff
- 23 or the group audit function?
- 24 A. Well, the Chairman and CEO or MD sat on the Royal Mail
- 25 Group Board, so they absolutely did. I'm not sure about
 - 157
- 1 "Although I do not have specific recollections, 2
- I must have been aware at least as a general matter that
- 3 the Post Office also prosecuted individuals for 4
 - fraud-related offences. I would expect (although cannot
- 5 recall) that there were relevant practices, guidelines
- 6 and policies available in relation to the investigation
 - of any alleged wrongdoing and subsequent criminal
- 8 proceedings."

9

- When did you first become aware of the prosecution
- 10 of subpostmasters for theft, fraud offences and false
- accounting by companies within the Royal Mail Group? 11
- 12 A. In which way?
- 13 **Q.** Well, when was the first time that you were aware that
- 14 subpostmasters were prosecuted for those offences by
- 15 a Royal Mail Group --
- A. When I joined the organisation. 16
- 17 Q. How did you find that information out?
- A. How did I find that out? Two things: obviously as I was 18
- 19 going to become the Chairman of POL, you know, that was
- 20 the idea, then I read about POL and the history of POL
- 21 and, as you know, that's been there for a long period of
- 22 time. So I knew it from that perspective and then when
- 23 I joined, as I say, I would have, in all probability,
- 24 seen the heads of all different departments and, you
- 25 know, they would have confirmed that. So something 159

- 1 the others. But I would imagine that they would
- 2 definitely have access, if they wanted it. And t'other
- 3 way round. I mean, again, the way businesses work is
- 4 they don't just work up and down, the most important
- 5 thing is how they work across. So there was
- 6 an opportunity for anybody to have any interface with
- 7 anyone in the organisation that they wanted. That's
- 8 what makes structures work.
- 9 Q. Could you, just before moving on, describe what the
- 10 formal reporting lines were from the Post Office Limited
- 11 Board to the Royal Mail Group?
- A. The -- as I said, that Mike Hodgkinson sat on the Royal 12
- 13 Mail Group and reported to me, and David Mills exactly
- 14 the same. Then the same with Alan Cook, except for Alan
- 15 Cook reported to Adam.
- 16 Q. Crozier?
- 17 A. Adam Crozier.
- 18 Q. With hindsight, do you think there was any lack of
- 19 clarity in the Group structure that would prevent the
- 20 flow of information between parent and subsidiary and
- 21 vice versa?
- 22 A. No. No, I don't.
- 23 Q. I want to look, please, at prosecutions. Could we bring
- 24 up paragraph 48 of your witness statement, which is
 - 25 page 25. You say:

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- 1 I really knew from the beginning is the history of the
- 2 organisation.
- 3 Q. Were you aware that the decision of whether to prosecute
- 4 someone or a subpostmaster, was made by a Royal Mail
- 5 Group company?
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Were you aware that the prosecution was conducted by
- 8 a Royal Mail Group company?
- 9 A. Yes.
- Q. The Inquiry has heard evidence this week from Alan Cook, 10
- 11 who says he was unaware that the decision was made
- 12 internally and that it may have been passed to CPS or
- 13 the police. What do you make of that?
- 14 A. I mean, if that's Alan's recollection, it's his
- 15 recollection but --
- 16 Q. Did you discuss the prosecutions with Mr Cook?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. The Royal Mail Group was involved with other types of
- 19 prosecutions, other than subpostmasters for theft, fraud
- 20 and false accounting; is that right?
- 21 **A**.
- 22 Q. That included things like mail theft?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. To what extent did you consider that it was unusual at
- 25 the time that Royal Mail Group companies were the

- 1 alleged victims of crimes, that they investigated those
- 2 suspected crimes themselves and then decided whether to
- 3 prosecute them?
- 4 A. Well, I sort of didn't see it as odd because it had
- 5 always been the case, you know, as far as I could see
- 6 from the history of the -- that's -- it's been there for
- 7 a -- it's always been like that, for a long time.
- 8 Q. With hindsight, do you think there are any difficulties
- 9 with that?
- 10 A. With hindsight, obviously, from what I know now, yes.
- 11 But, actually, if you step back and you say should that
- have allowed to happen what happened? No.
- 13 Q. Sorry, can I just clarify what you mean? Is what you
- mean that a company should be able to be in a position
- as alleged victim, investigator and prosecutor, and
- there still not be a miscarriage of justice?
- 17 A. Sorry, I didn't --
- 18 Q. Sorry, a bad question. Is it your view that a company
- 19 who is an alleged victim of crime, investigates the
- alleged crime and then goes on to prosecute that crime,
- 21 that that in itself shouldn't cause the --
- 22 A. That's my point.
- 23 Q. Yes, that's what --
- 24 A. It isn't -- once again, it isn't to do with the
- 25 structure. That isn't the issue because, obviously, 161
- 1 it's because of that that it's happened; it's not, it's
- 2 because of people that it's happened.
- 3 Q. Do you think proper structures and processes could have
- 4 mitigated the chances of the scandal happening?
- 5 A. It's always in the process.
- 6 Q. So you were aware of the prosecutions. Were you aware
- 7 that the prosecutions of subpostmasters relied on data
- 8 generated by the Horizon IT System?
- 9 A. I'm not acutely aware of it but it would be obvious that
- 10 it would be because, obviously, that was the EPOS system
- 11 of the branches.
- 12 Q. On an operational level, who or which team did you think
- 13 was responsible for investigating suspected theft, fraud
- or false accounting on the part of subpostmasters?
- 15 A. Again, I can't recall exactly but I would say it was in
- 16 that sort of Security/Legal area of the business.
- 17 Q. So we have the Security Team. Where did you think the
- 18 Security Team sat in the reporting line within the
- 19 Group?
- 20 A. Again, I can't -- I don't know exactly because I haven't
- 21 seen the organograms but I think my recollection is that
- 22 they worked into the Legal teams and that they all
- 23 worked into the Company Secretary.
- 24 $\,$ Q. So the Legal Team, where did the Legal Team sit?
- 25 **A.** Again, I'm not 100 per cent sure but I think it reported 163

- 1 that happened for a long, long period of time before.
- 2 That should -- where there is a miscarriage of justice
- 3 or where there is data that has not been provided which
- 4 should have been provided, that's what's unacceptable,
- 5 not the process.
- 6 Q. Do you not think the position -- it's been described as
- 7 judge, jury and executioner, as you'll have heard
- 8 before.
- 9 A. Yeah.
- 10 Q. The fact there's no independence or third party
- 11 involvement, D do you accept that the lack of
- 12 third-party involvement causes inherent risks in how the
- 13 prosecutions are run?
- 14 A. It does -- so let me -- today I don't think that should
- 15 happen. Today I don't believe the way that it was
- operated should happen, and the reason I don't believe
- 17 it should happen is because it obviously had flaws in
- 18 it.
- 19 Q. Sorry, could you repeat that?
- 20 A. It obviously had flaws in the process but, if you go --
- 21 if I go back 20 years or -- and you say, actually, the
- 22 way that it was done, in the Royal Mail, which had done
- 23 it like that for hundreds of years, should that have
- been a reason for the tragedy that's happened? No, it
- shouldn't be. So I don't think people can hide behind
- 1 into the Company Secretary.
- 2 Q. The Company Secretary of which company?
- 3 A. Of Royal Mail Group.
- 4 Q. So Legal was a group function?
- 5 A. I'm pretty -- yes, I think so, yeah.
- 6 Q. Did you work with or know Tony Marsh?
- 7 **A.** No.
- 8 Q. Do you have any knowledge of non-formal reporting lines
- 9 between the Security Team and Post Office Limited?
- 10 A. Non-formal?
- 11 Q. As in -- let me rephrase that. As a matter of practice,
- are you aware of the extent to which the Security Team,
- which you've described, worked with people within Post
- 14 Office Limited?
- 15 A. Only from the documentation that I've seen.
- 16 **Q.** Again, at the operational level, who did you think was
- 17 responsible for the decision as to whether or not to
- 18 prosecute a subpostmaster?
- 19 A. I would have -- again, I'm not -- I have to say within
- 20 the Legal Team.
- 21 Q. So within Group in Legal?
- 22 **A.** Yeah
- 23 Q. Who did you think was responsible for the conduct of
- 24 those prosecutions? Would that be Legal again?
- 25 A. Yes, I think so.

- Q. Were these matters actively on your mind at the timewhen you were running the company?
- 3 A. Not at all.
- 4 Q. Why not?
- 5 A. Because, obviously, there were many other things that
- 6 were being addressed both -- in all of the businesses
- 7 but, actually, more so, if you -- when you've got all
- 8 the structures and processes in place that you think are
- 9 there and there's nothing coming back that's indicating
- in any way, shape or form that there's some sort of
- 11 systemic issue that is then resulting in these
- 12 prosecutions, then nothing was ever raised of that
- 13 nature, the whole time I was there.
- 14 Q. You said when you've got all the structures and
- processes in place and then nothing comes back; how did
- you satisfy yourself that the structures and processes
- 17 were in place in relation to prosecutions?
- 18 A. Because you've put the team in place to do that.
- 19 Q. Which team is that?
- 20 A. It's the Legal Team and it's the Security Team and it
- 21 cuts across into the Operational Teams and, you know,
- there's not -- there's a number of facets, as there is
- 23 in every reorganisation, that there are, you know,
- 24 working together on these issues. But the critical
- 25 thing from a non-exec perspective, again, is the way you
- 1 11 November 2003. You're there in attendance as --
- 2 well, you're Chairman of the company but not chairing
- 3 the Committee.
- 4 A. Yeah, I didn't normally sit on the Audit and Risk
- 5 Committee. I let the Chair of that committee chair that
- 6 but I would go, from time to time, when there were
- 7 specific issues.
- 9 Evans, Company Secretary. I think -- well, you said in
- 10 your evidence earlier that your understanding is that's
- 11 where Legal -- Group Legal would have reported?
- 12 A. I think so. I'm not 100 per cent sure but I take
- 13 a guess.
- 14 **Q.** We've then got Derek Foster, Internal Audit and Risk
- 15 Management Director. Do you recall working with him?
- 16 A. No, not really at all, no. But it would be typical that
- 17 the Internal Audit and Risk attended the Audit and Risk
- 18 Committee.
- 19 Q. Looking at the attendance list there, who, if anyone,
- 20 has legal experience or legal qualifications?
- 21 A. Well, I wouldn't know. I would imagine Jonathan Evans
- 22 did.
- 23 $\,$ Q. Could we turn to page 5, please. If we can go down to
- 24 the bottom of the page, please. Thank you. We have
- 25 there, it says, a "Security Report". Can I start by 167

- 1 have to think about it -- or I have to think about it --
- 2 is do you have the structures and processes in place
- 3 that should enable, if there is an issue, that that
- 4 issue is flagged up? As I say, you go from Board, POL
- 5 Board, Royal Mail Board, Audit and Risk Committee, each
- 6 management team in each one of those divisions has its
- own Management Board which meets every month, formally,
- 8 every week off the back of it. Each one of those
- 9 executives underneath that will have its own board in
- 10 terms of where that mix is.

You've got internal audit into the process, as well, and, to another degree, when we put in Have Your Say, you're getting -- you know, that's a facility to get feedback from the thing. So there are lots of checks and balances here that give people the opportunity to be

able to flag something up. The issue was things were

17 not flagged up.

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- 18 Q. I want to start looking at some of the oversight, I'm19 going to start at the Group level. Could we look at
- 20 RMG0000006, please.
- 21 A. There we go. Thank you.
- 22 **Q.** I've heard before it wasn't possible to do that, so I'm
- very glad to see it was rotated. Thank you.
- So we have the Audit and Risk Committee of Royal
 Mail Holdings and this is minutes of a meeting on

166

- asking what the security report was?
- 2 A. Again, I can't 100 per cent recall but it looks as if
- 3 it's a report on -- I'll just go off this, crime across
- 4 the Royal Mail Group.
- 5 **Q.** In your statement at page 25, paragraph 47, you refer to
- 6 this document and you say:

7 "I assume these figures [so the figures in paragraph 8 (a), I think, and onwards] relate to the Royal Mail side

of the business as opposed to the Post Office because it

10 refers to Royal Mail personnel", that's in this

document, and you refer to a different document there.

Looking back, do you think here that the Audit andRisk Committee were looking solely at Royal Mail or was

14 it looking at Post Office, as well?

- 15 A. Well, again, it's a long time ago, so I can't recall,
- but it seems to me -- I mean it says, "Royal Mail
- 17 personnel related crime across the business", the level
- of prosecutions -- I mean, I don't know 100 per cent
- but, when I look at this, this looks to me as if it's
- 20 a Royal Mail -- it's about the Royal Mail.
- Q. I mean, in paragraph 44 of your witness statement yousay that you don't recall any discussion during Board
- 23 meetings of the prosecutions that Post Office Limited
- was pursuing against subpostmasters. When you say that,
- does that include subcommittees of the board, as well?

1	Α.	If I was involved in those subcommittees, that would
2		involve that but at no stage did we have any real
3		discussion about the level of prosecutions in POL. And

4 you know, I studied all this -- all the documents.

5 It's -- there's nothing in here, and it --

6 Q. Just with that in mind, if you have no recollection of 7 discussing the prosecution of subpostmasters, we have 8 this minute where prosecutions are discussed?

9 A. Sorry, which one?

10 Q. Sorry, so we have the minute here --

11 A. This one?

Q. At (a), yes. Do you take it then, that this is purely 12 13 to do with Royal Mail?

A. I can't say 100 per cent but I would -- it pretty much 14 looks like that. 15

16 Q. Do you recall whether the committee at a meeting like 17 this would have tested whether the Security Department 18 was acting in compliance with its legal obligations

19 arising from bringing prosecutions?

20 A. I mean, again, I wouldn't -- I couldn't recall that.

21 Q. Is that you can't recall, or --

22 A. No, I can't recall.

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23 Q. Please could we bring up RMG00000008, please. It's 24 another Audit and Risk Committee meeting of Royal Mail

25 Holdings. We can see at the top there you're in 169

1 100 per cent, where I think, undercover reporters had 2 gone into a mail centre or a delivery office and had 3 shown, you know, bad activity, and I think including the 4 mail theft. So when I read this, again, I can't recall,

it's like 20 years ago, but it does mention the

6 Dispatches programme and I would hazard a guess that

7 this was reported off the back of that.

8 Q. Again, to the best of your recollection, this is talking 9 about Royal Mail, rather than Post Office?

A. Yeah. I can't be 100 per cent but I'm -- when I read 10 11 it it looks like that

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Mr Leighton, if that's right -- and I'm 12 13 not trying to dispute that with you for the moment --

would you have expected that there would be similar

15 Security reports dealing exclusively with Post Office

16 Limited to the Post Office Board?

17 A. I think the answer is -- I'm not sure, sir, and the 18 reason I say that is that most of this audit work and 19

reports came up to the Royal Mail Group Board. What

20 I would have expected, if there was a concern in any

21 way, shape or form, that that would have come to the

22 Royal Mail Group Board and to the Post Office Board.

23 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I follow what you say but my thought 24 process was a bit more straightforward. If it was

25 thought appropriate to report to Royal Mail that there

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attendance? 1

2 A. Yeah.

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3 Q. Can we turn, please, to page 6. Down to "Protecting 4 Royal Mail Assets", thank you:

"Andrew Wilson, Director of Security, attended for 5 6 this item."

Do you remember Andrew Wilson?

8 A. Not clearly.

9 Q. "The Committee noted that Royal Mail was inherently 10 vulnerable as a business to attacks on its assets, 11 whether through fraud or other events. This is due to 12 the scale of the business, nature and the core handling 13 process and liquidity of assets ...

"(a) the key activity of the business in protecting Royal Mail's assets and pipeline, including increased focus on fraud investigations, protection of information and the level of prosecutions."

Do you have any recollection of what was discussed at this meeting?

20 No, I think it's 20-odd years ago. When I read it, 21 this, I think, may be in response to the Dispatches 22 programme that there'd just been, which it refers to in 23 (a).

24 Q. Yes. So what was the Dispatches programme?

25 There was a Dispatches programme, I can't remember it

1 had been 399 prosecutions in a particular year, that's

2 the correct figure, wouldn't it have been equally

3 appropriate to report to the Post Office that Post

4 Office had prosecuted 100 people, or whatever it was?

5 A. When you put it like that, yes.

6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. It's just that I've not seen it 7 yet -- I may be shown it -- but minutes members of the 8 Post Office Board which provide that sort of 9 information.

A. And I agree with you because, I think, if that 10 11 information had been available then I think that would 12 have helped. And I think I reflect that in my witness 13 statement at the end of the conversation. We may talk 14 about that later.

15 MR STEVENS: Yes, we will come on to that.

Sorry, sir, do you have any further questions before

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SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I'm sorry to have interrupted but the 18 19 thought popped into my head, so to speak, because you 20 were questioning Mr Leighton about this, so I thought 21 I'd clarify it while I could.

 $\label{eq:MR STEVENS:} \textbf{MR STEVENS:} \quad \text{Of course. Thank you, sir.}$ 22

23 Mr Leighton, is it fair to say that the Audit 24 Committee here is exercising oversight of the 25 investigation and prosecution of crime affecting Royal

		lai	

- 2 A. Well, that's what it looks like.
- 3 Q. Do you think at any point it exercised oversight or
- 4 control over the investigation and prosecution of crime
- 5 affecting Post Office Limited?
- 6 A. That I don't know either.
- 7 Q. In your mind at the time, if you can, where did you
- 8 think responsibility for the oversight of the
- 9 investigation and prosecution of crime affecting Post
- 10 Office Limited fell?
- 11 A. It fell into Legal and Security and, therefore, that
- 12 reported in to the Company Secretary.
- 13 Q. So for that reason, why -- can you explain why we
- 14 haven't seen minutes of the Audit Committee of the Royal
- 15 Mail Holdings -- sorry, I'll start again.
- 16 The Company Secretary attended the Audit and Risk
- 17 Committee of the Royal Mail Holdings Board?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19 Q. Why was the Audit and Risk Committee of the Royal Mail
- 20 Holdings Board not exercising oversight of the
- 21 investigation and prosecution of crimes that affected
- 22 Post Office Limited, if that was reporting through the
- 23 Company Secretary?
- 24 A. Sorry, I don't --
- 25 **Q.** Let's take it in stages. You say that Jonathan Evans,
- 1 we've got almost eight years worth of data. If you look
- 2 over that eight years worth of data, the reporting on
- 3 prosecutions across the whole of the group, I think
- 4 there are two or three papers, two or three in the whole
- of that period of time. So what it says to me, when
- 6 I step back and look at it, is, if this is the landscape
- 7 of seven or eight years and in this landscape there are
 - a couple of Audit Committees where they're talking about
- 9 losses and prosecutions, then it seems to me that, in
- the organisation, these two things were not seen as
- 11 significant. That's what this says to me.
- 12 Q. Can I ask: why was there not a General Counsel role on
- the Group board?

- 14 A. I mean, I looked at this, in my experience, and
- 15 obviously I've chaired some large companies, that the
- 16 General Counsel tends not to sit on the Board. You
- know, certainly in the organisations I've chaired, thecounsel, General Counsel, legal counsel, are not Boa
- counsel, General Counsel, legal counsel, are not Board
 members, so that's the first thing. So, for me, it
- 20 would not be unusual that there's a General Counsel or
- 21 legal counsel who does not sit on the Board of the
- 22 organisation. It's not always the case and certainly,
- in my experience, it's the opposite.
- 24 Q. Is that the same in respect of attendance at Audit and
- 25 Risk Committee? Would you expect a General Counsel to 175

- 1 the Company Secretary, that's the line of report for
- 2 Legal?
- 3 A. That's what I think. I'm not 100 per cent, as I said to
- 4 you.
- 5 Q. You said earlier that you thought the decision to
- 6 prosecute and the investigation of offences,
- 7 responsibility for that lay with Legal --
- 8 **A.** Yes
- 9 Q. -- at Group level?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. We see that the Audit and Risk Committee of the Royal
- 12 Mail Holdings Group are exercising oversight of the
- 13 prosecution of offences affecting Royal Mail, yes?
- 14 A. Yes, but their oversight is on the Royal Mail and POL
- 15 and Parcels. The Royal Mail Audit Committee's oversight
- 16 is across all of the elements of the business.
- 17 Q. Yes, so that's my question. Why, in those
- 18 circumstances, was the Audit and Risk Committee not
- 19 exercising the same type of oversight we see here in
- 20 respect of prosecution of crime that was affecting Post
- 21 Office Limited?
- 22 A. That I don't know.
- 23 Q. Is that a failure in the process?
- 24 A. Is it a failure in the process? I mean, when I look at
- 25 all of the papers, actually, the reporting -- I mean
 - 17
- 1 attend the Audit and Risk Committee?
- 2 A. If the -- it all depends on what -- if the General --
- 3 what's confusing in this is I think Jonathan Evans is --
- 4 obviously sits at every single one of these meetings all
- $\label{eq:thm:thm:thm} 5 \qquad \qquad \text{the time. It appears that everything reports in to him,}$
- so, provided there is somebody from Legal at those
- 7 meetings, I think that's fine. What I can't see is,
- 8 further down the organisation, where the legal counsel
- 9 fitted in to some of the other set piece plays, for want
- 10 of a better description.
- 11 MR STEVENS: Sir, it is a touch early but I'm confident the
- 12 next line of questioning will take longer than
- 13 20 minutes. So I propose this as a time to bring
- 14 today's proceedings to a close, if you're content with
- 15 that.

25

- 16 I think you're on mute, sir.
- 17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I'm sorry, Mr Leighton, that this
- 18 means you have to return but I'm grateful for your
- indulgence. Normally, if a witness doesn't complete
- 20 their evidence on a given day, they are asked not to
- 21 discuss that evidence with others until it is completed
- 22 but I think, in your case, that's unrealistic -- if you
- 23 want to, that is -- particularly since we don't actually
- 24 know when you're going to return.
 - So there is no embargo upon you discussing the

1	evidence you've given but I would encourage you not to.	INDEX	
2	Can I put it in that way?	JONATHAN LONGMAN (sworn)	1
3	THE WITNESS: You can, sir.		
4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. I think we're starting at 9.45	Questioned by MR BLAKE	1
5	tomorrow, is that right, Mr Stevens?		
6	MR STEVENS: Yes, that's correct sir, we're hearing from	Questioned by MS OLIVER	103
7	Rodric Williams.		
8	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. So 9.45 tomorrow, thank you.	Questioned by MR HENRY	110
9	MR STEVENS: Thank you.		
10	(4.11 pm)	Questioned by MR STEIN	120
11	(The hearing adjourned until 9.45 am the following day)		
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