1	Tuesday 15 November 2022	1
2	(10.00 am)	2
3	MS HODGE: Good morning, sir.	3
4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Good morning.	4
5	MS HODGE: Can you see and hear me clearly?	5
6	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.	6
7	MS HODGE: Thank you, sir. May I call Mr Booth, please.	7
8	ROBERT BOOTH (affirmed)	8
9	Questioned by MS HODGE	9
10	Q. Good morning, Mr Booth. Please give your full name.	10
11	A. Robert Jonathan Booth.	11
12	Q. Thank you. May I ask you to raise your voice slightly	12
13	to ensure you can be heard by all in the hearing room	13
14	and by the Chair.	14
15	A. Certainly.	15
16	Q. Thank you. You should have in front of you a witness	16
17	statement dated 16 September of this year. Do you have	17
18	that open before you?	18
19	<b>A.</b> I do.	19
20	Q. That statement runs to 80 pages, I believe?	20
21	A. Correct.	21
22	<b>Q.</b> Could I ask you please to turn to page 63 of your	22
23	statement. Do you see your signature there at the end	23
24	of your statement?	24
25	A. I do, yes.	25
	1	
1	time it ran on a PC per counter and was probably the	1
2	first proper automation at Post Office branch.	2
3	There had been previous attempts with a thing	3
4	called Thames Valley, which was before my time there,	4
5	and at the time PCs were relatively new, and	5
6	subpostmasters were buying other systems to assist them	6
7	with their manual balancing, but it was still very much	7
8 9	a paper based system and ECCO+ was starting to move into an automated world.	8 9
10	Q. In your view, was ECCO+ a successful automation project	10
11	for the Post Office?	11
12	A. Yes, it was.	12
13	Q. What do you believe accounted for the success of the	13
14	ECCO+ program?	14
15	A. I think because the IT was developed effectively	15
16	in-house and with people who were ex-counter clerks, and	16
17	it was very close collaboration with the actual Post	17
18	Office Limited as it was Post Office Counters. There	18
19	was fully open we had a common goal to deliver	19
20	something. We understood what was needed and we had	20
21	direct access to people who'd either used the counters	21
22	in the past or were setting an election from the	22
23	information system services within Post Office Counters	23
24	Limited about what they were wanting to achieve. So it	24
25	had all the right components there.	25
	3	

I	Q.	Is the content of the statement true to the best of your
2		knowledge and belief?
3	Α.	It is.
1	Q.	Thank you. I'm going to begin, Mr Booth, by just asking
5		you a few questions about your professional background,
6		if I may. In terms of your education, you obtained
7		a degree in mechanical engineering from the University
3		of Surrey; is that correct?
)	Α.	That's correct.
0	Q.	And upon graduating you worked for approximately six
1		years as a programmer for a company called Computer
2		Analysts and Programmers Limited; is that right?
3	A.	That's correct.
4 5	Q.	Rising over the time of your work there to the role of
5	•	a team leader? That's correct.
6 7	A.	
8	Q.	I believe you joined Post Office Counters Limited in October 1990, and were assigned to work on the
9		development of an electronic point of sales system know
0		as ECCO+?
1	A.	That's correct, yes.
2	Q.	Could you please describe for us what ECCO+ involved.
3	Α.	ECCO+ was a computerised system which would assist the
4		directly managed branches within Post Office to do their
5		accounts, to do basic transaction capture, and at the
		2
l	Q.	Do you recall what, if any, consideration was given at
2		the time to extending ECCO+ to the wider Post Office
3		network?
1	Α.	I wouldn't have been privileged to that. It was very
5		much aimed at the directly managed branches. Post
5 -		Office, as you probably know, works on the basis of
,		franchisees subpostmasters run their own business
3		and then about probably 750/800 directly managed
) 0		branches which has reduced over the years, and those are
1		owned and managed by Post Office. It was very much looking at how those branches, the bigger branches,
2		could be automated, and I think the success of that kind
3		of paved the way that automation was seen as a viable
4		for the bigger estate. At the time computerisation, it
5		was on PCs, but PCs were a bit of a misnomer. They
6		weren't personal computers, not everybody had one as we
7		do now, and it was cutting edge technology for the time.
8	Q.	Thank you, Mr Booth. I'm very grateful for the detail
9		of your answers. I wonder if you could slow down ever
0		so slightly in your response, because we have someone
1		transcribing what you are saying, and I anticipate that
2		the pace may be presenting some challenges. But it's no
~		-
3		criticism.
3 4		criticism. You later joined the Post Office Counters private

(1) Pages 1 - 4

1		as the Horizon System; is that right?	1	Α.	Yes.
2	Α.	That's correct.	2	Q.	I think you were mostly focused at that stage on counter
3	Q.	From that point, I believe you worked on Horizon	3		hardware; is that fair?
4		continuously until June 2003; is that correct?	4	Α.	That's correct, yes.
5	Α.	Yes.	5	Q.	Finally you remain employed by Post Office Limited as
6	Q.	When you transferred to an external companies named, is	6		a solutions architect today; is that right?
7		it Xansa?	7	Α.	Yes.
8	Α.	Xansa, yes.	8	Q.	And your most recent project, I think, was in the area
9	Q.	Whilst employed by Xansa, you worked on a variety of	9		of Post Office compliance with payment card industry
10		Post Office products including Horizon; is that right?	10		standards; is that right?
11	Α.	Less so on Horizon. I finished the project I was	11	Α.	That's correct.
12		involved with and then moved on to a project called	12	Q.	It follows, I think, from that brief summary that you
13		Paystation, and then one Automated Enrolment and	13		first worked on Horizon during the procurement phase?
14		Identity, which was biometrics program both again for	14	Α.	That's right.
15		the Post Office.	15	Q.	Do you recall the stage at which the procurement had
16	Q.	I believe you left Xansa in October 2006 to rejoin the	16		reached at the point at which you joining the programme?
17		Post Office; is that correct?	17	Α.	I believe it was when the stage was down to three
18	Α.	Yes, I'd been TUPE'd into Xansa and I resigned from	18		tenders, three potential suppliers, and it was I was
19		Xansa and joined Post Office as an employee.	19		brought in to help the technical evaluation of those
20	Q.	I think you worked at that stage on a separate project	20		three suppliers.
21		but which was related which interfaced with Horizon; is	21	Q.	You've described joining Post Office Counters Limited
22		that right?	22		private finance team. Can you describe the nature and
23	Α.	Yes.	23		composition of that team as you recall.
24	Q.	You later came to work on Horizon again in 2014	24	Α.	In general terms, my understanding was the private
25		following your transfer to Atos; is that right?	25		finance initiative, PFI, was a shared risk reward
		5			6
1		contract. The eventual service provider would have been	1	•	Can you describe in your own words what the purpose of
			1	Q.	oan you describe in your own words what the purpose of
2		providing a service for both Benefits Agency and Post	2	Q.	that strand was, please.
2 3					
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3		providing a service for both Benefits Agency and Post Office Counters, automating the Post Office Counters and	2 3		that strand was, please. It was a two-way exchange, I think spread over about six
3 4	Q.	providing a service for both Benefits Agency and Post Office Counters, automating the Post Office Counters and the Benefit Agency as a major partner in providing	2 3 4		that strand was, please. It was a two-way exchange, I think spread over about six to eight weeks, where we would engage with the service
3 4 5	Q.	providing a service for both Benefits Agency and Post Office Counters, automating the Post Office Counters and the Benefit Agency as a major partner in providing electronic payment for their services.	2 3 4 5		that strand was, please. It was a two-way exchange, I think spread over about six to eight weeks, where we would engage with the service providers on a one-to-one basis. It was, some of the
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	providing a service for both Benefits Agency and Post Office Counters, automating the Post Office Counters and the Benefit Agency as a major partner in providing electronic payment for their services. Like me, Mr Booth, I think you are quite softly spoken. Just for the benefit of the chair, I wonder if you would mind doing your very best to speak a bit more loudly; thank you. There is reference in some of the documents we've obtained to joining the programme several weeks into the demonstration phase. Does that sound familiar to you in terms of timings? It does. I was brought in to bolster the technical expertise within the team. That's as a junior member of the technical evaluation team as you described. Yes. Do you recall to whom you reported at that time? I believe I reported into Jeremy Folkes. We know from the documents obtained by the Inquiry that you participated in what was known as the Post Office	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		that strand was, please. It was a two-way exchange, I think spread over about six to eight weeks, where we would engage with the service providers on a one-to-one basis. It was, some of the documents you recently provided, based on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with ICL Pathway being the Wednesday service provider meeting. It was there for us to gain an understanding of their proposed solution and to try and shape anything that we thought would give them problems. Where they had a misunderstanding, they could ask for clarification questions, and we could also give them guidance. We'd invite them, or suggest that they may wish to look at certain areas. At the time the Post Office head office was up in Old Street, and some of the service providers had seen the Old Street Post Office which was a multi-position, what we call a fortress. So it had glass partitions in front. But we did point out that the Post Office was a very diverse, and still is a very diverse retailer with multiple different types of branch, and we encouraged them to visit their local

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8

(2) Pages 5 - 8

1		and a Trafalgar Square multi-counter branch are very,	1		er
2		very different environments.	2	Q.	A
3	Q.	What distinguished the Post Office counter structure	3		at
4		strand from the other strands, the other demonstrator	4		р
5		strands that were operating at that stage?	5	Α.	Y
6	Α.	The infrastructure strand was less defined from	6	Q.	
7		a business perspective. It's like you turned a light	7		D
8		switch and just expect the lights to come on. You don't	8		w
9		necessarily think about how the light has to come on.	9	Α.	Ν
10		You don't think about the wiring, the power station the	10		m
11		distribution network. The infrastructure was about	11		be
12		getting all those pieces in place so the things the Post	12	Q.	С
13		Office were concentrating on, such as the EPOS system,	13		of
4		such as the things that the users would touch and feel,	14		de
15		they would all be supported by the POCL infrastructure.	15	Α.	Ιt
6		So we would make sure and try and assure ourselves	16		di
17		that the communications to the branches were sufficient,	17		of
8		that the data centres were resilient, that the service	18		pr
9		provider understood that in an estate the size of the	19		•
20		Post Office, if you think it can go wrong, it would go	20		ar
21		wrong, and you needed to be defensive and you need to be	21		try
22		resilient because, kindly, anyone can program something	22		ul
23		that's going to work in a perfect world but we're not in	23		so
24		a perfect world, and it was trying to make sure the	24		to
5		service providers understood the reality of the	25		Ca
		9			
1		and highlight was that walking over glass in bare feet	1		el
2		wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip	2		el
2 3		wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to	2 3		el no
2 3 4		wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them.	2 3 4		
2 3 4 5		wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them. We did have one meeting where the owner chief	2 3		no
2 3 4 5		wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them. We did have one meeting where the owner chief I think probably the owner of Escher who were providing	2 3 4		no W
2 3 4 5 6		<ul> <li>wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them.</li> <li>We did have one meeting where the owner chief I think probably the owner of Escher who were providing a key component came in. He was much more technically</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7		no wi a
2 3 4 5 6 7		<ul> <li>wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them.</li> <li>We did have one meeting where the owner chief I think probably the owner of Escher who were providing a key component came in. He was much more technically aware of the system, it being was his underlying</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8		no w a a:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		<ul> <li>wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them.</li> <li>We did have one meeting where the owner chief I think probably the owner of Escher who were providing a key component came in. He was much more technically</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	no w a as Fi
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		<ul> <li>wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them.</li> <li>We did have one meeting where the owner chief I think probably the owner of Escher who were providing a key component came in. He was much more technically aware of the system, it being was his underlying software that was being used. His view was much more that technology could solve it if you threw more</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q.	no w a Fi Pi
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		<ul> <li>wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them.</li> <li>We did have one meeting where the owner chief I think probably the owner of Escher who were providing a key component came in. He was much more technically aware of the system, it being was his underlying software that was being used. His view was much more that technology could solve it if you threw more technology at it. The ICL Pathway people were more</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	no wi a s Fr pr TI th a
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	<ul> <li>wouldn't be a good idea; "Maybe you should get some flip flops. Have you thought about it", and trying to highlight those kind of things to them.</li> <li>We did have one meeting where the owner chief I think probably the owner of Escher who were providing a key component came in. He was much more technically aware of the system, it being was his underlying software that was being used. His view was much more that technology could solve it if you threw more technology at it. The ICL Pathway people were more aware of the business implications, building a solution to a price.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	no wi a s Fr pr Th th a 8 At
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IT Inquiry	15 November 2022
Q.	environment they were working in. As part of your work on the demonstrator stream you attended a series of meetings with the three service providers
Α.	Yes.
Q.	that you have explained. One of those was Pathway. Do you recall any of those meetings that you attended with Pathway, the consortium?
<b>A.</b> D	Not in specifics, apart from a couple of sort of key moments, but in general there was a different flavour between the three first service providers.
2 <b>Q.</b> 3	Can you give a flavour of what your overall impression of Pathway was from your participation in those demonstrator meetings?
+         5       A.         5       7         7       3         9       0         1       2         3       4         5       5	I think they were more defensive of their solution and didn't want to listen to the complexity. They had more of a fixed world view about: this is the solution we're proposing; it will work. The other providers were more structured and more amenable to listening and to understanding why we were trying to say, "Have you thought about", because ultimately the service provider solution was their solution. We were not designing it, we were not going to be responsible for it; it was the service provider's call about how they did things. All we could do is try 10
	else they needed. We would attend the meeting, and that evening the notes I'd taken, notes that Jeremy who I was working with had taken, we'd collate. That would be over a dial-up modem exchange of emails. It wasn't connected as it is now; we didn't have Teams or things. Then on Friday those would be finalised into the form that was

	provided to me last week.
Q	. Thank you. I wonder if we could just pull up one of
	those reports for now. It's WITN05970107. This is
	a written report of the infrastructure meeting held on
	8 November 1995. We can see under the heading
	Attendees, as you say, this one was attended by you and
	Jeremy Folkes on behalf of the Benefits Agency Post
	Office Counter programme, and in the right-hand column
	we see a number of representatives of the supplier
	identified, some I believe from Pathway, such as Martin
	Johnston; is that right?
Α	Yes.
Q	. As well as An Post and finally Mike Murphy from Escher?
Α	. That's correct.
Q	. This is a record of the meeting to which you've just
	referred a short time ago; is that right?

- Yes.
- The purpose of this meeting we can see under the heading 12

1		there was to focus on the technical aspects of Riposte;	1
2		do you recall that?	2
3	Α.		3
4	Q.	There's one specific entry against your name which	4
5		I hope you might be able to assist us in clarifying. If	5
6		we can go to the bottom, please, of page 1, the final	6
7		bullet point, there's a heading Compatibility with TCDs.	7
8		What are TCDs?	8
9	Α.	,	9
10		TCD is a telecash dispenser. These were post offices	10
11		moving away from the fortress, so didn't have glass, but	11
12		have an open-plan desk like the one I'm sitting at today	12
13		with a computer and, because benefits could be several	13
14		hundred pounds, it would not be safe to have hundreds of	14
15 16		pounds sitting in an open drawer beside you. So	15 16
17		a telecash dispenser effectively is a steel safe box that was connected to the computer, and you could get it	10
18		to dispense cash and it could also accept cash, so	17
19		effectively a secure drop box and ATM-ish to dispense	10
20		notes so that the money was held secure in an open form.	20
20	Q.		20
22	પ્ય.	"No requirement at present."	21
23		Does that reflect, in effect, the absence of	23
24		a detailed requirement from the sponsors for	24
25	Α.	That was because the use of TCDs was where Post Office	25
		13	
1		effectively, he was one up from Jeremy. So I've been	1
2		fortunate to have umbrella managers that have allowed me	2
3		to get on with the job and I haven't been involved too	3
4		much with the politics infrastructure set up above me.	4
5		So I'm a bit hazy on that but	5
6	Q.	So far as you are aware, the sort of reporting line was	6
7		you to Jeremy Folkes and Jeremy Folkes to John Meagher;	7
8		is that correct?	8
9	Α.	That's correct.	9
10	Q.	We can see from the report that Mike Murphy joined the	10
11		meeting late to discuss the role of the EPOS sorry,	11
12		the Riposte product, and that's at page 2, please. If	12
13		we can scroll down, please.	13
14		Point number 3, it appears from the report of this	14
15		meeting Mr Murphy expressed some fairly critical views	15
16		about Pathway's understanding of their own proposed	16
17		solution. Is that a fair characterisation?	17
18	Α.	My recollection of Mike was that he was a fairly assured	18
19		person, as you expect an owner of a company to be, very	19
20		wed to his product to Riposte and how it should be used,	20
21		with firm views about how it should be being used, and	21
22		I don't think that at the meeting we got the impression	22
23		that the ICL Pathway and Escher way were necessarily	23
24		aligned.	24
25	Q.	We can see that, please, if we scroll down to page 5. 15	25
		10	

15

T Inquiry	15 November 2022
	were moving to open plan. That was very much an experiment to see how the format would work. It would need more space. It had other constraints about accepting mails because, if you give me a lot of parcels and I'm sitting here, where do I put all the mail? If I have to get up and put it in a secure place, which I need to because obviously we don't want another customer taking your package, that means that I need to have secure storage around me. For that reason the open-plan concept was tried, it had some problems, and it did not at that time look like it was going to go forward. Therefore, there was no requirement for it. If we needed to move to an open-plan format, we
Q.	would have introduced it under exchange control. We can see the final sentence reads: "Bob to brief JM prior to next week on requirement
	implications such as cash holding replenishment and ownership within the office." Who was JM?
Α.	John Meagher.
Q.	Thank you. What did you understand the nature of his
	involvement to be at this stage in the process?
А.	At that stage, I believe he was the programme or project I don't know quite the name given but, 14
	There's a second bullet point it reads: "When queried about sizing model Pathway had agreed to produce paper. When this was mentioned later
	in day with Escher present, the Mike Murphy response to Pathway co-members was 'How can you do that, Pathway haven't got a clue how it works.'" We then see the comment:
	"Lack of demonstrable thought processes."
	Did that reflect your views?
Α.	It did. That would be reflecting the disjoint of philosophies between the two companies that we saw.
Q.	We see at the fourth bullet point a comment to the effect that there was lack of cohesion between the people at the meeting, which I understand to mean between the various representatives of the consortium; so Riposte and Pathway:
	As a result of which: "[there] must best doubt over ability to manage project if this interface to their customer is so weak." Were you concerned at this stage about Pathway's ability to manage the project?
Α.	I think this reflects a concern and a benefit. The concern was that you should have if you're presenting to the customer, you would have a pre-meeting, you would agree the company line and you'd toe it. You'd make 16

(4) Pages 13 - 16

1		a decision whether you agreed with it or not, that is	1
2		the decision, that is what you are going to tell the	2
3		customer in a bid phase especially.	3
4		The benefit was seeing some of these divisions	4
5		actually exposed more about the solution than we'd	5
6		otherwise be able to obtain, because it wasn't so	6
7		polished. We actually "What do you mean by that"	7
8		kind of question, and get a little bit under the skin,	8
9	•	which we had been denied at the time.	9
10	Q.	A further issue identified there at the 5th bullet point	10
11		was a general problem in relation to documentation; do	11
12		you recall that?	12
13	А.	It was very difficult to get documents out of ICL	13
14		Pathway. It was also one of the if I look back on	14
15		the other strand, I think that their production of	15
16 17		documents was better. I don't have notes from their	16
17 19		meetings to correlate corroborate that, but I do	17 18
18 19		believe that the level of engagement was more professional at a technical level with Cardlink and IBM	18
20		than it was with Pathway. It was much more <i>ad hoc</i> and	19 20
20 21		not always convinced that they knew what they were	20 21
22		saying.	21
23	Q.		22
23	ч.	meeting about Pathway's ability to deliver the solution	23
25		resolved effectively by the time the contract was	25
		17	
1		on system management, Riposte papers and TMS sizing and	1
2 3		scalability. Dealing with the first of those, what was meant by system management, please?	2 3
3	۸		3 4
4 5	Α.		4 5
6		have computers as we have in this room. System	6
		management is about: how do you update those computers; how do you keep them current? So, if we need to put	7
7 8		a new version of software or update the operating	8
9		system, update the anti-virus, how do we do that?	9
10		So systems management is about how you manage your	9 10
11		system, how you push out updates, and how you discover	10
12		what is on a computer so that you know what your estate	12
13		consists of. It also applies to your data centre	13
14		elements as well.	18
15	Q.		15
16	۹.	and defects that might be detected during the course of	16
17		live operation, for example?	17
18	Α.	Answer to that in two parts: yes and no. It wouldn't	18
19		actually be the resolution and necessarily the	19
20		identification of such faults, but it would be the means	20
21		by which you could gather evidence to investigate	21
22		a fault, and it would be the means by which you	22
23		distributed a fix to remedy a fault.	23
24	Q.	-	24
	-		
25		can you explain that, please.	25

IT Inquiry	15 November 2022
	awarded?
A.	This was very much about a discovery. This wasn't trying to ascertain their delivery as such. This was very much how they are going to deliver the solution; what is the solution they are going to deliver. The disjointed nature was the concern, but we weren't focused, or I at least was not focused on the actual
	delivery of it, and whether they had the correct governance and procedures in place. Does that answer
) I Q.	the question? I think up to a point. It may be that we will come to
2 3 4 5	the assessment phase a little bit later. But, so far as these demonstrator meetings were concerned, you attended a the further meeting, I believe on 22 November, so several weeks later. We have a report of that meeting at WITN05970141.
7 3 9	So the same attendees on behalf of Benefits Agency and Post Office Counters. We have some new names under the supplier heading. Martin Bennett, do you recall his role?
1 <b>A</b> . 2 3	Martin, I think, was a member of the management team within Fujitsu. As it says here, he was the risk manager, and at the time risks were one of the very few leads we had to get information out of Pathway.
5 Q.	We can see that the purpose of this meeting was to focus 18
A.	TMS, I believe, stands for transaction management system. It was a central component within the ICL Pathway solution and, where you have at the time around 40,000 counters talking into a data centre, even today that's a large number. Back then it was a very large number. The Riposte product we had seen had been used in An Post, which is a much smaller Irish Post Office than the UK Post Office, and therefore we were saying, "Well, how will it work? Have you got enough horsepower to drive the system? Will it be performant? Will you come across problems where a day's job takes 25 hours", and, you know, you just can behind and never catch up. So this was looking at how big TMS would be and, if it had problems, how would you scale it up, how would you make it bigger so that it coped with additional load, because one of the other things you can look at in a system is you can start a system small and, as you add counters, you can grow it out. So we were trying to understand what ICL Pathway's approach was to making
	sure their central system was up to the job.
<b>Q</b> .	Thank you. We can see, if we please scroll down to page 5 could we just scroll a little bit further
3 4 5	down, please. Sorry a little bit further, please. Thank you. So the final bullet point there above section 4, it reads:
	20

(5) Pages 17 - 20

2       and scalability issues that are going on behind the       2       Q. What was the nature of your involvement in the assessment phase of the procurement process?         4       Does this reflect your ongoing concerns at this       4       A. I participated in the scoring of the suppliers. So the way that it was done for my strand at least was that the information from Pathway about its solution?       6       Intervent the success?         7       A. There was an impression that they were aware of the need to make sure that it was socialable, but they were not to make sure that it was socialable, but they were actually -       9       Q. The invitation to Tender?         10       what they were doing to address the concerns, and that's to make sure that it using the risk lever to elicit, "What the service providers, which was one they actually were actually -       9       Q. The invitation to Tender?         11       why we then start using the risk lever to elicit, "What the service providers, which was one they actually were contracting against. So the initial one effectively had the service providers, which was one they actually were to most that discussed was followed by the service providers, which was near they actually doing about things", rather than having the rocentracting against. So the initial one effectively had been refined and then, as part of this second one -         14       Q. Returning to the question of the assessment phase -       17       X, Y and Z, with measures against them such it was a qualifiable and repeatable process. So it wasn't was the nature of your involve the table as that a because over ould justify and say, "We gave that a because over there it s	1		"Updated document. Pulling teeth on performance	1		one.
<ul> <li>accreations</li> <li>accreations</li> <li>Does this reflect your orgong concerns at this stage about the success of your efforts to extract</li> <li>bits stage about the success of your efforts to extract</li> <li>accreations</li> <li>A There was an impression that they were not to make sure that twas tables, but they were not to make sure that it was stables, but they were not to make sure that it was stables, but they were not to make sure that its was calable, but they were not to make sure that its was calable, but they were not to make sure that its was calable, but they were not to the vector of the transformation of the maxes in the sectors providers, whole the stable has the been had whole to the vectors of the transformation in a moving.</li> <li>C Returning to the question of the assessment phase, we tak the demonstation reterms of the procurement to the procurement to the vectors structure but stables were solved statement in a moving.</li> <li>C Returning to the question of the assessment phase – the was a considered and then, as part of this second one – this was going through the evolution to ransessment phase – the was a considered and then, as part of this second one – this was going through the evolution of an assessment phase – the was a transformating which the transformation or an assessment phase – the was a qualifiable and repeatable process. Solt was the second according the suble of their 2 to enable of factors, some of which 20 exolution was there vectors and that, we gave that the demonstration aspects of their 2 to enable of factors, some of which 20 exolutions that was and that, we gave that the therm should be contract.</li> <li>A My understanding was there were assigned theme 2 to an about of factors, some of which 20 exolutions is the same soution that has the same outcome that the contract to ICL Pathway, is a that your collection?</li> <li>A My understanding was that youre recollection?</li> <li>A The second the waser assigned</li></ul>			· · · ·		0	
4         Does this reflect your ongoing concerns at this         4         A. I participated in the scored of the support           5         stage about the success of your efforts to estract         5           6         information from Pathway about its solution?         6           7         A. There was an impression that they were aware of the need         7           8         Forthcoming in any evidence that they were aware of the need         7           9         Forthcoming in any evidence that they were availably -         9         C. The invitation to Tender?           10         why the the start using the risk lever to slict. What         11         a versued one from the dialogue that had been had with           12         a versue of the same start using the risk lever to slict. What         11         a versue of the was a tollow-up to thit. There was a normating through the evaluation the and the same start using the risk lever to slict. What           13         a vertail statement in a meeting.         13         C. The invitation to Tender?           14         C. Returning to the guestion of the assessment phase.         17         X y and X, with was called to financial and explant in the submess of the same start was the influence and hend, apatot this second one -           15         how that the demonstrate risk and the producers.         16         the set west to the same start was the influence the same stare westh was to the set west the same					٠.	-
5         elage about the success of your efforts to extent         6         we that it was done for ye stand at least was that the information from Pathway about its solution?           6         Intere was an inform Pathway about its solution?         6           7         A. There was an inform Pathway extend its solution?         6           8         for make sure that it was scalable, but they were not to make sure that it was calable, but they were not to make sure that it was calable, but they were not to make sure that its was calable, but they were not to make sure that its was calable, but they were not to the solution to thing?, rather than having 12         C         The invitation to Tender?           10         what it was scalable, but they were not to solution thing?, rather than having 12         C         The invitation to Tender?           11         what it was calable, but they were not to solution to be service providers, who was not they actually were contracting against. So the initial one effectively had been infined and then, as part of this socie of the they were on they actually of the providers atterment of the providers were they actually adde and han, as part of this socie of the this socie of they were adding to domination of the assessment phase -         17           12         what's kare motion or an assessment phase -         17         X, Y and Z, with measure adjust them such it was a qualifiable and reperative phase of their such adjust that the were interesting to the could were adjust and they are adjust them such it was a qualifiable and reperative phase of their such adjust that the were adjust and than's adjust the the solution to					Α.	
6       Information from Pathway addult is solution?       6       ITT2 - L can't remember - SRR, that's statement of			, , ,		7.0	
7       A. There was an impression that they were out of the was scalable, but they were not for make sure that it was scalable, but they were not for the discovery the scalable, but they were not for the discovery the scalable. But they were not for the discovery the scalable with they were actually - 1       C. The invitation to Tender?         10       what they were doing to address the concerns, and that's invite were actually were in the using the risk it were to elist. What 11       C. The invitation to Tender?         11       why we then start using the risk it were to elist. What 11       C. The invitation to Tender?         12       are void actions thing's rather than having a revised one from the dislowup to that. There was an intraction gapinst. So the initiation effectively had the service providers with were yeard starterm to a meeting.         13       why we then start the demonstrate stream of the procement the service providers were were were were service stream of the proceed according by used internationageaby - in the a qualifiable and repeatable process. So it wasn't wasn't have a could ingit yind asn't were actually were that a contractual aspects of their 21         14       Wo understanding was there were several streams - 16       So it wasn't a 2 because have year doing this and that. We gave that a contractual aspects of which 22         24       A. My understanding was there were several streams - 16       Do you recall how Patients to contractual speces. You wasn't we have not which technical working on the activation way of the activation and almost compromise. If you have a requirement to assomething your may have a sect oneactivating a ward of the contract IOLP athway. If a ward to a cer			-			-
8         to make sure that it was scalable, but they were not forthcoming in any evidence that they were actually - what they were doing to address the concerns, and that's why we then start using the risk lever to elicit, "What a versite asternent in a meeting.         0         The invitation to Tender?           11         why we then start using the risk lever to elicit, "What a versite asternent in a meeting.         13         a revised one from that leading that had been had with the service providers, which was one they actually were contracting against. So the initiation effectively had been refined and then, as part of this second one – this was going through the evaluation phase. Here was a culfiable and repart the second one – this was going through the evaluation phase. Here was a culfiable and repart the second one – thes was going through the evaluation phase. Here was buch were just discussed was followed by which the three hortisticel service providers. Nor an they going to demonstrate process which were just discussed was followed by which the three hortisticel service providers were 19         X Y and Z, with measures against them such it was a qualifiable and reparable process. So it wasn't based on fearl, twas something which if questioned we could justly and say. "We gave that a 2 because over related to financial and contractual aspects of their 20         N was something which if questioned we socring of the providers. 20           21         0         Do you recall how Pathway performed during the 21         So we could have relative socring of the providers. 21           23         assessment stage relative to the other two service 21         A.         It was one of clarification and almost compromise. 22           24		Δ	-			
9       forthcoming in any evidence that they were actually		<b>-</b> .				
10       what they were doing to address the concerns, and that's       10       A       Yes, but there was a follow-up to that. There was a verial statement in a meding.         11       as you ackuldy doing about things? rather than having a verial statement in a meding.       11       a revised providers, which was one they actually were contracting against. So the initial one effectively had been reflected and then, as part of this second one – this was going through the evaluation phase – there was a set oriteria saying; how are they going to demonstrate process which were just discussed was followed by       16       been reflected and then, as part of this second one – this was going through the evaluation phase – there was a set oriteria saying; how are they going to demonstrate process which were just discussed was followed by       16       been reflect and then, as part of this second one – this was going through the evaluation phase – there was a set oriteria saying; how are they going to demonstrate process. So it wasn't a qualifiable and repeatible process. So it wasn't a qualifiable and repeatible process. So it wasn't and they are doing this and that. We gave that a core of because hey are doing this and that. We gave that the therminology is used interchangeably – in       18       a qualifiable and repeatible process. So it wasn't and a section of the inset of the section of the section of the area doing this and that. We gave that and early are doing this and that. We gave that and a section them and ther was area doing this and that. We gave that an a section the doing the area doing this and that. We gave that an area doing this and that. We gave that and early area doing this and that. We gave that and early area doing this and that. We gave that an area doing this and that and they area doing this and that. The doing			-		0	
11       withy we then start using the risk lever to elicit, "What       11       a revised one from the dialogue that had been had with         12       are you actually doing about things", rather than having       12       child then, as part of this second one -         13       a verbal statement in a meeting.       13       child then, as part of this second one -         14       C. Returning to the question of the assessment phase, we       14       been refined and then, as part of this second one -         15       know that the demonstrator stream of the procument       15       this was going through the avoilation phase -       Tr         16       process which we've just discussed was followed by       16       a quilifable and repeatable process. So it wasn't         18       think the terminology's used interchangeably -       1       a quilifable and repeatable process. So it wasn't         20       scored according to a number of factors, some of which       20       could justify and say, "We gave that a 2 because over oculd justify and say, "We gave that a 2 because over oculd justify and say."We gave that a 2 because over a could justify and say.       1       Are it was something which if questioned was just 2         21       offering, and others relating to the quality of the       22       are dring this and this." Could have relative so a class some collaboles and this." Could have relative some collection?         23       I don't know how many - of w						
12       are you actually doing about things", rather than having       12       the service providers, which was one they actually were         13       0.       Returning to the question of the assessment phase, we       13       contracting against. So the initial one effectively had         14       0.       Returning to the question of the assessment phase, we       14       been effined and then, is part of this second one –         15       know that the demonstrator stream of the procurement       15       stream of the procurement       15         17       whafs known as an evaluation or an assessment phase –       17       X, Y and Z, with measures against them such it was         18       I think the terminology's used interchangeably – in       18       a qualifiable and repeatable process. So it wasn't         19       which the three streating to the quality of the       20       could justify and say, 'We gave that a 2 because over         20       scored according to a number of factors, some of which       20       ore a 5 because they are doing this and that. We gave that         21       relating and other, was just       25       Lon't know how many – of which       20       ore a because they are doing this math. and they         23       A. If me sorry, i don't know.       3       A. It was one of clarification and almost compromise. If       you nereat how Pathway performed during the       21					Π.	
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14       Q. Returning to the question of the assessment phase, we how that the demonstrator stream of the procurement is know that the demonstrator stream of the procurement is whone that the demonstrator stream of the procurement is whone that the demonstrator stream of the procurement is asying, how are they going to demonstrate is asying, how and say. "We gave that a 2 because over here it says they are doing this and that. We gave that a 2 because over here it says they are doing this and that. We gave that a 2 because over leafted to financial and contractual aspects of their 21 here it says they are doing this and that. We gave that a 2 because over leafted to financial and contractual aspects of their 22 are doing this and that. We gave that a 2 because over leafted to financial and contractual spects of their 22 are doing this and that. We gave that a 2 because over leafted to financial maximum and at leafted to a cartain solution. If any nor recollection?         24       A. My understanding was there we several streams - 24 coring out how how many - of which technical was just 25       C. Do you recall how Pathway performed during the 21         3       A. If was one of clarification and almost compromise. If you have a requirement to do something, you may have proregramme upon award of the contrat to ICL Pathw						
15       know that the demonstrator stream of the procurement       15       this was going through the evaluation phase - there was set criteria sering: how are they going to demonstrate         17       what's know as an evaluation or an assessment phase -       17       X, Y and Z, with measures against three works and the such it was cored according to a number of factors, some of which       20		0	-			
16       process which we've just discussed was followed by       16       set criteria saying: how are they going to demonstrate         17       what's known as an evaluation or an assessment phase –       17       X, Y and Z, With measures against them such it was         18       I think the termology's used interchangeably - in       18       against them such it was         19       which the three shortlisted service providers were       19       based on feel, it was something which if questioned we         20       scored according to a number of factors, some of which       20       one a 5 because they are doing this and that. We gave that a 2 because over         21       related to financial and contractual aspects of their       21       one a 5 because they are doing this and this: S one could have relative         23       technical solutions. Is that your recollection?       23       acoing of the providers.       C         24       A. My understanding was there were several streams -       2       C       Do you recall how Pathway performed during the         25       I don't know how many - of which technical was just       25       C       Do you recall how Pathway performed during the         2       providers?       2       A       It was one of clarification and almost compromise. If         2       providers?       1       A. It was one of clarification and almost compromise.		હ.				
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18       I think the terminology's used interchangeably in       18       a qualifiable and repeatable process. So it wasn't         19       which the time shortlisted service providers were       19       based on feel, it was something which if questioned we         20       scored according to a number of factors, some of which       20       based on feel, it was something which if questioned we         21       related to financial and contractual aspects of their       21       based on their, 'to assomething which if questioned we         23       technical solutions. Is that your recollection?       23       are doing this and that. We gave that         24       A. My understanding was there were several streams       24       C. Do you recall how Pattway performed during the         25       I don't know how many - of which technical was just       25       C. Do you recall how Pattway performed during the         26       A. I'm sory, I don't know.       3       A. I'm sory, I don't know.       3         3       A. I'm sory, I don't know.       3       bat that correct?       7         7       that correct?       7       you nead and, if that is easier for the service provide?         8       A. Yes, It is.       8       same even though it's arrived at by a slightly different method.         9       Q. Who was responsible for your ine management during that south t						
19       which the three shortistied service providers were       19       based on feel, it was something which if questioned we could justify and say, "We gave that a 2 because over their it says they are doing this and that. We gave that a 2 because over the it says they are doing this and that, and they are they faint and that. We gave that a 2 because over the it says they are doing this and that, and they are form they are doing this and that, and they are four they are doing this and that, and they are four they are doing this and that, and they are four they are doing this and that, and they are four they are doing this and that, and they are four they are four they are doing this and that, and they are four th						-
20       scored according to a number of factors, some of which related to financial and contractual aspects of their       21       could justify and say, "We gave that a 2 because over here it says they are doing this and that. We gave that 22         21       offering, and others relating to the quality of the technical solutions. Is that your recollection?       23         23       A. My understanding was there were several streams - 1 don't know how many - of which technical was just 21       26         24       A. My understanding was there were several streams - 21       24       Could justify and say, "We gave that a 2 because over here it says they are doing this and that, and they are doing this and that." We gave that 22         25       I don't know how many - of which technical was just 21       26         26       Do you recall how Pathway performed during the 21         27       assessment stage relative to the other two service 21       1         28       A. I't was one of clarification and almost compromise. If you have a requirement to do something, you may have 21         3       A. I'n m sorry, I don't know.       3         4       Q. Moving on to another topic, if I can, please, you 4       4         5       remained working on the BA Post Office Counter Limited 5       5         6       programme upon award of the contract to ICL Pathway, is 4       8         9       Who was responsible for your line management during that 9						
21       related to financial and contractual aspects of their       21       here it says they are doing this and that. We gave that one a 5 because they are doing this and that, and they are doing this and that, and they are doing this and this." So we could have relative scoring of the providers.         23       technical solutions. Is that your recollection?       23       are doing this and this." So we could have relative scoring of the providers.         24       A. My understanding was there were several streams       24       Scoring of the providers.         25       I don't know how many of which technical was just 21       25       Q. Do you recall how Pathway performed during the 21         21       assessment stage relative to the other two service providers?       1       A. It was one of clarification and almost compromise. If you have a requirement to do something, you may have phrasealt in a way that leads to a certain solution, that has the same outcome and, if that is easier for the service provider for programme upon award of the contract to ICL Pathway; is determined working on the BA Post Office Counter Limited 5       outcome and, if that is easier for the service provider to provide and the outcome is the same, you can adjust that correct?         32       Wwo was responsible for your line management during that 9       service provider that had something that fitted their solution that has one though it's arrived at by a slightly different method.         33       phrase of the programme?       10       So it was a win-win for us. We would have a service provider that had something that fitted their solution b						
22       offering, and others relating to the quality of the technical solutions. Is that your recollection?       23       one a 5 because they are doing this and that, and they are doing this and that. So we could have relative scoring of the providers.         24       A. My understanding was there were several streams - 124       23       action of the providers.         25       I don't know how many - of which technical was just 21       24       C       Do you recall how Pathway performed during the 22         1       assessment stage relative to the other two service 1       1       A. It was one of clarification and almost compromise. If you have a requirement to do something, you may have phrased it in a way that leads to a certain solution, but there may be an alternate solution that has the same outcome and, if that is easier for the service provider for that correct?         3       A. I'm sorry. I don't know.       3       but there may be an alternate solution that has the same outcome and, if that is easier for the service provider that thacore correct to ICL Pathway; is 6       to provide and the outcome is the same you can adjust you requirement wording such that the outcome is the same vorue moving such that the outcome is the same vorue though it's arrived at by a slightly different method.         10       phase of the programme?       10       So it was a win-win for us. We would have a service provider that had something that fitted their solution better, but we would still have the outcome is the same out that we required fulfilled.         11       A. I carn't recall John Meagher was around then.       11 <td></td> <td></td> <td>-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			-			
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1		So the expertise was available to ICL Pathway.	1
2		How they used it changed. There was a rapid-application	2
3		approach at one stage where colleagues in my office	3
4		would effectively disappear for the day and sit down	4
5		with ICL Pathway to try and come up with mutually	5
6		beneficial outcomes, which met both the business	6
7		requirements and fitted in with the ICL Pathway	7
8		solution.	8
9	Q.		9
10		have just referred, to which component of the Horizon	10
11		product did that initiative relate?	11
12	Α.	<b>1 3 - 1 3</b>	12
13		though we shared an office, it was very much a separate	13
14	_	strand within the office.	14
15	Q.	<b>3</b> 7 <b>1 1</b>	15
16	_	strand?	16
17	Α.		17
18	Q.	•	18
19		your strand, please?	19
20	Α.		20
21		moving on to how it would interface with the Benefits	21
22		Agency, who were developing their own back-end systems,	22
23		so it was how system to system would work. The counter	23
24		behaviour was effectively a given. You have a given	24
25		token, it has to go off and be verified, and you pay 25	25
1		and of the system, is that correct?	1
2	Α.	end of the system; is that correct? Yes.	2
2	Q.		3
4	હ.	statement as we can see quite a helpful description of	4
5		that at paragraph 28.	5
6		So in terms of front-end design, you explain that	6
7		you were mostly involved with the magnetic card	5 7
8		acceptance and client interface for the Post Office Card	8
9		Account. I think we also know that as the benefits	9
10		payment card; is that correct?	10
11	A.		11
12	Q.		12
13		you say:	13
14		"I also worked on back-end interfaces to the	14
15		clients to deliver transactions to them and get	15
16		authorisation verdicts from them, and fed into the	16
17		reconciliation of the counter view and the client view.	17
18		The back office was responsible for invoicing	18
19		settlement and and remmuneration"	19
20		So far as the back-end interface of Post Office	20
21		Counters was concerned, this was known as transaction	21
22		information processing; is that correct?	22
23	Α.	Yes.	23
24	Q.	Please can you describe in a little further detail the	24
25		work that you carried out in relation to TIP, please.	25
		27	

27

		money. That's sort of relatively straightforward and
		constrained.
		It's getting those transactions into the data
		centre and then interfacing off to the Benefits Agency
		where they were, I think, trying to consolidate 17
		systems into one, to give a single-payment view, and it
		was looking at how that interface would work with the
		Benefits Agency.
I	Q.	I described requirements refinement as one aspect of the
C		role you have identified in your witness statement. The
1		second aspect of your role that you've described is as
2		implementation to deploy these are your words
3		deploy the first generation of Horizon. What do you
4		mean by the term "implementation"?
5	A.	It was how we had Fujitsu ICL Pathway at the time
	А.	
6 7		responsible for the in-branch installation, the
7		training, and we had other teams that were looking after
3		that, and it was looking at how the roll-out and the
9		POCL infrastructure would support that roll-out, how
C		we'd get computers into the branch, and making sure
1		that, though a separate team was looking at the
2		training, was looking at the branch fit-outs, et cetera,
3		that the technology sitting behind that would function.
		that the technology sitting benind that would function.
4	Q.	During the design and development phase, you have
	Q.	During the design and development phase, you have explained you worked both on the front end and the back
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4	Q. A.	During the design and development phase, you have explained you worked both on the front end and the back
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4 5 0 1 2 3 4 5 5 7 3 9 0	A. Q. A.	During the design and development phase, you have explained you worked both on the front end and the back 26 When a transaction is undertaken at a branch counter, it's captured and fed back to the data centre. There was then a harvesting process that would collect that day's transactions and send them off to the TIP process for distribution on to the automated payment client at that time. That may have been actually using HAPS, the host automated payment system. I'm not quite sure of the split because now things have kind of merged, so I'm a bit hazy on that, I'm afraid. But the work was basically to try and make sure that what came in went out. So, if I did ten transactions at the front end, we deliver ten transactions at the back end. So essentially ensuring that what was carried out at the front end could be reconciled with the back end? Yes. You have explained in your statement that, in order to carry out the functions you have described, that is to say requirements, refinement and overseeing
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4 5 7 3 9 0 1	A. Q. A.	During the design and development phase, you have explained you worked both on the front end and the back 26 When a transaction is undertaken at a branch counter, it's captured and fed back to the data centre. There was then a harvesting process that would collect that day's transactions and send them off to the TIP process for distribution on to the automated payment client at that time. That may have been actually using HAPS, the host automated payment system. I'm not quite sure of the split because now things have kind of merged, so I'm a bit hazy on that, I'm afraid. But the work was basically to try and make sure that what came in went out. So, if I did ten transactions at the front end, we deliver ten transactions at the back end. So essentially ensuring that what was carried out at the front end could be reconciled with the back end? Yes. You have explained in your statement that, in order to carry out the functions you have described, that is to say requirements, refinement and overseeing implementation, you worked from the Fujitsu site in

Q. Were any conditions or limitations placed on your right of access to or your ability to share information which 28

(7) Pages 25 - 28

1		you obtained during your time working there?	1
2	Α.	Feltham, I think the best way to describe it, was	2
3		divided into sort of four areas. There was the common	3
4		area which was the canteen, et cetera, which facilities	4
5		you could access. There were there was then, as you	5
6		came in, on the right-hand side, there was the BA POCL	6
7		office to which we had access, but Fujitsu staff did	7
8		not, and the rest of the building was Fujitsu staff	8
9		only. So we did not have access to the rest of the	9
10		building and, if we wanted to go and see somebody, we'd	10
11		have to phone them and they'd meet us at the door and	11
12		buzz us through and escort us out.	12
13		There were different arrangements, I believe, set	13
14		up for the testers, that they had what was known as	14
15		Chinese walls set up, such that we had Post Office staff	15
16		doing testing, but they did it on the basis that what	16
17		they found out there was not necessarily shared. Now	17
18	•	that's my recollection which may be incorrect.	18
19	Q.	What did you understand the rationale for that to be?	19
20	Α.	It was so that Pathway had access because testers	20
21		again had Post Office Counters experience so that	21
22		Pathway would have access to that experience. They	22
23 24		would be able to get input about what was wrong with the	23
24 25		system quicker and in a non-contractual manner, such that they wouldn't be afraid of hiding of exposing	24 25
20		29	25
1		aware. But again you must realise they weren't a	1
2		charity, they weren't going to do this for nothing. But	2
3		everything was costed and considered. It wasn't like	3
4		some of the other suppliers I have worked with, which is	4
5		more collaborative and more interested in getting the	5
6		right solution.	6
7	Q.	Were you concerned that ICL Pathway were not	7
8	ч.	particularly interested in getting the right solution?	8
9	Α.	Their world view was that their solution was the right	9
10		one, and it was difficult to move them from that world	10
11		view.	11
12	Q.	One of the challenges you have identified in your	12
13		statement relates to ICL Pathway's refusal to grant	13
14		access to its low-level designs and code; is that right?	14
15	Α.	That is correct.	15
16	Q.	What effect did this have on your ability to assure the	16
17		quality of the product that was being produced and the	17
18		effective implementation of Post Office Counters'	18
19		requirements?	19
20	Α.	It hindered it greatly. We could get we could only	20
21		assure high-level documents which were shared. They	21
		were not always initially of the best quality. That did	22
22			
22 23		improve. I think that depending on where you look in	23
		improve. I think that depending on where you look in the continuum of time, at the early stage it was very	23 24
23			

1		shortcomings. So it was a much more open way of
2	-	working.
3	Q.	But your understanding is that any information which
4		they gleaned about the system during the testing phase
5		they were not entitled to share with their employer?
6	Α.	That's my recollection. As I say, it may be an error
7	•	but that's how I remember it.
8	Q.	You have described in your statement attending regular
9 10		face-to-face meetings with staff employed by ICL
10 11		Pathway, I think primarily to discuss and review technical documentation; is that correct?
12	Α.	-
12	А.	Not just technical documents because, being at the site,
13 14		I was also used as what was called a document champion. So my name would appear on lots of documents on which
14		I'm not subject-matter expert. But having a physical
16		presence would mean that I would be effectively be the
17		face of the Post Office for that document and engage
18		with ICL Pathway on it. So I would review the document,
19		not necessarily from a specialist point of view, but
20		then seek specialist input.
21	Q.	How would you characterise the behaviour and conduct of
22	ч.	ICL Pathway staff during these meetings?
23	Α.	I think professional would be the best term, not
24		necessarily overly collaborative. I would suggest that
25		throughout the process they were more commercially
20		30
1		evaluation pre-tender did elicit documents from them and
2		things, as I understood why, were less hampered about
2 3		things, as I understood why, were less hampered about sharing information. It did get better. So we did get
2 3 4		things, as I understood why, were less hampered about sharing information. It did get better. So we did get high level but we never actually got under the cover.
2 3 4 5	Q.	things, as I understood why, were less hampered about sharing information. It did get better. So we did get high level but we never actually got under the cover. What, if any, efforts did you make to obtain documents
2 3 4 5 6	Q.	things, as I understood why, were less hampered about sharing information. It did get better. So we did get high level but we never actually got under the cover. What, if any, efforts did you make to obtain documents or to glean information informally through your working
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q.	things, as I understood why, were less hampered about sharing information. It did get better. So we did get high level but we never actually got under the cover. What, if any, efforts did you make to obtain documents or to glean information informally through your working on site and your access to ICL Pathway staff? There were corridor conversations. There was, at a working level, a better relationship than when "management was present", whether that be physically present or with a management hat on. So the people generally were there trying to help and trying to assist. They were constrained by the ways of working that I believe was probably imposed from top down. What were you able to glean in your more informal interactions with ICL Pathway staff about issues that they were experiencing in development? I think we were aware they had issues but the depth of the issue was never revealed. I mean, there was nothing that said that there was anything fundamentally wrong, and it was always being looked upon as, in my understanding at the time, probably still is, that in any development project you're going to have issues, you're not going to get it right first time, you'll be correcting it and improving it continuously. I don't
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Q.	things, as I understood why, were less hampered about sharing information. It did get better. So we did get high level but we never actually got under the cover. What, if any, efforts did you make to obtain documents or to glean information informally through your working on site and your access to ICL Pathway staff? There were corridor conversations. There was, at a working level, a better relationship than when "management was present", whether that be physically present or with a management hat on. So the people generally were there trying to help and trying to assist. They were constrained by the ways of working that I believe was probably imposed from top down. What were you able to glean in your more informal interactions with ICL Pathway staff about issues that they were experiencing in development? I think we were aware they had issues but the depth of the issue was never revealed. I mean, there was nothing that said that there was anything fundamentally wrong, and it was always being looked upon as, in my understanding at the time, probably still is, that in any development project you're going to have issues, you're not going to get it right first time, you'll be

1		think we understood how far behind where we were
2	~	expecting them to be they were.
3 4	Q.	When you say you had an awareness of issues, are you
4 5	Α.	able to be more specific as to what they related?
6	А.	It was just in passing; there was nothing in particular that I can recall, I'm afraid.
7	Q.	I wonder if we could please turn to page 39 of your
8	ω.	statement, paragraph 134. I'd just like to clarify, if
9		I may, a comment there. This paragraph reads do you
10		have that before you, paragraph 134:
10		"It is worth noting that ICL Pathway did draw
12		boundaries that were not to be crossed in terms of
13		access to lower level designs and correlation of
14		unit/system tests to design to confirm all paths had
15		been considered and tested."
16		We've addressed the first part already, so the
17		question of your access to low-level designs. Can you
18		explain, please, what you mean in the second part of
19		that sentence to the correlation of tests to designs,
20		please.
21	Α.	In a software life-cycle, you will generally have
22		designers setting out the shape and direction of where
23		they want the coding to go. You'll then have the
24		programmers taking that design and working down to
25		a lower level and actually implementing it, and then
		33
1	Q.	What did you consider to be the reason for why you
1 2	Q.	What did you consider to be the reason for why you couldn't obtain that level of insight?
	Q. A.	
2		couldn't obtain that level of insight?
2 3		couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first
2 3 4		couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the
2 3 4 5		couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's
2 3 4 5 6		couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you
2 3 4 5 6 7		couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Α.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Α.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of the nature and extent of defects that were being
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Α.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of the nature and extent of defects that were being identified in the system during the testing process; is
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of the nature and extent of defects that were being identified in the system during the testing process; is that right?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of the nature and extent of defects that were being identified in the system during the testing process; is that right? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of the nature and extent of defects that were being identified in the system during the testing process; is that right? Yes. If we could just scroll up, please, to paragraph 132 you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of the nature and extent of defects that were being identified in the system during the testing process; is that right? Yes. If we could just scroll up, please, to paragraph 132 you said there:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	couldn't obtain that level of insight? I think there were probably two factors. The first factor was, "It's contractual. Go away. This is the boundary, you shall not cross it." Actually it's probably the next words were, "Why are you interested? We're the professionals here. Leave us and let us get on with it. Every time you ask us a question, you are diverting us from actually doing the work. So, if we keep answering your questions, we'll never get anything done", and that was played out quite a lot. I think that, from some of the things that I've gleaned more recently, they probably didn't have that material to hand. A further problem which you have identified in your statement relates to Post Office Counters' visibility of the nature and extent of defects that were being identified in the system during the testing process; is that right? Yes. If we could just scroll up, please, to paragraph 132 you

「 Inquiry	15 November 2022
	doing unit testing to say what they've implemented meets the design and, generally, previously on previous projects, you get how many tests were run, how many tests passed first time, and from that you can get a judge of not just the quality of the code but how close to the design it is, and you then expect a quality-assurance function to come in and to check-step it, to make sure that Bob's view of that he's coded what's been asked and it's 95 per cent of the test passed first time is correct, and you get that quality assurance, and you would then be able to say, "Oh, Bob isn't as good at coding as Fred is, so we need to do some mentoring", and be able to look at those areas, or it may actually highlight that designs are not clear enough and the programmers need more guidance. It may highlight a lack of testing environment, or a lack of supporting test material to adequately test the units and, as things from units move up and get integrated with other units, it may well be that you find that all the wheels are perfectly round, but they are the wrong size for the car, and that then highlights a different problem. We didn't get any of these metrics, so we couldn't see how well the software life-cycle was being adhered to and how good or bad it
	was. 34
	outstanding defects that were present would be declared to Post Office Counters Limited when its User Testing began." Can you explain that in a little more detail,
A.	please. It kind of follows on from what I was saying that, if it took them ten goes to get a bit of code right to add up two numbers, we wouldn't see that. We'd only see that the numbers were adding up correctly now. When user testing began, that was our testers in Post Office uniforms, so where they could share the

information they found, actually testing the system and testing it from the user perspective. I think I mention elsewhere that that means that we couldn't test some of the technical break points, and failure conditions in particular, which require programmer intervention. So by that, if I send a message and I don't get a response, I need to do something. From a user perspective, I can pull that wire to stop that message, but I don't know if I've pulled out that wire before it's been sent, so has it reached the end and I haven't got the reply, or did the request never get there, because, if the request never got there, the person I'm talking to doesn't know about it, so they've done nothing. 

1		If I've asked let's say I've asked you for £100	1	Α.
2		and you have got that request and you set back "yes", if	2	
3		I don't get back your "yes", well, I won't pay that	3	
4		£100, but you will have affected the account by £100.	4	
5		So those kind of technical tests and failure conditions	5	
6		would need Fujitsu intervention to force them, because	6	
7		the user couldn't actually repeatedly do these kind of	7	
8		tests, they couldn't force the failure conditions in	8	
9		a repeatable manner, and they couldn't force all of the	9	
10		failure conditions you would expect a unit test to do,	10	
11		because a system talking back to us may have 50 or 60	11	
12		return codes that it can return which have different	12	
13		behaviours at the counter depending on what they say.	13	
14		We would need a system, an emulator, to give those	14	
15		return codes back, and we would be dependent upon	15	
16		Pathway to write that emulator, provide that emulation	16	
17		so the behaviour at the front end could be confirmed as	17	
18		correct.	18	
19	Q.	If I understood you correctly, the technical tests and	19	
20		failure conditions you have described, these are	20	
21		processes that would be implemented by ICL Pathway prior	21	Q.
22		to the user acceptance testing; is that correct?	22	
23	Α.	That's correct, yes.	23	
24	Q.	What exactly was the principal purpose of the user	24	
25		acceptance testing, please?	25	
		37		
1	Α.	So model office testing is actually the model office	1	
2	A.	is actually several offices. They are real offices,	2	
3		they are live offices, they're not test offices. They	3	
4		are there to prove that tested software has been	4	
5		promoted into the live environment correctly and it	5	
6		works correctly when it's in that live environment.	6	
7		If we look at things as we did later with banking	7	
8		we can test against the simulator and we can test that	8	
9		a £50 withdrawal will work or won't work. But, when we	9	
10		can then connect it up to the real bank and we get back	10	
11		a balance enquiry, that is making sure that the systems	11	
12		work end to end, but the model office is a real branch,	12	
13		it does real transactions, it affects real accounts. It	13	
14		is not there to test. So before it goes into model	14	
15		office we have high confidence that it will work	15	
16		properly.	16	
17	Q.		17	
18		entry into model office and end to end?	18	
19	Α.	We're between a rock and a hard place, I think. We had	19	
20		exhausted the testing evidence we could get from	20	
21		Pathway. We had done user-acceptance testing which	21	
22		proved that generally it would work correctly. We had	22	
23		no highs. So for acceptance we would have three	23	
24		categories of fault.	24	
25		We have a high fault. That's catastrophic, you	25	
		39		

	Α.	The user acceptance testing was effectively what an end user would typically experience. So can they sell a stamp? Does it appear with the right price? Does it do all the stamps in the basket add up? Do they go to the right place in the cash account? When I'm doing an online transaction, when I'm presented with a magnetic card, does it recognise that, yes, we support that card, it is a Herts County Council card, that
`		should have Herts County Council on the receipt. It should allow you to pay up to £1,000. Are all those
,		elements correct and working?
)		So really it's very much the end-user experience,
-		with some failures, and where emulators and simulators
,		are available, with not always a proved verdict coming
•		back from a request I'm asking you for £100 but I
, ;		don't have it, you will send back a decline. So certain
,		behaviours, you can emulate, but it wouldn't give all of
2		the failure conditions. It wouldn't allow us to check
, ,		that the defensive programming that needs to be in place
, \		in any system was in place.
,	Q.	It's right, is it not, user acceptance testing didn't
)	ч.	represent the end of the testing process so far as
- ,		Horizon was concerned? There was further testing of the
•		system that we know as model office and end-to-end
•		,
)		testing. 38

1	can't go live with it. Fundamental flaw, no way it's
2	going out the door.
3	You would have medium-severity faults. These are
4	ones that are significant but would have an acceptable
5	work around. It may mean you have to do something in
6	addition, do something differently, follow a procedure
7	to make sure that things work, but generally the
8	work-around would be acceptable. There would not be
9	more than, I think, ten of these because ultimately
0	a work-around is not natural behaviour, and we couldn't
1	rely on people doing work-arounds. We couldn't rely on
2	system work-around because they weren't always human
3	ones.
4	Then we would have low ones where we may not have
5	receipts lined up correctly. So the text may be a bit
6	wobbly cosmetic effectively. Again you wouldn't want
7	too many of those because, at the end of the day, it's
8	a professional system. It's customer and facing real
9	people and, if you have got typing errors and spelling
20	errors in a product, you would start to wonder if what

So those would be the categorisations, and model office would be: it has no highs, it has -- and it may have some mediums, and they would then try and execute the scenario to cause that failure and then implement 40

was underneath it was right.

(10) Pages 37 - 40

4			4		
1		the work-around, confirm that it works in the real world because, again, we've done it in a testing environment,	1 2		say, the unit tests. We didn't see how many attempts they'd taken to get through a test. The development was
2 3		we need to make sure that it translates to the real	2		effectively done elsewhere, and we didn't see that
4		world, to the live world. From that the end-to-endness	4		development. We saw the outcome of that development.
5		would happen because that model office real-life branch	5	0	You did see some quite serious issues arising during
6		has gone from its counter, through the live data centre	6	ખ.	model office and end-to-end testing; is that right?
7		to the live account, live client, and we've got an	7	Δ	I can't recall whether they were seen in model office or
8		end-to-end balance, and we can check that the invoice we	8		whether we had I think you are now referring to
9		give to that client at the end of the day matches what	9		acceptance instance?
10		we've done at the counter, so it gives us our end to	10	Q	No, forgive me. I'm referring to the model office and
10		end.	10	ч.	end-to-end testing of in particular the EPOS component
12	0	What you described just now as an acceptance process,	12		in late 1998. So we're looking at the sort of period of
13	ч.	I don't understand you to be referring to acceptance of	13		November to December 1998.
14		the system as a whole. Is it right that what you're	14	Δ	I can't recall any specifics, I'm afraid, sorry.
15		referring to here is the acceptance of a particular	15		I wonder please if we could bring up the document
16		release or a component?	16	۹.	WITN05970122, please. I believe you've been shown
17	Α.	Yes.	17		a copy of this report; is that correct?
18		Prior to its entry into model office and end-to-end	18	Δ	l've been shown many documents. That may well have been
19		testing; is that correct?	19		one of them, yes.
20	Α.	Yes.	20	Q.	This report is entitled Contingency Options for the
21	Q.		21		Non-availability of EPOS feed to TIP. We established
22		development was behind closed doors, I don't understand	22		a little earlier that you had some involvement in TIP,
23		you to mean that you had no awareness of technical	23		the transaction information processing, in the design
24		issues; is that right?	24		and development phase, and you are recorded here as one
25	Α.		25		of the authors of this report. It's dated
		41			42
1		12 January 1999, version 1.0. Do you have any	1		available to TIP, there being no balanced cash accounts
2		recollection of this report?	2		in the first phases of testing; the fact that files
3		Not at the time of writing, no.	3		contained wrongly dated transactions; incorrect versions
4	Q.	If we could scroll down, please, to the second page,	4		of reference data; spurious outlets not known to RDP or
5		under the main heading of Background, this is	5		TIP.
6		paragraph 2, if we go a little further, paragraph 2.1.2	6		Can you explain what RDP means?
7		it reads:	7	Α.	I believe that would have been the personal reference
8		"During the Model Office and end-to-end test	8		data system. So that would be providing information
9		phases with the ICL Pathway Horizon solution,	9		saying, "We've got these branches and this is the
10		significant problems have been experienced in using the	10		address to put on the receipt", et cetera.
11		data stream provided by ICL Pathway. It is believed	11	Q.	And also:
12		that ICL Pathway may not be able to fix these problems	12		"Files containing transactions that cannot be
13		within the necessary timescales to enable the full data	13		performed according to the submitted reference data and
14		feed to TIP to be proven without causing a severe impact	14		business rules causing TIP to abnormally end (abend)
15		on the New Release 2 timescales."	15		processing."
16		Does that assist your recollection at all?	16		What's meant by "abend", please?
17		I'm afraid it doesn't, no.	17	A.	
18	Q.	As the author of this report, this must have been an	18	Q.	<b>o</b> ,
19		issue of which you were aware at the time; would you	19		being rejected as the handcrafted fixes invalidate the
20		accept that?	20		file integrity totals."
			21		So a number of fairly serious concerns; would you
21		Yes.			agraa
21 22	A. Q.	If we go a little further, please, to paragraph 2.2.1,	22		agree
21 22 23		If we go a little further, please, to paragraph 2.2.1, which may be over the page. Yes, thank you. This	22 23	_	Yes.
21 22		If we go a little further, please, to paragraph 2.2.1,	22	A. Q.	Yes.

(11) Pages 41 - 44

1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	At paragraph 2.2.2 we can see reference to the problems
3		being experienced appearing to occur across the board,
4		and not being confined to one or two specific areas.
5		It's noted that this means that it's not just a single
6		area where there's a deficiency that's in need of
7		attention but several. In terms of the source of the
8		problems, you appear to have concluded at
9		paragraph 2.2.3 that the problems were wholly within the
10		ICL Pathway domain at that stage. Again do you have in
11		recollection at all
12	Α.	No, I'm effectively reading this for the first time, if
13		you know what I mean. I have no recollection of actual
14		events at the time.
15	Q.	Presumably what you're saying in effect is you simply
16		don't recall any of these matters?
17	Α.	No, I don't, I'm afraid.
18	Q.	Does that explain why they don't feature at all in your
19		63-page witness statement?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	Sir, that might be a convenient time for us to take
22		a short break this morning?
		-
23	SIF	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, that's fine. What time shall we
24		recommence.
		recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15?
24		recommence.
24		recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15?
24		recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15?
24 25		recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45
24 25 1		recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control
24 25 1 2		recommence. <b>HODGE:</b> Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we
24 25 1 2 3		recommence. <b>HODGE:</b> Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0.
24 25 1 2 3 4		recommence. <b>HODGE:</b> Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name
24 25 1 2 3 4 5		recommence. <b>HODGE:</b> Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6		recommence. <b>HODGE:</b> Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group.
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	MS	recommence. <b>HODGE:</b> Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware?
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	MS	recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware? Not necessarily that title. There were people dealing with fraud and security, in particular. I was not part of the inner circle of that, if you like. Again, given
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	MS	recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware? Not necessarily that title. There were people dealing with fraud and security, in particular. I was not part of the inner circle of that, if you like. Again, given my location at Feltham and general knowledge, I've been
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	MS	recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware? Not necessarily that title. There were people dealing with fraud and security, in particular. I was not part of the inner circle of that, if you like. Again, given
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	MS	recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware? Not necessarily that title. There were people dealing with fraud and security, in particular. I was not part of the inner circle of that, if you like. Again, given my location at Feltham and general knowledge, I've been
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	MS	recommence. HODEE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware? Not necessarily that title. There were people dealing with fraud and security, in particular. I was not part of the inner circle of that, if you like. Again, given my location at Feltham and general knowledge, I've been a participant in some of those documents, but I wasn't I wouldn't have been the lead subject matter expert on that.
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	MS	recommence. HODGE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware? Not necessarily that title. There were people dealing with fraud and security, in particular. I was not part of the inner circle of that, if you like. Again, given my location at Feltham and general knowledge, I've been a participant in some of those documents, but I wasn't I wouldn't have been the lead subject matter expert on that. When you say there were people involved in those issues,
24 25 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	MS A.	recommence. HODEE: Shall we resume at 11.15? 45 relates to what's described as the NR2 access control and user administration processes and procedures , and we can see it's dated 30 June 1999. This is version 2.0. If we scroll down, please, to Distribution, your name features under the heading Horizon Fraud and Security Group. Is that a group of which you were aware? Not necessarily that title. There were people dealing with fraud and security, in particular. I was not part of the inner circle of that, if you like. Again, given my location at Feltham and general knowledge, I've been a participant in some of those documents, but I wasn't I wouldn't have been the lead subject matter expert on that.

Office Counters, or are you referring specifically to employees that Feltham site that you had? A. No, it wouldn't have been at the Feltham site. It would

- 19 20 have been both Post Office and -- at the time would this have also been when BA were still around? 21
- 22 **Q.** I think this is June 1999. So by that time they would 23 have withdrawn from the project.
- 24 A. It would probably have still had their input from the 25 start, because the board risk management system was very 47

1	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
2	(11.	05 am)
3		(A short break)
4	(11.	15 am)
5		<b>HODGE:</b> Good morning, sir, can you see and hear me?
6		WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can thank you.
7	MS	<b>HODGE:</b> Thank you very much. Mr Booth, I would like to
8		ask you some questions now about your knowledge of ICL
9		Pathway's access controls and privileges. It appears
10		that one aspect of the project in which you became
11		involved prior to its roll-out related to issues of
12	_	fraud and security; is that correct?
13	Α.	It is.
14	Q.	We see that you feature on the distribution list of
15		a number of ICL Pathway documents relating to access
16		control and security management. I think you are
17		described as a member of the Horizon Fraud and Security
18	_	Group?
19	Α.	I don't recall being part of that group.
20	Q.	Can you describe what the function of that group was,
21	_	please.
22	Α.	I don't actually know what that group was, I'm afraid.
23	Q.	If we could just bring up FUJ00001493, please. This of
24		course is an ICL Pathway document, so it may be that
25		some sort of the misunderstanding has arisen, but it 46
		40
1		much a BA-driven item because that was primarily looking
2		at reducing fraud of the benefit books, and that was
3		a BA initiative with Post Office participation, and
4		I assume that this would then carry over from that
5		group.
6	Q.	We see you referenced again, please, in POL00043742.
7		This is a document entitled Security Management
8		Procedures, co again an ICL Pathway document dated
9		17 September 99, version 1.2, and again under
10		Distribution we see the Horizon library is identified
11		but specifically for your attention.
12		Is it likely that you were invited to review these
13		documents as part of your role as the single point of
14		contact or document review, the document champion that
15		you have described.
16	Α.	Yes. Basically I had my names on lots of documents
17		I reviewed, as I said earlier, not necessarily as the
18		subject matter expert, but as the conduit both to and
19		from them.
20	Q.	In doing that, would I be right to understand that you
21		would have liaised with those in Post Office Counters
22		who were responsible for fraud and security issues?
23	Α.	Yes.
24	Q.	And who were the experts in that field?
25	Α.	Yes.
		48

whatever you like, but you can always get into a system. It's then around the integrity of the data and the

tooling, to make sure that any changes are audited. I can't remember if this document -- or it was common understanding was that changes would be four eyed i.e. you would have two pairs of eyes on it, so that one person was doing the change, another person would look at the change to make sure they only change what they said they were going to change and there was a record of

Q. From what you have just said, it seems to be that your experience from working in programming and other automation systems was that this type of remote access to transaction data was quite common -- is that right -- it was a necessary component of a system of this type?
A. There would be two types of access. There would be the read-only for investigation, which would be more common, because that would enable you to find any underlying issues, and it would also allow you to do enquiries which were not -- you could run a report that wasn't otherwise there for you. So, if you wanted to know how many branches had an odd number of counters, there wouldn't be a report for that but, if you had access to

the data, you could go in and find it.

they did do any amendment.

acceptance of Horizon?

privileged rights were exercised?

Where amendments are made to data, generally that

50

their ability to access and amend the data? Did you

have much knowledge at all of the extent?A. No. I mean, the expectation would be that it would be very limited in terms of the number of people that could do that, and they would, as I say, be overseen whenever

Q. During your time working in Feltham, did you ever

A. Not to -- I think that the setup at that time -- Pathway would have had staff in Ireland doing such work. So it would have had -- they had data centres in Belfast, and their support service centre, I think, at the time was

based in Belfast. I may be wrong on that.Q. Thank you. I'd like to move on now, please, to a new topic, this being the acceptance of the Horizon IT

discuss with ICL Pathway staff the extent to which these

System that took place in the summer and autumn of 1999. What do you recall about your involvement in the

A. With the documentation and things, I was involved in acceptance incidents that were brought to our attention and managing out of the system. So a defect would be raised, it would be qualified as: is it a defect or as Pathway would like to say, is it a feature? So is it a true defect that needs remedy, or is it just

52

that.

1	Q.	Do you happen to recall who they were at this time?	1
2	Α.	I knew you were going to ask that one. I'm afraid I	2
3		don't.	3
4	Q.	Presumably, if you had the task of reviewing these	4
5		documents relating to access controls and security	5
6		management, you had some understanding of the purpose of	6
7		these controls; would that be fair?	7
8	Α.	I will have had from two perspectives. One would have	8
9		been my understanding of the rest of the system and,	9
10		therefore, was it at odds or was it trying to either	10
11		expose or gloss over something that I was aware of	11
12		elsewhere. As part of my mindset, if you like,	12
13		reviewing the document and searching for the	13
14		inconsistencies within a document is what I would also	14
15		have been doing from that perspective, but as an	15
16		educated layman about these subjects rather than as the	16
17	~	expert on these subjects.	17
18	Q.	What did you understand about the controls placed on the	18
19 20		ability of ICL Pathway staff to access or to amend	19
20 21		transaction data recorded on Horizon? I was unclear about how they would amend but, having	20 21
21	Α.	been around IT systems, ultimately the systems	21
22		administrator can always go in and, no matter what	22
23 24		controls you've got, if they have a high enough level of	23
25		privilege, you can do whatever you like. So not	24
20		49	20
1		would be done via an auditable tool, rather than just	1
2		going and over-typing data, which I think may have	2
3		occurred later, from some of the especially just	3
4		before the break, some of the handcrafted fixes and	4
5		files we saw, generally I'd have expected tooling to	5
6		have done that rather than a manual process.	6
7	Q.	The mere fact that ICL Pathway could do this was	7
8		something that you were aware of at the time, was it?	8
9	Α.	It's something that's endemic in any system.	9
10			
	Q.	You consider that knowledge of that was something that	10
11	Q.	You consider that knowledge of that was something that was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time?	10 11
11 12	Q. A.		
		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time?	11
12		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the	11 12
12 13		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical	11 12 13
12 13 14		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient	11 12 13 14
12 13 14 15		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you	11 12 13 14 15
12 13 14 15 16		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you can amend the data.	11 12 13 14 15 16
12 13 14 15 16 17		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you can amend the data. The integrity of the data and the integrity of the	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
12 13 14 15 16 17 18		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you can amend the data. The integrity of the data and the integrity of the database that you need to put around it to protect that, and controls you need to put on such that you know that this user with those privileges has logged on at that	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you can amend the data. The integrity of the data and the integrity of the database that you need to put around it to protect that, and controls you need to put on such that you know that this user with those privileges has logged on at that time, you'd know where they were in the system and,	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you can amend the data. The integrity of the data and the integrity of the database that you need to put around it to protect that, and controls you need to put on such that you know that this user with those privileges has logged on at that time, you'd know where they were in the system and, having an audit of what they've done, that was the	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Α.	was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you can amend the data. The integrity of the data and the integrity of the database that you need to put around it to protect that, and controls you need to put on such that you know that this user with those privileges has logged on at that time, you'd know where they were in the system and, having an audit of what they've done, that was the controls that you'd put on top of it.	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		was widely held within Post Office Counters at the time? Yes. Well, there may have been a naiveté amongst the non-technical people, but anyone who has a technical background will know that, if you have sufficient privilege, you can go in and look at the data, and you can amend the data. The integrity of the data and the integrity of the database that you need to put around it to protect that, and controls you need to put on such that you know that this user with those privileges has logged on at that time, you'd know where they were in the system and, having an audit of what they've done, that was the	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

(13) Pages 49 - 52

1		misinterpretation? Then what is the material impact of	1
2		that?	2
3		I go back to my high, medium, low type criteria.	3
4 5		Is it a service stopper, is it service impacting, or is it just an annovance?	4 5
6		From that they would then be tracked down with the	6
7		intent of clearing as many as possible, obviously before	7
8		going live because you don't want a system with known	8
9		defects in it.	9
10	Q.	One of the incidents which you raise was known as	10
11		Acceptance Incident number 372. This related to systems	11
12		management. What do you recall, if anything, about that	12
13		incident?	13
14	Α.	Again from some of the documents, I believe that that	14
15		was around concerns that, at the volume, Pathway were	15
16		not necessarily able to distribute software in	16
17		a reliable manner or a timely manner anyway.	17
18	Q.	One of the high severity Als which you were involved	18
19		in forgive me, acceptance incidents we abbreviate to	19
20		Al was Acceptance Incident number 298 relating to	20
21		system stability. Do you recall that?	21
22	Α.		22
23	•	especially some of the other material that's arisen.	23
24 25	Q.	,	24
25		that incident? 53	25
1		technical measure that could have given us a very	1
2		accurate picture, but Pathway would prefer us to do	2
3		a manual, more less accurate, more onerous	3
4		phone-round to find out what was happening.	4
5		The eventual solution in the same way that	5
6		Microsoft even today suggest you don't leave your	6
7		machine turned on and hibernating, but you turn it off	7
8		regularly was to instigate nightly reboots such that	8
9		the machine would reboot itself each night on the belief	9
10		that the problem was due to running out of resources.	10
11		So that I keep on I don't know what the root cause	11
12		was but, say I keep on opening a file, so I have a file	12
13		open, and I have consumed one opening. If I don't	13
14		release that opening, if I open it again, I've consumed	14
15		2, I've consumed 3, I've consumed 4. I can only consume	15
16		so many before I run out of them, and then I would hang.	16
17		If you restart your machine each day, you always	17
18		start at 1 and, by the end of the 23 hours and 59	18
19 20		minutes, hopefully, you haven't got to the big number	19 20
20 21		where you would have hung. So by restarting it	20 21
21 22		regularly, it means you still have the problem, but you don't have the consequence of that problem.	21 22
22	Ω	Was that a solution implemented by ICL Pathway, that is	22
23 24	<b>u</b> ,	to say, were the systems automatically rebooted?	23
25	Α.	Yes.	25
		55	

1	A.	There was some sympathy that the system would lock up
2		and freeze. PCs of the day were less reliable than they
3		are now, and there was at the time "blue screen of
4		death" was an industry phrase because of Microsoft's
5		frequency of locking up and freezing.
6		From some of the material, it's obvious that we
7		were suffering similar kind of behaviours, and
8		occasionally we'd have an hour glass come up where the
9		system was busy and effectively would hang, meaning that
10		the users couldn't use the system. This went on for
11		several months.
12		Pathway were in denial at some stage of the extent
13		and the impact of the problem. The issue you have is,
14		if your machine is effectively hung, the only way you
15		can unhang it is to turn it off and turn it on again
16		and, when you do that, you run the risk of corruption.
17		You also then have an unknown account rate because
18		Pathway would not put in something that would say, "This
19		machine has just started up", and collect those metrics
20		automatically, which would have been something we would
21		have asked for and would have been a reasonable thing to
22		say how often is this happening in the estate. They
23		would much rather turn to Post Office and say, "Can you
24		phone round your branches and ask them how often they
25		are rebooting." So there was, in my view, a simpler
		54
1	Q.	It didn't require the subpostmaster or the clerk to do
2		that?
3 4	A.	No. One of the medium severity acceptance incidents of which
-	Q.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
5		you had oversight was Al211. This related to a receipts
6 7		and payments mismatch. Do you have any recollection of
_	Α.	that? Not familiar with that one as much.
8 9	A. Q.	I think records on that are relatively limited, but if
9 10	ω.	we could bring up, please, POL00028360. This is what
11		appears to be effectively an action log prepared
12		recording the output of a meeting on 11 August 1999.
13		where we see the various acceptance incidents recorded
14		there, severities as defined by Pathway and Post Office
15		Counters, and then the final column some remarks.
16		Please could we scroll down to page 9.
17		So we see here Al211 receipts not equalling
18		payments, and there's a reference to a memo from you.
19		I don't think we've been able to obtain a copy of that,
20		but it would tend to suggest that you had some
20		involvement in this AI. Would you agree with that?
22	Α.	I would agree with that, yes.
23	Q.	There's reference there to the implementation of
24		a rectification plan, and the results having been shown
25		to work, but there being some remaining incidents due to
		56

(14) Pages 53 - 56

1		reference data. I'm looking here at the third column,	1	
2		as I'm sure you are aware, and one incident being	2	
3		reported due to kit swap-out reintroducing pre-LT2 which	3	A
4		would be a reference to live trial 2, would it? SW	4	
5	Α.	Software.	5	
6	Q.	There's a point to say that action is with Pathway to	6	
7		investigate, and there be a possibility that	7	
8		a combination of builds have not been tested properly.	8	
9		Does any of that assist your recollection of this	9	
10		particular AI?	10	
11	Α.		11	
12	_	say at the time.	12	
13		Please could you do so to the best of your ability.	13	
14	Α.	I would suggest that the medium to low was contested,	14	C
15		and I had reason to say that it shouldn't be moved down	15	
16		to a low, that it should be maintained at a medium	16	
17		severity incident. But without that memo, I'm afraid	17	
18		can't substantiate that.	18	
19 20		On terms of the reasoning, it would suggest that	19	
20		the software that was put on the counter was not the	20	Α
21 22		correct build because it was a swap-out and therefore	21 22	
22		a bug that had thought to have been cleared was	22	~
23 24		reintroduced because it was on old software. That's my reading of what's in front of me.	23 24	C
24 25	Q.		24 25	
20	હ.	57	25	
1		Acceptance Incident in which you had any involvement or	1	
2		took any particular interest?	2	A
3	Α.	Sorry, I can't comment on that.	3	
4	Q.	Did you have any concerns at the time about that	4	
5		particular AI and its impact upon Post Office Counters	5	C
6		and its accounting integrity?	6	
7	Α.	All Als were of concern. As we lovingly called it, the	7	
8		route to green. So to get them to be a green light you	8	
9		could go ahead with was to rectify them. So having an	9	
10		Acceptance Incident was bad, but it did mean that the	10	
11		fault had been found and, if you find something that's	11	
12		wrong, you can fix it.	12	
13		So the volume of Als was disappointing, but what	13	
14		was important was, before going live, the volume that	14	
15		were left outstanding and the type that was left	15	
16		outstanding before going live	16	
17	Q.		17	
18		to deal with, please, relates to what you knew at the	18	
19		time about the role of investigations and prosecutions	19	
20		in Post Office Counters. Now, one of the low severity	20	
21		Als for which you were responsible was Al370. Do you	21	
22	-	recall that AI?	22	
23	Α.	I don't. Do you have a	23	
24	Q.	Yes, by all means. Please could we show POL00028508.	24	
25		This is an email from Min Burdett. Did you have any 59	25	
		00		

	fixed?
Α.	If you're bringing kit off of the engineer's van that
	is it will not be current necessarily. So, if today
	I fix this computer and I fix this one, fine. I now put
	that on my van and I have an update, this one's turned
	on and it will get updated, the one on the van won't.
	When it gets installed, it needs to be brought up to the
	current build before being used. Looking at this, it
	would appear that that didn't happen and, therefore, an
	older version that the engineer installed was actually
	used in live with these consequences. That's my reading
	of what's in front of me.
Q.	,
	Finally before we move on to another topic,
	although you were not directly responsible for the
	incident, you were aware, were you not, that an incident
	had been raised relating to the accounting integrity of
	the Horizon System under AI376?
Α.	Yes, I would have been aware of because the
	Acceptance Incident form went through all of the
	incidents, I would have been party to that, yes.
Q.	Bearing in mind your earlier involvement with
	transaction information processing and the problems that
	had been identified in January of 1999, was that an
	58
	direct dealings with Min?
Α.	Min was one of the managers around in Post Office,
	probably based in the London office. Yes, I had some
	dealings but not day-to-day.
Q.	This email is addressed to, we can see, Keith Baines and
	Chris French. You are not on the face of it copied into
	this email, but it contains an attachment which relates
	to what is described as "the new acceptance process".
	So this is in late January 2000 after the system has
	been formally accepted by Post Office Counters and the
	roll-out has started and indeed recommenced.
	If we can scroll down, please, to page 6, if we
	perhaps go back to the second page just so you can see
	the title of the document, sorry, this is a document
	called Concluding Pathway Acceptance version 0.1. It
	contains a table with a number of acceptance incidents
	that were outstanding as at 28 January 2000, it would
	appear. We can see that, please, at page 6.
	This is a list of the medium severity acceptance
	incidents. We can see that you're still named in
	relation to Al372, the system management, an incident to
	which we referred earlier. There was another
	outstanding medium severity 314 relating to the
	provision of documentation and, at page 8, please, about
	halfway down the page, can you see an entry Al370 the
	60

risk of reintroducing bugs that had previously been

1		title of which is Witness Statement?	1	
2	Α.	I can, yes.	2	
3	Q.	Under the heading Post Office Counters Limited ATM?	3	
4	Α.	Yes.	4	
5	Q.	Do you know what ATM stands for?	5	
6	Α.	I assume Acceptance Test Manager.	6	
7	Q.	You are named there.	7	Α
8	Α.	Yes.	8	Q
9	Q.	Now, before we move on from this document, if we may	9	
10		please just go back to page 5, this relates to the	10	
11		procedure for closing outstanding acceptance incidents,	11	
12		and provides:	12	
13		"The ATM's role in closure of Als will continue as	13	
14		now. When the ATM is satisfied that the closure	14	
15		criteria have been met, he or she should email his or	15	
16		her line manager explaining the reasons for and	16	
17		recommending closure. The ATM should consult with	17	Α
18		appropriate business representatives who typically	18	
19		[would] have been involved during the lifetime of the	19	
20		AL."	20	
21		If we go on, please, just a little further down	21	
22		under the heading Handover of Closure Baton Recipient,	22	
23		at 3.9, it provides:	23	Q
24		"For a number of the Als, there will be ongoing	24	
25		monitoring to ensure that the AI solution does not 61	25	
1		System Stage 2. I don't believe you were the author of	1	
2		this review or rather the report into this review.	2	
3	Α.	No.	3	
4	Q.	But it does helpfully provide some information about	4	А
5		Al 370. If we could go, please, to page 3, we see	5	
6		reference to An outstanding acceptance incident 370	6	
7		graded as low. Can you see forgive me in the box?	7	
8	Α.	Yes.	8	
9	Q.	This report, I believe, is dated July 1999. So it's at	9	
10		or around the time where these acceptance incidents were	10	
11		first raised and being addressed. It says:	11	
12		"[This incident] exists against the POCL	12	
13		requirement, on the assertion by Post Office Counters	13	
14		Limited that Pathway should" it says "product" but	14	Q
15		presumably it should have read "produce"?	15	
16	Α.	Yes.	16	
17	Q.	"a witness statement to support prosecution. This Al	17	
18		revolves around the interpretation of 'ensure that all	18	Α
19		relevant information is evidentially admissible'.	19	
20		POCL's view is that to be admissible it will need to be	20	
21		supported by witness statements, et cetera; Pathway have	21	
22		stated that they will 'provide PACE statements as	22	Q
23		necessary to support a fraud prosecution', but that 'the	23	
24		work required to produce draft witness statements' is	24	Α
25		not within the scope of the requirement and will be done	25	
		63		

1		regress. The ATM [the Acceptance Test Manager] will be
2		responsible properly briefing the baton recipient"
3		Then there's a note in parenthesis:
4		"More guidance on this [is needed] to be included
5		here when the issue has been discussed with BSM"
6		would that be business service management?
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	"Typically", it says, "as shown in appendix 1 the baton
9		will be passed to BSM. In the past this has not always
10		been done, and a review of all currently closed Als will
11		take place short to identify any missing batons."
12		So just pausing there briefly before we return to
13		Al370, does that broadly reflect your understanding of
14		how these incidents were closed? That is to say the
15		process by which responsibility for an incident was
16		transferred?
17	Α.	I can't recall this detail, but it's an obvious
18		transition into business as usual, by saying that the
19		program looks to be winding down at this stage and we're
20		handing things over to the normal business service
21		managers for monitoring, and anything that is not
22		closed, for them to then manage to closure.
23	Q.	Thank you. We can see some reference to Al370 in a
24		document that bears the reference WITN05970134, please.
25		This document is entitled Review of Horizon Cash Account
		62
1		once POCL raise a Change Request."
2		So does that assist you at all in relation to this
3		particular Al?
4 5	Α.	I can read that, and my interpretation is that basically
5		Fujitsu was saying, yes, they will do it, but they want
6 7		paying for it each time it's requested. So it is not
-		part of the service that is included, but it would be
8		done under change control, i.e. the Post Office would
9		say, "We require a witness statement from you", and
10		they'd say, "Cost you £5,000, work order, change
11		request, please raise." Post Office would then raise
12		that and Pathway would then produce the witness
13	~	statement. That is my interpretation of what's there.
14	Q.	So this effectively was a request being raised of
15		Pathway in the summer of 1999; that's correct, isn't it?
16		That is to say, the provision of a witness statement of
17		this type?
18	Α.	No, I'm reading that they're saying that the provision
19		of witness statements does not fall within the paid-for
20		service. Each witness statement that's required would
21	0	require separate payment.
22	Q.	Forgive me, for this to arise as an Acceptance Incident
23	^	presumably
24	Α.	That would have been the disagreement, that Post Office
25		would have thought it was within the costed service, and
		64

1		Pathway were saying, "No, it's an add-on", and I think	1	Q.	And that certainly part of the Post Office's
2		that, from reading this, would have been the element of	2		investigation and audit function was to enable these
3		discussion about why it's an Acceptance Incident,	3		prosecutions to be brought?
4		because Post Office were not getting from the service	4	Α.	Yes.
5		what they thought was included.	5	Q.	Now, it appears from this document that the part of the
6	Q.	Indeed, but presumably having had oversight of this	6		Post Office with responsibility for this aspect was
7		Acceptance Incident, it was on your radar at the time	7		known as the Security and Investigations Executive; is
8		that Post Office Counters were expecting to obtain	8		that correct, do you know?
9		evidence of this nature from Pathway in order to support	9	Α.	The only acronym I knew of them was POID, Post Office
10		the prosecution or well, the investigation into and	10		Investigation Department. So the acronym, I'm not
11		potentially eventual prosecution of subpostmasters or	11		familiar, but it makes sense.
12		managers or clerks suspected of fraud. Is that a fair	12	Q.	What, if any, liaison did you have with them?
13		inference to draw?	13		I don't think I had any. It would have gone through the
14	Α.	I had very little to no involvement in witness	14		security forum.
15		statements <i>per se</i> . So it could easily have been	15	Q.	Sorry, forgive me?
16		providing a witness statement to say that the person was	16		The security forum that we mentioned earlier, the fraud
17		not guilty of a fraud	17		risk management people were working, if you like, on the
18	Q.	Forgive me, I'm not suggesting you would have had	18		human factors, the fraud risks, et cetera, and it would
19		a detailed understanding of what a statement contained	19		have been that forum that would have taken such
20		or indeed whether	20		considerations forward.
21	Α.	No, understanding that they provision for something	21	Q.	Obviously, as the Acceptance Test Manager, you had
22		that's evidentially admissible, yes.	22		personal responsibility for the resolution of this
23	Q.	You were aware of that at the time?	23		Acceptance Incident; that's correct, isn't it?
24	A.	Yes, in terms of that context, but probably only to this	24	Α.	It is.
25		level.	25	Q.	In that role would you have liaised would you have
		65			66
1		been liaising directly with either	1		afraid, sorry. I wouldn't know how these matters were
2	Α.	I can't say who I was liaising with. But again, looking	2		propagated and who the audience and recipients were.
3		at this, it wasn't a technical defect. This is about	3	Q.	Did you yourself communicate any of the concerns which
4		a commercial arrangement. So, providing Post Office	4		you previously articulated about accounting integrity to
5		were willing to pay, the service they were expecting	5		those with whom you were liaising on AI 370, for
6		that would be included would be fulfilled, and that's	6		example?
7		why it would be a low Acceptance Incident. There was	7	Α.	Yes, anyone that if we are talking about a specific
8		no from what I'm reading here, there was no	8		Al, the audience for that would be fully aware of it.
9		contention about production of witness statement. It	9		So I'm afraid I don't quite understand the question.
10		was purely about whether there was going to be an	10	Q.	Sorry, forgive me. We established you were aware of Al
11		additional charge from Pathway for that.	11		376 and the issues relating to data integrity. They
12	Q.	I think, Mr Booth, what I'm trying to get to the bottom	12		reflected concerns that you had previously articulated
13		of, if I perhaps make this a bit clearer, you were	13		in January 1999 in the report to which we referred.
14		obviously aware at the time of an Acceptance Incident	14	Α.	Yes.
15		relating to data integrity society number 376, and you	15	Q.	We can see you also having oversight of an Acceptance
16		were aware at the time of an Acceptance Incident	16		Incident relating to the provision of witness evidence
17		relating to the provision of witness evidence which was	17		to support a prosecution. What I'd like to know is
18		number 370.	18		whether you recall taking any steps to bring to the
19		To your knowledge, were those in the fraud and	19		attention of those who were dealing with prosecutions
20		security group kept abreast of the variety of acceptance	20		the issues of which you were aware relating to data
21		incidents that were being dealt with, so those relating	21		integrity.
22		to data integrity as well as, for example, those	22	Α.	I would not have done that, no.
23		relating to witness statements or those aspects more	23	Q.	You wouldn't have done that?
24		directly concerned?	24	Α.	I don't think I would have, no.
25	Α.		25	Q.	Why is that?
25	Α.	-	25	Q.	

1	Α.	Because the Acceptance Incidents, the only involvement	1		Mr Folkes who was your manager at the time. It's
2		in terms of the witness statement was the a commercial	2		entitled the Horizon Brain Dump. I think you've been
3		one. It wasn't the provision or the underlying data	3		provided with a copy of that document; is that correct?
4		and, therefore, that wouldn't have been relevant to the	4	Α.	I have, yes.
5		actual Acceptance Incident.	5	Q.	That bears WITN05970123, please.
6		The security forum or, if you like, the people who	6		Have you had an opportunity to read this document?
7		were X from the fraud risk management, would have had	7	Α.	I have.
8		other ways into the service, I believe, and other	8	Q.	Do you recall whether or not you were shown a copy of
9		liaison points. The focus was very much on each	9		the document at the time it was produced?
10		individual Acceptance Incident and not widening it out.	10	Α.	I don't, but I suspect very much that I was because of
11		It was trying to close it down rather than trying to	11		the relationship I had with Mr Folkes.
12		cascade it out and make it bigger. Does that make	12	Q.	There's a reference to you, Mr Booth, at page 23 of that
13		sense?	13		document. I wonder if we could bring that up, please.
14	Q.	Yes, I think so. In relation to closure of AI 370, we	14		Thank you. Under the heading C6.7 System Management, it
15		saw in the earlier plan for closure that one of the	15		reads:
16		avenues for closure was into the business service	16		"ICL Pathway's ability to detect and manage
17		management. Is it likely that AI 370 would be one of	17		certain failures in the system is as yet somewhat
18		the Acceptance Incidents that were resolved in that way?	18		unproven; although we have assurances from Pathway on
19	Α.	It would have I think, in this instance I would have	19		a number of issues, evidence that failures would indeed
20		guessed the natural home would have been more under the	20		be detected and responded to (rather than just logged
21		commercial forum, because against commercial question	21		and ignored). Will only come from live running.
22		marks and technical deficiency. So it would have found	22		"There are a number of scenario discovered through
23		its way a baton passed to someone who I don't know.	23		the technical assurance work which gives examples of
24	Q.	Thank you. Finally, Mr Booth, I would like to ask you	24		possibly failures", which we can see listed there.
25		about a document that's been provided to the Inquiry by	25		Then in brackets that bottom:
		69			70
1		"Bob Booth is our expert in this area and has	1	Q.	
2		access to the previous technical assurance work."	2	Q.	it?
2 3		access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in	2 3	Q. A.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came
2 3 4		access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect	2 3 4		it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not
2 3 4 5		access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of	2 3 4 5		it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a
2 3 4 5 6	А.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving	2 3 4 5 6	A.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here."
2 3 4 5 6 7	A.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more	2 3 4 5 6 7		it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for this, because the background of an involvement I had	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or are you referring more generally?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	А.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for this, because the background of an involvement I had previously, I would have been a primary contact. So the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or are you referring more generally? More generally. I mean, that was the start obviously,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for this, because the background of an involvement I had previously, I would have been a primary contact. So the document highlights that, if you want to know some of	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or are you referring more generally? More generally. I mean, that was the start obviously, when things would have been more under a microscope.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Α.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for this, because the background of an involvement I had previously, I would have been a primary contact. So the document highlights that, if you want to know some of the background, then drag out an incident at the time,	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or are you referring more generally? More generally. I mean, that was the start obviously, when things would have been more under a microscope. But as more and more users because you need to
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for this, because the background of an involvement I had previously, I would have been a primary contact. So the document highlights that, if you want to know some of the background, then drag out an incident at the time, then I'd have been a good point of contact to explain the background to it, what we'd done to resolve it, and	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	A. Q.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or are you referring more generally? More generally. I mean, that was the start obviously, when things would have been more under a microscope. But as more and more users because you need to realise that, if you test a system with a team of sort of the 5/10 testers, you get 5 or 10 man-days. You put
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	access to the previous technical assurance work." Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for this, because the background of an involvement I had previously, I would have been a primary contact. So the document highlights that, if you want to know some of the background, then drag out an incident at the time, then I'd have been a good point of contact to explain the background to it, what we'd done to resolve it, and where we felt it was going at the time. Notwithstanding the formal resolution of AI 372 which related to system management, did you share the concern that Pathway's ability to detect and manage certain failures remained unproven? I think so, yes. It was more to action what they found. The information sometimes was there but they were not proactively looking for it. So, if you knew what you	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q.	it? Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here." Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or are you referring more generally? More generally. I mean, that was the start obviously, when things would have been more under a microscope. But as more and more users because you need to realise that, if you test a system with a team of sort of the 5/10 testers, you get 5 or 10 man-days. You put it out to 300 branches as a live trial and there's three people, you are getting a thousand man-days a day. So the scale of exposure a system gets when you start putting it out into the real world is far, far greater than you get in a test environment. We would get feedback from users, such as the hanging, which were not really experienced because we probably didn't do enough duration and leaving the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q.	<ul> <li>access to the previous technical assurance work."</li> <li>Does it follow from this that you were expected in effect to carry forward the system management aspect of</li> <li>I think the intent here was the document was giving pointers to the reader about, if you want more information or if you have a concern where to go for this, because the background of an involvement I had previously, I would have been a primary contact. So the document highlights that, if you want to know some of the background, then drag out an incident at the time, then I'd have been a good point of contact to explain the background to it, what we'd done to resolve it, and where we felt it was going at the time.</li> <li>Notwithstanding the formal resolution of AI 372 which related to system management, did you share the concern that Pathway's ability to detect and manage certain failures remained unproven?</li> <li>I think so, yes. It was more to action what they found. The information sometimes was there but they were not proactively looking for it. So, if you knew what you were looking for, afterwards you could go and find it, but they were not necessarily looking for defects that</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Q.	<ul> <li>it?</li> <li>Because the majority of the defects, I believe, came from the result of Post Office saying, "Something's not working", rather than Pathway saying, "We've got a problem here."</li> <li>Are you referring here to problems identified during the live operation and trial and the acceptance process, or are you referring more generally?</li> <li>More generally. I mean, that was the start obviously, when things would have been more under a microscope. But as more and more users because you need to realise that, if you test a system with a team of sort of the 5/10 testers, you get 5 or 10 man-days. You put it out to 300 branches as a live trial and there's three people, you are getting a thousand man-days a day. So the scale of exposure a system gets when you start putting it out into the real world is far, far greater than you get in a test environment.</li> <li>We would get feedback from users, such as the hanging, which were not really experienced because we probably didn't do enough duration and leaving the machine on long enough before a patch would occur to a machine such that it would reboot and clear things.</li> </ul>
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1		being experienced. So again slight difference between	1		Questioned by MR JACOBS
2		live and test.	2	0	Mr Booth, I ask questions on behalf of 153
3	0	If I've understood you correctly, you remained concerned	3	હ.	subpostmasters who were dismissed, prosecuted, sued and
4	ч.	even after acceptance and roll-out that ICL Pathway were	4		lost their reputations as a result of the actions of
5		not doing enough to identify and detect faults in the	5		Post Office.
6		stem. Is that a fair summary	6		In your evidence today you have made it clear that
8 7	Δ	I think as the end customer, you always want your IT	7		as a result of the contractual boundaries between
8	<b>A</b> .	supplier to be doing more. So yes, it is. Whether it	8		Pathway and Post Office and as a result of Pathway's
9		was really reasonable or unreasonable, I think that's	9		attitude and you have said that Pathway said, "Why
10		a hard call. I don't think that Pathway I think	10		are you asking questions? This is taking up too much
10		Pathway could definitely have done more. How much more	10		time. We're the professionals here", and you said that
12		is questionable before it becomes an onerous task with	12		the Post Office were hindered by a lack of access to
13		very little return.	13		technical details from Pathway. Is that a correct
14	0	Did you articulate your ongoing concerns to others	14		summary of your
15	ч.	within Post Office Counters Limited?	15	Δ	That's correct, yes.
16	Δ	I think that everyone was aware that the amount of	16		evidence? What my clients want me to ask on their
10	7.1	information we were getting out and the amount of	10		behalf is: do you accept, looking back and from what you
18		benefit of raising those things was a lost cause. It	18		knew at the time, that the Post Office didn't have
19		was very much the contractual boundaries were set, and	19		anywhere near enough visibility and knowledge of the
20		that's the rules that ICL Pathway were playing to.	20		system to dismiss, pursue and prosecute my clients for
20	0	Thank you, Mr Booth. I have no further questions for	20		these alleged shortfalls that arose?
22	ч.	you but there will be some questions, I believe, from	22	Δ	I don't know any of the circumstances of the
23		the representatives of other core participants.	23	7.4	prosecution. So I'm afraid I can't comment on that.
24	SIE	R WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Who is first up?	24	0	But your evidence is, I think it's right to say, that
25		<b>SJACOBS:</b> Sir, I think it's me, Mr Jacobs.	25		Post Office didn't have sufficient, from your
20		73	20		74
1		perspective, knowledge and visibility of the system that	1	Q.	In light of what you know and what you told the Inquiry,
2		Pathway had developed.	2		how do you feel about the way the subpostmasters were
3	Α.	The degree of technical exposure was not enough to give	3		treated?
4		the level of assurance before putting the system live	4	Α.	From a personal view appoint even just having to give
5		that I would have liked. The method by which we gained	5		a witness statement, it's traumatic. So on a human
6		confidence was by putting it live, and we would rely	6		level, it's traumatic. I have seen some of the
7		upon ICL Pathway for technical statements and for	7		statements. It is not good news. It's just not good
8		technical information. We would not be or would not	8		news.
9		be able to speak authoritatively ourselves about it.	9	MR	A JACOBS: Thank you. I don't have anything else.
10		Even though we would have a good shape at a high level,	10	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Anyone else?
11		we would not be able to know at a low level the detail,	11		Questioned by MS PAGE
12		and that would be within the ICL Pathway domain only.	12	Q.	Ms Page, on behalf again of a group of the
13	Q.	Your evidence is you didn't know the low-level details	13		subpostmasters, and I've got two areas that I'd like to
14		in relation to the system.	14		ask you about, please, Mr Booth. The first relates to
15	Α.	Correct.	15		your witness statement and paragraph 30. I don't think
16	Q.	Do you consider then with the benefit of the hindsight	16		we need to call it up. I will read it out and go from
17		that the postmasters ought to have been given the	17		there.
18		benefit of the data by Post Office before being pursued?	18		You said, when the Benefits Agency withdrew from
19	Α.	Again I don't know any of the details of individual	19		Horizon, there was no substantive change in your role of
20		cases, and can only say that anything that should	20		being a point of contact for Fujitsu and reviewing the
21		have anybody who's being prosecuted should have the	21		Fujitsu documents. But then you said:
22		same access as the prosecutor, that any evidence that	22		"The main difference was that I felt that my views
23		was available should have been made available, be that	23		were given more weight as any concerns I raised would be
24		from the Post Office or be that from the IT supplier who	24		moderated by Post Office as opposed to Benefits Agency
25		does have access to it.	25		where the single Benefits Agency product outweighed the
		75			76

were rolling out that year going into the following

year.

1		needs of all the POL products."	1
2		So, in other words, what you were saying was that,	2
3		before the Benefits Agency dropped out, their single	3
4		need this is need to have benefits paid through the	4
5		Horizon System, was absolutely pre-eminent.	5
6	Α.	It had undue weight, in my opinion. The Post Office had	6
7		180/190 products. Benefits Agency was one of them. The	7
8		Benefits Agency made it very clear in their day-to-day	8
9		workings beside us as colleagues that they viewed us,	9
10		the Post Office, as the junior partner and that it was	10
11		only because the Benefits Agency was there that the	11
12		automation was occurring.	12
13		Where effort was to be expended, the pressures	13
14		from the two contracting authorities, one who had one	14
15		product, one who had 180, it wasn't 180 to 1, it was	15
16		more sort of 1 to 1.	16
17	Q.	The other way round?	17
18	Α.	The Benefits Agency was one of the prime contractors;	18
19	_	therefore, their interest had to be served.	19
20	Q.	So when they dropped out and Pathway still had to	20
21		develop a system that would manage your 180 products or	21
22		thereabouts, they were suddenly doing so on a highly	22
23		contracted timescale, weren't they?	23
24	A.	I can't recall but probably, yes.	24
25	Q.	May '99 was when Benefits Agency dropped out and you 77	25
1		exactly an order of magnitude better than the target.	1
1 2		exactly an order of magnitude better than the target. Under this activity, John P made significant	1 2
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
2		Under this activity, John P made significant	2
2 3		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement,	2 3
2 3 4		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the	2 3 4
2 3 4 5		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the	2 3 4 5
2 3 4 5 6		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear.	2 3 4 5 6
2 3 4 5 6 7		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the	2 3 4 5 6 7
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'."	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that:	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation."	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of course, the ICL Pathway reports but that's their take on what's going on to close Al 376. Mr Cipione says, in conclusion, it's entirely unclear to him what actually	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of course, the ICL Pathway reports but that's their take on what's going on to close Al 376. Mr Cipione says, in conclusion, it's entirely unclear to him what actually happened to close Al 376 and, indeed, when he looks at	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of course, the ICL Pathway reports but that's their take on what's going on to close Al 376. Mr Cipione says, in conclusion, it's entirely unclear to him what actually	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of course, the ICL Pathway reports but that's their take on what's going on to close Al 376. Mr Cipione says, in conclusion, it's entirely unclear to him what actually happened to close Al 376 and, indeed, when he looks at	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close AI 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of course, the ICL Pathway reports but that's their take on what's going on to close AI 376. Mr Cipione says, in conclusion, it's entirely unclear to him what actually happened to close AI 376 and, indeed, when he looks at those management reports from Pathway, what we see is terminology that is rather concerning, is it not? If pressed, POCL would agree that certain IA's are closed.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close Al 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of course, the ICL Pathway reports but that's their take on what's going on to close Al 376. Mr Cipione says, in conclusion, it's entirely unclear to him what actually happened to close Al 376 and, indeed, when he looks at those management reports from Pathway, what we see is terminology that is rather concerning, is it not? If pressed, POCL would agree that certain IA's are closed. POCL have come round to the understanding that they are	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		Under this activity, John P made significant contributions to the third supplemental agreement, specified the committed CS repair facility, aligned the operating agreement on reconciliation to support the contract, sorted out the necessary PinICLs to clear. "In February 2000, ICL Pathway declared that the POCL acceptance manager had left the project and transferred the residual actions to 'business as usual'." Then this is Mr Cipione's comment on that: "It is unclear to me what exactly took place to close AI 376. The reading of these entries leaves much room for interpretation." So those paragraphs you wouldn't have seen, of course, the ICL Pathway reports but that's their take on what's going on to close AI 376. Mr Cipione says, in conclusion, it's entirely unclear to him what actually happened to close AI 376 and, indeed, when he looks at those management reports from Pathway, what we see is terminology that is rather concerning, is it not? If pressed, POCL would agree that certain IA's are closed.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

	year.
Α.	They would have been working on it before that. It was
	just not necessarily concentrating on it exclusively.
	They would have been having resources working on the
	Benefits Agency product as well as the Post Office
	products.
Q.	Can I just ask, please, for Mr Cipione's report to be
ω.	
	pulled up. This is the second area that I want to look
	at, please, and it's EXPG0000001, and if we go to
	page 118, please.
	If we scroll down to 7.1.5, I'll just read a few
	paragraphs out, please, and it starts:
	"In November 1999, at least one full month and
	possibly two full months after acceptance was granted,
	ICL Pathway reported that 'POCL have come round to the
	understanding that dead with residual AI 376 concerns in
	-
	the short to medium term will rely on processes and
	tools but no new software features as such."
	"In January 2000 ICL Pathway states, 'If pressed
	POCL would agree that Als 342, 372, 376, 378, 218, 391
	are closed/incapable of further update. Their
	acceptance manager is leaving the project at the end of
	February.' Further, in the same report it states, 'The
	outturn on AI 376 was 0.06 cash account discrepancies,
	78
	Were you just accepting their desire to get things
	rolled out?
Α.	No, no, no, I don't have first-hand knowledge of this
	but I disagree with the tone. I'd say it was very much
	internal ICL positioning rather than necessarily the
	facts on the ground.
Q.	What about this sort of suggestion that it's not at all
ч.	
	clear how AI 376 was concluded? Can you tell us how it
	was concluded?
Α.	I can't comment on that. I don't know.
MS	PAGE: Thank you.
MS	<b>HODGE:</b> Thank you, sir. Unless you have any questions
	for the witness, that concludes the evidence of
	for the witness, that concludes the evidence of Mr Booth.
SIR	Mr Booth.
SIR	-
SIR	Mr Booth. WYN WILLIAMS: No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness
SIR	Mr Booth. WYN WILLIAMS: No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness statement and for coming to the Inquiry to give
_	Mr Booth. <b>WYN WILLIAMS:</b> No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness statement and for coming to the Inquiry to give evidence. I'm grateful.
Α.	Mr Booth. WYN WILLIAMS: No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness statement and for coming to the Inquiry to give evidence. I'm grateful. Thank you, sir.
A. Sir	Mr Booth. WYN WILLIAMS: No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness statement and for coming to the Inquiry to give evidence. I'm grateful. Thank you, sir. WNN WILLIAMS: Where do we go from here Ms Hodge?
A. Sir	Mr Booth. WYN WILLIAMS: No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness statement and for coming to the Inquiry to give evidence. I'm grateful. Thank you, sir. WYN WILLIAMS: Where do we go from here Ms Hodge? HODGE: Our next witness is Mr Meagher, I believe
A. Sir	Mr Booth. WYN WILLIAMS: No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness statement and for coming to the Inquiry to give evidence. I'm grateful. Thank you, sir. WNN WILLIAMS: Where do we go from here Ms Hodge?
A. Sir	Mr Booth. WYN WILLIAMS: No, I don't have any questions. Thank you, Mr Booth, for making a detailed witness statement and for coming to the Inquiry to give evidence. I'm grateful. Thank you, sir. WYN WILLIAMS: Where do we go from here Ms Hodge? HODGE: Our next witness is Mr Meagher, I believe

wish to have a brief consultation with Counsel to the

80

25 Inquiry.

79

(20) Pages 77 - 80

1	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: I mean, I think the only issue is whether	1
2		we take our lunch break now.	2
3	MS	HODGE: If you would be content to, we certainly would be	3
4		happy to rise early and return early. We're in your	4
5	015	hands.	5
6	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: All right. So it's now ten past, or	6
7		thereabouts at least, 12. If we started again at, say,	7
8		1.20, would that give time for everybody to have lunch	8
9		and for Mr Meagher to have a chat with whomsoever he's	9
10	ме	going to speak?	10 11
11 12		HODGE: I'm sure that will be sufficient. Thank you.	11
12		.10 pm)	12
13	(12	(Luncheon Adjournment)	13
15	(1.2	(Luncheon Aujournment)	14
16	•	WYN WILLIAMS: I can't hear you, if that's what you	16
17	onv	asked me. Mr Stevens.	10
18	MR	STEVENS: Mr Stevens. It is, yes.	18
19		WYN WILLIAMS: I can hear you now.	19
20		W SPEAKER: Mr Stevens. If I may call Mr Meagher.	20
21		JOHN DOMINIC MEAGHER (affirmed)	21
22		Questioned by MR STEVENS	22
23	Q.	As you know, my name is Sam Stevens and I ask questions	23
24		on behalf of the Inquiry. Please could I ask you to	24
25		state your full name.	25
		81	
1		those changes were, but the logistics feeder system had	1
2		been put together in a much more formalised way than	2
2		reference data and was in no way compatible. It was a	3
4		relatively straightforward system that had been well	4
5		documented and, from my recollection, worked fairly	5
6		well.	6
7	Q.	So are you distinguishing two systems, on the one hand	7
8	ч.	reference data system and, on the other hand, the	8
9		logistics feeder system?	9
10	Α.	Correct.	10
11	Q.	And you have no criticism of the logistics feeder	11
12		system?	12
13	Α.	Correct.	13
14	Q.	Thank you. With that clarification, are the contents of	14
15		your statement true to the best of your knowledge and	15
16		belief?	16
17	Α.	They are.	17
18	Q.	That statement now stands as evidence in the Inquiry.	18
19		I am going to ask you some questions about it but not	19
20		all aspects of it. I'd like to start with your	20
21		background.	21
22		You joined the Post Office in 1990 following	22
23		a career in the oil and gas industry?	23
24	Α.	Correct.	24
25	Q.	Did you have experience of managing large IT projects	25
		83	

1	Α.	John Dominia Maaghar
		John Dominic Meagher. Thank you for giving evidence to the Inquiry today.
2 3	Q.	There should have been a bundle of documents in front of
4		you. The start of which should be a witness statement
5		dated 13 September 2022.
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	Firstly, can I just ask you please to turn to page 18.
8	Q.	Yes.
9	Q.	You should see your signature there. Is that your
10	-	signature?
11	Α.	That's mine, yes.
12	Q.	Now, I understand if you now turn sorry, if I could
13		ask you to turn to page 5, paragraph 10
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	you in your statement speak about the Logistics
16		Feeder Service, and I understand you want to clarify
17		what you say in that paragraph.
18	Α.	Indeed. When I was first asked a question, I had more
19		or less forgotten about the logistics feeder system
20		which came in very much at the end, and I went
21		mentioned some things about the reference data system.
22		So there is confusion in that statement based on that.
23		So the logistics feeder system, I was asked about late
24		stage changes to that system, and the answer is that
25		I don't know. I can't remember what the reason for
		82
1		before you moved to the Post Office?
2	Α.	Yes, I did. I've been involved in a number of when
3		I was in the oil industry, we'd been moving into the use
4		of computer systems both in terms of planning, project
5		management, and also the support services offshore. I'd
6		also worked on the development of the FirstDirect Bank
7		and on the privatisation of the central electricity
8		generating board, which essentially was an IT project,
9		because all of their previous systems had to be split up
10		for the individual component companies that were created
11		during that de-merger.
12	Q.	You applied to join the Horizon project in 1994
13	Α.	Roughly.
14	Q.	around then, and you assisted with the procurement
15		exercise that led to ICL Pathway being selected?
16	Α.	Yes, I first of all worked on the evaluation of the five
17		potential suppliers, and then into the demonstrator
18		phase where we finally chose ICL Pathway.
19	Q.	I want to move ahead a bit in the timeline, actually,
20		and speak about you being the head of Horizon product
21	-	assurance.
22	Α.	Yes.
23	Q.	In your witness statement you say that you started that
24		role not long after the contract with ICL Pathway was
25		signed. 84
		07

1	Α.	Correct.	1		reporting lines. They were never massively structured.
2	Q.	In your own words, what did you see your role to be as	2		I know that during the demonstrator phase he was
3		head of, sorry, Horizon product assurance?	3		responsible for the technical, the POCL technical team,
4	Α.	I saw the role as one whereby we would ensure that the	4		and I was responsible for the POCL applications team.
5		emerging solution was compliant with the requirements	5		Subsequently, I remember it more as working together
6		and we would assist ICL Pathway to that end.	6		rather than there being a strict reporting line but it's
7	Q.	When you say the requirements, do you mean the	7		possible.
8		requirements that were drafted as part of the PFI	8	Q.	Just so we're clear, how would you distinguish your
9		tendering process?	9		roles? You say him on the technical side and you with
10	Α.	Yes, the contracted requirements.	10		the application side.
11	Q.	You weren't involved in drafting those requirements?	11	Α.	Well, on the application side we focused on the
12	Α.	I didn't draft any requirements. I didn't have specific	12		applications, EPOS automated payments, OVSC, et cetera,
13		business knowledge. I'd worked on a couple of projects	13		whereas the technical people looked that nuts and bolts,
14		in the Post Office. So I was aware of the roughly what	14		the network, the boxes and the plumbing.
15		they did but I was not someone who could have drafted	15	Q.	Who did you report up to in your role?
16		a requirement.	16	Α.	Well, I remember I mean, initially I think I reported
17	Q.	Once they had been drafted, though, did you read those	17		to Andrew Stott who was in charge of the PDA up until
18		requirements?	18		the award. He was from the Benefits Agency. Then Peter
19	Α.	Oh, yes, yes, I read them all.	19		Crahan headed up the PDA he was also from the Benefits
20	Q.	So you could carry out your role, yes. You refer in	20		Agency and then at some stage I reported to Dave Miller
21		your statement to a technical assurance team led by	21		who was from the Post Office.
22		Jeremy Folkes?	22	Q.	So you reported you say to Dave Miller. Did you ever
23	Α.	Yes.	23		have a direct report to Stuart Sweetman?
24	Q.	Did Mr Folkes report to you?	24	Α.	No.
25	Α.	Well, at various stages we had sort of different	25	Q.	In paragraph 12 of your statement you discussed the
		85			86
1		Initial Go Live pilot in 1996.	1		a 'work-around'."
2	Α.	Yes.	2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	You say that this:	3	Q.	For how long did that team exist?
4		" distracted from the primary objective and	4	Α.	Well, the process existed right through. Exactly who
5		wasted valuable time and resources."	5		managed it on the ongoing basis, I don't know. But,
6		Do you consider this to have had a long-term	6		I mean, there's always such a process involved. I mean,
7		impact on the programme, this diversion of resources?	7		it's beneficial for the developer if they don't have to
8	Α.	Well, there was a lot of resource allocated to this, and	8		fix every little problem regardless of its business
9		to my recollection very, very little of what was put in	9		impact. So that was put in place. I can't remember
10		place there was subsequently used as part of the	10		when but I know you'll see references to it right
11		operational system. It had to my mind it had a PR	11		through to the start of roll-out.
12		objective. It could very well have been successful in	12	Q.	Were you involved with that team? The material you were
13		that area, but I thought it took away attention and	13		assessing, were you actually seeing PinICLs themselves
14		resources from the thrust of developing the main	14		being handed to you?
15		solution. You know, whether it had a detrimental effect	15	Α.	Yes, yes, I didn't personally, but people who worked for
16		overall in the timescales, I couldn't say. It	16		me and other people reviewed PinICLs, and that was the
17		definitely didn't have a positive one.	17		assessment they made based on the PinICL, whether the
18	Q.	You refer in your statement as well at paragraph 13 to	18		impact was such that needed to have a software fix, or
19		a PinICL assessment team?	19		whether it could be handled in a work around.
20	Α.	Yes.	20	Q.	Were the PinICLs provided to Post Office or did anyone
21	Q.	Which you say:	21		from Post Office have any access to the actual PinICL
22		"The purpose of the PinICL Impact Assessment Team	22		system itself?
23		was to judge if it was possible (i.e. was the business	23	Α.	I'm honestly not sure. We were whether we were
24		impact acceptable?) for fixes to known faults to be	24		presented with printed PinICLs or whether we had access

1		direct access to the PinICL system. I think we were	1		documentation impacted on the assurance process?
2		consulted on PinICLs as they emerged.	2	Α.	It undermined it.
3	Q.	You mentioned it in your oral evidence and in your	3		In what way?
4		statement, this managing through workarounds. Was there	4	Α.	It meant that we had less evidence upon which to perform
5		a wider ethos in the programme to try to manage faults	5		our job.
6		through workarounds rather than directly through fixes?	6	Q.	At the time, what did you think was the reason for the
7	Α.	No. No, I mean, it's a common practice. I mean, you	7		lack of transparency?
8		know, if there's I don't know a misspelling on	8	Α.	Well, we had understood that and I've got no evidence
9		a script or something, the developer will say, "Look,	9		necessarily for this but this was our understanding
10		can we defer that to later, because we need to get on	10		we'd been invited by Terry Austin to participate in what
11		with more important things."	11		he called joint working, because of pressure of
12	Q.	I'd like to now actually bring up a paragraph from your	12		timescales.
13		statement. The reference is WITN04150100 and it's	13		We had a large team down in Feltham, about a dozen
14		page 10, paragraph 19.	14		people, some of which were involved in the Benefits
15		I think four lines up it starts saying:	15		Agency application, some of which were involved in the
16		"Early in the project the assurance team attempted	16		POCL applications, providing clarifications to Pathway.
17		to gain access to Pathway's application design documents	17		We had a number of workshops with Pathway on the
18		to (a) provide POCL confidence that the development was	18		clarification of the applications, but we had nothing
19		proceeding in accordance with the requirements and (b)	19		upon which to judge their interpretation of what was
20		to assist Pathway with early identification of any	20		being said at these workshops.
21		misunderstanding or errors they were making in their	21		What was your question again?
22		interpretations. Pathway did not co-operate with this	22	Q.	The question was, at the time, what did you think was
23		request and due to the PFI nature of the contract we	23		the reason for the lack of transparency?
24		were unable to insist."	24	Α.	Well, I believe they didn't have it. They didn't
25		How did you feel this lack of visibility of design	25		have we suspected that there was no written design. 90
		89			30
1	•	We're very much in the context of the PFI contract at	4		
	Q.	were very much in the context of the first contract at	1		those defects at that point, and it reported significant
2	Q.	this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it	2		concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code.
2 3	Q.	-		А.	
		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it	2	A. Q.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code.
3		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation?	2 3	_	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes.
3 4		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly	2 3 4	_	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group
3 4 5		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98	2 3 4 5	Q. A.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98?
3 4 5 6		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an	2 3 4 5 6	Q. A. Q.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No.
3 4 5 6 7		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give	2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. A. Q.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that?
3 4 5 6 7 8		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give to Stuart Sweetman, but of course by that time it's too	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A. Q. A.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that? When I heard it on from this forum from one of the
3 4 5 6 7 8 9		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give to Stuart Sweetman, but of course by that time it's too late. You know, I don't know to what extent the Post	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that? When I heard it on from this forum from one of the witnesses; I can't remember which one.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give to Stuart Sweetman, but of course by that time it's too late. You know, I don't know to what extent the Post Office pressed Pathway hard. I witnessed more pressure	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. A. Q. A.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that? When I heard it on from this forum from one of the witnesses; I can't remember which one. The Inquiry has also heard evidence that employees
3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11	A.	this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give to Stuart Sweetman, but of course by that time it's too late. You know, I don't know to what extent the Post Office pressed Pathway hard. I witnessed more pressure from the Benefits Agency on Pathway than I did from the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A. Q. A.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that? When I heard it on from this forum from one of the witnesses; I can't remember which one. The Inquiry has also heard evidence that employees within ICL Pathway made recommendations to rewrite or
3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12	A.	this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give to Stuart Sweetman, but of course by that time it's too late. You know, I don't know to what extent the Post Office pressed Pathway hard. I witnessed more pressure from the Benefits Agency on Pathway than I did from the Post Office.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 11	Q. A. Q. A.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that? When I heard it on from this forum from one of the witnesses; I can't remember which one. The Inquiry has also heard evidence that employees within ICL Pathway made recommendations to rewrite or redesign the EPOS application in '98 and '99. Were you
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3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A.	this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give to Stuart Sweetman, but of course by that time it's too late. You know, I don't know to what extent the Post Office pressed Pathway hard. I witnessed more pressure from the Benefits Agency on Pathway than I did from the Post Office. The Inquiry has heard evidence in the last few weeks that ICL Pathway created something called an EPOS task-force. Mmm.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q. Q. A.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that? When I heard it on from this forum from one of the witnesses; I can't remember which one. The Inquiry has also heard evidence that employees within ICL Pathway made recommendations to rewrite or redesign the EPOS application in '98 and '99. Were you aware of those internal recommendations? No. If you had been aware either of the task-force or of the recommendations to rewrite the EPOS application, would
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	А. Q. Д.	this time. Do you think that the Post Office did all it could to obtain such documentation? Well, I don't know. I mean, I escalated this repeatedly within the PDA. You'll see references to it through '98 and '99. In the end, or toward the back end, there's an action on me to draft a letter for Dave Miller to give to Stuart Sweetman, but of course by that time it's too late. You know, I don't know to what extent the Post Office pressed Pathway hard. I witnessed more pressure from the Benefits Agency on Pathway than I did from the Post Office. The Inquiry has heard evidence in the last few weeks that ICL Pathway created something called an EPOS task-force. Mmm. Have you been have you heard about that in the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. Q. A. Q.	concerns about the quality of the EPOS application code. Yes. Were you aware that ICL Pathway had created such a group in '98? No. When was the first time you became aware of that? When I heard it on from this forum from one of the witnesses; I can't remember which one. The Inquiry has also heard evidence that employees within ICL Pathway made recommendations to rewrite or redesign the EPOS application in '98 and '99. Were you aware of those internal recommendations? No. If you had been aware either of the task-force or of the recommendations to rewrite the EPOS application, would that have changed your approach either to assurance or
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1		up, I think. Sorry, could we have page 9 please. There	1	0	Do you know if you may have already sought to answer
2		we are. Thank you.	2	ч.	this earlier but just so I'm clear I've put the question
3		So this is a Programme Risk Status report. You	3		to you do you know if the Post Office took steps to
4		see from the top right it's dated 8 March 1999 and the	4		address the lack of transparency when changing from the
5		first risk there says owner and your name. The	5		PFI basis to the codified agreement in the summer of
6		description says:	6		1999?
7			7	•	
8		"Due to lack of adequate visibility of the ICL Pathway design, and the lack of support from the	8		I've no understanding of anything having happened.
			8 9	ч.	Please could we turn the page on this document. I want
9 10		contract to leverage the visibility, we have been unable to gain a high level of assurance in the adequacy or	9 10		to now look at the 0069 row. That says:
					"Type B procedures in place for live trial, in
11		suitability of the service to support the POCL business.	11 12		particular Cash Account, are insufficiently robust to
12		POCL therefore risks the implementation of a service in	12		support consistency between RDP, Pathway and TIP.
13		Live Trial and beyond, which will have negative			"Risk that cash accounts will not balance,
14		operational impacts, resulting either in a level of	14		rejections wills occur on the Pathway and TIP interfaces
15		service degradation or delay to the start of National	15		and problems will occur on POCL back office systems."
16		Roll-Out."	16		Do you recall what type B procedures were?
17		These are the concerns we've just been discussing.	17		I'm afraid I don't.
18		It's apparent in your view that continued in March 1999?	18	Q.	In summary, does this show that the Post Office were
19		Yes.	19		aware of a real risk that Horizon would fail to balance
20	Q.	You state in your witness statement and we've	20	_	satisfactorily in February 1999?
21		discussed it that the lack of transparency was blamed	21	-	All the indications were that that was going to happen.
22		on the PFI nature of the contracts. Did anything change	22	Q.	
23		once the contractual relationship shifted from PFI to	23	_	the project at the time?
24		a more traditional basis?	24		Everyone knew that.
25	Α.	Nothing in this respect. 93	25	Q.	Can you assist us in interpreting the Action in 94
1		Mitigation column. Firstly it says:	1		"Indeed, I recall a meeting chaired by Dave Miller
1 2		Mitigation column. Firstly it says: "Ensure procedures are tested 'end to end' after	1 2		"Indeed, I recall a meeting chaired by Dave Miller some time in 1999, probably in the early part of the
2		"Ensure procedures are tested 'end to end' after	2		some time in 1999, probably in the early part of the
2 3	А.	"Ensure procedures are tested 'end to end' after completion of the E2E and MO"	2 3		some time in 1999, probably in the early part of the Dave's tenure, when he canvassed views at his team
2 3 4	A. Q.	"Ensure procedures are tested 'end to end' after completion of the E2E and MO" That's end to end and model office testing? Yes.	2 3 4		some time in 1999, probably in the early part of the Dave's tenure, when he canvassed views at his team meeting on whether we should persist with Horizon or
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	<ul> <li>"Ensure procedures are tested 'end to end' after completion of the E2E and MO"</li> <li>That's end to end and model office testing?</li> <li>Yes.</li> <li>What was that first mitigation plan; can you recall?</li> <li>Well, frequently the path into some of these test phases, particularly model office, is often through the procedures, because the model office test phase was designed not it wasn't simply a technical test, it was designed to test the system, but also the interaction between the system and the user and the procedures that the user had, okay?</li> <li>So which is what I suspect the type B may be, an earlier stage of approval of those procedures.</li> <li>I think that's what's being referred to here. Does that make sense?</li> <li>It does. Thank you very much, yes.</li> <li>That document can be taken down, thank you. Could we bring up back up your witness statement it's WITN04150100, page 16, please. Paragraph 29 four lines down you say I should say for context you are</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	some time in 1999, probably in the early part of the Dave's tenure, when he canvassed views at his team meeting on whether we should persist with Horizon or cancel, and I voted to cancel as did my other staff member colleagues: Jeremy Folkes and Jan Topham. I recall there were others but their names now escape me." At that stage what were your reasons for wanting to cancel the project? Well, I thought it was what is called a sunk-cost fallacy which is that you continue to pour effort into something that's inevitably failing and, instead of being able to cut your losses, you end up losing everything. I felt we were on a death march, and I didn't see it ending well. I had seen the Benefits Agency exit. I thought there were better ways to do this and definitely not the way we were doing it. I think you used the words you were under a death march. Did you have any confidence in ICL Pathway's ability to improve the situation to a level which would be satisfactory for acceptance at this stage?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	<ul> <li>"Ensure procedures are tested 'end to end' after completion of the E2E and MO"</li> <li>That's end to end and model office testing?</li> <li>Yes.</li> <li>What was that first mitigation plan; can you recall?</li> <li>Well, frequently the path into some of these test phases, particularly model office, is often through the procedures, because the model office test phase was designed not it wasn't simply a technical test, it was designed to test the system, but also the interaction between the system and the user and the procedures that the user had, okay?</li> <li>So which is what I suspect the type B may be, an earlier stage of approval of those procedures.</li> <li>I think that's what's being referred to here. Does that make sense?</li> <li>It does. Thank you very much, yes.</li> <li>That document can be taken down, thank you. Could we bring up back up your witness statement it's WITN04150100, page 16, please. Paragraph 29 four lines down you say I should say for context you are referring to a question about external pressure, whether</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	some time in 1999, probably in the early part of the Dave's tenure, when he canvassed views at his team meeting on whether we should persist with Horizon or cancel, and I voted to cancel as did my other staff member colleagues: Jeremy Folkes and Jan Topham. I recall there were others but their names now escape me." At that stage what were your reasons for wanting to cancel the project? Well, I thought it was what is called a sunk-cost fallacy which is that you continue to pour effort into something that's inevitably failing and, instead of being able to cut your losses, you end up losing everything. I felt we were on a death march, and I didn't see it ending well. I had seen the Benefits Agency exit. I thought there were better ways to do this and definitely not the way we were doing it. I think you used the words you were under a death march. Did you have any confidence in ICL Pathway's ability to improve the situation to a level which would be satisfactory for acceptance at this stage? Well, it was going to be difficult. I mean, one assumed

(24) Pages 93 - 96

	_			_	
1	Q.	I want to turn to look at where we get to, because we	1	Q.	Tha
2 3		know that the system is eventually accepted and there is a process of acceptance from this stage. So if I could	2 3		Offi
4		firstly bring up document POL00028367 and page 2,	4		28 \
5		please. This is a record of the fourth meeting of the	5		any
6		acceptance board and you are described there as the	6	A.	No.
7		Horizon acceptance manager chairing it. Could you just	7	Q.	In y
8		describe your role as the Horizon acceptance manager.	8	ч.	Pat
9	Δ	Okay. Well, the role of the Horizon acceptance manager	9		sev
10	Π.	was to first of all negotiate the Horizon process. So	10		evio
11		to obtain agreement from all of the different parties,	11		high
12		to obtain agreement on the acceptance specifications,	12		reco
13		and then to ensure that that process was operating.	13	A.	Yes
14		So it was a process responsibility rather than	14	Q.	At t
15		being responsible for the content of each of the	15	<b>.</b>	inci
16		acceptance specs.	16	Α.	We
17	Q.	Thank you. Could I turn to page 5, please, of this	17	Q.	lf it
18	ч.	document which should be the Acceptance Board terms of	18	<b>.</b>	to n
19		reference. The second bullet point under Purpose, it	19	A.	Yes
20		says:	20	Q.	In s
21		"To submit appropriate Acceptance recommendations	21	<b>.</b>	wou
22		to the managing director of POCL for endorsement."	22	Α.	We
23		Was that your role, to report directly to	23		nun
24		Mr Sweetman at this stage, or was that someone else's?	24		that
25	Α.	No, that would have been through Dave Miller.	25		kno
		97			
1		to someone on the contract side, but I think, for	1		
2		instance, if we didn't raise Acceptance Incidents during	2		eler
3		the allocated period, then acceptance was by default.	3		exc
4		So it was incumbent on us to raise Acceptance Incidents,	4		pre
5		and the severity was something that was frequently	5		the
6		discussed.	6		
7		A high Acceptance Incident would be something that	7		refe
8		would have an across-the-board impact on customer	8		Acc
9		service, on the integrity of the data, those types of	9	Α.	Yes
10		issues. So if the in fact, I mean, I can give you no	10	Q.	Anc
11		better definition really than, if you refer to the three	11		
12		high Acceptance Incidents that remained to the end, one	12		ass
13		focused on the ability of the users to understand the	13		revi
14		system, one focused on the stability of the technical	14		
15		solution, and the other one focused on the integrity of	15		pro
16		the data.	16		a cl
17		So those three Acceptance Incidents, which in a	17	Α.	We
18		sense were portmanteau Acceptance Incidents because	18		pre
19		there were multiple reasons and causes for them, are	19		the
20		a good way of defining or understanding what	20		disc
21		a high-level Acceptance Incident would be.	21	Q.	Wo
22	Q.	We will come to those in due course.	22	Α.	Yes
23		Could I please bring up your witness statement	23	Q.	Plea
24		again. It's WITN04150100 and page 13, paragraph 23.	24		fron
25		One thing you say is:	25		first
		99			

2	Q.	Thank you. That document can be brought down now. We've heard evidence that ICL Pathway and the Post Office subsequently entered the codified agreement on 28 July 1999. Were you involved in the negotiation of any of which contractual terms? No.
,	Q.	In your statement you refer to disagreements between
•	ω.	Pathway and the Post Office over how to classify the
, 1		severity of acceptance issues, and the inquiry has heard
, 0		evidence of Acceptance Incidents being classified as
1		high, medium and low. Does that reflect your
2		recollection?
3	Α.	Yes. indeed.
4	Q.	At the time what was your view of what a high severity
5	-	incident was?
6	A.	Well, I think we had a definition for it, and
7	Q.	If it assists, the definition was defined as a failure
8		to meet essential acceptance criteria.
9	Α.	Yes.
0	Q.	In sort lay terms of how you would interpret that, what
1		would that be?
2	Α.	Well, I think there was a danger with acceptance that
3		number 1, that acceptance could be interpreted as being
4		that the system was, that everything was rosy. You
5		know, you could in fact, I think I'd have to defer
		98
		"Pathway would invite Post Office to accept that
2		elements of an acceptance spec had passed or had
}		exclusions, i.e. issues that were understood and did not
Ļ		present a significant business impact and could
5		therefore be parked for later attention."
6		When you refer to exclusions here, are you
,		referring to the classification of the severity of the
3		Acceptance Incident?
)	Α.	Yes.
0	Q.	And you go on to say that:
1		"There was always disagreement on this impact
2		assessment because Post Office always had correctly
3		reviewed the business and operation impact"
4		Just pausing there, could you just explain the
5		process by which Post Office would arrive at
6		a classification for an Acceptance Incident.
7	Α.	Well, these incidents would frequently have been
8		pre-allocated a severity by Pathway, a pathway, and then
9		the Post Office would read those, understand them,
0	~	discuss them, and come up with its own view.
1	Q.	Would you be involved in that process?
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	Please could we bring up POL00043699. This is an email
	હ.	
4 r	હ.	from that you sent to Keith Baines on 5 August, and the
4 5	ч.	

15 November 2022

104

1		"Initial results from the exercise of identifying	1		from a Medium to a Low."
2		additional acceptance criteria to our existing	2	۸	Yes, that's what I was just discussing.
3		acceptance incidents indicates that there is an	3		So following this exercise, was there any change of
4		opportunity for additional criteria to be added and	4	ч.	strategy as to how the Post Office would raise or
5		therefore potentially additional acceptance incidents to	5		categorise Acceptance Incidents?
6		be generated."	6	۸	Well, the we initially did not have access, for
7		Do you recall what the exercise you're referring	7		instance, to the incidents that were being raised by
8		to here is?	8		Pathway from the help desk. We sought and did achieve
9	۸	I don't exactly, but I think what I was probably	9		access to those incidents. So, in reviewing incidents
9 10	А.	thinking is that there was a risk that we wouldn't see	9 10		say from the help desk, you can look for patterns. In
10		the wood for the trees; in other words, that the	10		fact 298 is a good example of that, where you can you
12		acceptance criteria by definition were broken down to	12		know, whereas one incident in and of itself may seem
12		a low level of detail and if, you know, one could pass	12		inconsequential, if you can see patterns of similar
13			13		
		or one could fail. If one failed, it may not be clear			incidents, you may be able to identify a more systemic
15 16		how that incident was connected to other features of the	15	~	problem.
16		system.	16 17	Q.	If you could turn this is page, please, there should be
17		We were trying to get a better understanding how	17		a list of Acceptance Incidents, and it records both
18 10	~	these incidents were impacting in a broader sense.	18		Pathway and the Post Office's position before and after
19 20	Q.	If we carry on it says:	19		what's described as a tranche 2 workshop. There are
20		"Taking acceptance incident 211 one where we	20 21		a number the first two is an example where Post
21		expected additional criteria to be available we have	21		Office's initial severity rating before the workshop was
22		now matched the incident to five criteria. Whilst in	22		high/medium, and it becomes a medium after the workshop.
23		theory this could therefore result in five incidents,			Can you recall why it seems Post Office
24 25		the risk we run if we were to split the incident in this	24 25		consistently after its workshop ranked the Acceptance
20		way is that we then reduce the severity of the incidents 101	20		Incident in the lowest or the medium severity? 102
1	Α.		1		brought up and page 16, please. This is an Acceptance
2		also that Pathway will have brought forward	2		Incident form, this one for 298, one of the
3		rectification plans or better explanations that the	3		high-severity incidents we discussed.
4		problem could be contained.	4		Do you recall using these forms, the pro forma
5	Q.	And did you find these initial tranche workshops to be	5		form?
6		satisfactory in the sense of did you have a good working	6	Α.	I don't recall it but I recognise it.
7		relationship with ICL Pathway during them?	7	Q.	Do you recall who had access to the information within
8	Α.	Well, the working relationship was robust amongst most	8		these forms?
9		people on the PDA with Pathway. We've been on this	9	Α.	I don't remember anything around the distribution.
10		a long time. But the workshops were constructive, you	10		I mean, I think they were fairly commonly available.
11		know full and frank, as the phrase goes, exchange of	11	Q.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen
12		know full and frank, as the phrase goes, exchange of views.	11 12	Q.	
				A.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes.
12		views.	12	A.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes?
12 13		views. Pathway did treat acceptance very seriously for	12 13	A.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes.
12 13 14		views. Pathway did treat acceptance very seriously for commercial reasons, and other reasons I don't want	12 13 14	A. Q.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes. The dates it says first observed is 1 July 1999. Would you have been made aware of this around that time? Yes.
12 13 14 15		views. Pathway did treat acceptance very seriously for commercial reasons, and other reasons I don't want to I don't want to cast aspersions on their motives. They treated acceptance very seriously. There was a lot of effort and immediate effort on Pathway's part	12 13 14 15	A. Q.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes. The dates it says first observed is 1 July 1999. Would you have been made aware of this around that time?
12 13 14 15 16		views. Pathway did treat acceptance very seriously for commercial reasons, and other reasons I don't want to I don't want to cast aspersions on their motives. They treated acceptance very seriously. There was	12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes. The dates it says first observed is 1 July 1999. Would you have been made aware of this around that time? Yes.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		views. Pathway did treat acceptance very seriously for commercial reasons, and other reasons I don't want to I don't want to cast aspersions on their motives. They treated acceptance very seriously. There was a lot of effort and immediate effort on Pathway's part to bring forward rectification plans. John Dicks, I think, was very active. We'd known him from the early	12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes. The dates it says first observed is 1 July 1999. Would you have been made aware of this around that time? Yes. Who would you have reported that issue to? Dave Miller. Please can we turn to page 57 of the document. This is
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12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	views. Pathway did treat acceptance very seriously for commercial reasons, and other reasons I don't want to I don't want to cast aspersions on their motives. They treated acceptance very seriously. There was a lot of effort and immediate effort on Pathway's part to bring forward rectification plans. John Dicks, I think, was very active. We'd known him from the early stage of the project, and he brought forward a lot of rectification plans to show that they understood it, could deal with it. We will come to look at some of those in relation to the	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q. Q.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes. The dates it says first observed is 1 July 1999. Would you have been made aware of this around that time? Yes. Who would you have reported that issue to? Dave Miller. Please can we turn to page 57 of the document. This is for 376, which I know the Inquiry has heard evidence on, and I believe you referred to it earlier. It is issue of data integrity. Yes.
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	views. Pathway did treat acceptance very seriously for commercial reasons, and other reasons I don't want to I don't want to cast aspersions on their motives. They treated acceptance very seriously. There was a lot of effort and immediate effort on Pathway's part to bring forward rectification plans. John Dicks, I think, was very active. We'd known him from the early stage of the project, and he brought forward a lot of rectification plans to show that they understood it, could deal with it.	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. Q.	This one concerns the screen lock-ups and screen freezes? Yes. The dates it says first observed is 1 July 1999. Would you have been made aware of this around that time? Yes. Who would you have reported that issue to? Dave Miller. Please can we turn to page 57 of the document. This is for 376, which I know the Inquiry has heard evidence on, and I believe you referred to it earlier. It is issue of data integrity.

(26) Pages 101 - 104

1	Q.	At the top again it says the date this was observed was	1		you very much. That's great, thank you.
2		19 July 1999. Again would you have been aware of this	2		So under 376, JD is that John Dicks?
3		around that point?	3	Α.	I'm not sure. I can't remember who the attendees were.
4	Α.	l would have, yes.	4	Q.	Can we go back to the attendee list, please, on the
5	Q.	Again, would you have reported that to David Miller?	5		second page.
6	Α.	Yes. I mean, these types of incidents would have been	6	Α.	Yes, that will be John Dicks, yes.
7		well known by most people on the programme.	7	Q.	Then back on to the following page, please, at the
8	Q.	When this one arose, 376, did you think was it	8		bottom:
9		immediately obvious that this was a serious concern?	9		"Pathway recognise that not all transactions have
10	Α.	Absolutely.	10		been harvested and sent to TIP. A provisional fix went
11	Q.	If you could bring that document down, please, and if	11		in on 2 August and this has worked satisfactorily so far
12		you could bring up POL00028332, page 2, please. This,	12		with the effect that all records had been sent.
13		you see, is a Horizon programme management resolution	13		A root-cause analysis has been developed, identifying 8
14		meeting. You are listed to be in attendance. Do you	14		contributory problems, and all but one has been
15		have any recollection of it? It's on 12 August 1999.	15		diagnosed and tested in Pathway to date. Pathway cannot
16	Α.	No.	16		guarantee, however, that all problems have been trapped.
17	Q.	Please could we just pull the screen down a little bit.	17		They will need to see evidence from the fix of the 8
18		There should be a list of there we go, thank you. It	18		known problems, and will continue to monitor the problem
19		shows a list of Acceptance Incidents was discussed,	19		for three months to be confident of its resolution.
20		including the ones you referred to, 376, 218 for	20		"The provisional fix and the control procedures
21		training, and 298. Please could we turn the page.	21		developed allow Pathway to identify any errors, to patch
22		Sorry could we go to the next page under 376. My	22		the file, and to notify TIP in advance. Since
23		apologies.	23		implementation there have been no errors to report and
24		No, sorry, back a page. Sorry, my apologies. And	24		hence Pathway contend that the action taken to date and
25		can we go back a page again, sorry. There we are thank 105	25		the result they have observed justify the downgrading of 106
1		this incident."	1	•	represent a successful fix?
2		If we could go over the page, please that's	2	А.	Well, there was agreement, I think, between the two
3		fine, thank you the second paragraph down says:	3 4		acceptance meetings so, on the first acceptance
4 5		"Pathway believe they have made sufficient progress to rate as low. POCL believe they must have	4 5		meeting, Pathway did not achieve acceptance. I think
6		the opportunity to verify the fix.	5 6		that was in August, and then they had a cure period or whatever it was called, and then there was a further
7		"Pathway pointed to the fact that no new errors	7		meeting in September.
8		have occurred since 2 August. POCL believe they cannot	8	0	Yes, and we'll come to that. Sorry, just to be clear,
9		downrate until their own observation can be performed	9	હ.	my question is at this stage in August
10		given the risk to the accounts. They recognise the	10	Δ	I don't think there was a metric suggested. I think it
10		corrective action that has been taken, but the potential	10	<b>~</b> .	was developed subsequently between the two phases.
12		size of errors that can occur is too serious to risk	12	0	Could we turn to page 5, please, of this document. This
13		proceeding without proof, which will not be available	12	ω.	concerns a system stability issue. At the bottom
14		until 30 August. Advice from the POCL external auditors	13		sorry, if we can move down, thank you it says:
15		was that without clear verification of the success of	15		"BMc [will be I imagine Bruce McNiven] and RH
16		the solution there would be implications on the	16		[Ruth Holleran] emphasised the business impact on staff
17		qualification of Post Office Limited accounts."	17		time and cost, and on customers, of loss of service.
18		So is it a fair summary at this point that Pathway	18		This was particularly severe in one or two position
19		have said, "We've got a resolution or rectification plan	19		offices. Fuller impact details would be ready for
20		and wanted a downgrade", but Post Office were saying,	20		Monday. The frequency is significantly greater than on
21		"Well, let's see that proved"?	21		the current POCL legacy systems.
22	Α.	Yes.	22		"JM [which I think will be you] said that the
23	Q.		23		incident was wider than reboots it was the overall
24		internally in Post Office about what would constitute	24		loss of service to the customer, and this had to be
25		a successful fix of this? What level of errors would	25		taken into account in the severity."
		107			108

1		So in broad terms what was the business impact of	1
2		the screen freezes?	2
3 4	А.	Well, the outlet, the office, was unable to conduct	3
4		business, to transact business, number 1, and, secondly,	4
5 6		it was by no means clear what impact this was having on the integrity of the data.	5 6
7	Q.	<b>U</b>	7
' 8	હ.	because of the screen freezes?	8
9	Α.	Well, because we weren't sure what was happening. It	9
10	7.0	was unclear why it was freezing. It could lead to	10
11		reboots by the users in the middle of a process, and we	11
12		weren't sure what the implications would be on the data	12
13		from that. But the main impact was the fact that the	13
14		outlet was you know, it probably took I can't	14
15		remember how long it took to reboot a system, but	15
16		I don't think it's like rebooting your phone now. It	16
17		took quite a while. So in the meantime customers are	17
18		queueing up.	18
19	Q.	We know, as you referred to already, that that	19
20		document can be taken down, thank you acceptance	20
21		wasn't achieved in August, and this led to what has been	21
22		referred to as the first supplemental agreement between	22
23		ICL Pathway and Post Office and that proposed a series	23
24		of acceptance workshops.	24
25	Α.	Yes. 109	25
		109	
1		page, please. So, for example, at 376 the business	1
2		expert is Graeme Seedall, the technical expert is Calum	2
3		Craig, and the champion is Ruth Holleran.	3
4	Α.		4
5			
-	Q.	Ruth Holleran as champion would be, it said, the	5
6	Q.	Ruth Holleran as champion would be, it said, the responsibility to define in advance success criteria.	5 6
	Q. A.	• • •	
6		responsibility to define in advance success criteria.	6
6 7	Α.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes.	6 7
6 7 8	Α.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business	6 7 8
6 7 8 9	Α.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to	6 7 8 9
6 7 8 9 10	A. Q.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the	6 7 8 9 10
6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process?	6 7 8 9 10 11
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as well.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as well. To what extent would David Miller have been involved in	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as well. To what extent would David Miller have been involved in this process?	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as well. To what extent would David Miller have been involved in this process?	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	А. Q. А. Q. А.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as well. To what extent would David Miller have been involved in this process? I mean, Dave would have been aware of it. I don't think he would have been down into the detail of it.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	А. Q. А. Q. А.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as well. To what extent would David Miller have been involved in this process? I mean, Dave would have been aware of it. I don't think he would have been down into the detail of it. We can take that document down, please. We'll just deal	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	А. Q. А. Q. А.	responsibility to define in advance success criteria. Yes, yes. In doing that, would she consult with the business expert and technical expert within, say, assigned to 376, or would it be wider to everyone involved in the acceptance process? Well, I don't know, to be honest. Ruth would definitely not have come up with something on her own. She would have perhaps proposed some measures and then circulated those and discussed them. She definitely would have discussed them with Graeme Seedall and probably with other people back in Chesterfield, or Dave Smith as well. To what extent would David Miller have been involved in this process? I mean, Dave would have been aware of it. I don't think he would have been down into the detail of it.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

1	Q.	I want to turn to look at those now. Please could
2		I bring up POL00028342. This is an email which you sent
3		to a number of people at Post Office involved in the
4		acceptance workshops, dated 26 August 1999. If I could
5		turn the page, please, it's the note that's attached.
6		This describes acceptance workshop roles. There were
7		three roles: the champion; the business expert; and the
8		technical expert. That's right?
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	The champion is referred to in the third paragraph, and
11		the last sentence says:
12		"Whilst it is Pathway's responsibility to propose
13		a rectification plan, the champion will be required to
14		have defined in advance the success criteria for the
15		incident."
16		Now, would the champion be solely responsible for
17		that, or would they do it in conjunction with others?
18	Α.	Oh, no, they'd do it in conjunction with others.
19	Q.	Who would be involved in that joint decision-making
20		process?
21	Α.	I think what they would call the business assurance
22		people, people like Ruth Holleran, people who were not
23		part of the PDA <i>per se</i> but were closely aligned to us
24		within what Post Office called the business.
25	Q.	It may help actually could we go to the bottom of this
		110
4		20 August Carl Indian up DOI 00020470 which is a pate
1 2		26 August. Can I bring up POL00028476, which is a note of an internal acceptance update meeting or action
2		points from it and, if we could go to point 11, please.
4		I should say this is 27 August. Point 11 says:
5		"Speak to Ruth Holleran about producing
6		a clearance plan for 376 and ensuring fast-track
7		monitoring/reporting process."
8		
9		The Action By is listed IM which Lassume will
		The Action By is listed, JM, which I assume will
		be you. Do you recall what this action point was or
10	Δ	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved?
10 11	A.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that
10 11 12	A.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were
10 11 12 13	А.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level
10 11 12 13 14	A.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations
10 11 12 13 14 15	A.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Α.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output
10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric. Which we'll come to in a moment. Because of this, were
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric. Which we'll come to in a moment. Because of this, were you involved in the discussions? Were you directly
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric. Which we'll come to in a moment. Because of this, were you involved in the discussions? Were you directly involved in the discussions on or the decision-making which led to 0.6 per cent being
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric. Which we'll come to in a moment. Because of this, were you involved in the discussions? Were you directly involved in the discussions on or the decision-making
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric. Which we'll come to in a moment. Because of this, were you involved in the discussions? Were you directly involved in the discussions on or the decision-making which led to 0.6 per cent being No, I wasn't involved in the development of that number.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric. Which we'll come to in a moment. Because of this, were you involved in the discussions? Were you directly involved in the discussions on or the decision-making which led to 0.6 per cent being No, I wasn't involved in the development of that number. That would have been more of an internal POCL
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. A.	be you. Do you recall what this action point was or what it involved? Well, I think Ruth for some reason wasn't at that meeting I'm not sure why and I think we were looking to try and help Pathway to understand what level of acceptance might be possible, or what mitigations might be possible for these incidents, in general. You know, what would be acceptable, and I think the output from this actually was that 0.6 metric. Which we'll come to in a moment. Because of this, were you involved in the discussions? Were you directly involved in the discussions on or the decision-making which led to 0.6 per cent being No, I wasn't involved in the development of that number. That would have been more of an internal POCL discussion.

15 November 2022

1		specifically?	1		the
2	Α.	I mean Ruth, Dave Smith, possibly others.	2		
3	Q.	Why wouldn't you have been. involved with that?	3		ree
4	Α.	Well, because I wasn't representing the business in that	4		bu
5		sense. I was representing the project.	5		Blu
6	MR	STEVENS: Sir, thank you. I think that would be a good	6		rul
7		time to take a break.	7		alt
8	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: What time shall we start again?	8		
9	MR	STEVENS: 25 past, sir?	9		do
10	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, that's fine.	10		pro
11	(2.1	5 pm)	11	Α.	W
12		(A short break).	12		we
13	(2.2	25 pm)	13		ор
14	MR	<b>STEVENS:</b> Sir, can you see and hear me?	14	Q.	An
15	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can.	15		reo
16	Q.	Can I start by bringing up POL00028471, page 2, please.	16		fro
17		Thank you. This is an email from Ruth Holleran, known	17	Α.	Pa
18		as Ruth Read, to Keith Baines dated 27 August 1999. She	18		wit
19		says:	19	Q.	W
20		"Sooner or later (probably sooner having got 218	20	· .	
20		[training Acceptance Incident] out of the way early next	20		do
22			21		
		week) Pathway will be seeking reclassification of 376			pro W
23		and 298 to medium on the strength of a rectification	23	Α.	
24		plan. I suggest we need to be thinking about the	24		thi
25		tactics on this before Pathway (certainly) raise this at 113	25		thi
1		who's recommending that we not down-grade in advance of	1		wit
2		the decision on the basis of plans alone, but that we	2		
3		retain the classification and hold our options open. If	3		со
4		the business viewed it as wanting to proceed but retain	4		inc
5		the classification, then it would do so.	5		the
6		So my suspicion is that Ruth is looking for some	6	Α.	۱b
7		level of additional flexibility here.	7		١d
8	Q.	I didn't want to interrupt your answer. I think, if we	8		wa
9		turn to page 1 the bottom of page 1 of this document,	9	Q.	No
10		maybe what you were referring to, is it this, from Keith	10		Th
11		Baines to Ruth Holleran, second paragraph:	11		alr
12		"I would be against any artificial	12		of
13		reclassification of Incidents from High to Medium"?	13		the
14	Α.	Yes.	14		de
15	Q.	So in short, I think, summarising what you said before,	15	Α.	Сс
16		your evidence is that there was no internal pressure to	16	Q.	W
17		artificially reclassify?	17		de
18	Α.	None.	18		the
19	Q.	If we can go to the top of page 1, please, there's an	19		0.6
20		email there from David Smith to Keith Baines on	20	A.	۱b
21		1 September, and it says:	20	~	ma
22		"I would hope that the terms included	22	Q.	An
23		financials Pathway indemnifying us for any	22	. પ	of
23 24		unexplained balances, would present them with	23 24	Α.	l d
25		a considerable incentive to get things fixed and/or 115	25	Q.	Or

		the next workshops.
		"I am assuming with both 298 and 376, the required rectification to downscale to medium will not be proven,
		but we will be under extreme pressure to reclassify.
		Bluntly speaking we will be breaking our proof positive
		rule if/when do this but I'm not sure we will have any
		alternative or do we?"
		Let's just take that in stages. Firstly, what
		does Ruth Holleran mean here when saying "breaking our
)		proof positive rule"?
1	Α.	Well, I don't know, but I think she possibly means that
2		we would be reclassifying on the basis of a plan as
3	-	opposed to evidence.
1 -	Q.	And she refers to, "We will be under extreme pressure to
5		reclassify." At the time, where was the pressure coming
5 7	Α.	from, if any, to reclassify Acceptance Incidents?
3	А.	Pathway. I don't think there was pressure coming from within POCL.
) )	Q.	When she says as well:
)		"I'm not sure we will have any alternative or
1		do we", was the alternative simply not to accept the
2		product?
3	Α.	Well, I think what Ruth is seeking is some way through
1		this. I saw another document I don't know, maybe in
5		this pack here, I mean, attached here from Dave Smith
		114
		withholding part of the £68m due on Acceptance."
		Do you know if at this stage there was any
		consideration being given to requiring ICL Pathway to
		indemnify Post Office for errors in balancing caused by
		the system?
	Α.	I believe there was discussion; I wasn't party to them.
		I don't know what the outcome was, but I believe there
		was discussion on that topic.
	Q.	Now, I think I'm not going to take you to the document.
)		That document can be taken down, thank you, because you
1		already referred to 0.6 per cent error rate in respect
2		of cash account discrepancies, and your evidence before
3		the break was that you weren't involved in that
1 -		decision-making process.
5	A.	Correct.
6 7	Q.	Whilst you may not have been involved in the
3		decision-making process, do you have any knowledge of the reasons that were considered when arriving at that
)		0.6 per cent figure?
)	A.	I believe it was a measure of what the Post Office could
, I	А.	manage in terms of corrective activity.
<u>2</u>	Q.	And that's so I'm not sure if you heard the evidence
- 3		of Stuart Sweetman earlier in the Inquiry.
1		
	Α.	l did hear it. I don't recall.
5	A. Q.	One of the things he said was this idea of what is

(29) Pages 113 - 116

<ul> <li>A. Oh, yes.</li> <li>A. Oh, yes.</li> <li>Material for in Post Office was different to what would be material for an individual subpatematter affected by a discrepancy. Would you agree with that?</li> <li>A. Weil, it agree with that in boad terms, so, but my understanding always was that when it came to financial representation with the Post Office consolident of a transactors in transactors my understanding always was that when it came to financial representing the interests of individual subpatematters in respect of balancing?</li> <li>A. Weil, it agree with that in boad terms, so, but my understanding always was that when it came to financial representing the interests of individual subpatematters in respect of balancing?</li> <li>A. Weil, it most was balancing process was being tooled al by many people in the OPC Office. So, for instance, in the 10 biol symphet balancing in and a lot of the 12 biol symphet balancing in and a lot of the 12 biol symphet balancing increases was being tooled al by many people in the OPC Office.</li> <li>B. Depose that could field by their bills through tool tills were tool with the office on and a lot of the 12 biol symphet balancing increases was being tooled al by many people in the OPC Office.</li> <li>B. Depose the could field by their bills through tool tools and a lot of the 12 biol were more threases the optic of the optic and a lot of the 12 biol were more threases the optic of the optic and a lot of the 12 biol were more threases and a lot of the 12 biol were more threases the optic of the optic and a lot of the 12 biol were more the optic of the 12 biol were more the optic of the 12 biol were more that by the transactons.</li> <li>B. Decause I bink the cash account discrepancy would be 12 biol were more that were the transactons were the account discrepancy would be 12 biol were the transactons were the account discrepancy would be 12 biol were the set and the 12 biol were than account discrepancies in respect of balances.&lt;</li></ul>	4			4		the second s
<ul> <li>A Mainsh for the Post CHice was different to what would a server burned off. Think here's a greater degree of approprint provided with the pospet who are involved.</li> <li>A Veel, I'd agree with that in brack terms, yes, but my adjust a</li></ul>	1		a material error rate.	1		benefit goes in and pays one of their bills and that
<ul> <li>be material for an individual subpostmaster affacted by a discrepancy. Would you agree with hair bread terms, yes, but my and estanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways was that when it came to financial a understanding atways acconsidering or representing the interests that was based with which agains. The whole was baining process was being locked at by many people in the Past Office.</li> <li>C. Although you weren't limit the decision-making, what was your view well, with hindight, what's your view, solid, with hindight what's your view, solid, with hindight, what's your view, solid, with hindight what's your view, solid, with the decision making.</li> <li>C. Miny do you think there's a difference in approach bas account discrepancy would be an accound accound historead would be what was a difference.</li> <li>C. The lequiry make and evidence that one of the Post of the</li></ul>			-			
<ul> <li>a discropancy. Would you agrow with that?</li> <li>A. Well, if agree with that in boast terms, sey, but my understanding always was that when it came to financial errors in transactions that had to be subsequently</li> <li>rerors in transactions that had to be subsequently</li> <li>reconcilear with inthe parts. The three was really no acceptable level of error. So, for instance, in the</li> <li>but payment toxines, the APS application, peeple and the payment toxines, the APS application, peeple and to be alreading?</li> <li>their bills through post offices, and a lot of the</li> <li>peeple who pad their bills through no to files were</li> <li>C. Although you weren't through post offices, and a lot of the</li> <li>but payment toxines, the APS application, seeving that is abanching was considered a function</li> <li>So these people go in and pay their electricity</li> <li>but hey were mainly utility bills but also local</li> <li>C. Well, monote new second in the rest offices.</li> <li>but hey were mainly utility bills but also local</li> <li>C. Well, monote new second income fore any process.</li> <li>C. Well, monote new second income fore any process.</li> <li>C. Well, monote new second income fore any process.</li> <li>C. Mough you werent through post offices.</li> <li>dort really users of the any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income fore any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any process.</li> <li>C. The inclusion second income in approach to any proach t</li></ul>		Q.				
6       A. Well, I'd agree with theil broad terms, yes, but my understanding always wis that when it came to financial errors in transactions that had to be subsequently reconciled with their parties, then there was really no acceptable level of errors. So, for instance, in the Dill payment business, the APS application, people paid that was solely for subpestimaters. All pool offices and post offices, and a to of the people who couldn't afford to pay their bills through post offices are people who couldn't afford to pay their bills through a people who couldn't afford to pay their bills through the was your view - well, with hindight, what's your view, server, on the 0.6 peor contact office.         16       A. Mough you weren't howids that was been lower?         17       bill bayment business, the APS application, people who couldn't afford to pay their bills through direct debt.         16       C. Athough you weren't howids that's basisticatory or thub they be the were the thills through post offices are based to base indon't really understand the material's De you think it's astisticatory or thub they be of transactions.         17       bill bayment there's a difference in approach be weren the transactions you just ference to and the contend - if a bevene to people who have an existing relationship - whoreas, if consone on housing 117       1       A. Yes.         1       1. The inquiry has head evidence that one of the Post office's requirements was that quarkers that requirements are substimered at the base port that's a status would be apport the advelame to that as a contractual for requirements was that quarkers that requirements are substimered at the theory office.       1       A. Yes.         1       1. West, tead					~	
7       understanding always was that when it come to financial errors in transactions that had to be subsequently       7       representing the intersets of individual subpostmaters in respect of balancing?         9       recorbield with ind parks, then there was really no acceptable level of orror. So, for instance, in the 10       0       A. Well, if mot sub balancing was considered a function that was soldy for subpost making.         11       bill payment business, the APS application, people pial 12       their bills through post offices, were 13       0       A. Well, if mot sub balance. The whole balancing process was being 10         12       people who padd that bills through post offices, were 14       0       A. Manuelly you weren't involved in the decision-making, what was your view - well, with hindsight, what's your were sorry, on the 0.5 per cent error tates? Do you think if satisfactory or should it have been lever?         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity 16       1       A. Well, involution that was been lever?         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity 16       1       A. Well, involution that was been lever?         17       bill - they were mainly utility bills tot also local 17       1       A. Well, involution that we been lever?         18       boxing flars arce in respect of the error rate?       10       Areal that in the respect of the error rate?         20       Q. Why do you think there's a difference in approach 20       0       Now, someone has come					Q.	
8       errors in transactions that had to be subsequently       8       in respect of balancing?         9       reconciled with third parties, then there was really no       9         10       acceptable level of error. So, for intrance, in the       10         11       bill payment business, the APS application, people and to of the       10         12       their bills through post offices, and a lot of the       10         13       people who paid their bills through post offices wave       13         14       people who cauld'nt afford to pay their bills through       14         15       direct debt.       16         16       Bot these people go in and pay their electricity       16         16       bits as wait. Those transactions, would be       18         16       housing bits as wait. Those transactions, would be       18         17       bitwe the transactions you, just referred to and the       21         22       cas haccound discorpancies in respect of the error rate?       22         23       A. Beeause thrink the cash accound discorpancies in respect of the error rate?       22         24       corrected -ris between two pools who have an       24         25       corrected -ris between two pools who have an       24         26       The finality has heard		А.				
9       reconciled with third parties, then there was really no       9       A       Well, "mn of sure balancing was considered a function that was solely for subposituraters. All post offices had to balancing process was being looked at by many position.         11       bill payment business, the APS application, people pidd       11       bill payment business, the APS application, people pidd       12         13       people who paid therib bills through post offices, and a lot of the       12       choiced at by many people in the Post Office.         14       people who paid their bills through post offices, and a lot of the       12       choiced at by many people in the Post Office.         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity       16       choiced at by many people with paid their bills through bills but also local       17         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity       16       A       Well, Iwouldn't want locations, we wuld be         16       So these people go in the Post Office.       16       A       Well, Iwouldn't want horizing understand the materiality of you wrent'in there's a difference in approach.       10       Chorn understand the materiality of you wrent'in the desistence materiality.         10       Go these people go in and pay their electricity.       16       A       Well, Iwouldn't want horizing understand the materiality of you wrent'in wrent's understand the materiality of you wrent'in wrent's understand the materiality of you wrent's wrent'						
10       acceptable level of error. So, for instance, in the       10       that was solely for whole balancing process was being looked at by many peeple in the Post Office.         11       bill payment business, the APS application, people paid their bills through post offices, and a lot of the       12       C. Although you were thinked at by many peeple in the Post Office.         13       people who cauld their bills through post offices were       13       C. Although you were were hinked at by many peeple in the Post Office.         14       people who cauld their bills through post offices were       13       C. Although you were were involved in the decision-making.         15       direct debit.       15       was avairy or were were involved in the decision-making.         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity       16       thank it's satisfactory or should it have been lower?         17       bill - they were mainly ulity bills but also local       17       A. Weil, local at were, really, because         18       housing bills as well. Those transactions.       19       conthis there's a difference in approach       20         20       Q. Why do u think there's a difference in another and the account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       21       have, or even had then. So I really would'nt want to account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       21       have, or even had then. So I really would'nt want to account discrepance in chonesing.						
11       bill payment busines, the APS application, people paid       11       had to balance. The whole balancing process was being looked at by many people in the Post Office.         13       people who paid their bills through post offices were       12       0       Although you weren't involved in the decision-making, what was your work to 8 per cent error rets? Do you think tirs astisfactory or should it have been lower?         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity       16       Neel, I wouldn't want to Offer a view, really, because in lowing bills are well. These transactions, we would be 16       16 off really understand the matariality of - you know, someone has come up with a figure. They will have been lower?         20       Q. Why do you think there's a difference in approach       20       know, someone has come up with a figure. They will have come up with the tansactions you just elerred to and the       21       Inware. Correct on those types of transactions.         21       between the transactions you just elerred to and the       21       Inware. Correct on the cost off the					А.	_
12       their bills through post offices and a lot of the       12       locked at by many people in the Post Office         13       people who couldn't afford to pay their bills through       14       Although you weren't involved in the decision-making,         14       people who couldn't afford to pay their bills through       14       Authough you weren't involved in the decision-making,         15       dired debit.       15       wat way our view – well, with indisight, what's your view, sorry, on the 05 per cent error rates? Do you think there was the main with you buy their decision, we would be       16       A Well, I wouldn't want to offer a view, really, because I don't really understand the implications of hose         19       looking for zero errors on these types of transactions.       19       errors. I don't understand the makenality or you         20       Q. Why do you think there's a difference in approach       20       know, someon has come up with a fligure. They will have         21       bekeens the transactions you just referred to and the       21       have, or even had then. So I really wouldn't want to cornered <i>i</i> . Its between two tensoes the own how the source of the transactions.       11         22       cash account discrepancies who have an 24       I mean. I stick by what I said with regard to I think it significant.       1       A. Yes.         24       cornered <i>i</i> is the between two people who have an 24       I thawis to sin diade and the so a contractual to so would			•			
13       people who paid ther bills through post offices were       13       C.       Although you veren't involved in the docision-making, what was your view - well, with inhisight, what's your view - well, with inhisight, what's your view - well, with inhisight, what's your view, sorry, on the 0.5 people go in and pay their electricity       16         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity       16       Well, wouldn't want to forf ar view, regit, because in the inplications of those         17       bill - they were mainly utility bibl at also local       17       Well, wouldn't want to forf ar view, regit, because in think there's a difference in approach         20       Q. Why doy out hink there's a difference in approach       20       Now, by doy out hink there's a difference in approach         21       between the transactions you just referred to and the       21       corne up with a figure. They will have an         22       cash account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       22       Interve. Interve in well would't want to corne up with a figure. They will have an         23       A. Because I think the as a difference in approach       20       With y doy out hink well as distrepancy would be       20         23       A. Because I think the as a difference in approach       20       11       Interve - well with there's and firence in approach         24       car stead actions inclusions       14       4       4       4       4 <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>						
14       people who couldn't afford to pay their bills through       14       what was your view - well, with hindsight, what's your view, sorry, on the 0.8 per cent error rates? De you think it's satisfactory or bold it have been lower?         16       So these people go in and pay their electricity       15       what was your view - well, with hindsight, what's your view, sorry, on the 0.8 per cent error rates? De you think it's satisfactory or bold it have been lower?         17       bill - hey were mainly utility bills but also local       17       A       Well, twouth' want to offer a view, really, because 1 don't really understand the implications of those         18       housing bills as well. Those transactions, we would be       18       16 on't really understand the materially of -you         20       Q. Why do you think there's a difference in approach       20       whow, someone has come up with that figure. They will have come up with that figure them or knowledge than         21       between the transactions, using traintorship - whereas, if someone on housing       25       11       A. Yes.         23       Office's requirements was that Pathway could produce       3       5 som the heading System - that's it thank you - System Lock-ups and Soreen Freezes Requiring Reboots.         34       I was not consider in your vidence that you would have       10       A. Yes.       20         35       prosecutions. Were you aware of that as a contractual       5       20       5       <					•	
15       direct debit.       15       view, sorry, on the 0.6 per cent error rates? Do you think it's satisfactory or should it have been lower?         17       bill - they were mainly utility bits datas local       17       A       Vell, wouldn't want to 0.6 per cent error rates? Do you think it's satisfactory or should it have been lower?         18       housing bills as well. Those transactions, we would be       18       I don't really understand the implications of those         19       Low Why doy out hink there's a difference in approach       Down, someone has come up with a figure with more knowledge than         21       cash account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       Differe is even end then. So I really wouldn't want to come up with a figure with more knowledge than         23       A. Because I think the as a difference in approach       Down, someone has come up with a figure with more knowledge than         24       corrected - if's between two people who have an       24       I mean, I slick by what I said with regard to         25       existing relationship - whereas, if someone on housing       15       I was could and would be ead to support         3       A free inquiry has heard evidence that one of the Post       20       If we could go down a bit further in the page, please, to show the heading System - that's it, thank you - System Lock-ups and Screen Freezes Requiring Reboots.         3       Office's requirement would be used to support       28, and the scond field					Q.	
16       So these people go in and pay their electricity       16       think it's satisfactory or should it have been lower?         17       bill - they were mainly utility bills but also local       17       A       Well, I wouldn't want to offer a view, really, bocause         18       housing bills as well. Those transactions, we would be       16       I don't really understand the materiality of - you         20       Q. Why do you think there's a difference in approach       20       know, someone has come up with af figure. They will have         21       between the transactions you just referred to and the       21       come up with that figure with more knowledge than         22       cash account discrepancy would be       23       come up with that figure. They will want to         23       A. Because I think the cash account discrepancy would be       23       come up with a figure. They will want to         24       corrected - it's between two people who have an       24       I have, or even had them. So I really understand the inglications.         25       existing relationship whereas, if someone on housing       25       I think it's significant.       1         3       Office's requirements was that Pathway could produce       3       5       for the ading Dystem that's it, thank you -         4       data from Horizon that would be used to support       4       So this is an up						
17       bill they were mainly utility bills but also local       17       A.       Well, I wouldn't want to offer a view, really, because I don't really understand the miplications of those errors. I don't understand the miplications of those         18       housing Dills as well. Those transactions, we would be       18         19       looking for zero errors on those types of transactions.       18         20       Q.       Why do you think there's a difference in approach       20         21       cash account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       22         22       cash account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       22         23       A.       Because I think the cash account discrepancies not respect of the error rate?       22         24       corrected - it's between two people who have an errors.       24       I have, or even had thenSo I really wouldn't want to offer a view, really, because in the same sectors.         25       Q.       The inquiry has heard evidence that one of the Post or rate?       20       I think it depends on the types of transactions.         3       Office's requirements was that Pathway could produe       3       the second line of that paragraph says:         4       data from Morizon that woulds warro of that as a contractual so so that the time. I've since had a document released to me that quotes that requirement.       8         6       You said earlie						
18       housing bills as well. Those transactions, we would be       18       I don't really understand the implications of those         19       Looking for zero errors on those types of transactions.       19       errors. I don't understand the materially of - you         20       Q. Why do you think ther's all fifternee in approach       20       come up with failing of - you         21       between the transactions you just referred to and the       21       come up with failing of - you         23       A. Because I think the cash account discrepany would be       23       corrected - it's between two people who have an       24       I have, or even had then. So I really wouldn't want to comment on it.         24       corrected - it's between two people who have an       24       I mean, I stick by what I said with regart to I think it depends on the types of transactions.       117       18         1       I think that is significant.       1       A. Yes.       Q. If we could go down a bit further in the page, please, to show the heading System that's it, thank you -       System Lock-ups and Screen Freezes Requiring Reboots.         3       Office's requirements the time?       6       298, and the second line of that paragraph says:         7       A. I wasn't conscious of it at the time. I've since had a document released to me that quotes that requirement.       8       Werey you confident at that point that the issue would have read the requirements - <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>						
<ul> <li>looking for zero errors on those types of transactions.</li> <li>Why do you think there's a difference in approach</li> <li>Why do you think there's a difference in approach</li> <li>between the transactions you just referred to and the</li> <li>cash account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?</li> <li>A. Because I think the cash account discrepancy would be</li> <li>corrected - if between two people who have an</li> <li>existing relationship - whereas, if someone on housing</li> <li>117</li> <li>I think that is significant.</li> <li>I wasn't conscious of it at the time?</li> <li>System Lock-ups and Screen Freezes Requiring Rebots.</li> <li>So this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident requirement as the time?</li> <li>I wasn't conscious of it at the time. I've since had</li> <li>I vou said earlier in your evidence that you would have</li> <li>read the requirements –</li> <li>I A. Yes.</li> <li>I A. Yes.</li> <li>I A. Yes.</li> <li>I A. Yes.</li> <li>C A the time of acceptance, was anyone in the acceptance</li> <li>A. Absolutely, yes.</li> <li>I don't know what happened to that requirement. That</li> <li>that could be used for suprement. That</li> <li>that could be used for suprement. That</li> <li>that could be used for suprement. That</li> <li>that could be used for the relative. The suprement. That</li> <li>that could be used for the relative for the relative of the system, Sone of the ses involution that the suprement. That</li> <li>the requirements –</li> <li></li></ul>					А.	-
20       Q. Why do you think there's a difference in approach between the transactions you just referred to and the 21 corrected in transactions you just referred to and the 21 corrected in the program that figure with more knowledge than 1 have, or even had then. So I really wouldn't want to comment on it.         21       A. Because I think the cash account discrepancies would be corrected - it's between two people who have an 24 corrected - it's between two people who have an 24 that's significant.       I mean, 1 stick by what I said with regard to 1 think it depends on the types of transactions.         22       Q. The inquiry has heard evidence that one of the Post 00 fice's requirements was that Pathway could produce 3 to show the heading System - that's it, thank you - 4 data from Horizon that would be used to support 4 date nom Horizon that would be used to support 4 document released to we that a a contractual 5 so this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident 20%, and the second line of that paragraph says:       The problem is being contained but it isn't yet being improved and John Meagher thinks it will take months to get right."         11       A. Yes.       10       Yes, it dees.         12       - in the contradr?       12       Q. Wree you confident at that point that the issue would be fixed?         13       A. Absolutely, yes.       13       A. Ves.       14         14       C. The time of acceptance, was anyone in the acceptance fixed was anyone in the acceptance for Horizon to produce data that could be used in prosecutions when theating the module that the would be reduced. This is one of these situatis when thappenend to that requirement. That the suse wou			-			-
21       between the transactions you just referred to and the cash account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       22         23       A. Because I think the cash account discrepancy would be cash account discrepancy would produce       I think that is significant.       1       A. Yes.         1       I think that is significant.       1       A. Yes.       Q. If we could go down a bit further in the page, please, to show the heading System - that's it, thank you - System Lock-ups and Streen Freezes Requiring Rebotost.         3       Office's requirements was that Pathway could produce       3       So this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident         4       data form Horizon that would be used to support       5       So this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident         6       requirement ta the time?       6       298, and the second line of that paragraph says:         7       A. I wasn't consclous of it at the time. I've since had a document released to me that quotes that requirement.       8         9       You said earlier in your evid		_				
22       cash account discrepancies in respect of the error rate?       22       I have, or even had then. So I really wouldn't want to comment on it.         23       A. Because I think the cash account discrepancy would be 23       corrected it's between two people who have an existing relationship whereas, if someone on housing 25       24       corrected it's between two people who have an existing relationship whereas, if someone on housing 25       1       I mean, I stick by what I said with regart to I think it depends on the types of transactions. 117         1       I think that is significant.       1       A. Yes.       Q. If we could go down a bit further in the page, please, to show the heading System that's It, thank you -         3       Office's requirements was that Pathway could produce       3       So this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident requirement at the time?       6       298, and the second line of that paragraph says:         7       A. I wash't conscious of it at the time. I've since had a document released to me that quotes that requirement.       7       The problem is being contained but it isn't yet being improved and John Meagher thinks it will take months to get right."         9       Q. You said earlier in your evidence that you would have a document released to me that quotes that requirement.       4       Yes, it does:       1       A. Yes, it does:       1         10       read/ the requirements       10       Does that fairly reflect your view at the time?       1       4 <td></td> <td>Q.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>		Q.				
23       A. Because I think the cash account discrepancy would be corrected – it's between two people who have an existing relationship – whereas, if someone on housing 117       24       comment on it.         24       a existing relationship – whereas, if someone on housing 117       25       I think it as ignificant.       1       A. Yes.         1       I think that is significant.       1       A. Yes.       Q. The Inquiry has heard evidence that one of the Post data from Horizon that would be used to support       2       Q. The some that's it, thank you –         3       Offlee's requirements was that Pathway could produce 3       to show the heading System – that's it, thank you –         4       data from Horizon that would be used to support       4       System Lock-ups and Screen Freezes Requiring Reboots.         5       prosecutions. Were you aware of that as a contractual s a document released to me that quotes that requirement.       5       So this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident 208, and the second line of that paragraph says:         7       A. I wasn't conscious of it at the time. I've since had a document released to me that quotes that requirement.       8       being improved and John Meagher thinks it will take months to get right."         10       read the requirements –       10       A. Yes, it does.       11       A. Yes, it does.         12       Q. – in the contract?       12       Q. Werey you confident at that point that the issue would be						
24       corrected it's between two people who have an       24       I mean, I stick by what I said with regard to         25       existing relationship whereas, if someone on housing       25       I think it depends on the types of transactions.         1       I think that is significant.       1       A. Yes.       2         2       0. The Inquiry has heard evidence that one of the Post       2       0. If we could go down a bit further in the page, please, to show the heading System that's it, thank you         3       Office's requirements was that Pathway could produce       3       to show the heading System that's it, thank you         4       data from Horizon that would be used to support       4       System Lock-ups and Screen Freezes Requiring Rebots.         5       prosecutions. Were you aware of that as a contractual       5       So this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident         6       requirement at the time?       6       298, and the second line of that paragraph says:         7       A. I wasn't conscious of it at the time. I've since had       7       The problem is being contained but it in't yet         9       Q. You said earlier in your evidence that you would have       9       months to get right."         10       read the requirements       10       Does that fairly reflect your view at the time?         14       Q. You said						-
25       existing relationship whereas, if someone on housing 117       25       I think it depends on the types of transactions. 118         1       I think that is significant. 2       1       A       Yes. 2       I fee could go down a bit further in the page, please, to show the heading System - that's it, thank you 3         4       data from Horizon that would be used to support 4       5       System Lock-ups and Screen Freezes Requiring Reboots. 5         5       prosecutions. Were you aware of that as a contractual 6       7       So this is an update on Acceptance Incidents incident 298, and the second line of that paragraph says: 7       A. I wasn't conscious of it at the time. I've since had 7       "The problem is being contained but it isn't yet 8       being improved and John Meagher thinks it will take 7         9       Q. You said earlier in your evidence that you would have 7       10       Does that fairly reflect your view at the time? 11       Does that fairly reflect your view at the time? 12       Q. Were you confident at that point that the issue would be 13       A. Absolutely, yes. 13       Q. Were you confident that it would be reduced. This is one of these situations where there are multiple reasons, not all of which were understood by Pathway. So I was confident th would be reduced at they understood what 14       A. I don't know what happened to that requirement. That 18       A. I don't know what happened to that requirement. That 18       What gave you confidence that it would veen be reduced? 14       What gave you confidence that it would even be reduced? 14       What gave you confid		Α.				
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25 8 September. 25 Microsoft problems that you could identify, blue						-
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(30) Pages 117 - 120

1		screens, et cetera. So, you know, the more evidence	1
2		that Pathway were able to gather, you know, the greater	2
3		the opportunity they'd have to make corrective action.	3
4	Q.	Please can we turn the page and have the summary section	4
5		in view. Thank you. It says:	5
6		"Of our six key players (Keith Baines, Ruth	6
7		Holleran, John Meagher, Bruce McNiven, David Smith, Andy	7
8		Radka) the first four would opt (somewhat reluctantly)	8
9		for conditional acceptance toward the end of September.	9
10		Andy Radka and David Smith would not accept and seek to	10
11		use the full period until 15 November to force improved	11
12		performance from ICL Pathway."	12
13		Do you agree with that? At that stage were you	13
14		siding towards conditional acceptance?	14
15	A.		15
16	Q.		16
17		statement at paragraph 26, you say this about	17
18 19		acceptance:	18 19
20		"As far as I recall, and there was a contractual	
20 21		agreement, Pathway would be awarded acceptance once it	20 21
21		had completed the agreed tests and a threshold regarding	21
22		the number of Acceptance Incidents within severity classifications had not been breached. This was	22
23		achieved albeit with many acceptance issues remaining	23
25		which Pathway undertook to resolve."	25
20		121	20
1	Q.	Was there anything else, any other communications within	1
2		Post Office, which made you think that Horizon was going	2
3		to go ahead even if it didn't meet the accepted	3
4		criteria?	
		Cillena	4
5	Α.		4 5
5 6	Α.		
	A. Q.	No, no, there was nothing. I wasn't involved really in	5
6	_	No, no, there was nothing. I wasn't involved really in discussions within the in levels above Dave Miller.	5 6
6 7	_	No, no, there was nothing. I wasn't involved really in discussions within the in levels above Dave Miller. What did you consider of the robustness of the system at this point? I thought it was delicate.	5 6 7
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1		At this stage, did you consider that Horizon had
2		satisfied the criteria for acceptance?
3	A.	No.
1 -	Q.	Why?
5 6	Α.	Well, it hadn't there were Acceptance Incidents above the threshold.
7	0	And the rectification plans in place you weren't
3	ч.	sufficiently confident with?
9	Α.	Well, we needed to see some of those rectification
0		plans we didn't fully understand. The process for the
1		data integrity check, we hadn't seen the design,
2		et cetera. I mean, it's I forget where you are
3		going on this.
4	Q.	If you didn't think that it satisfied the criteria for
5		acceptance, why did you think that conditional
6		acceptance was appropriate?
7	Α.	Because I thought it was inevitable. I mean, I think
8		the Post Office had already thrown in the towel by
9		increasing the threshold in one of the previous contract
0		negotiations, and that it was going to happen.
1	Q.	So you
2	Α.	I didn't think acceptance would stop Horizon going live.
3	Q.	One of the reasons you have given is the lowering of the
4		thresholds for acceptance.
5	Α.	Yes. 122
1	Q.	What was your view in the sense of, if conditional
2		acceptance went ahead, did you think it would be more
3		difficult later on to stop the roll-out or to pause it
1		or slow it down?
5	Α.	No. I didn't, no, no, because I thought that the
6		evidence on the ground, if necessary, would stall the
7		roll-out. If we got to a position of where it wasn't
3		manageable either in terms of the volume of errors or
9		the problems that the users were having, then we would
0	•	just have to stop regardless of what's in the contract.
1	Q.	So we heard earlier your decision to vote to cancel the
2		project earlier in 1999, and now we're at a point of
3 ⊿		conditional acceptance. You said the reason for
4 5		conditional acceptance was you thought it was going to
6	Α.	happen anyway. Mmm.
7	Q.	Was there any other reason to explain your change in
8	ч.	position?
9	Α.	Well, I think I need to distinguish in my mind between
0	7.0	acceptance and the contractual event of acceptance and
1		the progression of the project, of the roll-out. So
2		I felt that we needed to continue to stress the system,
3		and I thought that the only way that was clear that that
4		was going to happen was some level of conditional
5		acceptance.
		124

	. Please can we move down to 3.4 on this letter. Thank	1		relation to Horizon.
2	you.	2	Α.	Okay, there was a project, a live project. The
3	This is David Miller's tactical advice to Stuart	3	_	individual whose name I remember is Geoff Derby.
4	Sweetman, and it says:	4	Q.	Geoff Derby. When did that project start, the live
5	"It is likely that ICL Pathway may play Peter	5		project?
6	Copping in for a decision on the 3 high level incidents	6	Α.	Well, there was always a reference data maintained in
7	as of today. If so, there is nothing we can do, and	7		the Post Office for some of the earlier projects,
8	I expect he will give his view within 48 hours anyway.	8		et cetera. I mean, reference data you know what
9	This will give us a clear steer on where he is coming	9		reference data is by now presumably.
10	from so we can stop the second guessing his position."	10	Q.	Yes, but if you would like to give your explanation of
1	Was there any reluctance in the Post Office to	11		it.
2	refer this incident to Mr Copping at this stage?	12	Α.	So there was lots of different types of reference data.
3 <b>A</b>	. I never remember Mr Copping. I believe he attended some	13		I mean, there's reference data that identified the
14	of the acceptance workshops. He kept his own counsel.	14		outlets themselves, that was called a FAD code. Each
5	I've no recollection of him.	15		outlet had a code, where its location, the manager,
	. I want to move on to the topic of reference data, and	16		et cetera. So there was data around that. Then there
7	please could I bring up POL00028564. This is an email	17		was product data in terms of pricing and how that
8	from you to a number of people at the Post Office. If	18		product data mapped to the cash account.
9	we could go further down, please, in the paragraph above	19		Then there was local reference data, and I'm
20	the second set of bullet points, it refers to a meeting	20		afraid I can't explain how that was managed, but there
21	you had with Steve Muchow, Mike Coombs and John Dicks,	21		was different regions would sometimes have separate
22	and it refers to various issues relating to reference	22		customers in the Post Office, local bus companies and
23	data.	23		things like that. So there was a degree of regional
24	Before we consider those, can I ask who at Post	24		reference data as well.
25	Office was responsible for managing reference data in 125	25		Now, reference data was continually mis not 126
1	given an adequate level of seriousness by Pathway	1		What was broadly that concern about and how did i
2	through the whole project, and we were scampering around	2		affect Horizon?
3		•		lles wat 400 man and anne but have a statistic to be
	at the end to try and make it work. But really the	3	Α.	I'm not 100 per cent sure, but I suspect that what
4	whole integration of reference data and EPOS within	4	Α.	Pathway is saying that we had an agreement whereby w
5	whole integration of reference data and EPOS within Pathway should have been the subject of a wholesale	4 5	А.	Pathway is saying that we had an agreement whereby w would pass reference data changes to them for activation
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		N/	
1		Yes.	1
2 3	Q.	<b>,</b>	2 3
4		they didn't have the system in place to deal with the volumes of data.	3 4
4 5	•	Well, I think there's two things there. One is that it	4 5
6	А.	would appear that Post Office is passing data to Pathway	6
7		and that Pathway which there is no need for Pathway	7
8		to act upon, and I think there's also an issue where the	8
9		volume of change, the volume of data is greater than	9
10		what Pathway anticipated. This should have been agreed,	10
11		you know, way back.	11
12	Q.	Why wasn't it?	12
13	Α.	l don't know why it wasn't, but it wasn't.	13
14	Q.	-	14
15	Α.	Both sides. I mean, Geoff Derby on the reference data	15
16		project, and whoever his opposite number was in Pathway.	16
17	Q.	Even beforehand, when say '98 early parts of '99, when	17
18		this is being developed, it should have been Geoff Derby	18
19		and his counterpart at ICL?	19
20	Α.	Yes. This should never be arising at this stage.	20
21	Q.	When this was raised with you, do you recall what your	21
22		sort of action plan was from thereon?	22
23	Α.	We had I don't remember, but I know there was an	23
24		extraordinary amount of activity ongoing. There were	24
25		I think there were joint working teams, joint teams	25
		129	
1		operational design. It is essential, therefore, for the	1
2		success of the study that sufficient detailed	2
3		information is provided to ensure the maximum level of	3
4		knowledge and inform the development of appropriate	4
5		solutions. To this end, it is proposed that workshops	5
6		are supported by the attendance of appropriate members	6
7 0		of both the PONU" Just stopping there, what does that stand for?	7
8 9	A.	Something in the Post Office.	8 9
10	Q.		10
11	ч.	Design teams and that appropriate documentation, if	10
12		required, is made available."	12
13		Would that have been reported to you? In drafting	13
14		these terms of reference, would that have been reported	14
15		to you as a problem that had happened, or is that	15
16		something you had first-hand knowledge of?	16
17	Α.	That's something I was aware of. I mean, this goes back	17
18		to the point mentioned before about the EPOS design. So	18
19		EPOS was intrinsically connected to reference data. All	19
20		of the mapping of the cash account, between the cash	20
21		account and the transactions, was in reference data.	21
22		So, although we knew what data that we were providing to	22
23		Pathway, we did not know how it was being used within	23
24		their system, and that is what we're trying to that's	24
25		what I'm trying to have made available here, that that	25
		131	

		working together to try and iron out how we could best
	~	sort this out.
	Q.	On that point then, please, could we turn to POL00028552. This is a document entitled Terms of
		Reference at the top, but the title below says Horizon
		Reference Data Review, and the author is you. The
		authority is then Andy Radka who is at Post Office; is
		that right?
	Α.	Yes.
C	Q.	And Steve Muchow. So it's a joint review.
1	Δ.	Yes Steve Muchow is from Pathway.
2	Q.	Do you recall the process of drafting these terms of
3		reference?
4	Α.	l don't recall it.
5	Q.	Do you remember what your role was in relation to this
6		joint review?
7	Α.	I was trying to get it set up.
3	Q.	Did you have any involvement in the technical aspects of
9		how the reference data was changed or
C	Α.	No, no.
1	Q.	Please can we turn to page 4 of this document. The
2		second paragraph says:
3		"Previous discussions between both companies had
4		been hampered by reluctance to provide full visibility
5		of all aspects of their respective technical and
		130
		would be expected
1	0	would be exposed.
	Q.	Do you think this issue would have been identified
	Q.	Do you think this issue would have been identified earlier or addressed earlier, if there had been better
		Do you think this issue would have been identified earlier or addressed earlier, if there had been better sharing of design documentation at an earlier stage?
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1 2 3 4 5 5 7 3 9 9 0 1 2 2 3	A. Q.	Do you think this issue would have been identified earlier or addressed earlier, if there had been better sharing of design documentation at an earlier stage? Absolutely. I mean, there's another document somewhere in the pack where I had approved another attempt at reference data, at a joint reference data review back in '98, and I can't remember what happened to it, but it was drafted by Andy Scott and it was copied to the Horizon management team, to the PDA management team, and copied to Terry Austin. I don't know what happened to that initiative but I believe it didn't happen. We made attempts to try and get this sorted out before. I wanted to go to I appreciate you say you weren't involved in the technical aspects of it, but you may be able to assist in interpreting one document. Could I ask, please, to turn to POL00028544. This is the second meeting of a reference data review which clearly relates to this joint review, of which you were the chair. In chairing the meeting, was your role to facilitate? Yes.

right?

A. Yes, I think so. I mean, I've seen documents

subsequently that she -- similar areas to where I would

1		right there. Do you recognise that handwriting?	1
2	Α.	No, I don't. It's not mine.	2
3	Q.	Do you have any recollection of this meeting at all?	3
4	Α.		4
5	Q.	5	5
6		So you were involved in the review. You left the	6
7		Post Office in January 2000. Do you have any knowledge	7
8 9	А.	of how the review finished or the outcome of the review? My recollection is that, following the second acceptance	8 9
9 10	А.	agreement, the Post Office pursued those rectification	9 10
11		plans and any other problems that were arising. So	10
12		I think the role that I'd had reverted into what we	12
13		would call business as usual or a project team within	13
14		POCL. I think Min Burdett possibly took over what I had	14
15		been doing.	15
16	Q.	You weren't there to see the end of the reference data	16
17		review?	17
18	Α.	No, no. I mean, I gave in my notice between Christmas	18
19		'99 and New Year '00 and I probably I don't think	19
20		I spent a lot of time I had outstanding leave,	20
21		et cetera, so I would have been just involved in handing	21
22		over.	22
23	Q.	5 1	23
24		to you from Min Burdett who I think you just referred to	24
25		earlier saying you would be handing over to; is that 133	25
		100	
1		and introduced a piece of software that would perform	1
2		a comparison I can't remember exactly between what	2
3		two points but it would perform a comparison to	3
4 5		provide an early identification of data differences between the cash account and what was being received at	4 5
6		TIP.	5 6
7	Q.	This was to identify the discrepancies basically?	7
8	Q. A.	Yes.	8
9	Q.	Under Activities, the first bullet point says:	9
10		"The EPOS TIP reconciliation feature must be	10
11		proven to be capable of detecting all data errors that	11
12		would be detected by the TIP cash account compare	12
13		process. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes an	13
14		explicit check that receipts are equal to payments"	14
15		It goes on to say how that's to be achieved.	15
16		So in essence is Post Office's position at this	16
17		point that the reconciliation tool needed to pick up all	17
18		data errors or all discrepancies?	18
19	Α.	That would always be the target.	19
20	Q.	That would always be the target. Presumably that was an important point for Post Office.	20
20 21	Q. A.	That would always be the target. Presumably that was an important point for Post Office. Absolutely.	20 21
20 21 22	Q.	That would always be the target. Presumably that was an important point for Post Office. Absolutely. The Inquiry has heard evidence about the third	20 21 22
20 21 22 23	Q. A.	That would always be the target. Presumably that was an important point for Post Office. Absolutely. The Inquiry has heard evidence about the third supplemental agreement, and that the reconciliation tool	20 21 22 23
20 21 22	Q. A.	That would always be the target. Presumably that was an important point for Post Office. Absolutely. The Inquiry has heard evidence about the third	20 21 22

	subsequently that she similar areas to where I would
	have been involved in.
C	<b>A.</b> Please can we turn to page 3, which is one of the
	attachments. This is a roll-out decision demand
	position paper.
4	. Yes.
(	2. Do you recall this document at all or what its purpose
	was?
	. I think I remember it from the pack; I don't remember it
	at the time.
C	<b>a</b> . It sets at the top:
	"In anticipation of the criteria due to be met by
	24 November not having been met by that date, and given
	POCL's associated concerns, POCL is proposing that the
	existing monitoring activities should continue and be
	strengthened, and is also proposing the introduction of
	some new activities. POCL proposes the following."
	I want to look under Data Integrity. It says
	"Objectives". The first one is:
	"To ensure that the integrity control is capable
	of detecting all relevant incidents."
	Do you know to what that's referring?
	A. Yes. So Pathway had proposed initially and developed 134
	134
	changed from this position being the reconciliation
	feature needed to pick up everything?
4	. Well, I think that's the target. I think this is the
	target you are reading here.
(	<b>1.</b> But are you aware as to why that couldn't be achieved?
4	. I I don't quite understand your question.
C	<b>0.</b> Well, the Post Office's target is there to be
	a reconciliation feature that is capable of identifying
	all discrepancies.
	A. Yes.
	<b>a.</b> That wasn't what was agreed in due course. It was
	accepted that the reconciliation feature could not
	identify all of the data errors.
	A. Right.
	<ul> <li>Are you aware as to why the Post Office accepted that</li> </ul>
	position rather than push for its target?
	Well, I wasn't party to the agreement to the 0.6. I can
	only assume that it was a level of a level that they
	thought they could manage. I don't think the Post
	Office would ever accept a situation whereby it expected
	to get errors. It would always be striving to drive
	those out, to drive those down. But the reality of the
	situation is that that was going to happen, and the
	reality that we're coming from is that there was
	a considerable number of errors. So we must never
	136

135

(34) Pages 133 - 136

1	there were probably created by multiple causes. So it	1
2	was never going to be a situation that we would go from	2
3	whatever level to zero in one bound.	3
4	<b>Q.</b> Finally, can I please turn to your witness statement	4
5	again. It's WITN04150100. Can we bring up page 18,	5
6 7	please. Thank you. You say here that:	6 7
8	"Acceptance was a prescribed contractual event; it	8
9	served its purpose, but it did not mean that the	9
10	solution was 'reliable and robust'. From my experience	10
11	care and serious attention would need to continue to	11
12	have been applied to the system as it moved through	12
13	roll-out and beyond. Years later, when I learned that	13
14	Post Office had prosecuted multiple subpostmasters based	14
15	on assurances from Fujitsu that no explanation other	15
16	than fraud was possible, I was shocked. Shocked because	16
17	among other things Post Office would appear to have	17
18	completely changed its view of Horizon since the time up	18
19	to 2000 while I worked on the project."	19
20	That point, that Post Office would appear to have	20
21	completely changed its view since you worked on the	21
22	project, please could you expand on what you considered	22
23	the general Post Office view of Horizon to be at the	23
24	point you left the project.	24
25	A. Well, I thought it was viewed as delicate. That's how 137	25
1	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Before they ask them, can I just pursue	1
2	what Mr Stevens has been asking you about. My	2
3	understanding is that your evidence is that everyone	3
4	with whom you were engaged on a day-to-day basis working	4
5	in Horizon may not have used the word "delicate" but	5
6	essentially had the same view of Horizon as you did at	6
7	the time you left. Have I understood that correctly?	7
8	A. That's exactly what I said.	8
9	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: And that's from Mr Dave Miller down, as I	9
10	understand it.	10
11	A. Yes.	11
12	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Do you have any information you can give	12
13	me about any views expressed from Mr Dave Miller	13
14	upwards?	14
15 16	<ul> <li>A. I can't. We never really I mean, no.</li> <li>SIR WYN WILLIAMS: What I have in mind is that sometimes</li> </ul>	15 16
		17
17	I'm not saving it hannened: I'm just asking for your	
17 18	I'm not saying it happened; I'm just asking for your help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two	
18	help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two	18
18 19	help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two people like you, might say to each other, "Well, we	18 19
18 19 20	help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two people like you, might say to each other, "Well, we agree what this system is really like, but I'm afraid	18 19 20
18 19	help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two people like you, might say to each other, "Well, we agree what this system is really like, but I'm afraid I'm having trouble from Mr X or Ms Y above me". Those	18 19
18 19 20 21	help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two people like you, might say to each other, "Well, we agree what this system is really like, but I'm afraid	18 19 20 21
18 19 20 21 22	help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two people like you, might say to each other, "Well, we agree what this system is really like, but I'm afraid I'm having trouble from Mr X or Ms Y above me". Those sort of discussions didn't take place, did they?	18 19 20 21 22
18 19 20 21 22 23	<ul> <li>help if you can give it Mr Miller and you, or two people like you, might say to each other, "Well, we agree what this system is really like, but I'm afraid I'm having trouble from Mr X or Ms Y above me". Those sort of discussions didn't take place, did they?</li> <li>A. No. I mean, Dave Miller, I believe reported to Stuart</li> </ul>	18 19 20 21 22 23

1	I viewed it. No-one could have continued in that period	
2	after I left and not been involved in multiple, multiple	
3	rectification activity. It did not present itself as	
4	a stable system. You know, there may have been three	
5	high-level Acceptance Incidents but there were multiple,	
6	multiple causes for those.	
7	<b>Q.</b> So, if someone had said to you in 2000 that the Post	
8	Office planned to investigate subpostmasters for fraud	
9	and false accounting, based on data produced from	
10	Horizon, what would you have said?	
11	A. Well, I don't even believe they did base it on data from	
12	Horizon. They based it on assurances from Fujitsu staff	
13	that no other explanation was possible, which would have	
14	shocked me even more.	
15	<b>Q.</b> Just finally, when you said Post Office would appear to	
16	have completely changed its view, are you referring to	
17	specific persons or just generally across the	
18	organisation?	
19	A. I'm talking about everyone I worked with from Dave	
20	Miller down to Ruth Holleran, et cetera, on the	
21	Chesterfield site, everyone on the programme, everyone	
22	who was involved at a working level.	
23	<b>MR STEVENS:</b> I have no further questions. Sir, I believe	
24 25	there are some questions from recognised legal	
25	representatives. 138	
4		
1	would have been involved, but I don't know	
2 3	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry to interrupt but, from one of the documents we looked at. I think Dave Smith was one of	
4	the people who would have voted against going ahead with	
5	it at a point in time.	
6	A. Indeed.	
7	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Okay. So	
8	<b>A.</b> I think that was a negotiating position he was	
9	expressing there.	
10	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, yes, sure. All right. Anyway	
11	I think, so that I don't take the floor too much, you	
12	can speak for Mr Miller down, but you can't speak for	
13	Mr Miller up?	
14	A. Correct.	
15	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine, okay. Thank you. Who's first?	
16	<b>MR STEIN:</b> I believe it's me on behalf of Howe+Co clients.	
17	Questioned by MR STEIN	
18	Q. I represent a large number of people who were	
19	ex-subpostmasters, mistresses and managers, all them who	
20	have suffered at the experience of dealing with Horizon	
21	and Post Office.	
22	I am going to start just with a bit of procedural	
23	side of matters, just so that we can understand your	
24	evidence that relates to reducing requirements into	
25	acceptance spec. It was a matter you mentioned earlier.	
	140	

(35) Pages 137 - 140

1		To do this, I'm going to look, please, at	1		Then it refers to other legislations in the
2		a codified agreement which is FUJ00000071 and, if we	2		United Kingdom and equivalent legislation covering
3		could have page 1, please, Frankie. Hopefully on the	3		Scotland.
4		screen you will see codified agreement first page.	4		Then next paragraph:
5		When we're looking at this document, we can see	5		"At the direction of POCL, audit trail and other
6		from this point of view, from this very first page, that	6		information necessary to support live investigations and
7		this is the basic agreement between the parties, and I'm	7		prosecutions shall be retained for the duration of the
8		going to take you to two separate parts. First of all,	8		investigation and prosecution irrespective of the normal
9		requirements at page 249-250, relativity pagination.	9		retention period of that information."
10	Α.	What date is this?	10		So, when Mr Stevens asked you questions, he asked
11	Q.	This is 1999. Can you enlarge the page, please. If	11		you about your awareness of the requirement in relation
12		it's possible to enlarge the page so that we can see the	12		to providing evidence for support in relation to
13		bottom requirement, 829. Page 249 again and the bottom	13		investigations and prosecutions. So this is the
14		part of page 249. You should see there that you have	14		received part of the codified agreement.
15		got requirement 829, General Security Prosecution	15		Now, I take you to the next part which will then
16		Support.	16		deal with solutions, as we're working our way through
17		I'm just going to read through this with you, and	17		what are the procedural ways these matters are dealt
18		we'll go over the page as it then goes straight into	18		with. That we will find, please, at page 392, just at
19		page 250:	19		the bottom of page 392, and then we see the reference
20		"The contractor shall ensure that all relevant	20		number 829 at the very bottom, Pathway Response, and
21		information produced by the POCL service infrastructure	21		Frankie, if we go over the page to 393, it makes it
22		[then over the page, please and then next part] at the	22		clear that it refers to the same requirement. So:
23		request of POCL shall be evidentially admissible and	23		"Pathway confirms that it will ensure that all
24		capable of certification in accordance with the Police	24		relevant information produced at the request of POCL
25		and Criminal Evidence Act."	25		shall be evidentially admissible" and so on.
		141			142
4		The set the second seco	4		
1		Then the second paragraph:	1		saying, "We will do this", okay? So there are a series
2		"Pathway confirms that at the direction of POCL	2		of subsequent documents that were produced that expanded
2 3		"Pathway confirms that at the direction of POCL and subject to reasonable regard to the data volumes and	2 3		of subsequent documents that were produced that expanded the solution out, and the first one would have been what
2 3 4		"Pathway confirms that at the direction of POCL and subject to reasonable regard to the data volumes and storage [solutions] incurred, [then the] audit trail	2 3 4		of subsequent documents that were produced that expanded the solution out, and the first one would have been what was called the SADD, the service architecture design
2 3 4 5		"Pathway confirms that at the direction of POCL and subject to reasonable regard to the data volumes and storage [solutions] incurred, [then the] audit trail will be [maintained]"	2 3 4 5		of subsequent documents that were produced that expanded the solution out, and the first one would have been what was called the SADD, the service architecture design document. That would have had a bit more detail. Then
2 3 4 5 6		"Pathway confirms that at the direction of POCL and subject to reasonable regard to the data volumes and storage [solutions] incurred, [then the] audit trail will be [maintained]" If we go to the bottom of that page, please,	2 3 4 5 6		of subsequent documents that were produced that expanded the solution out, and the first one would have been what was called the SADD, the service architecture design document. That would have had a bit more detail. Then there would have been a series of subordinate technical
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Α.	<ul> <li>"Pathway confirms that at the direction of POCL and subject to reasonable regard to the data volumes and storage [solutions] incurred, [then the] audit trail will be [maintained]"</li> <li>If we go to the bottom of that page, please,</li> <li>Frankie, just to see what we're referring to here, right at the very bottom of the page, we see the bottom left-hand corner, at the page that we're looking at, we see this is a reference to solutions, okay?</li> <li>So we've got a requirement built into the codified agreement. We've then got a solution set out within that codified agreement, and the entire document is 914 pages long. So this is a considerable document that's required a fair bit of work, one assumes.</li> <li>Your evidence was that, in relation to acceptances requirements, there would be an acceptance spec, and then there would be criteria drafted against it. That's what you said roughly to my learned friend a little earlier today.</li> <li>So we've got so far within this document to solutions. What's next? So how do you take it from requirement and solution and onwards Yes, so the requirement tended to say, "You must do</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Α.	of subsequent documents that were produced that expanded the solution out, and the first one would have been what was called the SADD, the service architecture design document. That would have had a bit more detail. Then there would have been a series of subordinate technical documents, and in fact there was a security functional specification. Now I can't remember how this is addressed in the security functional specification, but that would be where that would be developed. Then subsequently the acceptance specification sorry, yes, the acceptance specification for security would have a series of criteria, and against each criterion there would be an explanation about how that would be satisfied. So some of it would be satisfied by review of document and some of it would be satisfied by witnessing. Right. Now you have referred to the document you used, the acronym for which is SADD, then you have these technical documents. Do they have an acronym? There was a security functional specification. The fact that you are using the words "security functional specification", does that mean it was dealt
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Α.	"Pathway confirms that at the direction of POCL and subject to reasonable regard to the data volumes and storage [solutions] incurred, [then the] audit trail will be [maintained]" If we go to the bottom of that page, please, Frankie, just to see what we're referring to here, right at the very bottom of the page, we see the bottom left-hand corner, at the page that we're looking at, we see this is a reference to solutions, okay? So we've got a requirement built into the codified agreement. We've then got a solution set out within that codified agreement, and the entire document is 914 pages long. So this is a considerable document that's required a fair bit of work, one assumes. Your evidence was that, in relation to acceptances requirements, there would be an acceptance spec, and then there would be criteria drafted against it. That's what you said roughly to my learned friend a little earlier today. So we've got so far within this document to solutions. What's next? So how do you take it from requirement and solution and onwards	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Α.	of subsequent documents that were produced that expanded the solution out, and the first one would have been what was called the SADD, the service architecture design document. That would have had a bit more detail. Then there would have been a series of subordinate technical documents, and in fact there was a security functional specification. Now I can't remember how this is addressed in the security functional specification, but that would be where that would be developed. Then subsequently the acceptance specification sorry, yes, the acceptance specification for security would have a series of criteria, and against each criterion there would be an explanation about how that would be satisfied. So some of it would be satisfied by review of document and some of it would be satisfied by witnessing. Right. Now you have referred to the document you used, the acronym for which is SADD, then you have these technical documents. Do they have an acronym? There was a security functional specification. The fact that you are using the words "security

1		By the perden?	1	0	No
1		By the, pardon?	1		No.
2 3	Q.	By the Post Office Internal Security Department the	2 3	А.	And they had what was called encashment fraud, which was the intention here was to reduce encashment
4		security bit that you are referring to, why do you call that "Security"?	4		fraud.
5	۸	Yes, okay. It was wider, obviously, than this.	4 5	0	The encashment side of it is identity fraud, someone
6	Q.		6	ω.	-
7		Obviously when the project first started all the	7		representing themselves as another in order to get money from benefits, yes?
8	А.	Benefits Agency transactions were there, so one of the	8	Α.	Mmm.
9		main objectives of the Benefits Agency was to reduce	9		Now, you mentioned security a number of times there.
9 10		encashment fraud. So there was a huge amount of	9 10	ω.	Now, the security department that you are referring to
11		attention given to that and to the security of the data,	10		within the Post Office, who was that headed by?
12		okay.	12	۸	I don't know.
13		-	12		Right. The person that would be drafting the sort of
13		We had people who represented security a function	13	ч.	reports that you are talking about, the technical
14		on the PDA, and they would have been in touch with	14		
16		security experts, both in the Benefits Agency or the DSS wider area and the Post Office security people.	15		documents in relation to security and this particular requirement, who would that have been?
17	0		10		•
18	ч.	So the Benefits Agency's difficulty was one that they	17	А.	Well, okay. So we had a representative of POCL audit on
19		had with fraud in which they were losing a lot of money at that time in relation to fraud?	10		the PDA his name was John Bruce and we had people
20		Yes.	19 20		who attended to technical security that would have
20		And the particular type of fraud they were concerned		0	been Jeremy Folkes.
21	ч.	about was identity fraud, as we understand it.	21 22	ч.	So it's Mr Bruce and Mr Folkes. I'm going to move on and deal with one other aspect of things before coming
22	۸	Well, they had two types of fraud they were concerned	22		back to particular documents. Can we go please to
23 24	А.		23 24		POL00043682.
24 25		with. One was misrepresentation of circumstances, which was not addressed by this project.	24 25		This is a fairly short document, a three-page
20		145	23		146
1		document. You should have had reference to this in the	1		average'. POCL's view is that the consideration should
2		documents that you have been supplied. It's an	2		be whether this is a High or Medium incident."
3		electronic memo. You can see the date top right-hand	3		Then it goes on to say:
4		corner, indeed set into the middle of the document, it's	4		"Consistent failure has been shown. However, as
5		in August of 1999 and it's to you, Mr Meagher, and then	5		there has been only one opportunity to measure service
6		others referred to in the document. This from Min	6		levels during the Core Observation Period (COP) it was
7		Burdett, and we can see all the names that the people	7		originally agreed between POCL and Pathway that the
8		have all got Post Office email references.	8		Severity of this incident should be Medium as POCL could
9		If we then go down to the second page, please	9		not show a consistent failure during COP."
10		thank you very much this refers to Al408, HSS Service	10		So far this seems to say that the view of the Post
11		Level Failure. If we just scroll our way down to	11		Office was that the severity level was such that it met
12		Severity Rating to start off with, please, help us	12		the original criteria of high severity; agree?
13		a little bit with this. Under Severity Rating we've got	13	Α.	Yes.
14		Pathway's severity rating is low and then POCL's	14	Q.	But then it seems it was agreed between POCL and Pathway
					that the coverity of this insident should be medium as
15		severity rating which is medium, okay?	15		that the severity of this incident should be medium as
15 16	A.	severity rating which is medium, okay? Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it.	15 16		POCL could not show a consistent failure during the
	A. Q.				-
16	-	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it.	16	А.	POCL could not show a consistent failure during the
16 17	Q.	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it. Point 3.	16 17		POCL could not show a consistent failure during the period of observation.
16 17 18	Q. A.	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it. Point 3. Yes.	16 17 18		POCL could not show a consistent failure during the period of observation. Yes.
16 17 18 19	Q. A.	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it. Point 3. Yes. So Pathway's severity rating is low, POCL's severity	16 17 18 19	Q.	POCL could not show a consistent failure during the period of observation. Yes. From the point of view of the people that we represent,
16 17 18 19 20	Q. A.	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it. Point 3. Yes. So Pathway's severity rating is low, POCL's severity rating is medium, and then let's just read through this	16 17 18 19 20	Q.	POCL could not show a consistent failure during the period of observation. Yes. From the point of view of the people that we represent, how could Pathway be getting away with it?
16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A.	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it. Point 3. Yes. So Pathway's severity rating is low, POCL's severity rating is medium, and then let's just read through this couple of paragraphs:	16 17 18 19 20 21	Q.	POCL could not show a consistent failure during the period of observation. Yes. From the point of view of the people that we represent, how could Pathway be getting away with it? Well, I think what is being said here on the Post Office
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it. Point 3. Yes. So Pathway's severity rating is low, POCL's severity rating is medium, and then let's just read through this couple of paragraphs: "The agreed definition for High severity is:	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	POCL could not show a consistent failure during the period of observation. Yes. From the point of view of the people that we represent, how could Pathway be getting away with it? Well, I think what is being said here on the Post Office side is that the sample size is too small to be able to
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	Am I looking at the okay, right. I see it. Point 3. Yes. So Pathway's severity rating is low, POCL's severity rating is medium, and then let's just read through this couple of paragraphs: "The agreed definition for High severity is: 'consistent failure to meet minimum acceptable	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	POCL could not show a consistent failure during the period of observation. Yes. From the point of view of the people that we represent, how could Pathway be getting away with it? Well, I think what is being said here on the Post Office side is that the sample size is too small to be able to sustain an argument that it's a high severity

I think we can all read this. How could Pathway be

(37) Pages 145 - 148

## The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

1		acting everywith this? DOCI is view is clear.	1		not abared the figures, the figures that it's using to
1 2		getting away with this? POCL's view is clear: consistent failure has been shown. This is the	1 2		not shared the figures, the figures that it's using to
2		contracting party that is buying in the Horizon System	2	۸	try and say that it's in fact low. Yes. I think what is being said there is that the
4		thinking oh, sorry, but the consistent failure is shown;	4	<b>~</b> .	evidence has not been shared and is being questioned.
5		this is high severity. How is Pathway allowed to get	5	0	Yes. This then is leading us in relation to the date
6		away with it?	6	ч.	of this, this is in the August period of 1999.
7	Δ	I don't know how I can answer your question.	7	Δ	Yes.
8		All right. Let's read on:	8		We're getting very close to roll-out, yes? We're
9	ч.	"Pathway have changed their view to Low"	9	ч.	looking at a system that you're saying is delicate. Is
10		Then it refers to workshop 10/8:	10		this in any way acceptable, what's on the content of
11		" on the basis that the original figures were	11		this document so close to roll-out? Mr Meagher?
12		misreported (but Pathway have not shared these figures	12	Α.	Sorry?
13		with POCL). POCL consider Low unacceptable as the	13		Is it in any way acceptable, so close to roll-out, that
14		severity rating should be based on Pathway's originally	14		there are such huge differences between POCL's view
15		reported service levels."	15		about consistency and severity of incidents versus
16		Now, this appears to show within these few	16		Pathway's at this time?
17		paragraphs that the POCL view this as high severity yet	17	Α.	Well, there's always I think there was always
18		Pathway is consistently arguing it's low severity.	18		a difference of view.
19	Α.	In general Pathway, in practically every case, would	19	Q.	Is it acceptable, Mr Meagher, so close to roll-out?
20		ascribe a lower severity than the Post Office did.	20		Under what rules? I mean, we're dealing with a contract
21	Q.	This is a fairly substantial difference, isn't it? This	21		here, okay? So I don't quite understand what
22		is POCL believing high severity in relation to help desk	22		acceptability in your question means.
23		requirements and	23	Q.	So close to roll-out, in relation to a big system that's
24	Α.	Yes, yes, I don't disagree with you.	24		going to have a huge impact on the Post Office, do you
25		And again the rationale appears to be that Pathway have	25		find yourself, professionally, this level of
		149			150
1		disagrapment	1		after installation. She was then investigated by
1 2	۸	disagreement No, I mean	2		after installation. She was then investigated by auditors from the Post Office in July of 2000. You
3		let me finish is acceptable, Mr Meagher?	3		left, I think, your employment at the Post Office in
4		I would distinguish between the difference of opinion	4		January of 2000.
5	7.0	and the reality of the system.	5	Δ	Yes.
6	0.	You have answered questions from Mr Stevens regarding	6		At the time when you left the Post Office in January of
7	<b>_</b> .	page 18 of your statement.	7	ч.	2000, do you believe that anybody should have been
8	Α.		8		investigated and thereafter prosecuted in relation to
9	Q.	The reference in relation to your statement is at	9		shortfalls that were being found in a system that was as
10		WITN04150100, page 18, please. If you could highlight,	10		delicate as you describe?
11		please, Frankie thank you very much.	11	Α.	l do not.
12		This is the reference that my learned friend	12	Q.	Mr Meagher, when were you first aware of the people that
13		finished on in relation to years later you learned that:	13		were being prosecuted and civil actions being taken
14		" Post Office had prosecuted multiple	14		against them by the Post Office, essentially based upon
15		subpostmasters based on assurances from Fujitsu that no	15		the system, and I know that you have a caveat to that,
16		explanation other than fraud was possible, I was	16		which is that you say it's based upon what is being said
17		shocked."	17		by people from Fujitsu. So whichever way round you look
18		You have also added to that part of your statement	18		at it, when you were first aware of what was going on by
19		that you regarded the system itself as being delicate.	19		way of prosecutions and civil actions?
20	Α.	Mmm.	20	Α.	I think when we first started to see it in Computer
21	Q.	Yes? Pamela Lock is someone I represent, and she ran	21		Weekly.
22		the Post Office branch in Swansea from September 1974	22	Q.	So that takes us to well, it's 2010 onwards, and then
23		until July 2000. The Horizon System was installed in	23		you're aware of what's going on with Second Sight, were
24		January of 2000, Mr Meagher. She was experiencing	24		you? Did you hear about that?
25		problems with shortfalls in January of 2000 shortly	25	Α.	l remember reading no, I don't.
		151			152

1	Q.	You were aware then at a much later stage, the time
2		we're reaching, 2019, of the civil action at the High
3		Court?
4	Α.	Yes.
5	Q.	After that the Court of Appeal cases where individuals
6		had to take their case to the Court of Appeal and get
7		themselves cleared, as did Ms Lock, the lady I just
8		referred you to, yes. Given your evidence is that the
9		system was in a state of delicacy by the time you left,
10		why didn't you come forward and say something and say,
11		"Look, something's wrong here. Nobody should have been
12		prosecuted based upon this system"? Why didn't you come
13		forward to the litigants or the people being prosecuted
14		that you knew about at that stage?
15	Α.	Well, I wasn't aware that anyone was being called.
16	Q.	Why didn't you come forward and say you could help,
17		Mr Meagher?
18	Α.	Well, I wasn't aware that I could help.
19	Q.	Why didn't you come forward and say, "I knew the system
20		had problems"?
21	Α.	It was 20 years previously. I mean, the system had been
22		changed on a number of occasions. I didn't think I had
23		anything to offer.
24	MRS	STEIN: Thank you, sir.
25	MS I	PAGE: Nothing from me. Thank you. 153

## MR STEVENS: Sir, I think that's all the questions from the room. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, thank you very much, Mr Meagher, for making your witness statement and for spending

a number of hours this afternoon being questioned about

- these matters. I'm grateful to you.
- A. Thank you.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So that concludes today's business and

- we'll start again at 10.00 tomorrow morning. Is that correct, Mr Stevens?
- 11 MR STEVENS: That's correct, sir. Thank you.
- 12 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Thank you very much.
- 13 (3.31 pm)
  - (Adjourned until 10.00 am the following day)

## INDEX

2	ROBERT BOOTH (affirmed)	1
3	Questioned by MS HODGE	1
4	Questioned by MR JACOBS	74
5	Questioned by MS PAGE	76
6	JOHN DOMINIC MEAGHER (affirmed)	81
7	Questioned by MR STEVENS	81
8	Questioned by MR STEIN	140

(39) Pages 153 - 155

	1	<b>1999 [26]</b> 43/1 47/3	3.31 pm [1] 154/13	9
MR JACOBS: [2]	1 July 1999 [1]	47/22 52/17 56/12	<b>3.4 [1]</b> 125/1	914 pages [1] 143/14
73/25 76/9	104/14	58/25 63/9 64/15	<b>3.9 [1]</b> 61/23	<b>95 per cent [1]</b> 34/9
MR STEIN: [2]	1 September [1]	68/13 78/14 93/4	<b>30 [1]</b> 76/15	<b>99</b> [1] 48/9
140/16 153/24	115/21		30 August [1] 107/14	
MR STEVENS: [7]	<b>1,000 [1]</b> 38/10	98/4 104/14 105/2	30 June 1999 [1]	A
81/18 113/6 113/9	<b>1.0 [1]</b> 43/1	105/15 110/4 113/18	47/3	abbreviate [1] 53/19
113/14 138/23 154/1	<b>1.2 [1]</b> 48/9	124/12 127/13 141/11 147/5 150/6	<b>314 [1]</b> 60/23	abend [3] 44/14
154/11	<b>1.20 [2]</b> 81/8 81/12		<b>342 [1]</b> 78/21	44/16 44/17
MS HODGE: [10] 1/3		2	<b>370 [6]</b> 63/5 63/6	ability [14] 16/18
1/5 1/7 45/25 46/5	<b>10 [4]</b> 72/14 72/14	2 August [2] 106/11	67/18 68/5 69/14	16/21 17/24 28/25
46/7 80/12 80/21 81/3 81/11		107/8	69/17	31/16 49/19 52/1 57/13 70/16 71/18
MS PAGE: [2] 80/11	<b>10.00 [3]</b> 1/2 154/9 154/14	<b>2.0 [1]</b> 47/3	<b>372 [3]</b> 53/11 71/16	96/20 99/13 123/24
153/25	<b>10/8 [1]</b> 149/10	<b>2.1.2 [1]</b> 43/6	78/21	123/24
NEW SPEAKER: [1]	<b>100 [4]</b> 37/1 37/4	<b>2.15 pm [1]</b> 113/11	<b>376 [19]</b> 67/15 68/11	able [18] 13/5 17/6
81/20	37/4 38/15	<b>2.2.1 [1]</b> 43/22	78/17 78/21 78/25	29/23 32/15 33/4
SIR WYN WILLIAMS:		<b>2.2.2 [1]</b> 45/2	79/13 79/17 79/19	34/11 34/13 43/12
<b>[28]</b> 1/4 1/6 45/23	128/3	2.2.3 [1] 45/9 2.25 pm [1] 113/13	80/8 104/20 105/8	53/16 56/19 75/9
46/1 46/6 73/24 76/10		<b>2.25 pm [1]</b> 113/13 <b>20 years [1]</b> 153/21	105/20 105/22 106/2 111/1 111/10 112/6	75/11 96/14 102/14
80/15 80/20 81/1 81/6		<b>2000 [13]</b> 60/9 60/17	113/22 114/2	121/2 127/18 132/16
81/12 81/16 81/19	56/12	78/20 79/7 133/7	<b>378 [1]</b> 78/21	148/22
113/8 113/10 113/15	<b>11.05 [1]</b> 46/2	137/19 138/7 151/23	<b>39 [1]</b> 33/7	abnormal [1] 44/17
139/1 139/9 139/12	<b>11.15 [2]</b> 45/25 46/4	151/24 151/25 152/2	<b>391 [1]</b> 78/21	abnormally [1] 44/14
139/16 140/2 140/7 140/10 140/15 154/3	<b>118 [1]</b> 78/11 <b>12 [2]</b> 81/7 86/25	152/4 152/7	<b>392 [2]</b> 142/18	about [83] 2/5 3/24 4/8 8/3 9/9 9/10 9/11
154/8 154/12	12 [2] 81/7 80/25 12 August 1999 [1]	<b>2003 [1]</b> 5/4	142/19	10/17 10/21 10/25
134/0 134/12	105/15	<b>2006 [1]</b> 5/16	<b>393 [1]</b> 142/21	11/3 11/24 14/3 15/16
	12 January 1999 [1]	<b>2010 [1]</b> 152/22	4	15/21 16/2 16/20 17/5
<b>'00 [1]</b> 133/19	43/1	<b>2014 [1]</b> 5/24		17/24 18/2 19/6 19/10
<b>'98 [7]</b> 91/5 91/23	12.10 pm [1] 81/13	<b>2019 [1]</b> 153/2	<b>40,000 [1]</b> 20/4	21/5 21/6 21/12 29/23
91/24 92/5 92/12	<b>13 [2]</b> 87/18 99/24	<b>2022 [2]</b> 1/1 82/5 <b>211 [1]</b> 101/20	48 hours [1] 125/8	30/4 32/2 32/16 36/24
129/17 132/8	13 September 2022	<b>218 [3]</b> 78/21 105/20	5	44/24 46/8 49/16
<b>'99 [5]</b> 77/25 91/6	[1] 82/5	113/20	5 August [1] 100/24	49/18 49/21 51/24
92/12 129/17 133/19	<b>132 [2]</b> 35/22 41/21	22 November [1]	5,000 [1] 64/10	52/18 53/12 59/4
'business [1] 79/9 'consistent [1]	<b>134 [2]</b> 33/8 33/10	18/14	<b>5/10 [1]</b> 72/14	59/19 60/24 63/4 65/3 67/3 67/9 67/10 68/4
147/23	15 November [1] 121/11	<b>23 [2]</b> 70/12 99/24	<b>50 [2]</b> 37/11 39/9	68/7 69/25 71/7 75/9
'end [1] 95/2	15 November 2022	23 hours [1] 55/18	<b>57 [1]</b> 104/19	76/2 76/14 80/7 82/15
'ensure [1] 63/18	[1] 1/1	24 November [1]	<b>59 [1]</b> 55/18	82/19 82/21 82/23
'How [1] 16/5	<b>153 [1]</b> 74/2	134/15	5th [1] 17/10	83/19 84/20 90/13
' <b>lf [1]</b> 78/20	<b>16 [2]</b> 95/21 104/1	<b>249 [2]</b> 141/13	6	91/17 92/2 95/23
'occasion [1] 147/25	16 September [1]	141/14 25 [2] 111/25 113/9	<b>60 [1]</b> 37/11	107/24 112/5 113/24
'POCL [1] 78/16	1/17	<b>25 [2]</b> 111/25 113/9 <b>25 hours [1]</b> 20/11	<b>63 [1]</b> 1/22	121/17 128/1 129/2
'provide [1] 63/22	<b>17 [1]</b> 26/5	<b>250 [2]</b> 141/9 141/19	63-page [1] 45/19	131/18 135/22 138/19
'reliable [1] 137/10	17 September 99 [1]	<b>26 [1]</b> 121/17	68m [1] 116/1	
'the [2] 63/23 78/24	48/9	26 August [1] 112/1	7	144/15 145/22 146/14 150/15 152/24 153/14
'work [1] 88/1	<b>18 [4]</b> 82/7 137/5	26 August 1999 [1]		150/15 152/24 153/14
<b>.</b>	151/7 151/10 <b>180 [3]</b> 77/15 77/15	110/4	7.1.5 [1] 78/12	above [6] 15/4 20/24
[4] 27/19 113/24	77/21	27 August [1] 112/4	750/800 [1] 4/8	122/5 123/6 125/19
122/12 131/10	<b>180/190 [1]</b> 77/7	27 August 1999 [1]	8	139/21
and [1] 131/10	<b>19 [1]</b> 89/14	113/18	8 March 1999 [1]	abreast [1] 67/20
0	19 July 1999 [1]	<b>28 [1]</b> 27/5	93/4	absence [1] 13/23
	105/2	28 January 2000 [1] 60/17	8 November 1995 [1]	absolutely [5] 77/5
<b>0.06 [1]</b> 78/25	<b>190 [1]</b> 77/7	<b>28 July 1999 [1]</b> 98/4	12/12	105/10 119/13 132/5
<b>0.1 [1]</b> 60/15 <b>0.6 [2]</b> 112/17 136/17	<b>1974 [1]</b> 151/22	<b>29 [1]</b> 95/21	8 September [1]	135/21
0.6 per cent [4]	<b>1990 [2]</b> 2/18 83/22	<b>298 [7]</b> 53/20 102/11	119/25	accept [7] 13/18
112/21 116/11 116/19	<b>1994 [1]</b> 84/12	104/2 105/21 113/23	80 pages [1] 1/20	43/20 74/17 100/1 114/21 121/10 136/20
118/15	1995[1] 12/12	114/2 120/6	800 [1] 4/8	acceptability [1]
0069 [1] 94/9	<b>1996 [1]</b> 87/1 <b>1998 [3]</b> 42/12 42/13	3	829 [3] 141/13 141/15 142/20	150/22
	91/22	·		acceptable [10] 40/4
		3 high [1] 125/6		
L		1	1	(40) MR JACOBS: - acceptable

Α	52/1 71/2 74/12 75/22	added [2] 101/4	63/12 69/21 115/12	81/12 83/20 84/9
	75/25 88/21 88/24	151/18	119/20 140/4 143/18	84/16 85/19 91/2
acceptable [9] 40/8 87/24 112/16 117/10	89/1 89/17 102/6	adding [1] 36/9	144/14 152/14	91/25 94/21 97/10
147/23 150/10 150/13	102/9 104/7	addition [1] 40/6	Agency [25] 7/2 7/4	97/11 106/9 106/12
150/19 151/3	accordance [2]	additional [7] 20/15	12/14 18/17 25/22	106/14 106/16 118/10
acceptance [140]	89/19 141/24	67/11 101/2 101/4	26/4 26/8 76/18 76/24	
27/8 37/22 37/25 38/1	according [2] 21/20	101/5 101/21 115/7	76/25 77/3 77/7 77/8	131/19 133/3 134/9
38/21 39/21 39/23	44/13	address [3] 21/10	77/11 77/18 77/25	
41/12 41/13 41/15	account [18] 27/9 37/4 38/5 41/7 54/17	44/10 94/4	78/6 86/18 86/20 90/15 91/11 96/17	135/18 135/24 136/9 136/13 140/10 140/19
42/9 52/16 52/19	62/25 78/25 94/11	addressed [6] 33/16 60/5 63/11 132/3	145/8 145/9 145/15	141/8 141/20 142/23
52/21 53/11 53/19	108/25 116/12 117/22		Agency's [1] 145/17	145/7 147/7 147/8
53/20 56/4 56/13	117/23 126/18 131/20		ago [2] 12/23 80/23	148/25 149/8 154/1
58/21 59/1 59/10 60/8 60/15 60/16 60/19	131/21 135/5 135/12	adequate [2] 93/7	agree [11] 16/25	154/12
61/6 61/11 62/1 63/6	135/24	127/1	44/22 56/21 56/22	alleged [1] 74/21
63/10 64/22 65/3 65/7	accounted [1] 3/13	adequately [1] 34/17	78/21 79/22 117/5	allocated [3] 87/8
66/21 66/23 67/7	accounting [6] 24/24		117/6 121/13 139/20	99/3 100/18
67/14 67/16 67/20		Adjourned [1] 154/14		allow [4] 38/10 38/18
68/15 69/1 69/5 69/10	138/9	Adjournment [1]	agreed [11] 16/3 17/1	
69/18 72/8 73/4 78/15	accounts [6] 2/25 39/13 44/1 94/13	81/14 adjust [1] 24/6	121/21 127/23 128/8 128/22 129/10 136/11	allowed [2] 15/2 149/5
78/23 79/8 92/18	107/10 107/17	adjust [1] 24/6 administration [1]	147/22 148/7 148/14	almost [1] 24/1
92/20 96/22 97/3 97/6	accuracy [1] 44/24	47/2	agreement [19] 79/3	alone [1] 115/2
97/7 97/8 97/9 97/12	accurate [2] 55/2	administrator [1]	79/5 94/5 97/11 97/12	
97/16 97/18 97/21 98/9 98/10 98/18	55/3	49/23	98/3 108/2 109/22	94/1 109/19 116/11
98/22 98/23 99/2 99/3	achieve [3] 3/24	admissible [4] 63/20	121/20 128/4 133/10	122/18
99/4 99/7 99/12 99/17	102/8 108/4	65/22 141/23 142/25	135/23 136/17 141/2	also [26] 8/12 13/18
99/18 99/21 100/2	achieved [4] 109/21	admissible' [1] 63/19		17/14 19/13 23/14
100/8 100/16 101/2	121/24 135/15 136/5	adopted [1] 24/18	143/12 143/13	27/9 27/14 30/13
101/3 101/5 101/12	acronym [4] 66/9 66/10 144/20 144/21	advance [4] 106/22 110/14 111/6 115/1	ahead [5] 59/9 84/19 123/3 124/2 140/4	35/24 44/11 47/21 49/14 50/19 54/17
101/20 102/5 102/17	across [5] 20/11	advice [2] 107/14	AI [22] 53/20 56/21	68/15 84/5 84/6 86/19
102/24 103/13 103/16	24/25 45/3 99/8	125/3	57/10 59/5 59/22	92/10 95/11 103/2
103/24 104/1 104/24	138/17	affect [1] 128/2	61/20 61/25 63/5	117/17 127/17 129/8
105/19 108/3 108/3 108/4 109/20 109/24	act [2] 129/8 141/25	affected [2] 37/4	63/17 64/3 68/5 68/8	134/18 151/18
110/4 110/6 111/11	action [13] 56/11	117/4	68/10 69/14 69/17	alternate [1] 24/4
111/25 112/2 112/14	57/6 71/20 91/7 94/25		71/16 78/17 78/25	alternative [3] 114/7
113/21 114/16 116/1	106/24 107/11 112/2 112/8 112/9 121/3	affirmed [4] 1/8 81/21 155/2 155/6	79/13 79/17 79/19	114/20 114/21
118/5 118/6 119/14	120/22 153/2	afford [1] 117/14	80/8 AI 370 [4] 63/5 68/5	although [4] 58/16 70/18 118/13 131/22
119/14 119/17 119/19	actions [4] 74/4 79/9	afraid [17] 23/16	69/14 69/17	always [19] 17/21
120/5 121/9 121/14	152/13 152/19	28/10 29/25 33/6	AI 376 [3] 79/17	31/22 32/21 38/14
121/18 121/20 121/22	activation [3] 127/24	42/14 43/17 45/17	79/19 80/8	40/12 49/23 50/1
121/24 122/2 122/5 122/15 122/16 122/22	128/5 128/8	46/22 49/2 57/17 68/1	Al211 [2] 56/5 56/17	55/17 62/9 73/7 88/6
122/13 122/10 122/22	active [1] 103/19	68/9 74/23 94/17	AI370 [4] 59/21 60/25	
124/13 124/14 124/20	activities [3] 134/17	126/20 133/4 139/20	62/13 62/23	126/6 135/19 136/21
124/20 124/25 125/14	134/19 135/9	after [12] 26/17 60/9	AI372 [1] 60/21	150/17 150/17
133/9 137/8 138/5	activity [4] 79/2	73/4 78/15 84/24 95/2 102/18 102/22 102/24	AI3/6[1] 58/19	am [8] 1/2 46/2 46/4 83/19 114/2 140/22
140/25 143/17 144/12	116/21 129/24 138/3 actual [6] 3/17 18/7	138/2 152/1 153/5	aimed [1] 4/5	147/16 154/14
144/12	45/13 69/5 88/21	afternoon [1] 154/5	Als [8] 53/18 59/7	amenable [1] 10/20
acceptances [1]	128/25	afterwards [1] 71/23	59/13 59/21 61/13	amend [4] 49/19
143/16	actually [24] 17/5	again [31] 5/14 5/24	61/24 62/10 78/21	49/21 51/16 52/1
accepted [5] 60/10 97/2 123/3 136/12	17/7 19/19 21/9 21/12			amendment [1] 52/6
136/15	22/12 28/6 32/4 33/25	45/10 47/10 48/6 48/8		amendments [1]
accepting [2] 14/4	34/14 35/5 35/9 36/12	48/9 53/14 54/15	79/4 110/23	50/25
80/1	37/7 39/1 39/2 46/22 58/11 79/18 84/19	55/14 67/2 73/1 75/19 76/12 81/7 81/12	9/12 9/15 10/25 14/5	among [1] 137/17 amongst [3] 51/12
access [31] 3/21	88/13 89/12 110/25	90/21 99/24 105/1	24/25 33/14 34/20	94/22 103/8
28/25 29/5 29/7 29/9	112/17	105/2 105/5 105/25	37/9 38/4 38/10 38/17	amount [4] 73/16
29/20 29/22 31/14 32/7 33/13 33/17 46/9	ad [1] 17/20	113/8 137/5 141/13	43/16 45/11 45/18	73/17 129/24 145/10
46/15 47/1 49/5 49/19	add [4] 20/17 36/7	149/25 154/9	52/2 58/21 59/7 59/24	
50/13 50/16 50/23	38/4 65/1	against [12] 13/4	62/10 63/18 64/2	127/6
	add-on [1] 65/1	22/13 22/17 39/8	73/24 77/1 80/7 81/6	Analysts [1] 2/12
				(41) accentable - Analysts

(41) acceptable ... - Analysts

Α	93/18	136/5 136/15 138/16	132/15	attitude [1] 74/9
Andrew [1] 86/17	Appeal [2] 153/5	138/24 142/17 142/17	aspersions [1]	audience [2] 68/2
Andy [4] 121/7	153/6	144/1 144/23 145/3	103/15	68/8
121/10 130/7 132/9	appear [9] 30/14 38/3			audit [5] 51/22 66/2
annoyance [1] 53/5	45/8 58/10 60/18	area [7] 6/8 29/4 45/6		
another [9] 14/7 23/4	129/6 137/17 137/20 138/15	71/1 78/9 87/13	assessment [9]	auditable [1] 51/1
50/7 58/15 60/22		145/16	18/12 21/14 21/17   22/3 23/1 87/19 87/22	audited [1] 50/3
114/24 132/5 132/6	appeared [1] 127/17	areas [6] 8/15 29/3 34/14 45/4 76/13	88/17 100/12	auditors [2] 107/14 152/2
146/6	appearing [1] 45/3 appears [6] 15/14	134/3	assigned [2] 2/18	August [16] 56/12
answer [7] 18/9	46/9 56/11 66/5	arguing [1] 149/18	111/9	91/22 100/24 105/15
19/18 82/24 94/1	149/16 149/25	argument [1] 148/23	assist [11] 2/23 3/6	106/11 107/8 107/14
115/8 129/2 149/7	appendix [1] 62/8	arise [1] 64/22	13/5 32/13 43/16 57/9	108/5 108/9 109/21
answered [2] 128/10	appendix 1 [1] 62/8	arisen [2] 46/25	64/2 85/6 89/20 94/25	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
151/6	application [12] 25/2	53/23	132/16	113/18 147/5 150/6
answering [1] 35/10 answers [1] 4/19	25/9 86/10 86/11	arising [3] 42/5	assisted [1] 84/14	Austin [2] 90/10
anti [1] 19/9	89/17 90/15 91/21	129/20 133/11	assists [1] 98/17	132/11
anti-virus [1] 19/9	91/21 92/2 92/12	arose [2] 74/21 105/8		author [3] 43/18 63/1
anticipate [1] 4/21	92/16 117/11	around [24] 14/9	134/16	130/6
anticipated [1]	applications [4] 86/4	20/3 23/11 40/5 40/8	assume [4] 48/4 61/6	
129/10	86/12 90/16 90/18	40/10 40/12 41/1	112/8 136/18	27/16
anticipation [1]	applied [2] 84/12	47/21 49/22 50/2	assumed [1] 96/23	authoritatively [1]
134/14	137/12	51/18 53/15 60/2	assumes [1] 143/15	75/9
any [63] 4/1 10/7	applies [1] 19/13	63/10 63/18 84/14	assuming [1] 114/2	authorities [1] 77/14
21/9 28/24 30/3 32/5	appoint [1] 76/4	88/19 104/9 104/15 105/3 123/23 126/16	assurance [13] 34/7 34/11 70/23 71/2 75/4	authority [1] 130/7
32/23 34/22 38/20	appreciate [1] 132/14	105/3 125/23 126/16	84/21 85/3 85/21	authors [1] 42/25 automated [6] 3/9
42/14 43/1 45/16 50/3	approach [6] 20/19	around' [1] 88/1	89/16 90/1 92/17	4/12 5/13 28/5 28/7
50/18 51/9 52/6 56/6	24/18 25/3 92/17	arounds [1] 40/11	93/10 110/21	86/12
57/9 59/1 59/2 59/4	92/22 117/20		assurances [4] 70/18	I I
59/25 62/11 66/12	appropriate [6] 61/18		137/15 138/12 151/15	
66/13 68/3 68/18	97/21 122/16 131/4	29/13	assure [3] 9/16 31/16	
74/22 75/19 75/22	131/6 131/11	arrive [1] 100/15	31/21	automation [6] 3/2
76/23 79/24 80/12	approval [1] 95/15	arrived [2] 24/8	assured [1] 15/18	3/10 4/13 24/15 50/13
80/15 85/12 88/21 89/20 95/24 96/20	approved [1] 132/6	80/23	at [234]	77/12
98/5 102/3 105/15	approximately [1]	arriving [1] 116/18	ATM [6] 13/19 61/3	autumn [1] 52/17
106/21 107/23 114/6	2/10	articulate [1] 73/14	61/5 61/14 61/17 62/1	
114/16 114/20 115/12	APS [1] 117/11			available [10] 25/1
115/23 116/2 116/17	architect [1] 6/6	68/4 68/12	ATM-ish [1] 13/19	38/14 44/1 75/23
123/1 124/17 125/11	architecture [1]	artificial [1] 115/12	Atos [1] 5/25	75/23 101/21 104/10
128/18 130/18 133/3	144/4	artificially [1] 115/17	attached [2] 110/5	
133/7 133/11 139/12	are [90] 4/9 4/21 7/6	as [171]	114/25	avenues [1] 69/16
139/13 150/10 150/13	8/23 9/1 13/8 15/6 17/2 18/4 18/5 21/2	ascertain [1] 18/3 ascribe [1] 149/20	attachment [1] 60/7 attachments [1]	average' [1] 148/1 avoidance [1] 135/13
anybody [2] 75/21	21/12 22/16 22/21	ask [22] 1/12 1/22	134/6	award [2] 23/6 86/18
152/7	22/22 22/23 26/12	8/12 35/8 46/8 49/2	attempt [1] 132/6	awarded [2] 23/0 80/18 awarded [2] 18/1
anyone [8] 9/22	33/3 34/14 34/20	54/24 69/24 74/2	attempted [1] 89/16	121/20
51/13 68/7 76/10	34/21 35/6 35/9 37/20	74/16 76/14 78/8	attempts [3] 3/3 42/1	aware [42] 11/8
88/20 118/5 119/14	38/10 38/14 39/2 39/3		132/13	11/12 15/6 21/7 31/1
153/15	39/4 40/3 40/4 42/8	82/13 83/19 92/23	attend [1] 12/2	32/18 43/19 47/7
anything [14] 8/10	42/24 46/16 47/16	103/25 125/24 132/17		49/11 51/8 57/2 57/25
32/20 35/11 53/12 62/21 75/20 76/9	47/17 50/3 50/25 54/3	139/1	105/14 131/6	58/17 58/20 65/23
93/22 94/7 104/9	54/25 56/9 57/2 60/6	asked [9] 34/9 37/1	attended [8] 10/3	67/14 67/16 67/25
123/1 123/12 123/19	61/7 68/7 70/22 72/7	37/1 54/21 81/17	10/7 11/14 11/17	68/8 68/10 68/20
153/23	72/9 72/16 74/10	82/18 82/23 142/10	12/13 18/13 125/13	73/16 85/14 92/4 92/7
anyway [5] 53/17	78/22 79/22 79/23	142/10	146/19	92/13 92/15 94/19
123/13 124/15 125/8	83/7 83/14 83/17 93/2		attendee [1] 106/4	104/15 105/2 111/21
140/10	93/17 94/11 95/2	74/10 139/2 139/17	attendees [3] 12/13	119/5 131/17 135/25
anywhere [1] 74/19	95/22 97/6 99/19	aspect [6] 26/9 26/11	18/17 106/3	136/5 136/15 152/12
apart [1] 10/9	100/6 102/19 105/14 105/25 109/17 118/4	46/10 66/6 71/4 146/22	attending [1] 30/8	152/18 152/23 153/1 153/15 153/18
apologies [2] 105/23	120/15 122/12 123/25		attention [8] 45/7 48/11 52/21 68/19	awareness [3] 33/3
105/24	127/22 128/14 131/6	21/21 23/19 67/23	87/13 100/5 137/11	41/23 142/11
apparent [2] 71/25	135/14 135/25 136/4	83/20 130/18 130/25	145/11	away [6] 13/11 35/4
				(42) Andrew - away

(42) Andrew - away

Α	4/20 8/25 9/22 10/21	before [35] 1/18 3/4	138/11 138/23 139/23	71/1
	13/13 13/25 14/4 14/7	11/18 33/10 36/21	140/16 152/7	Bob's [1] 34/8
away [4] 87/13 148/20 149/1 149/6	17/6 20/16 22/20	39/14 51/4 53/7 55/16	believed [1] 43/11	bolster [1] 7/14
	22/22 28/8 29/20	58/9 58/15 59/14	believing [1] 149/22	bolts [1] 86/13
В	30/12 36/23 37/6	59/16 61/9 62/12	below [1] 130/5	books [1] 48/2
BA [5] 23/5 29/6	37/11 40/9 40/12	72/23 73/12 75/4	beneficial [2] 25/6	Booth [18] 1/7 1/8
47/21 48/1 48/3	40/17 41/2 41/5 47/25	75/18 77/3 78/3 84/1	88/7	1/10 1/11 2/4 4/18 7/6
back [35] 17/14 20/5	48/1 50/18 53/8 54/4 54/17 57/21 57/23	102/18 102/21 103/24 111/24 113/25 115/15		46/7 67/12 69/24 70/12 71/1 73/21 74/2
25/22 26/25 27/12	58/20 65/4 69/1 69/21	116/12 125/24 127/14		76/14 80/14 80/16
27/14 27/18 27/20 28/2 28/14 28/16 37/2	70/10 71/9 72/3 72/12	131/18 132/13 139/1	benefits [29] 7/2	155/2
37/3 37/11 37/15	72/21 77/11 84/9	146/22	12/14 13/13 18/17	both [14] 5/14 7/2
38/15 38/16 39/10	89/10 90/11 95/9 97/1	beforehand [1]	25/21 26/4 26/8 27/9	19/4 25/6 26/25 47/20
47/16 53/3 60/13	99/18 100/12 109/8	129/17	76/18 76/24 76/25	48/18 84/4 102/17
61/10 74/17 91/6	109/9 112/18 113/4	began [2] 36/3 36/10	77/3 77/4 77/7 77/8	114/2 129/15 130/23
94/15 95/20 105/24	116/10 117/23 118/17	begin [1] 2/4	77/11 77/18 77/25	131/7 145/15
105/25 106/4 106/7	120/21 122/17 123/13 124/5 137/16	<b>benair [7]</b> 12/14 18/17 74/2 74/17	78/6 86/18 86/19 90/14 91/11 96/16	<b>bottom [14]</b> 13/6 67/12 70/25 106/8
111/17 129/11 131/17	becomes [2] 73/12	76/12 81/24 140/16	145/8 145/9 145/15	108/13 110/25 115/9
132/7 146/23	102/22	behaviour [4] 25/24	145/17 146/7	141/13 141/13 142/19
back-end [3] 25/22 27/14 27/20	been [136] 3/3 4/4	30/21 37/17 40/10	Bennett [1] 18/19	142/20 143/6 143/8
background [7] 2/5	5/18 7/1 11/21 15/1	behavioural [1]	beside [2] 13/15 77/9	143/8
43/5 51/14 71/9 71/12	15/3 17/9 20/6 22/11	120/23	best [9] 2/1 7/8 16/18	bound [1] 137/3
71/14 83/21	22/14 23/12 28/6	behaviours [3] 37/13		boundaries [3] 33/12
bad [2] 34/24 59/10	33/15 34/9 36/21 39/4	38/17 54/7	57/13 83/15 130/1	73/19 74/7
Baines [6] 60/5	42/16 42/18 42/18	behind [6] 20/12 21/2		boundary [1] 35/5
100/24 113/18 115/11	43/10 43/18 44/7 47/11 47/13 47/19	26/23 33/1 35/25 41/22	24/12 32/3 32/9 79/1 96/17 99/11 101/17	<b>box [3]</b> 13/16 13/19 63/7
115/20 121/6	47/20 47/21 49/9	being [62] 8/7 11/8	103/1 103/3 132/3	boxes [1] 86/14
balance [5] 39/11 41/8 94/13 94/19	49/15 49/22 51/12	11/9 15/21 30/12	between [28] 10/11	brackets [1] 70/25
118/11	54/20 54/21 56/19	31/17 32/21 34/24	16/11 16/13 16/15	Brain [1] 70/2
balanced [1] 44/1	56/24 57/8 57/22 58/1	35/18 43/24 44/1	39/19 73/1 74/7 91/21	branch [11] 3/2 8/22
balances [1] 115/24	58/18 58/20 58/22	44/19 44/24 45/3 45/4		8/23 9/1 26/16 26/20
balancing [5] 3/7	58/25 59/11 60/10	46/19 52/16 56/25	108/2 108/11 109/22	26/22 28/1 39/12 41/5
116/4 118/8 118/9	61/15 61/19 62/5 62/10 64/24 65/2	57/2 58/9 63/11 64/14 67/21 72/25 73/1	117/21 117/24 124/19 127/23 130/23 131/20	
118/11	65/15 66/19 67/1 69/4		133/18 135/2 135/5	4/5 4/9 4/11 4/11 9/17
bank [2] 39/10 84/6	69/20 69/25 70/2	84/15 84/20 86/6	141/7 148/7 148/14	24/23 24/25 44/9
banking [1] 39/7 bare [1] 11/1	71/10 71/13 72/11	88/14 90/20 91/24	150/14 151/4	50/22 54/24 72/15
base [1] 138/11	75/17 75/23 78/3 78/5	95/16 96/14 97/15	beyond [2] 93/13	breached [1] 121/23
based [15] 3/8 8/6	82/3 83/2 83/4 84/2	98/10 98/23 102/7	137/13	break [9] 36/15 45/22
22/19 52/14 60/3	84/3 85/17 87/12	112/21 116/3 118/11	bid [1] 17/3	46/3 51/4 81/2 111/24
82/22 88/17 137/14	90/10 91/17 92/15	120/7 120/8 127/12 127/14 129/18 131/23	big [3] 20/13 55/19	113/7 113/12 116/13
138/9 138/12 149/14	93/9 93/17 97/25 100/17 103/9 104/15	135/5 136/1 148/21	bigger [4] 4/11 4/14	breaking [2] 114/5 114/9
151/15 152/14 152/16 153/12	105/2 105/6 106/10	150/3 150/4 151/19	20/15 69/12	brief [3] 6/12 14/17
basic [2] 2/25 141/7	106/12 106/13 106/14		bill [2] 117/11 117/17	80/24
basically [4] 28/11		152/16 153/13 153/15		briefing [1] 62/2
48/16 64/4 135/7	109/21 111/19 111/21		117/13 117/14 117/17	briefly [2] 27/3 62/12
basis [10] 4/6 8/5	111/22 112/23 113/3	Belfast [2] 52/12	117/18 118/1	bring [20] 27/3 42/15
29/16 88/5 93/24 94/5	116/16 118/16 121/23 127/5 127/7 127/9		biometrics [1] 5/14	46/23 56/10 68/18 70/13 89/12 95/20
114/12 115/2 139/4	127/14 127/17 128/6	belief [3] 2/2 55/9 83/16	<b>bit [19]</b> 4/15 7/8 15/5 17/8 18/12 20/22	97/4 99/23 100/23
149/11	128/7 128/8 129/10	believe [40] 1/20	20/23 28/9 36/7 40/15	I I I
basket [1] 38/4 baton [4] 61/22 62/2	129/18 130/24 131/13		67/13 84/19 105/17	110/2 112/1 119/22
62/8 69/23	131/14 132/2 132/3	6/17 7/20 12/17 14/24	120/2 140/22 143/15	125/17 133/23 137/5
batons [1] 62/11	133/15 133/21 134/4	17/18 18/14 20/1	144/5 145/3 147/13	bringing [2] 58/3
be [244]	134/15 137/12 138/2	25/12 29/13 32/14	blamed [1] 93/21	113/16
Bearing [1] 58/23	138/4 139/2 140/1		blue [2] 54/3 120/25	broad [2] 109/1
bears [2] 62/24 70/5	144/3 144/6 145/14 146/16 146/20 147/2	63/9 69/8 72/3 73/22 80/21 90/24 92/20	Bluntly [1] 114/5 BMc [1] 108/15	117/6 broader [1] 101/18
became [3] 4/25	148/4 148/5 149/2	104/21 107/4 107/5	board [6] 45/3 47/25	broadly [2] 62/13
46/10 92/7 because [61] 3/15	150/4 152/7 153/11	107/8 116/6 116/7	84/8 97/6 97/18 99/8	128/1
Decause [01] 0/10	153/21	116/20 125/13 132/12		broken [1] 101/12
				(43) away - broken

(43) away... - broken

В	87/13 88/5 88/10	108/14 109/20 111/23	causes [3] 99/19	111/17 138/21
	88/15 90/9 90/18 91/8		137/1 138/6	chief [1] 11/5
brought [11] 6/19	94/2 95/11 96/7 99/1	113/16 115/19 116/10		Chinese [1] 29/15
7/14 52/21 58/8 66/3 92/23 98/1 103/2	101/9 103/10 104/6	121/4 125/1 125/7	44/14	chose [1] 84/18
103/20 104/1 133/5	106/14 107/11 107/20	125/10 125/24 130/21	caveat [1] 152/15	Chris [1] 60/6
Bruce [4] 108/15	109/13 109/15 110/23	133/5 134/5 136/17	cent [6] 34/9 112/21	Christmas [1] 133/18
121/7 146/18 146/21	114/4 114/6 114/11	137/4 137/5 139/1	116/11 116/19 118/15	Cipione [1] 79/17
<b>BSM [2]</b> 62/5 62/9	115/2 115/4 116/7	139/12 139/18 140/12		Cipione's [2] 78/8
bug [1] 57/22	117/6 117/17 120/7	140/23 141/5 141/11	central [3] 20/2 20/20	
bugs [1] 58/1	120/18 121/16 123/12	141/12 146/23 147/3	84/7	circle [1] 47/10
build [2] 57/21 58/9	123/18 126/10 126/20		centre [7] 19/4 19/13	circulated [1] 111/14
building [3] 11/12	127/3 128/3 129/13	can't [27] 22/6 22/7	20/4 26/4 28/2 41/6	circumstances [2]
29/8 29/10	129/23 130/5 132/8	23/11 23/16 40/1 42/7		74/22 145/24
builds [1] 57/8	132/12 132/15 135/3	42/14 50/4 57/18 59/3		civil [3] 152/13
built [2] 123/17	136/5 136/22 137/9	62/17 67/2 74/23	52/12	152/19 153/2
143/11	138/5 139/5 139/20	77/24 80/10 81/16	certain [6] 8/15 24/3	clarification [4] 8/12
bullet [8] 13/7 16/1	140/1 140/2 140/12	82/25 88/9 92/9 106/3		24/1 83/14 90/18
16/12 17/10 20/24	144/10 147/25 148/14	109/14 126/20 132/8	79/22	clarifications [1]
97/19 125/20 135/9	149/4 149/12	135/2 139/15 140/12	certainly [4] 1/15	90/16
bundle [1] 82/3	buying [2] 3/6 149/3	144/9	66/1 81/3 113/25	clarify [2] 33/8 82/16
Burdett [4] 59/25	buzz [1] 29/12	cancel [6] 95/24	certification [1]	clarifying [1] 13/5
133/14 133/24 147/7	С	95/24 96/5 96/5 96/10 124/11		classic [1] 120/24
bus [1] 126/22	<b>C6.7 [1]</b> 70/14		<b>cetera [13]</b> 26/22	classification [5]
business [33] 4/7 9/7	call [9] 1/7 8/18	cannot [3] 44/12 106/15 107/8	29/4 44/10 63/21 66/18 86/12 121/1	100/7 100/16 115/3 115/5 148/24
11/12 25/6 44/14	10/25 73/10 76/16	canteen [1] 29/4	122/12 123/16 126/8	classifications [1]
61/18 62/6 62/18	81/20 110/21 133/13	canvassed [1] 96/3	126/16 133/21 138/20	
62/20 69/16 85/13	145/3	capable [4] 134/22	chair [3] 1/14 7/7	classified [1] 98/10
87/23 88/8 93/11	called [16] 2/11 3/4	135/11 136/8 141/24	132/20	classify [1] 98/8
100/4 100/13 108/16	5/12 23/13 30/13 59/7	capture [1] 2/25	chaired [1] 96/1	clear [16] 34/15
109/1 109/4 109/4	60/15 90/11 91/14	captured [1] 28/2	chairing [2] 97/7	72/24 74/6 77/8 79/6
110/7 110/21 110/24	96/11 108/6 110/24	car [1] 34/21	132/21	80/8 86/8 94/2 101/14
111/1 111/8 113/4	126/14 144/4 146/2	card [7] 6/9 27/7 27/8		107/15 108/8 109/5
115/4 117/11 127/6	153/15	27/10 38/7 38/8 38/8	31/12	124/23 125/9 142/22
128/14 131/10 133/13 154/8	Calum [1] 111/2	Cardlink [1] 17/19	champion [8] 30/13	149/1
	came [9] 5/24 11/7	care [1] 137/11	48/14 110/7 110/10	clearance [1] 112/6
busy [1] 54/9 but [149] 3/7 4/15	23/15 28/12 29/6 72/3	career [1] 83/23	110/13 110/16 111/3	cleared [3] 57/22
4/22 5/21 8/19 9/23	82/20 117/7 127/10	carried [2] 27/25	111/5	91/25 153/7
10/10 13/11 14/25	can [121] 1/5 1/13	28/15	change [17] 50/7	clearer [1] 67/13
15/5 17/17 18/6 18/12	6/22 8/1 9/20 9/22	carry [5] 28/19 48/4	50/8 50/8 50/9 64/1	clearing [1] 53/7
19/20 21/8 22/10	10/12 12/12 12/23	71/4 85/20 101/19	64/8 64/10 76/19	clearly [2] 1/5 132/18
23/12 24/4 24/12	13/6 13/9 13/21 14/16	and a second sec	92/22 93/22 102/3	clerk [1] 56/1
24/23 25/12 28/11	15/10 15/13 15/25	case [2] 149/19		
29/7 29/16 30/3 30/7	16/5 18/25 19/25 20/12 20/16 20/17	153/6	127/25 128/25 129/9	client [5] 27/8 27/17
30/15 30/19 31/1 31/2	20/12 20/16 20/17 20/17 20/18 20/21 23/4 24/6	cases [2] 75/20	changed [9] 25/2	28/5 41/7 41/9
32/4 32/18 34/5 34/20	27/4 27/24 33/6 33/17		92/17 130/19 136/1	clients [4] 27/15
36/20 37/4 38/15	34/4 36/4 36/19 37/12	<b>cash [18]</b> 13/18 13/18 14/18 38/5 44/1	137/18 137/21 138/16	
38/17 39/9 39/12 40/4	38/2 38/17 39/8 39/8	62/25 78/25 94/11		<b>close [11]</b> 3/17 34/6 69/11 79/13 79/17
40/7 45/7 46/25 47/12	39/10 41/8 44/6 45/2	94/13 116/12 117/22	changes [6] 50/3 50/5 82/24 83/1 128/5	
48/11 48/18 49/15	46/5 46/6 46/20 47/3	117/23 126/18 131/20		150/13 150/19 150/23
49/21 50/1 50/23	49/23 49/25 50/1	131/20 135/5 135/12	changing [1] 94/4	closed [7] 35/25
51/13 55/2 55/7 55/12	51/15 51/16 54/15	135/24	characterisation [1]	41/22 62/10 62/14
55/21 56/9 56/20	54/23 55/15 57/11	cast [1] 103/15	15/17	62/22 78/22 79/22
56/25 57/11 57/17	59/12 60/5 60/12	catastrophic [1]	characterise [1]	closed/incapable [1]
59/10 59/13 60/4 60/7	60/13 60/18 60/20	39/25	30/21	78/22
62/17 63/4 63/14	60/25 61/2 62/23 63/7	catch [1] 20/12	charge [2] 67/11	closely [1] 110/23
63/23 64/5 64/7 65/6	64/4 68/15 70/24	categories [1] 39/24	86/17	closing [1] 61/11
65/24 66/11 67/2 70/10 71/21 71/24	75/20 78/8 80/8 81/19	categorisations [1]	charity [1] 31/2	closure [8] 61/13
72/12 72/25 73/22	82/7 89/10 94/25 95/6	40/22	chat [1] 81/9	61/14 61/17 61/22
74/24 76/21 77/24	95/19 98/1 99/10	categorise [1] 102/5	check [5] 34/8 38/18	62/22 69/14 69/15
78/19 79/16 80/4 83/1	102/10 102/11 102/13		41/8 122/11 135/14	69/16
83/19 85/15 86/6	102/23 104/19 105/25		check-step [1] 34/8	clue [1] 16/6
	106/4 107/9 107/12	caused [1] 116/4	Chesterfield [2]	<b>co [4]</b> 16/5 48/8
	1		1	

(44) brought - co

	comparison [2]	conduit [1] 48/18	concurred [4] 55/12	32/8
С	comparison [2] 135/2 135/3	confidence [6] 39/15	<b>consumed [4]</b> 55/13 55/14 55/15 55/15	convinced [1] 17/21
<b>co [2]</b> 89/22 140/16	Compatibility [1]	39/17 75/6 89/18	contact [4] 48/14	Coombs [1] 125/21
co-members [1] 16/5	13/7	96/20 120/20	71/10 71/13 76/20	COP [2] 148/6 148/9
co-operate [1] 89/22	compatible [1] 83/3	confident [6] 106/19	contain [1] 128/25	coped [1] 20/15
code [6] 31/14 34/5	completed [1]	120/12 120/14 120/17	contained [5] 11/20	copied [3] 60/6 132/9
36/7 92/2 126/14	121/21	120/18 122/8	44/3 65/19 103/4	
126/15	completely [3]	confined [1] 45/4	120/7	Copping [3] 125/6
coded [1] 34/9	137/18 137/21 138/16		containing [1] 44/12	125/12 125/13
codes [2] 37/12	completion [1] 95/3	41/1	contains [2] 60/7	copy [4] 42/17 56/19
37/15	complexity [1] 10/16		60/16	70/3 70/8
codified [7] 94/5 98/3	compliance [1] 6/9	confirms [2] 142/23	contend [1] 106/24	core [2] 73/23 148/6
141/2 141/4 142/14	compliant [1] 85/5	143/2	content [4] 2/1 81/3	corner [3] 8/25 143/9
143/11 143/13	component [7] 11/7	confusion [1] 82/22	97/15 150/10	147/4
coding [2] 33/23	20/2 25/10 41/16	conjunction [2]	contention [1] 67/9	correct [49] 1/21 2/8
34/12	42/11 50/15 84/10	110/17 110/18	contents [1] 83/14	2/9 2/13 2/16 2/21 5/2
cohesion [1] 16/13	components [1] 3/25		contested [1] 57/14	5/4 5/17 6/4 6/11 7/24
Colin [1] 23/13	composition [1] 6/23		context [3] 65/24	12/21 15/8 15/9 18/8
collaboration [1]	compromise [1] 24/1	13/17 101/15 131/19	91/1 95/22	23/7 27/1 27/10 27/22
3/17	computer [7] 2/11	conscious [1] 119/7	Contingency [1]	28/22 28/23 30/11
collaborative [2]	13/13 13/17 19/12	consequence [1]	42/20	31/15 34/10 37/18
30/24 31/5 collate [1] 12/4	58/5 84/4 152/20	55/22	continually [1]	37/22 37/23 38/11
colleagues [3] 25/3	computerisation [1]	consequences [1]	126/25	41/19 42/17 46/12
77/9 96/6	4/14	58/12	continue [6] 61/13	57/21 64/15 66/8
collect [2] 28/3 54/19	computerised [1]	consider [9] 35/1	96/12 106/18 124/22	66/23 70/3 74/13
column [4] 12/15	2/23	51/10 75/16 87/6	134/17 137/11	74/15 75/15 80/22
56/15 57/1 95/1	computers [4] 4/16	122/1 123/7 123/10	continued [2] 93/18	83/10 83/13 83/24
combination [1] 57/8	19/5 19/6 26/20	125/24 149/13	138/1	85/1 116/15 140/14
come [22] 9/8 9/9	concentrating [2]	considerable [3]	continuously [2] 5/4	154/10 154/11
18/11 20/11 25/5 34/7	9/13 78/4	115/25 136/25 143/14		corrected [1] 117/24
54/8 70/21 78/16	concept [1] 14/10	consideration [3] 4/1		correcting [1] 32/25
79/23 99/22 100/20	concern [9] 16/22	116/3 148/1	contract [14] 7/1	corrective [3] 107/11
103/23 108/8 111/13	16/23 18/6 59/7 71/8	considerations [1]	17/25 23/6 79/6 84/24	
112/18 118/20 118/21	71/17 105/9 127/16	66/20	89/23 91/1 93/9 95/25	
153/10 153/12 153/16	128/1	considered [6] 31/3	99/1 119/12 122/19	37/19 39/5 39/6 39/22
153/19	concerned [11]	33/15 116/18 118/9	124/10 150/20	40/15 73/3 100/12
coming [8] 38/14	16/20 18/13 27/21	123/12 137/22	contracted [2] 77/23	139/7
80/17 114/15 114/17	31/7 38/23 67/24 73/3		85/10	correlate [1] 17/17
125/9 127/17 136/24	109/7 127/22 145/21 145/23	118/6 119/15	contracting [3] 22/13 77/14 149/3	33/19
146/22		consistency [2] 94/12 150/15	contractor [1] 141/20	
comment [8] 16/7	concerning [1] 79/21 concerns [18] 17/23	consistent [5] 148/4	contractors [1] 77/18	
16/12 33/9 59/3 74/23	21/4 21/10 44/21	148/9 148/16 149/2	contracts [1] 93/22	17/17
79/11 80/10 118/23	53/15 53/24 59/4 68/3		contractual [11]	corruption [1] 54/16
commercial [5] 67/4	68/12 73/14 76/23	consistently [2]	21/21 29/24 35/4	cosh [1] 79/25
69/2 69/21 69/21	78/17 92/2 93/17	102/24 149/18	73/19 74/7 93/23 98/5	
103/14	104/11 108/13 127/21		119/5 121/19 124/20	cost [4] 64/10 96/11
commercially [1]	134/16	<b>consolidate [1]</b> 26/5	137/8	96/25 108/17
30/25	concluded [3] 45/8	<b>consortium [3]</b> 10/8	contrast [1] 24/18	costed [2] 31/3 64/25
committed [1] 79/4	80/8 80/9	11/18 16/15		could [113] 1/22 2/22
<b>common [6]</b> 3/19		constitute [1] 107/24		4/12 4/19 8/12 8/12
29/3 50/4 50/14 50/17 89/7	154/8	constrained [2] 26/2	127/16	10/25 11/10 12/9
	Concluding [1] 60/15	32/13	contributions [1]	13/13 13/17 13/18
commonly [1] 104/10 communicate [1]	conclusion [1] 79/18		79/3	19/21 20/22 22/20
68/3	conditional [8] 121/9		contributory [1]	22/23 27/3 28/16 29/5
communications [2]	121/14 122/15 123/20		106/14	31/20 31/20 33/7
9/17 123/1	124/1 124/13 124/14	consult [2] 61/17	control [6] 14/15	35/22 36/11 37/17
companies [5] 5/6	124/24	111/8	46/16 47/1 64/8	39/20 42/15 43/4
16/11 84/10 126/22	conditions [9] 28/24	consultancies [1]	106/20 134/22	46/23 50/20 50/24
130/23	36/16 37/5 37/8 37/10		controls [7] 46/9	51/7 52/4 55/1 56/10
company [3] 2/11	37/20 38/18 123/22	consultation [1]	49/5 49/7 49/18 49/24	56/16 57/13 59/9
15/19 16/25	123/23	80/24	51/19 51/23	59/24 63/5 65/15
compare [1] 135/12	conduct [2] 30/21	consulted [1] 89/2	convenient [1] 45/21	70/13 71/23 73/11
	109/3	consume [1] 55/15	conversations [1]	81/24 82/12 85/15
L	I	l	1	(45) cocould

(45) co... - could

С	91/14 92/4 137/1	date [7] 105/1 106/15	10/15 38/19	93/6
	Criminal [1] 141/25		defer [2] 89/10 98/25	design [19] 23/19
<b>could [66]</b> 85/20 87/12 88/19 91/3	criteria [19] 22/16	147/3 150/5	deferred [1] 87/25	26/24 27/6 33/14
91/25 92/23 92/24	53/3 61/15 98/18	dated [10] 1/17 42/25	deficiency [2] 45/6	33/24 34/2 34/6 42/23
92/25 93/1 94/8 95/20	101/2 101/4 101/12	44/3 47/3 48/8 63/9	69/22	89/17 89/25 90/25
97/3 97/7 97/17 98/23	101/21 101/22 110/14	82/5 93/4 110/4	define [1] 111/6	93/8 122/11 128/22
98/25 99/23 100/4	111/6 119/20 122/2	113/18	defined [4] 9/6 56/14	131/1 131/11 131/18
100/14 100/23 101/13	122/14 123/4 134/14	dates [1] 104/14	98/17 110/14	132/4 144/4
101/14 101/23 102/16	143/18 144/14 148/12	Dave [18] 86/20	defining [2] 23/23	designed [2] 95/10
103/4 103/22 103/25	criterion [1] 144/14	86/22 91/7 96/1 97/25	99/20	95/11
105/11 105/12 105/17	critical [3] 15/15	104/18 111/17 111/21	definitely [5] 73/11	designers [1] 33/22
105/21 105/22 107/2	127/8 127/9	113/2 114/25 123/6	87/17 96/18 111/12	designing [1] 10/23
108/12 109/10 110/1	criticism [2] 4/23	138/19 139/9 139/13	111/15	designs [5] 31/14
110/4 110/25 112/3	83/11	139/23 139/25 139/25	definition [6] 98/16	33/13 33/17 33/19
116/20 119/3 119/16	cross [1] 35/5	140/3	98/17 99/11 101/12	34/14
119/22 119/22 120/2	crossed [1] 33/12	Dave's [1] 96/3	147/22 147/24	desire [1] 80/1
120/25 123/10 125/17	<b>CS [1]</b> 79/4	David [7] 105/5	degradation [1]	desk [4] 13/12 102/8
125/19 130/1 130/3	cure [1] 108/5	111/19 115/20 119/24		102/10 149/22
132/16 132/24 133/23	current [5] 19/7 58/4	121/7 121/10 125/3	degree [4] 2/7 75/3	detail [8] 4/18 27/24
136/12 136/19 137/22	58/9 108/21 128/22	day [15] 11/22 16/4	118/3 126/23	36/4 62/17 75/11
138/1 141/3 148/8	currently [1] 62/10	25/4 40/17 41/9 54/2	delay [1] 93/15	101/13 111/22 144/5
148/16 148/20 148/25	customer [8] 14/8		<i><i>J</i> <b>L</b> 1</i>	detailed [4] 13/24
151/10 153/16 153/18	16/19 16/24 17/3	77/8 77/8 139/4 139/4		65/19 80/16 131/2
couldn't [12] 34/23	40/18 73/7 99/8	154/14	123/10 137/25 139/5	details [4] 74/13
35/2 36/15 37/7 37/8	108/24	day's [2] 20/11 28/4	150/9 151/19 152/10	75/13 75/19 108/19
37/9 40/10 40/11	customers [3]	days [3] 44/18 72/14	deliver [6] 3/19 17/24	detect [3] 70/16
54/10 87/16 117/14	108/17 109/17 126/22		18/4 18/5 27/15 28/13	
136/5	cut [1] 96/14	de [1] 84/11	delivery [4] 18/3 18/8	
Council [2] 38/8 38/9	cutting [1] 4/17	de-merger [1] 84/11	128/16 128/24	70/20 135/12
counsel [2] 80/24	cycle [2] 33/21 34/24		demand [1] 134/6	detecting [2] 134/23
125/14	D	deal [7] 24/16 59/18	demonstrable [1]	135/11
counter [17] 3/1 3/16	danger [1] 98/22	103/22 111/23 129/3	16/8	detrimental [1] 87/15
6/2 7/23 9/1 9/3 12/15	data [91] 9/18 19/4	142/16 146/22	demonstrate [1] 22/16	develop [1] 77/21
23/5 24/17 24/21	19/13 20/4 26/3 28/2	dealing [7] 19/2 19/15 47/8 68/19		developed [8] 3/15 75/2 106/13 106/21
25/23 27/17 28/1	41/6 43/11 43/13 44/4		demonstration [2] 7/12 7/23	108/11 129/18 134/25
37/13 41/6 41/10	44/8 44/13 44/24	dealings [2] 60/1	demonstrator [7] 9/4	144/11
57/20	49/20 50/2 50/14	60/4	10/2 10/14 18/13	developer [2] 88/7
counterpart [1]	50/24 50/25 51/2	dealt [3] 67/21	21/15 84/17 86/2	89/9
129/19	51/15 51/16 51/17	142/17 144/24	denial [1] 54/12	developing [2] 25/22
counters [26] 2/17	52/1 52/12 57/1 67/15		denied [1] 17/9	87/14
3/18 3/21 3/23 4/24	67/22 68/11 68/20	96/19	department [4] 66/10	
6/21 7/3 7/3 18/18	69/3 75/18 82/21 83/3		144/25 145/2 146/10	2/19 23/19 25/15
20/4 20/18 27/21	83/8 99/9 99/16	December [1] 42/13	dependent [1] 37/15	26/24 32/17 32/23
29/21 36/2 47/17	104/22 109/6 109/7	December 1998 [1]	depending [2] 31/23	35/25 41/22 42/2 42/4
48/21 50/22 51/11	109/12 119/4 119/15	42/13	37/13	42/4 42/24 84/6 89/18
56/15 59/5 59/20	122/11 125/16 125/23	decision [11] 17/1	depends [1] 118/25	112/22 128/15 131/4
60/10 61/3 63/13 65/8	125/25 126/6 126/8	17/2 110/19 112/20	deploy [2] 26/12	diagnosed [1] 106/15
73/15	126/9 126/12 126/13	115/2 116/14 116/17	26/13	dial [1] 12/5
Counters' [2] 31/18	126/16 126/17 126/18	118/13 124/11 125/6	depth [1] 32/18	dialogue [1] 22/11
35/17	126/19 126/24 126/25		Derby [5] 126/3	Dicks [4] 103/18
County [2] 38/8 38/9	127/4 127/8 127/9	decision-making [5]	126/4 128/15 129/15	106/2 106/6 125/21
<b>couple [4]</b> 10/9 85/13	127/10 127/23 127/24			did [86] 8/19 10/25
120/21 147/21	128/5 128/7 128/14	116/17 118/13	describe [8] 2/22	11/5 14/11 14/22 16/9
course [7] 19/16 23/14 46/24 79/16	128/23 128/24 129/4	declared [2] 36/1	6/22 8/1 27/24 29/2	16/10 23/24 24/18
91/8 99/22 136/11	129/6 129/9 129/15	79/7	46/20 97/8 152/10	25/11 28/12 29/7 29/9
Court [3] 153/3 153/5	130/6 130/19 131/10	decline [1] 38/16	described [17] 6/21	29/16 29/19 31/16
153/6	131/19 131/21 131/22		7/17 23/20 24/16 26/9	31/22 32/1 32/3 32/3
cover [1] 32/4	132/7 132/7 132/18	defect [4] 52/22	26/11 28/19 30/8	32/5 33/11 35/1 36/22
covering [1] 142/2	133/16 134/20 135/4	52/23 52/25 67/3	37/20 41/12 46/17	39/7 39/17 41/25 42/5
Crahan [1] 86/19	135/11 135/18 136/13		47/1 48/15 60/8 97/6	49/18 51/24 52/1 52/6
Craig [1] 111/3	138/9 138/11 143/3	35/18 36/1 53/9 71/24		52/7 59/4 59/10 59/25
created [4] 84/10	145/11	72/3 91/21 92/1	describes [1] 110/6	66/12 68/3 71/17
	database [1] 51/18	defensive [3] 9/21	description [2] 27/4	73/14 83/25 84/2 85/2
l				(46) could did

(46) could... - did

D	discovered [1] 70/22	75/16 76/2 80/20 85/7	21/12 22/21 22/22	132/24 133/5 136/22
	discovery [1] 18/2	87/6 91/2 94/1 94/3	22/23 29/16 34/1 35/9	138/20 139/9 140/12
did [43] 85/15	discrepancies [7]	94/16 96/17 101/7	38/6 40/11 48/20	147/9 147/11
85/17 85/24 86/15	78/25 116/12 117/22	103/25 104/4 104/7	49/15 50/7 52/11 73/5	down-grade [1]
86/22 88/3 88/20	135/7 135/18 135/25	105/14 110/17 110/18		115/1
89/22 89/25 90/6	136/9	112/9 112/25 114/6	111/8 133/15	downgrade [1]
90/22 91/2 91/11	discrepancy [2]	114/7 114/21 115/5	domain [2] 45/10	107/20
93/22 96/5 96/20	117/5 117/23	116/2 116/17 117/20	75/12	downgrading [1]
100/3 102/6 102/8	discuss [4] 15/11	118/15 120/24 121/13	DOMINIC [3] 81/21	106/25
103/5 103/6 103/13	30/10 52/8 100/20	125/7 127/12 128/10	82/1 155/6	downrate [1] 107/9
105/8 108/4 116/24	discussed [9] 21/16	128/18 129/21 130/12	don't [90] 9/8 9/10	downscale [1] 114/3
122/1 122/15 123/7	62/5 86/25 93/21 99/6	130/15 132/2 133/1	14/7 14/25 15/22	dozen [1] 90/13
123/10 124/2 126/4	104/3 105/19 111/15	133/3 133/7 134/9	17/16 21/25 23/3	draft [3] 63/24 85/12
128/1 130/18 131/23	111/16	134/24 139/12 141/1	32/25 36/18 36/20	91/7
137/9 138/3 138/11	discussing [3] 24/14	143/22 143/24 144/1	37/3 38/16 41/13	drafted [5] 85/8
139/6 139/22 139/24	93/17 102/2	144/21 145/3 150/24	41/22 45/16 45/17	85/15 85/17 132/9
149/20 152/24 153/7	discussion [6] 65/2	152/7 152/11	45/18 46/19 46/22	143/18
didn't [38] 10/16 12/6	107/23 112/24 112/25		49/3 53/8 55/6 55/11	drafting [4] 85/11
13/11 34/22 35/14	116/6 116/8	30/13 30/17 30/18	55/13 55/22 56/19	130/12 131/13 146/13
38/21 42/1 42/3 56/1	discussions [5]	42/15 46/24 48/7 48/8		drag [1] 71/12
58/10 72/22 74/18	112/19 112/20 123/6	48/14 48/14 49/13	67/25 68/9 68/24	draw [2] 33/11 65/13
74/25 75/13 85/12	130/23 139/22	49/14 50/4 60/14	69/23 70/10 73/10	drawer [1] 13/15
85/12 87/17 88/15	disjoint [1] 16/10	60/14 61/9 62/24	74/22 75/19 76/9	drive [4] 8/23 20/10
90/24 90/24 96/16	disjointed [1] 18/6	62/25 66/5 69/25 70/3		136/21 136/22
99/2 115/8 122/10	dismiss [1] 74/20	70/6 70/9 70/13 71/6	80/15 82/25 88/5 88/7	driven [1] 48/1
122/14 122/22 123/3	dismissed [1] 74/3	71/11 92/23 94/8	88/25 89/8 91/4 91/9	drop [1] 13/19
123/17 124/5 129/3	diananaa [2] 12/18	95/19 97/4 97/18 98/1	94/17 101/9 103/14	dropped [3] 77/3
132/12 139/22 143/25	12/10	104/19 105/11 108/12		77/20 77/25
153/10 153/12 153/16	dispenser [2] 13/10	109/20 111/23 111/24		
153/19 153/22	13/16	114/24 115/9 116/9	111/21 114/11 114/17	
difference [6] 73/1	distinguish [3] 86/8	116/10 119/8 128/15	114/24 116/7 116/24	57/3 89/23 93/7 99/22
76/22 117/20 149/21	124/19 151/4	128/17 130/4 130/21	118/18 118/19 119/18	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
150/18 151/4	distinguished [1] 9/3	132/5 132/16 133/5	119/21 121/16 128/12	
differences [2] 135/4	distinguishing [1]	134/9 141/5 143/13	128/19 129/13 129/23	
150/14	83/7	143/14 143/21 144/5	130/14 132/11 133/2	142/7
different [12] 8/21	distracted [1] 87/4	144/17 144/19 146/25		during [25] 4/25 6/13
9/2 10/10 24/8 29/13	distribute [1] 53/16	147/1 147/4 147/6	136/6 136/19 138/11	19/16 22/25 23/9
34/22 37/12 85/25	distributed [2] 19/4	150/11	140/1 140/11 146/12	23/19 23/24 26/24
97/11 117/3 126/12	19/23	documentation [8]	149/7 149/24 150/21	29/1 30/4 30/22 35/19
	distribution [6] 9/11	17/11 30/11 52/20	152/25	42/5 43/8 52/7 61/19
differently [1] 40/6	28/5 46/14 47/4 48/10	60/24 90/1 91/3	done [17] 22/5 35/11	72/7 84/11 86/2 99/2
difficult [5] 17/13	104/9	131/11 132/4	36/25 39/21 41/2	103/7 118/5 148/6
31/10 31/25 96/23 124/3	diverse [2] 8/20 8/21	documented [1] 83/5	41/10 42/3 51/1 51/6	148/9 148/16
	diversion [1] 87/7	documents [28] 7/10	51/22 62/10 63/25	
difficulty [1] 145/17 direct [5] 3/21 60/1	diverting [1] 35/9	7/21 8/6 17/13 17/16	64/8 68/22 68/23	<u>E</u>
86/23 89/1 117/15	divided [1] 29/3	30/12 30/14 31/21	71/14 73/11	E2E [1] 95/3
direction [3] 33/22	divisions [1] 17/4	32/1 32/5 42/18 46/15	door [2] 29/11 40/2	each [9] 55/9 55/17
142/5 143/2	do [115] 1/17 1/19	47/12 48/13 48/16	doors [2] 35/25	64/6 64/20 69/9 97/15
directly [10] 2/24 4/5	1/23 1/25 2/24 2/25	49/5 53/14 76/21 82/3		126/14 139/19 144/14
4/8 24/23 58/16 67/1	3/13 4/1 4/17 6/15	89/17 134/2 140/3	doubt [2] 16/18	earlier [22] 24/14
67/24 89/6 97/23	7/19 10/7 10/25 11/18		135/13	42/22 48/17 58/23
112/19	13/2 14/5 16/5 17/7	146/15 146/23 147/2	down [47] 4/19 6/17	60/22 66/16 69/15
director [1] 97/22	17/11 17/17 18/19	does [29] 7/12 7/14	15/13 15/25 20/21	94/2 95/15 104/21
disagree [2] 80/4	19/6 19/7 19/9 19/9	13/23 18/9 21/4 38/3	20/23 25/4 27/12	116/23 119/9 124/11
149/24	22/25 24/2 26/13 31/2	38/3 38/7 39/13 43/16		124/12 126/7 129/2
disagreement [3]	33/9 34/13 36/18 37/7	45/18 57/9 61/25	53/6 56/16 57/15	132/3 132/3 132/4
64/24 100/11 151/1	37/10 38/4 38/4 40/5	62/13 63/4 64/2 64/19		133/25 140/25 143/20
disagreements [1]	40/6 43/1 45/10 49/1	69/12 71/3 75/25	62/19 69/11 78/12	earliest [1] 128/16
98/7	49/25 50/19 51/7 52/5	94/18 95/16 95/18	90/13 95/19 95/22	early [10] 31/24 81/4
disappear [1] 25/4	52/6 52/18 53/12	98/11 114/9 120/10	98/1 101/12 105/11	81/4 89/16 89/20 96/2
disappointing [1]	53/21 54/16 55/2 56/1	120/11 131/8 144/24	105/17 107/3 108/14	103/19 113/21 129/17 135/4
59/13	56/6 57/13 59/21	doesn't [2] 36/24	109/20 111/22 111/23	easier [1] 24/5
discover [1] 19/11	59/23 61/5 64/5 66/8	43/17	115/1 116/10 120/2 124/4 125/1 125/19	easily [1] 65/15
	70/8 72/1 72/22 74/17		124/4 123/1 123/19	
				(47) did easily

(47) did... - easily

E	encashment [4]	15/11 25/12 25/15	every [3] 35/8 88/8	expecting [3] 33/2
ECCO [8] 2/20 2/22	145/10 146/2 146/3	42/11 42/21 86/12	149/19	65/8 67/5
2/23 3/8 3/10 3/14 4/2	146/5	91/14 91/21 92/2 92/12 92/16 92/22	everybody [2] 4/16 81/8	expended [1] 77/13
24/15	encouraged [1] 8/22 end [55] 1/23 25/22	127/4 131/18 131/19	everyone [7] 73/16	experience [10] 24/22 24/22 29/21
edge [1] 4/17	26/25 27/1 27/6 27/12	135/10	94/24 111/10 138/19	29/22 38/2 38/12
educated [1] 49/16	27/14 27/20 28/13	equal [1] 135/14	138/21 138/21 139/3	50/12 83/25 137/10
education [1] 2/6	28/14 28/16 28/16	equalling [1] 56/17	everything [5] 11/25	140/20
effect [7] 13/23 16/13 31/16 45/15 71/4	36/22 37/17 38/1	equivalent [1] 142/2	31/3 96/15 98/24	experienced [5]
87/15 106/12	38/12 38/22 38/24	error [6] 30/6 116/11	136/2	43/10 43/25 45/3
effective [1] 31/18	38/24 39/12 39/12	117/1 117/10 117/22	evidence [43] 19/21	72/21 73/1
effectively [17] 3/15	39/18 39/18 40/17	118/15	21/9 24/14 39/20 65/9	
13/16 13/19 15/1	41/4 41/8 41/8 41/9	errors [20] 40/19 40/20 43/24 89/21	67/17 68/16 70/19	32/17 151/24
17/25 22/13 25/4	41/10 41/11 41/18 41/18 42/6 42/6 42/11	106/21 106/23 107/7	74/6 74/16 74/24 75/13 75/22 80/13	experiment [1] 14/2 expert [11] 30/15
25/24 30/16 38/1	42/11 43/8 43/8 44/14	107/12 107/25 116/4	80/18 82/2 83/18 89/3	
40/16 42/3 45/12 54/9	44/17 55/18 73/7	117/8 117/19 118/19	90/4 90/8 91/13 92/10	1 1
54/14 56/11 64/14	78/23 82/20 85/6 91/6	124/8 127/10 135/11	92/21 98/2 98/10	111/2 111/2 111/9
effort [4] 77/13 96/12	91/6 95/4 95/4 96/14	135/18 136/13 136/21	104/20 106/17 114/13	111/9
103/17 103/17 efforts [2] 21/5 32/5	99/12 121/9 127/3	136/25	115/16 116/12 116/22	
eight [1] 8/4	131/5 133/16	escalated [1] 91/4	119/2 119/9 121/1	25/1
either [8] 3/21 49/10	end' [1] 95/2	escape [1] 96/7	124/6 135/22 139/3	experts [2] 48/24
67/1 87/25 92/15	end-user [1] 38/12	Escher [5] 11/6	140/24 141/25 142/12	
92/17 93/14 124/8	endemic [1] 51/9	11/15 12/20 15/23 16/4	143/16 150/4 153/8	EXPG0000001 [1] 78/10
election [1] 3/22	ending [1] 96/16 endness [1] 41/4	escort [1] 29/12	evidentially [4] 63/19 65/22 141/23 142/25	explain [10] 19/25
electricity [2] 84/7	endorsement [1]	especially [3] 17/3	ex [3] 3/16 24/21	27/6 33/18 36/4 44/6
117/16	97/22	51/3 53/23	140/19	45/18 71/13 100/14
electronic [3] 2/19	engage [2] 8/4 30/17	essence [1] 135/16	ex-counter [2] 3/16	124/17 126/20
7/5 147/3	engaged [1] 139/4	essential [2] 98/18	24/21	explained [3] 10/6
element [1] 65/2 elements [3] 19/14	engagement [1]	131/1	ex-subpostmasters	26/25 28/18
38/11 100/2	17/18	essentially [4] 28/15	<b>[1]</b> 140/19	explaining [1] 61/16
elicit [2] 21/11 32/1	engineer [2] 58/11	84/8 139/6 152/14	exactly [7] 37/24	explanation [5]
else [4] 12/1 76/9	120/22		79/1 79/12 88/4 101/9 135/2 139/8	
76/10 123/1	engineer's [1] 58/3 engineering [1] 2/7	68/10 estate [5] 4/14 9/19	example [7] 19/15	144/15 151/16 explanations [1]
else's [1] 97/24	enlarge [2] 141/11	19/4 19/12 54/22	19/17 67/22 68/6	103/3
elsewhere [3] 36/14	141/12	et [13] 26/22 29/4	102/11 102/20 111/1	explicit [1] 135/14
42/3 49/12	enough [8] 20/9	44/10 63/21 66/18	examples [1] 70/23	expose [1] 49/11
email [11] 59/25 60/5 60/7 61/15 100/23	34/15 49/24 72/22	86/12 121/1 122/12	exchange [4] 8/3	exposed [2] 17/5
110/2 113/17 115/20	72/23 73/5 74/19 75/3	123/16 126/8 126/16	12/5 14/15 103/11	132/1
125/17 133/23 147/8	enquiries [1] 50/19	133/21 138/20	exclusions [2] 100/3	exposing [1] 29/25
emails [1] 12/5	enquiry [1] 39/11	et cetera [13] 26/22	100/6	exposure [2] 72/17
emerged [1] 89/2	Enrolment [1] 5/13	29/4 44/10 63/21 66/18 86/12 121/1	exclusively [1] 78/4	75/3
emerging [1] 85/5	ensure [9] 1/13 61/25 85/4 95/2 97/13 131/3	122/12 123/16 126/8	execute [1] 40/24 Executive [1] 66/7	expressed [2] 15/15 139/13
eminent [1] 77/5	134/22 141/20 142/23	126/16 133/21 138/20		expressing [1] 140/9
emphasised [1]	ensuring [2] 28/15	ethos [1] 89/5	101/1 101/7 102/3	extend [1] 19/15
108/16 employed [3] 5/9 6/5	112/6	evaluation [6] 6/19	exercised [1] 52/9	extending [1] 4/2
30/9	entail [1] 23/25	7/16 21/17 22/15 32/1	exhausted [1] 39/20	extent [8] 17/23
employee [1] 5/19	entered [1] 98/3	84/16	exist [1] 88/3	35/18 51/24 52/2 52/8
employees [2] 47/18	entire [1] 143/13	even [12] 20/4 24/8	existed [1] 88/4	54/12 91/9 111/19
92/10	entirely [1] 79/18	55/6 73/4 75/10 76/4	existing [3] 101/2	external [4] 5/6 95/23
employer [1] 30/5	entitled [6] 30/5 42/20 48/7 62/25 70/2	118/22 120/20 123/3 129/17 138/11 138/14	117/25 134/17	95/24 107/14 extract [1] 21/5
employment [1]	130/4	evening [1] 12/2	exit [1] 96/17	extraordinary [1]
152/3	entries [1] 79/13	event [2] 124/20	expand [2] 123/10	129/24
emulate [1] 38/17	entry [5] 13/4 13/21	137/8	137/22	extreme [2] 114/4
emulation [1] 37/16 emulator [2] 37/14	39/18 41/18 60/25	events [1] 45/14	expanded [1] 144/2	114/14
37/16	environment [6] 10/1	eventual [3] 7/1 55/5	expect [5] 9/8 15/19	eyed [1] 50/5
emulators [1] 38/13	34/16 39/5 39/6 41/2	65/11	34/6 37/10 125/8	eyes [1] 50/6
enable [3] 43/13	72/19	eventually [1] 97/2	expectation [1] 52/3	F
50/18 66/2	environments [1] 9/2 EPOS [17] 9/13	ever [4] 4/19 52/7 86/22 136/20	expected [4] 51/5 71/3 101/21 136/20	face [4] 30/9 30/9
		SOILL IOUILO		
				(48) ECCO - face

(48) ECCO - face

F	fed [2] 27/16 28/2	FirstDirect [1] 84/6	fortunate [1] 15/2	function [6] 26/23
face [2] 30/17 60/6		firstly [4] 82/7 95/1	Fortunately [1] 13/9	34/7 46/20 66/2 118/9
facilitate [1] 132/22	feedback [1] 72/20	97/4 114/8	forum [6] 66/14	145/13
facilities [1] 29/4	feeder [6] 82/16	fit [1] 26/22	66/16 66/19 69/6	functional [4] 144/7
facility [1] 79/4	82/19 82/23 83/1 83/9 83/11	fitted [2] 24/11 25/7	69/21 92/8 forward [10] 14/12	144/10 144/22 144/24 functions [1] 28/19
facing [1] 40/18	feel [5] 8/25 9/14	five [3] 84/16 101/22	66/20 71/4 103/2	Fundamental [1]
fact [10] 44/2 51/7	22/19 76/2 89/25	101/23	103/18 103/20 153/10	
98/25 99/10 102/11	feet [1] 11/1	fix [14] 19/23 43/12	153/13 153/16 153/19	
107/7 109/13 144/7	felt [4] 71/15 76/22	58/5 58/5 59/12 88/8	found [7] 29/17 36/12	
144/23 150/2	96/15 124/22	88/18 91/25 106/10	59/11 69/22 71/20	further [20] 17/10
factor [1] 35/4 factors [3] 21/20	Feltham [7] 28/22	106/17 106/20 107/6	119/19 152/9	18/14 20/22 20/23
35/3 66/18	29/2 47/11 47/18	107/25 108/1	four [5] 29/3 50/5	27/12 27/24 35/16
facts [1] 80/6	47/19 52/7 90/13	fixed [4] 10/17 58/2	89/15 95/21 121/8	38/23 43/6 43/22
FAD [1] 126/14	few [5] 2/5 18/23	115/25 120/13	fourth [2] 16/12 97/5	61/21 73/21 78/22
fail [2] 94/19 101/14	78/12 91/13 149/16	fixes [4] 44/19 51/4	franchisees [1] 4/7	78/24 92/21 108/6
failed [1] 101/14	field [2] 48/24 72/25	87/24 89/6	frank [1] 103/11	120/2 125/19 138/23 143/25
failing [1] 96/13	figure [3] 116/19 118/20 118/21	flavour [2] 10/10 10/12	Frankie [4] 141/3 142/21 143/7 151/11	future [1] 128/6
failure [16] 36/16	figures [4] 149/11	flaw [1] 40/1	fraud [25] 46/12	
37/5 37/8 37/10 37/20	149/12 150/1 150/1	flexibility [1] 115/7	46/17 47/5 47/9 48/2	G
38/18 40/25 98/17	file [5] 44/18 44/20	flip [1] 11/2	48/22 63/23 65/12	gain [3] 8/9 89/17
147/11 147/23 147/25 148/4 148/9 148/16	55/12 55/12 106/22	floor [1] 140/11	65/17 66/16 66/18	93/10
149/2 149/4	files [4] 43/25 44/2	flops [1] 11/3	67/19 69/7 137/16	gained [1] 75/5
failures [5] 38/13	44/12 51/5	focus [6] 13/1 18/25	138/8 145/10 145/18	gas [1] 83/23
70/17 70/19 70/24	final [6] 13/6 14/16	25/18 25/18 69/9	145/19 145/21 145/22	gather [2] 19/21
71/19	20/24 44/18 56/15	92/25	145/23 146/2 146/4	121/2
fair [7] 6/3 15/17 49/7	59/17	focused [7] 6/2 18/7	146/5 151/16	gave [4] 22/20 22/21
65/12 73/6 107/18	finalised [1] 12/7	18/7 86/11 99/13	Fred [1] 34/12	120/20 133/18 general [8] 6/24
143/15	finally [7] 6/5 12/20 58/15 69/24 84/18	99/14 99/15 Folkes [11] 7/20	freeze [1] 54/2 freezes [4] 104/12	10/10 17/11 47/11
fairly [8] 15/15 15/18	137/4 138/15	12/14 15/7 15/7 70/1	109/2 109/8 120/4	112/15 137/23 141/15
44/21 83/5 104/10	finance [3] 4/25 6/22	70/11 85/22 85/24	freezing [2] 54/5	149/19
120/10 146/25 149/21	6/25	96/6 146/20 146/21	109/10	generally [11] 24/23
fall [1] 64/19	financial [2] 21/21	follow [3] 22/10 40/6	French [1] 60/6	32/12 33/21 34/2
fallacy [1] 96/12 false [1] 138/9	117/7	71/3	frequency [2] 54/5	39/22 40/7 50/25 51/5
familiar [3] 7/12 56/8	financials [1] 115/23		108/20	72/9 72/10 138/17
66/11	find [9] 34/20 50/18		frequently [3] 95/7	generated [1] 101/6
far [12] 15/6 18/12	50/24 55/4 59/11	78/1 83/22 102/3	99/5 100/17	generating [1] 84/8
27/20 33/1 38/22	71/23 103/5 142/18	106/7 133/9 134/19	Friday [1] 12/7	generation [1] 26/13
72/18 72/18 91/18	150/25	154/14 follows [2] 6/12 36/6	friend [2] 143/19 151/12	Geoff [5] 126/3 126/4 128/15 129/15 129/18
106/11 121/19 143/21	findings [1] 11/20 fine [5] 45/23 58/5	force [8] 37/6 37/8	front [10] 1/16 8/19	get [50] 8/25 11/2
148/10	107/3 113/10 140/15	37/9 91/15 91/20	26/25 27/6 28/13	13/17 14/6 15/3 17/8
fast [1] 112/6	finish [1] 151/3	91/25 92/15 121/11	28/16 37/17 57/24	17/13 18/24 26/20
fast-track [1] 112/6	finished [3] 5/11	forget [1] 122/12	58/13 82/3	27/15 29/23 31/20
faster [1] 91/24 fault [5] 19/22 19/23	133/8 151/13	forgive [8] 42/10	front-end [1] 27/6	32/3 32/3 32/24 34/3
39/24 39/25 59/11	firm [1] 15/21	53/19 63/7 64/22	FUJ00000071 [1]	34/4 34/10 34/18
faults [6] 19/15 19/20	first [42] 3/2 6/13	65/18 66/15 68/10	141/2	34/22 35/8 35/11 36/7
40/3 73/5 87/24 89/5	10/11 19/2 23/20	80/22	FUJ00001493 [1]	36/18 36/23 37/3
feature [7] 45/18	26/13 32/24 33/16	forgotten [1] 82/19	46/23	39/10 39/20 42/2 50/1 58/7 59/8 67/12 72/14
46/14 52/24 135/10	34/4 34/10 35/3 44/2	form [5] 12/7 13/20	Fujitsu [13] 18/22 26/15 28/21 29/7 29/8	72/19 72/20 79/24
136/2 136/8 136/12	45/12 63/11 73/24 76/14 80/3 82/18	58/21 104/2 104/5 forma [1] 104/4	37/6 64/5 76/20 76/21	80/1 89/10 96/24 97/1
features [5] 47/5	84/16 92/7 93/5 95/6	formal [1] 71/16	137/15 138/12 151/15	101/17 115/25 120/9
78/19 79/24 101/15		formalised [1] 83/2	152/17	130/17 132/13 136/21
123/25	104/14 108/3 109/22	formally [1] 60/10	fulfilled [2] 24/13	146/6 149/5 153/6
February [2] 79/7 94/20	121/8 127/21 131/16	format [3] 11/22 14/2		gets [2] 58/8 72/17
94/20 February 1999 [1]	134/21 135/9 140/15	14/14	full [8] 1/10 43/13	getting [10] 9/12 26/3
94/20	141/4 141/6 141/8	forms [2] 104/4	78/14 78/15 81/25	31/5 31/8 65/4 72/16
February 2000 [1]	144/3 145/7 152/12	104/8	103/11 121/11 130/24	73/17 148/20 149/1
79/7	152/18 152/20	forthcoming [1] 21/9	Fuller [1] 108/19	150/8 give [20] 1/10 8/10
February.' [1] 78/24	first-hand [2] 80/3 131/16	fortress [2] 8/18 13/11	fully [3] 3/19 68/8 122/10	8/13 10/12 14/4 26/6
				(49) face give

(49) face... - give

G	got [24] 15/22 16/6	71/9 75/2 77/6 77/6	40/23 40/23 41/6	131/25 136/4 137/7
give [14] 37/14	20/9 32/4 36/22 36/24		46/25 51/13 51/20	143/7 146/3 148/21
<b>38/17 41/9 75/3 76/4</b>	37/2 40/19 41/7 44/9	77/20 79/8 82/18 83/1		
80/17 81/8 91/7 99/10	49/24 55/19 72/5		62/9 71/1 91/13 92/10	
125/8 125/9 126/10	76/13 90/8 107/19 113/20 124/7 141/15	87/6 87/11 87/11 87/15 88/24 90/4 90/8	98/9 104/20 106/11 106/13 106/14 107/11	hibernating [1] 55/7
139/12 139/18	143/11 143/12 143/21	90/13 90/17 90/18	109/21 118/20 119/2	hiding [1] 29/25 high [28] 31/21 32/4
given [16] 4/1 14/25	147/8 147/13	92/4 92/15 95/13	135/22 139/2 148/4	39/15 39/25 49/24
25/24 25/24 47/10	governance [1] 18/9	96/16 98/16 100/2	148/5 149/2 150/4	53/3 53/18 75/10
55/1 75/17 76/23 92/20 107/10 116/3	grade [1] 115/1	100/2 100/12 104/7	hat [1] 32/11	92/19 93/10 98/11
122/23 127/1 134/15	graded [1] 63/7	106/12 108/5 108/24	have [326]	98/14 99/7 99/12
145/11 153/8	graduating [1] 2/10	117/8 118/11 118/22	haven't [4] 15/3 16/6	99/21 102/22 104/3
gives [2] 41/10 70/23	Graeme [2] 111/2	119/7 119/20 120/21	36/22 55/19	115/13 125/6 138/5
giving [3] 11/25 71/6	111/16 grant [1] 31/13	121/21 121/23 122/1 122/18 125/21 126/15	having [18] 21/12	147/22 148/2 148/12 148/23 149/5 149/17
82/2	granted [1] 78/15	128/4 128/8 129/23	56/24 59/9 65/6 68/15	149/22 153/2
glass [4] 8/19 11/1 13/11 54/8	grateful [3] 4/18	130/23 131/15 131/16		high-level [2] 31/21
glean [2] 32/6 32/15	80/18 154/6	132/3 132/6 133/12	109/5 113/20 118/2	138/5
gleaned [2] 30/4	great [2] 24/16 106/1	133/14 133/20 134/25		high-severity [1]
35/14	greater [5] 72/18	137/14 138/7 139/6	hazy [2] 15/5 28/9	104/3
gloss [1] 49/11	108/20 118/3 121/2 129/9	144/5 145/13 145/18 145/23 146/2 146/17	he [23] 11/7 14/24 15/1 15/18 18/22	high/medium [1] 102/22
go [52] 8/24 9/20	greatly [1] 31/20	146/18 147/1 151/14	23/12 61/15 79/19	highlight [5] 11/1
9/20 11/18 13/6 14/12 25/25 29/10 33/23	green [2] 59/8 59/8	153/6 153/20 153/21	80/23 86/2 86/18	11/4 34/14 34/16
35/4 38/5 40/1 43/6	ground [2] 80/6	153/22	86/19 90/11 96/3	151/10
43/22 49/23 50/24	124/6	hadn't [2] 122/5	103/20 111/22 116/25	
51/15 53/3 59/9 60/13	group [10] 46/18	122/11	125/8 125/9 125/13	71/11
61/10 61/21 63/5 71/8	46/19 46/20 46/22 47/6 47/7 48/5 67/20	halfway [1] 60/25 hampered [2] 32/2	125/14 140/8 142/10 he's [2] 34/9 81/9	highly [1] 77/22 highs [2] 39/23 40/23
71/23 76/16 78/10	76/12 92/4	130/24	head [3] 8/15 84/20	him [4] 79/18 86/9
80/20 87/1 100/10 105/18 105/22 105/25	grow [1] 20/18	hand [9] 12/15 29/6	85/3	103/19 125/15
106/4 107/2 110/25	guarantee [1] 106/16	35/15 80/3 83/7 83/8	headed [2] 86/19	hindered [2] 31/20
112/3 115/19 117/16	guaranteed [1]	131/16 143/9 147/3	146/11	74/12
119/22 120/2 123/3	135/24 guessed [1] 69/20	handcrafted [2] 44/19 51/4	heading [10] 12/12 12/25 13/7 18/19 43/5	hindsight [2] 75/16 118/14
125/19 132/14 132/24	guessed [1] 69/20 guessing [1] 125/10	handed [1] 88/14	47/5 61/3 61/22 70/14	
137/2 141/18 142/21	guidance [3] 8/13	handing [3] 62/20	120/3	14/22 15/20 18/19
143/6 143/25 146/23 147/9	34/15 62/4	133/21 133/25	hear [7] 1/5 46/5	61/15 96/3 125/8
goal [1] 3/19	guilty [1] 65/17	handled [1] 88/19	81/16 81/19 113/14	125/10 125/14 129/16
goes [8] 36/7 39/14	guy [1] 23/13	Handover [1] 61/22 hands [1] 81/5	116/24 152/24 heard [12] 1/13 91/13	129/19 146/18
103/11 118/1 131/17	Н	handwriting [2]		HODGE [3] 1/9 80/20
135/15 141/18 148/3	had [149] 3/3 3/19	132/25 133/1	98/9 104/20 116/22	155/3
going [47] 2/4 9/23 10/23 14/12 17/2 18/4	3/20 3/25 4/16 6/15	hang [2] 54/9 55/16	119/2 124/11 135/22	hold [1] 115/3
18/5 21/2 22/15 22/16	8/11 8/17 8/18 10/16	hanging [1] 72/21	hearing [1] 1/13	holding [1] 14/18
31/2 32/23 32/24 40/2	12/4 14/3 14/11 16/2 17/9 18/8 18/24 20/6	happen [9] 41/5 49/1	hearings [1] 91/18	Holleran [10] 108/16
49/2 50/9 51/2 53/8	20/6 20/14 22/11	58/10 94/21 122/20 124/15 124/24 132/12	held [3] 12/11 13/20	110/22 111/3 111/5 112/5 113/17 114/9
59/14 59/16 67/10	22/11 22/13 24/11	136/23	help [11] 6/19 32/12	115/11 121/7 138/20
71/15 78/1 79/17 79/24 81/10 83/19	24/24 26/15 26/17	happened [7] 79/19	102/8 102/10 110/25	home [1] 69/20
94/21 96/23 116/9	29/7 29/14 29/15	94/7 119/18 131/15	112/13 139/18 147/12	honest [1] 111/12
122/13 122/20 122/22	29/20 29/21 32/18	132/8 132/11 139/17	149/22 153/16 153/18	
123/2 124/14 124/24	33/3 33/14 39/19 39/21 39/22 41/23	happening [4] 54/22 55/4 109/9 120/18	helpful [1] 27/4	hope [2] 13/5 115/22
136/23 137/2 140/4	42/8 42/22 47/18	happy [1] 81/4	helpfully [1] 63/4 hence [1] 106/24	hopefully [2] 55/19 141/3
	47/24 48/16 49/4 49/6	HAPS [1] 28/6	her [2] 61/16 111/13	Horizon [51] 5/1 5/3
141/17 146/21 150/24   152/18 152/23	49/8 50/22 50/23	hard [3] 39/19 73/10	here [33] 14/5 18/22	5/10 5/11 5/21 5/24
gone [2] 41/6 66/13	51/25 52/11 52/12	91/10	22/21 24/19 35/7	6/13 24/19 25/10
good [15] 1/3 1/4	52/12 56/5 56/20 57/15 57/22 58/1	hardware [1] 6/3	41/15 42/24 56/17	26/13 38/23 43/9
1/10 11/2 34/12 34/24	58/18 58/25 59/1	harvested [2] 44/25 106/10	57/1 62/5 67/8 71/6 72/6 72/7 74/11 79/25	46/17 47/5 48/10 49/20 52/16 52/19
46/5 71/13 75/10 76/7	59/11 60/3 65/6 65/14		80/20 95/16 100/6	58/19 62/25 70/2
76/7 99/20 102/11 103/6 113/6	65/18 66/13 66/21	has [35] 4/9 9/9 24/4	101/8 114/9 114/25	76/19 77/5 84/12
	68/12 69/7 70/6 70/11	25/25 36/21 39/4	114/25 115/7 123/20	84/20 85/3 94/19 96/4
L				(50) give - Horizon

(50) give... - Horizon

Н	74/2 81/23 81/24	I gave [1] 133/18	140/18 151/21	47/9 49/11 49/21
	92/23 132/17	<b>I go [1]</b> 53/3	I resigned [1] 5/18	52/20 67/2 70/10
Horizon [23] 97/7	I assume [3] 48/4	I had [12] 48/16	I reviewed [1] 48/17	82/18 82/23 84/3
97/8 97/9 97/10	61/6 112/8	57/15 65/14 66/13	I run [1] 55/16	85/14 85/15 86/4
105/13 119/4 119/15 122/1 122/22 123/2	l at [1] 18/7	70/11 71/9 82/18	I said [3] 48/17	101/9 102/2 113/5
126/1 128/2 130/5	I be [1] 48/20	96/16 132/6 133/14	118/24 139/8	120/14 120/16 120/18
132/10 137/18 137/23	I believe [4] 12/17	133/20 153/22	I saw [2] 85/4 114/24	121/15 130/17 131/17
138/10 138/12 139/5	20/1 42/16 73/22	I have [13] 14/6	I say [1] 52/5	137/16 151/16
139/6 140/20 149/3	I bring [3] 110/2	45/13 53/22 55/12	I see [1] 147/16	I wasn't [8] 47/13
151/23	125/17 133/23	55/13 58/6 70/4 70/7	I send [1] 36/17	113/4 116/6 119/7
Horizon IT [2] 24/19	I call [1] 1/7	73/21 76/6 118/22	I should [2] 95/22	123/5 136/17 153/15
52/16	I can [12] 13/9 23/4	138/23 139/16	112/4	153/18
horsepower [1] 20/9	33/6 36/19 55/15	I haven't [1] 36/22	I spent [1] 133/20	I went [1] 82/20
host [1] 28/7	57/11 61/2 64/4 81/19		I stick [1] 118/24	I will [2] 49/8 76/16
hour [1] 54/8	99/10 136/17 149/7	I hope [1] 13/5	I suggest [1] 113/24	I witnessed [1] 91/10
hours [4] 20/11	I can't [24] 22/6 22/7	I imagine [1] 108/15	I suspect [3] 70/10	l won't [1] 37/3
55/18 125/8 154/5	23/11 23/16 42/7	l just [1] 153/7	95/14 128/3	I wonder [6] 7/7 12/9
house [1] 3/16	42/14 50/4 59/3 62/17		I take [1] 142/15	27/3 33/7 42/15 70/13
housing [2] 117/18	67/2 74/23 77/24	55/12	I think [89] 3/15 4/12	I worked [2] 137/19
117/25	80/10 81/16 82/25	I knew [2] 66/9	6/2 6/8 6/12 7/6 8/3	138/19
how [75] 4/11 9/9	88/9 92/9 106/3	153/19	10/15 11/6 16/22	I would [22] 30/16
10/25 14/2 15/20	109/14 126/20 132/8	<b>I know [5]</b> 86/2 88/10		30/18 30/24 46/7
15/21 16/6 18/4 19/6	135/2 139/15 144/9	127/7 129/23 152/15	26/5 27/9 29/2 30/10	49/14 55/16 56/22
19/7 19/9 19/10 19/11	I could [4] 82/12 97/3		30/23 31/23 32/18	57/14 58/20 58/22
19/11 20/9 20/13	110/4 153/18	l left [1] 138/2	35/3 36/14 39/19 40/9	59/17 68/22 68/24
20/14 20/14 21/25	I couldn't [1] 87/16	I look [1] 17/14	42/8 46/16 51/2 52/10	
22/16 22/25 24/18	I described [1] 26/9	<b>I looking [1]</b> 147/16	52/13 65/1 67/12	
25/2 25/21 25/23 26/7	I did [5] 28/12 84/2	I may [4] 33/9 52/14	69/19 70/2 71/6 71/20	
26/15 26/18 26/19	91/11 116/24 139/24	81/20 111/24	73/973/1073/16	I wouldn't [7] 47/13
30/7 30/21 33/1 34/3	I didn't [1] 122/22	I mean [29] 32/19	74/24 81/1 86/16 89/1	57/11 68/1 118/17
34/3 34/5 34/23 34/24	I disagree [1] 80/4	45/13 52/3 72/10 81/1 86/16 88/6 88/6 89/7	89/15 93/1 95/16 98/16 98/22 98/25	123/12 123/18 123/18 I'd [16] 5/18 12/3
42/1 49/21 50/21	l do [4] 1/19 1/25 17/17 152/11	91/4 96/23 99/10	99/1 101/9 103/19	33/8 51/5 52/15 68/17
54/22 54/24 62/14	I don't [72] 14/25	104/10 105/6 111/21	104/10 108/2 108/4	71/13 76/13 80/4
68/1 73/11 76/2 80/8	15/22 17/16 21/25	113/2 114/25 118/24	108/10 108/22 110/21	83/20 84/5 85/13
80/8 86/8 88/3 89/25	23/3 32/25 36/18	122/12 126/8 126/13	112/11 112/12 112/16	
94/22 98/8 98/20	36/20 37/3 41/13	129/15 132/5 133/18	113/6 114/11 114/23	133/12
101/15 101/17 102/4	41/22 46/19 46/22	134/2 139/15 139/23	115/8 115/15 116/9	<b>I'll [1]</b> 78/12
109/15 119/21 126/17	55/11 55/13 56/19	150/20 153/21	117/23 118/3 118/25	l'm [63] 2/4 4/18
126/20 128/1 130/1	59/23 63/1 66/13	I mention [1] 36/14	119/1 122/17 123/13	13/12 14/5 15/5 23/3
130/19 131/23 133/8	67/25 68/9 68/24	I need [4] 14/7 14/8	124/19 129/5 129/8	23/16 28/8 28/9 28/9
135/15 137/25 143/22	69/23 70/10 73/10	36/18 124/19	129/25 133/12 133/14	30/15 33/6 36/24 38/5
144/9 144/15 148/20	74/22 75/19 76/9	I never [2] 125/13	134/11 136/3 136/3	38/6 38/15 42/10
148/25 149/5 149/7	76/15 80/10 82/25	139/24	140/3 140/8 140/11	42/14 43/17 45/12
Howe [1] 140/16	88/5 88/25 89/8 91/4	l now [1] 58/5	148/21 150/3 152/3	45/17 46/22 49/2 57/1
however [3] 106/16 128/21 148/4	91/9 94/17 101/9	l open [1] 55/14	152/20 154/1	57/2 57/17 64/18
HSS [1] 147/10	103/14 103/15 104/6	I participated [1]	I thought [9] 87/13	65/18 66/10 67/8
huge [3] 145/10	104/9 108/10 109/16	22/4	96/11 96/17 122/17	67/12 67/25 68/9
150/14 150/24	111/12 111/21 114/11		123/9 123/16 124/5	74/23 80/18 81/11
human [3] 40/12	114/17 116/7 116/24	I please [2] 99/23	124/23 137/25	88/23 88/25 94/2
66/18 76/5	118/18 118/19 119/18		l turn [1] 97/17	94/17 106/3 112/12
hundred [1] 13/14	119/21 128/12 128/19		I understand [5]	114/6 114/20 116/9
hundreds [1] 13/14	129/13 129/23 130/14		16/14 24/17 80/23	116/22 118/9 126/19
hung [2] 54/14 55/20	132/11 133/2 133/4	l put [1] 14/5	82/12 82/16	127/7 128/3 128/19
		I raised [1] 76/23	I understood [3] 32/2	
<u> </u>	136/19 138/11 140/1	I really [1] 118/22	37/19 139/7	139/17 139/17 139/20
I also [1] 27/14	140/11 146/12 149/7	I recall [2] 96/1 96/7	I viewed [1] 138/1	139/21 141/1 141/7
I am [3] 83/19 114/2	150/21	I recognise [1] 104/6	l voted [1] 96/5	141/17 146/21 154/6
140/22	l escalated [1] 91/4	l remember [6] 30/7	I want [7] 78/9 84/19	I've [19] 15/1 35/13
I anticipate [1] 4/21	l expect [1] 125/8	86/5 86/16 126/3	94/8 97/1 110/1	36/20 37/1 37/1 42/18
I appreciate [1]	I felt [2] 76/22 124/22	134/11 152/25	125/16 134/20	
132/14	I finished [1] 5/11	I reported [3] 7/20	I wanted [1] 132/14	55/15 73/3 76/13 84/2
I ask [7] 1/12 1/22	l first [1] 84/16	86/16 86/20	I was [29] 5/11 6/18	90/8 94/2 94/7 119/7
	l fix [2] 58/5 58/5	I represent [2]	7/14 12/3 30/13 36/6	125/15 134/2
L			1	(51) Horizon I've

(51) Horizon... - I've

-	00/7 00/0 70/40 74/7		4.4.9.17.4.9.9.19	
1	68/7 69/6 70/13 71/7	incapable [1] 78/22	118/7 126/3	32/16
i.e [4] 50/5 64/8	71/8 71/11 71/22	incentive [1] 115/25	individuals [1] 153/5	interchangeably [1]
87/23 100/3	72/13 73/3 78/10	incident [48] 53/11	industry [4] 6/9 54/4	21/18
	78/12 79/21 81/3 81/7	53/13 53/20 53/25	83/23 84/3	interest [2] 59/2
IA's [1] 79/22	81/16 81/20 82/12	57/2 57/17 58/17	inevitable [1] 122/17	77/19
IBM [1] 17/19	82/12 87/23 88/7 89/8	58/17 58/21 59/1	inevitably [1] 96/13	interested [3] 31/5
ICL [62] 8/7 11/11	92/15 94/1 94/3 97/3			31/8 35/7
15/23 17/13 20/2		59/10 60/21 62/15	inference [1] 65/13	
20/19 23/6 24/20 25/1	98/17 99/2 99/10	63/6 63/12 64/22 65/3		interests [1] 118/7
25/5 25/7 26/15 30/9	99/11 101/13 101/14	65/7 66/23 67/7 67/14	informal [1] 32/15	interface [6] 16/19
30/18 30/22 31/7	101/19 101/24 102/13	67/16 68/16 69/5	informally [1] 32/6	25/21 26/7 27/8 27/20
	102/16 105/11 105/11	69/10 71/12 92/20	information [26] 3/23	128/9
31/13 32/7 32/16	107/2 107/23 108/14	98/15 99/7 99/21	11/20 18/24 21/6	interfaced [1] 5/21
33/11 35/24 37/21	110/4 111/24 112/3	100/8 100/16 101/15	27/22 28/25 30/3 32/3	
41/21 43/9 43/11				
43/12 45/10 46/8	114/6 114/16 115/3	101/20 101/22 101/24		
46/15 46/24 48/8	115/8 115/19 116/2	102/12 102/25 104/2		interfacing [2] 24/20
49/19 51/7 51/25 52/8	116/22 117/25 119/22	107/1 108/23 110/15	71/21 73/17 75/8	26/4
	120/2 122/14 123/3	113/21 120/5 125/12	104/7 131/3 139/12	internal [7] 80/5
55/23 70/16 73/4	124/1 124/6 124/7	148/2 148/8 148/15	141/21 142/6 142/9	92/13 112/2 112/23
73/20 75/7 75/12	125/7 125/18 126/10	incidents [49] 52/21	142/24	112/25 115/16 145/2
78/16 78/20 79/7	131/11 132/3 132/24	53/10 53/19 56/4	infrastructure [9]	internally [1] 107/24
79/16 80/5 84/15				
84/18 84/24 85/6	138/7 139/18 141/2	56/13 56/25 58/22	7/23 9/6 9/11 9/15	interpret [2] 57/11
91/14 92/4 92/11 93/7	141/11 142/21 143/6	60/16 60/20 61/11	12/11 15/4 25/20	98/20
96/20 98/2 103/7	147/9 147/11 151/10	62/14 63/10 67/21	26/19 141/21	interpretation [5]
	if/when [1] 114/6	69/1 69/18 98/10 99/2	initial [5] 22/13 87/1	63/18 64/4 64/13
109/23 116/3 121/12	ignored [1] 70/21	99/4 99/12 99/17	101/1 102/21 103/5	79/14 90/19
125/5 129/19	imagine [1] 108/15	99/18 100/17 101/3	initially [4] 31/22	interpretations [1]
idea [2] 11/2 116/25		101/5 101/18 101/23		89/22
identification [3]	immediate [1] 103/17		86/16 102/6 134/25	
19/20 89/20 135/4	immediately [1]	101/25 102/5 102/7	initiative [4] 6/25	interpreted [1] 98/23
identified [13] 12/17	105/9	102/9 102/9 102/14	25/11 48/3 132/12	interpreting [2] 94/25
17/10 23/18 26/10	impact [19] 43/14	102/17 103/24 104/3	inner [1] 47/10	132/16
	53/1 54/13 59/5 87/7	104/24 105/6 105/19	input [4] 24/17 29/23	interrupt [2] 115/8
31/12 35/16 35/19	87/22 87/24 88/9	112/15 114/16 115/13		140/2
48/10 58/25 72/7	88/18 99/8 100/4	119/17 120/5 121/22	inquiry [15] 7/21	intervention [2]
120/21 126/13 132/2				
identify [8] 62/11	100/11 100/13 108/16		69/25 76/1 80/17	36/17 37/6
73/5 91/20 102/14	108/19 109/1 109/5	138/5 150/15	80/25 81/24 82/2	into [38] 3/8 5/18
106/21 120/25 135/7	109/13 150/24	included [6] 43/25	83/18 91/13 92/10	7/11 7/20 11/16 12/7
	impacted [1] 90/1	62/4 64/7 65/5 67/6	98/9 104/20 116/23	20/4 26/3 26/6 26/20
136/13	impacting [2] 53/4	115/22	119/2 135/22	27/16 29/3 39/5 39/14
identifying [3] 101/1	101/18	includes [1] 135/13	insight [1] 35/2	39/18 41/18 50/1 60/6
106/13 136/8				
identity [3] 5/14	impacts [1] 93/14	including [2] 5/10	insist [1] 89/24	62/18 63/2 65/10 69/8
145/22 146/5	implement [1] 40/25	105/20	installation [2] 26/16	69/16 72/18 78/1 84/3
if [149] 2/6 4/1 4/19	implementation [8]	inconsequential [1]	152/1	84/17 95/7 96/12
	26/12 26/14 28/21	102/13	installed [3] 58/8	108/25 111/22 119/19
7/7 8/23 8/24 9/20	31/18 56/23 93/12	inconsistencies [1]	58/11 151/23	127/10 133/12 140/24
11/10 12/9 13/5 14/4	106/23 127/25	49/14		141/18 143/11 147/4
14/5 14/14 15/12			instance [5] 42/9	
15/25 16/19 16/23	implemented [4]	incorrect [2] 29/18	69/19 99/2 102/7	intrinsically [1]
17/14 19/7 20/14	34/1 37/21 55/23	44/3	117/10	131/19
20/21 22/19 23/4	91/20	increasing [1]	instead [1] 96/13	introduced [2] 14/15
23/11 24/1 24/5 27/3	implementing [1]	122/19	instigate [1] 55/8	135/1
	33/25	incumbent [1] 99/4	insufficiently [1]	introduction [1]
28/12 29/10 32/5 33/7	implications [5]	incurred [1] 143/4	94/11	134/18
33/8 35/10 35/22 36/6	11/12 14/18 107/16	indeed [10] 60/11	integrated [1] 34/19	invalidate [1] 44/19
36/17 36/20 36/23				
37/1 37/2 37/19 39/7	109/12 118/18	65/6 65/20 70/19	integration [1] 127/4	investigate [3] 19/21
40/19 40/20 42/15	important [3] 59/14	79/19 82/18 96/1	integrity [19] 44/20	57/7 138/8
43/4 43/6 43/22 45/12	89/11 135/20	98/13 140/6 147/4	50/2 51/17 51/17	investigated [2]
	imposed [1] 32/14	indemnify [1] 116/4	58/18 59/6 67/15	152/1 152/8
46/23 47/4 47/10 49/4	impression [3] 10/12	indemnifying [1]	67/22 68/4 68/11	investigation [5]
49/12 49/24 50/4	15/22 21/7	115/23	68/21 99/9 99/15	50/17 65/10 66/2
50/21 50/23 51/14			104/22 109/6 109/7	66/10 142/8
53/12 54/14 55/13	improve [2] 31/23	independently [1]		
55/14 55/17 56/9 58/3	96/21	128/11	122/11 134/20 134/22	
58/4 59/11 60/12	improved [2] 120/8	indicates [1] 101/3	intent [2] 53/7 71/6	59/19 66/7 142/6
60/12 61/9 61/21 63/5	121/11	indications [1] 94/21	intention [1] 146/3	142/13
	improving [1] 32/25	individual [6] 69/10	interaction [1] 95/12	Invitation [1] 22/9
66/12 66/17 67/13	inability [1] 43/25	75/19 84/10 117/4	interactions [1]	invite [2] 8/14 100/1
·	,		,	(52) i.e - invite

1	140/16 141/12 146/21	47/22	104/20 109/14 109/19	legacy [1] 108/21
	147/2 147/4 147/5	June 1999 [1] 47/22	111/12 112/16 114/11	legal [1] 138/24
invited [2] 48/12 90/10	148/23 149/18 150/1	June 2003 [1] 5/4	114/24 116/2 116/7	legislation [1] 142/2
invoice [1] 41/8	150/2 152/16 152/22	junior [2] 7/16 77/10	118/20 119/18 119/21	legislations [1] 142/1
invoicing [1] 27/18	it's I forget [1]	just [67] 2/4 7/7 9/8	121/1 121/2 123/13	less [7] 5/11 9/6 32/2
involved [40] 2/22	122/12	11/14 12/9 12/22	126/8 127/7 129/11	54/2 55/3 82/19 90/4
5/12 15/3 24/16 27/7	item [1] 48/1	20/12 20/22 21/16	129/13 129/23 131/23	
46/11 47/15 52/20	its [23] 21/6 24/25	21/25 25/10 27/3	132/11 134/24 138/4	let's [5] 37/1 107/21
53/18 61/19 84/2	31/14 36/2 39/17 41/6 41/18 46/11 59/5 59/6	30/12 33/5 33/8 34/5 35/22 41/12 44/17	140/1 146/12 149/7 152/15	114/8 147/20 149/8
85/11 88/6 88/12	69/23 88/8 100/20	45/5 46/23 50/11 51/1		letter [3] 91/7 119/24 125/1
90/14 90/15 98/4	102/24 106/19 119/19	51/3 52/25 53/5 54/19		level [39] 17/18
100/21 110/3 110/19	126/15 134/9 136/16	60/13 61/10 61/21	67/19 74/19 75/1 80/3	
111/10 111/19 112/10 112/19 112/20 112/22	137/9 137/18 137/21	62/12 70/20 76/4 76/7	83/15 85/13 116/17	32/4 32/9 33/13 33/17
113/3 116/13 116/16	138/16	78/4 78/8 78/12 80/1	118/21 131/4 131/16	33/25 35/2 49/24
118/4 118/4 118/13	itself [5] 55/9 88/22	82/7 86/8 93/17 94/2	133/7	65/25 75/4 75/10
123/5 132/15 133/6	102/12 138/3 151/19	97/7 100/14 100/14	known [15] 4/25 7/22	75/11 75/13 76/6
133/21 134/4 138/2	ITT2 [2] 22/6 22/7	102/2 105/17 108/8	21/17 27/21 29/14	92/19 93/10 93/14
138/22 140/1	J	111/23 114/8 117/21 124/10 131/8 133/21	44/4 53/8 53/10 66/7 87/24 94/22 103/19	96/21 99/21 101/13 107/25 112/13 115/7
involvement [12]	Jacobs [3] 73/25	133/24 138/15 138/17		117/10 124/24 125/6
14/23 22/2 24/15	74/1 155/4	139/1 139/17 140/22		127/1 131/3 136/18
42/22 52/18 56/21	Jan [1] 96/6	140/23 141/17 142/18	L	136/18 137/3 138/5
58/23 59/1 65/14 69/1 71/9 130/18	January [11] 43/1	143/7 147/11 147/20	lack [12] 16/8 16/13	138/22 147/11 148/11
Ireland [1] 52/11	58/25 60/9 60/17	153/7	34/16 34/17 74/12	150/25
Irish [1] 20/7	68/13 78/20 133/7	justify [2] 22/20	89/25 90/7 90/23 93/7	levels [3] 123/6
iron [1] 130/1	151/24 151/25 152/4	106/25	93/8 93/21 94/4	148/6 149/15
irrespective [1]	152/6	κ	lady [1] 153/7 large [6] 20/5 20/5	lever [1] 21/11
142/8	January 1999 [1] 68/13	keep [4] 19/7 35/10	83/25 90/13 128/24	leverage [1] 93/9 liaised [2] 48/21
is [325]	January 2000 [3]	55/11 55/12	140/18	66/25
ish [1] 13/19	60/9 78/20 133/7	Keith [6] 60/5 100/24		liaising [3] 67/1 67/2
isn't [5] 34/12 64/15 66/23 120/7 149/21	JD [1] 106/2	113/18 115/10 115/20		68/5
issue [15] 17/10	jeopardy [1] 118/4	121/6	late [5] 15/11 42/12	liaison [2] 66/12 69/9
32/19 43/19 54/13	Jeremy [9] 7/20 12/3	kept [2] 67/20 125/14		library [1] 48/10
62/5 81/1 104/17	12/14 15/1 15/7 15/7	key [3] 10/9 11/7	later [14] 4/24 5/24	life [3] 33/21 34/24
104/21 108/13 120/12	85/22 96/6 146/20 JM [4] 14/17 14/20	121/6 kind [8] 4/12 11/4	16/3 18/12 18/15 39/7 51/3 89/10 100/5	41/5
128/18 128/21 129/2	108/22 112/8	17/8 28/9 36/6 37/5	113/20 124/3 137/13	life-cycle [2] 33/21 34/24
129/8 132/2	job [4] 15/3 20/11	37/7 54/7	151/13 153/1	lifetime [1] 61/19
issues [19] 21/2	20/20 90/5	kindly [1] 9/22	lay [1] 98/20	light [4] 9/7 9/9 59/8
32/16 32/18 32/23 33/3 41/24 42/5 46/11	John [14] 14/21 15/7	Kingdom [1] 142/2	layman [1] 49/16	76/1
47/15 48/22 50/19	23/11 79/2 81/21 82/1		lead [3] 47/13 109/10	lights [1] 9/8
68/11 68/20 70/19	103/18 106/2 106/6	knew [11] 17/21	127/23	like [27] 7/6 9/7
98/9 99/10 100/3	120/8 121/7 125/21 146/18 155/6	41/25 49/2 59/18 66/9 71/22 74/18 94/24		13/12 14/12 31/3 33/8
121/24 125/22	Johnston [1] 12/18	131/22 153/14 153/19	leading [1] 150/5	46/7 47/10 49/12 49/25 50/1 52/15
it [506]	join [1] 84/12	knew you [1] 49/2	learned [4] 137/13	52/24 59/17 66/17
it's [69] 4/22 9/7	joined [5] 2/17 4/24	know [80] 2/19 4/6	143/19 151/12 151/13	
12/10 24/8 26/3 28/2	5/19 15/10 83/22	7/21 14/25 19/12	least [4] 18/7 22/5	76/13 83/20 89/12
34/9 35/4 35/5 36/21 38/12 38/21 39/6 40/1	joining [3] 6/16 6/21	20/12 21/15 21/25	78/14 81/7	109/16 110/22 126/10
40/17 40/18 42/25	7/11	23/3 23/23 27/9 36/20		126/23 139/19 139/20
45/5 45/5 47/3 50/2	joint [8] 90/11 110/19	36/24 38/24 45/13	133/20	liked [1] 75/5
51/9 54/6 62/17 63/9	129/25 129/25 130/10 130/16 132/7 132/19	46/22 50/21 51/14 51/19 51/21 55/11	leaves [1] 79/13 leaving [2] 72/22	likely [3] 48/12 69/17
64/6 65/1 65/3 70/1	Jonathan [1] 1/11	61/5 66/8 67/25 68/1	78/23	125/5 limitations [1] 28/24
73/25 74/24 76/5 76/6	judge [3] 34/5 87/23	68/17 69/23 71/11	led [4] 84/15 85/21	limited [15] 2/12 2/17
76/7 78/10 79/18 80/7	90/19	74/22 75/11 75/13	109/21 112/21	3/18 3/24 6/5 6/21
81/6 86/6 88/7 89/7	July [6] 63/9 98/4	75/19 76/1 80/10	left [12] 5/16 59/15	7/23 23/5 36/2 52/4
89/13 91/8 93/4 93/18 95/21 99/24 103/1	104/14 105/2 151/23	81/23 82/25 86/2	59/15 79/8 133/6	56/9 61/3 63/14 73/15
105/15 109/16 110/5	152/2	87/15 88/5 88/10 89/8		107/17
117/24 118/16 122/12	July 1999 [1] 63/9	89/8 91/4 91/9 91/9	143/9 152/3 152/6 153/9	line [7] 15/6 16/25
130/10 133/2 137/5	July 2000 [1] 151/23 June [3] 5/4 47/3	94/1 94/3 97/2 98/25 101/13 102/12 103/11		23/9 61/16 86/6 96/24 120/6
				120/0
				(53) invited - line

(53) invited - line

L	112/13 115/6 117/19	67/13 69/12 69/12	88/12 117/1 117/3	meaning [1] 54/9
	141/5 143/9 147/16	95/17 121/3 127/3	117/4	means [11] 14/8
lined [1] 40/15 lines [3] 86/1 89/15	150/9	makes [2] 66/11	materiality [1] 118/19	
95/22	looks [2] 62/19 79/19	142/21	MATs [3] 147/24	44/6 45/5 55/21 59/24
list [6] 46/14 60/19	losing [2] 96/14	making [11] 20/19	147/25 147/25	109/5 114/11 150/22
102/17 105/18 105/19	145/18	26/20 39/11 80/16	matter [5] 30/15	meant [3] 19/3 44/16
106/4	loss [2] 108/17 108/24	89/21 110/19 112/20 116/14 116/17 118/13	47/13 48/18 49/23	90/4
listed [4] 70/24	losses [1] 96/14	154/4	matters [5] 45/16	meantime [1] 109/17 measure [3] 55/1
105/14 112/8 127/21	lost [3] 73/18 74/4	man [2] 72/14 72/16	68/1 140/23 142/17	116/20 148/5
listen [1] 10/16	118/2	man-days [2] 72/14	154/6	measures [2] 22/17
listening [1] 10/20 litigants [1] 153/13	lot [10] 14/4 35/12	72/16	maximum [1] 131/3	111/14
little [18] 17/8 18/12	87/8 103/17 103/20	manage [11] 16/18	may [47] 1/7 1/12 2/6	mechanical [1] 2/7
20/22 20/23 27/12	117/12 127/7 127/8	16/21 19/10 62/22	4/22 8/14 18/11 23/12	
27/24 36/4 42/22 43/6	133/20 145/18	70/16 71/18 77/21	24/2 24/4 28/6 29/18	53/3 56/4 57/14 57/16
43/22 61/21 65/14	lots [3] 30/14 48/16 126/12	89/5 116/21 127/18 136/19	30/6 33/9 34/14 34/16 34/19 37/11 40/5	60/19 60/23 78/18 98/11 102/1 102/22
73/13 87/9 88/8	loudly [1] 7/8	manageable [1]	40/14 40/15 40/23	102/22 102/25 113/23
105/17 143/19 147/13	lovingly [1] 59/7	124/8	42/18 43/12 43/23	114/3 115/13 147/15
live [27] 19/17 39/3 39/5 39/6 40/1 41/4	low [21] 31/14 33/17	managed [8] 2/24 4/5		147/20 147/24 148/2
41/6 41/7 41/7 53/8	40/14 53/3 57/14	4/8 4/10 24/23 87/25	52/14 61/9 77/25	148/8 148/15
57/4 58/12 59/14	57/16 59/20 63/7 67/7	88/5 126/20	80/23 81/20 94/1	medium-severity [1]
59/16 70/21 72/8	75/11 75/13 98/11	management [28]	95/14 101/14 102/12	40/3
72/15 73/2 75/4 75/6	101/13 102/1 107/5 147/14 147/19 149/9	18/21 19/1 19/3 19/6 19/10 20/1 23/9 23/16	102/14 110/25 111/24	mediums [1] 40/24 meet [6] 29/11 98/18
87/1 93/13 94/10	149/13 149/18 150/2	32/10 32/11 46/16	128/6 128/7 132/15	123/3 139/24 147/23
122/22 126/2 126/4	low-level [3] 31/14	47/25 48/7 49/6 53/12		147/25
142/6	33/17 75/13	60/21 62/6 66/17 69/7		meeting [31] 8/8 11/5
load [1] 20/16 local [4] 8/22 117/17	lower [4] 33/13 33/25	69/17 70/14 71/4	114/24 115/10	11/14 11/22 12/2
126/19 126/22	118/16 149/20	71/17 79/20 84/5	McNiven [2] 108/15	12/11 12/22 12/25
location [2] 47/11	lowering [1] 122/23	105/13 132/10 132/10		15/11 15/15 15/22
126/15	lowest [1] 102/25	manager [12] 18/23	me [33] 1/5 7/6 12/8	16/14 16/24 17/24
lock [5] 54/1 104/11	LT2 [1] 57/3 lunch [2] 81/2 81/8	61/6 61/16 62/1 66/21 70/1 78/23 79/8 97/7	42/10 46/5 53/19	18/14 18/15 18/25 21/13 56/12 96/1 96/4
120/4 151/21 153/7	Luncheon [1] 81/14	97/8 97/9 126/15	57/24 58/13 63/7	97/5 105/14 108/4
lock-ups [2] 104/11		managers [6] 15/2	64/22 65/18 66/15	108/7 112/2 112/12
120/4 locking [1] 54/5	M	23/14 60/2 62/21	68/10 73/25 74/16	125/20 132/18 132/21
log [1] 56/11	machine [7] 54/14	65/12 140/19	79/12 80/22 81/17	133/3
logged [2] 51/20	54/19 55/7 55/9 55/17	managing [5] 52/22	88/16 91/7 96/8	meetings [9] 10/3
70/20	72/23 72/24 made [13] 50/25 74/6	83/25 89/4 97/22	113/14 119/8 138/14	10/7 10/14 11/16
logistics [6] 82/15	75/23 77/8 79/2 88/17	125/25 manner [4] 29/24	139/13 139/21 140/16 151/3 153/25	17/17 18/13 30/9 30/22 108/3
82/19 82/23 83/1 83/9	92/11 104/15 107/4	37/9 53/17 53/17	Meagher [19] 14/21	meets [1] 34/1
83/11	123/2 131/12 131/25	manual [3] 3/7 51/6	15/7 23/11 80/21 81/9	
London [1] 60/3 long [7] 72/23 84/24	132/12	55/3	81/20 81/21 82/1	18/21 46/17 96/6
87/6 88/3 103/10	magnetic [2] 27/7	many [11] 21/25 34/3		members [2] 16/5
109/15 143/14	38/7	34/3 40/17 42/1 42/18		131/6
longer [1] 123/14	magnitude [1] 79/1 mail [1] 14/5	50/22 53/7 55/16 118/12 121/24	151/24 152/12 153/17 154/3 155/6	memo [3] 56/18 57/17 147/3
look [21] 8/15 8/24	mails [1] 14/4	mapped [1] 126/18		
14/11 17/14 20/16	main [6] 43/5 76/22	mapping [1] 131/20	26/14 30/16 32/19	mentioned [7] 16/3
31/23 34/13 39/7 50/7	87/14 109/13 123/25	Mar [1] 80/22	33/18 40/5 41/23	66/16 82/21 89/3
51/15 78/9 89/9 94/9 97/1 102/10 103/23	145/9	march [4] 93/4 93/18	45/13 52/3 59/10	131/18 140/25 146/9
110/1 134/20 141/1	mainly [1] 117/17	96/15 96/19	72/10 81/1 85/7 86/16	
152/17 153/11	maintained [3] 57/16	March 1999 [1] 93/18		mere [1] 51/7
looked [4] 32/21	126/6 143/5 maintaining [1]	marks [1] 69/22	91/4 96/23 99/10 104/10 105/6 111/21	merged [1] 28/9
86/13 118/12 140/3	127/22	Martin [3] 12/17 18/19 18/21	112/25 113/2 114/9	merger [1] 84/11 message [2] 36/18
looking [24] 4/11	major [1] 7/4	massively [1] 86/1	114/25 118/24 122/12	
20/13 26/7 26/17	majority [1] 72/3	matched [1] 101/22	122/17 126/8 126/13	met [7] 25/6 61/15
26/18 26/21 26/22 42/12 48/1 57/1 58/9	make [19] 9/16 9/24	matches [1] 41/9	129/15 131/17 132/5	134/14 134/15 139/24
67/2 71/22 71/23	16/25 20/15 21/8	material [11] 11/25	133/18 134/2 137/9	147/25 148/11
71/24 72/1 74/17	28/11 32/5 34/8 40/7	34/17 35/15 53/1		
	41/3 43/25 50/3 50/8	53/22 53/23 54/6	150/20 151/2 153/21	metric [2] 108/10
				(54) lined metric

(54) lined - metric

Μ	moments [1] 10/10	1/10 2/4 4/18 7/6 46/7	32/21 47/11 48/16	139/15 139/24
metric [1] 112/17	Monday [1] 108/20	67/12 69/24 70/12	49/9 49/12 53/3 54/25	
metrics [2] 34/23	money [4] 13/20 26/1	73/21 74/2 76/14	57/23 58/6 58/12 64/4	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I
54/19	145/18 146/6	80/14 80/16	64/13 74/16 74/20	78/19 79/24 107/7
microscope [1]	monitor [1] 106/18	Mr Bruce [1] 146/21	76/22 77/6 81/23 83/5	133/19 134/19
72/11	monitoring [4] 61/25	Mr Cipione [1] 79/17	87/9 87/11 96/5	news [2] 76/7 76/8
Microsoft [2] 55/6	62/21 112/7 134/17	Mr Cipione's [2] 78/8		next [11] 11/24 14/17
120/25	monitoring/reporting	79/11	115/6 117/6 124/19	35/6 80/21 105/22
Microsoft's [1] 54/4	<b>[1]</b> 112/7	Mr Copping [2]	133/9 133/18 137/10	113/21 114/1 141/22
middle [2] 109/11	month [1] 78/14	125/12 125/13	139/2 143/19 151/12	142/4 142/15 143/22
147/4	months [4] 54/11	Mr Dave [2] 139/9	Ν	night [1] 55/9
might [6] 13/5 19/16	78/15 106/19 120/9	139/13	naiveté [1] 51/12	nightly [1] 55/8
45/21 112/14 112/15	more [55] 7/8 10/15 10/16 10/19 10/19	Mr Folkes [4] 70/1 70/11 85/24 146/21	name [11] 1/10 13/4	no [82] 4/22 13/22 14/13 19/18 39/23
139/19	11/7 11/9 11/10 11/11		14/25 22/7 30/14 47/4	40/1 40/23 41/23
Mike [5] 12/20 15/10	14/3 17/5 17/18 17/20		81/23 81/25 93/5	42/10 43/3 43/17 44/1
15/18 16/4 125/21	30/1 30/25 31/5 31/5	80/21 81/9 81/20	126/3 146/18	45/12 45/13 45/17
Miller [17] 86/20	32/15 33/4 34/15	147/5 150/11 150/19	named [3] 5/6 60/20	47/19 49/23 52/3 56/3
86/22 91/7 96/1 97/25	35/14 36/4 40/9 50/17	151/3 151/24 152/12	61/7	63/3 64/18 65/1 65/14
104/18 105/5 111/19	55/3 55/3 62/4 67/23	153/17 154/3	namely [1] 57/25	65/21 67/8 67/8 68/22
119/24 123/6 138/20	69/20 71/7 71/20 72/9		names [4] 18/18	68/24 73/21 76/19
139/9 139/13 139/18	72/10 72/11 72/12	140/12 140/13	48/16 96/7 147/7	78/19 80/3 80/3 80/3
139/23 140/12 140/13	72/12 73/8 73/11	Mr Murphy [1] 15/15	National [1] 93/15	80/15 83/3 83/11
Miller's [1] 125/3	73/11 76/23 77/16	Mr Stevens [7] 81/17	natural [2] 40/10	86/24 89/7 89/7 90/8
Min [6] 59/25 60/1	82/18 83/2 86/5 89/11	81/18 81/20 139/2	69/20	90/25 92/6 92/14 94/7
60/2 133/14 133/24	91/10 92/21 93/24	142/10 151/6 154/10	nature [9] 6/22 14/22	97/25 98/6 99/10
147/6	102/14 112/23 118/21		18/6 22/2 35/18 53/24	105/16 105/24 106/23
mind [5] 7/8 58/23	121/1 124/2 138/14	97/24	65/9 89/23 93/22	107/7 109/5 110/18
87/11 124/19 139/16	144/5	Mr X [1] 139/21	near [1] 74/19	112/22 115/16 117/9
mindset [1] 49/12	morning [6] 1/3 1/4	<b>MS [8</b> ] 1/9 76/11	necessarily [14] 9/9	122/3 123/5 123/5
mine [2] 82/11 133/2 minimum [1] 147/23	1/10 45/22 46/5 154/9	76/12 80/20 139/21	15/23 19/19 29/17	123/12 124/5 124/5
minutes [1] 55/19	most [4] 6/8 103/8	153/7 155/3 155/5	30/19 30/24 47/8	124/5 125/15 128/25
mis [1] 126/25	105/7 128/21	Ms Hodge [1] 80/20	48/17 53/16 58/4	129/7 130/20 130/20
misinterpretation [1]	mostly [2] 6/2 27/7	Ms Lock [1] 153/7	71/24 78/4 80/5 90/9	133/2 133/18 133/18
53/1	motives [1] 103/15	Ms Page [1] 76/12	necessary [6] 43/13	137/15 138/1 138/13
mismatch [1] 56/6	move [12] 3/8 14/14	Ms Y [1] 139/21	50/15 63/23 79/6	138/23 139/15 139/23
misnomer [1] 4/15	31/10 34/18 52/15	much [37] 3/7 4/5	124/6 142/6	146/1 151/2 151/15
misreported [1]	58/15 61/9 84/19	4/10 11/7 11/9 14/1	need [28] 9/21 14/3	152/25
149/12	108/14 125/1 125/16	15/4 17/20 18/2 18/4	14/7 14/8 19/7 21/7	No-one [1] 138/1
misrepresentation	146/21	20/7 25/13 30/1 38/12		Nobody [1] 153/11
<b>[1]</b> 145/24	moved [4] 5/12 57/15		37/6 37/14 41/3 45/6	non [3] 29/24 42/21
missing [1] 62/11	84/1 137/12	56/8 69/9 70/10 73/11		51/13
misspelling [1] 89/8	moving [5] 13/11 14/1 23/4 25/21 84/3	73/19 74/10 79/13	72/12 76/16 77/4 77/4 89/10 106/17 113/24	
mistresses [1]	Mr [57] 1/7 1/10 2/4	80/4 82/20 83/2 91/1 95/18 106/1 140/11	119/15 121/16 124/19	42/21
140/19	4/18 7/6 15/15 46/7	147/10 151/11 153/1	129/7 137/11	51/13
misunderstanding	67/12 69/24 70/1	154/3 154/12	needed [10] 3/20	None [1] 115/18
<b>[3]</b> 8/11 46/25 89/21	70/11 70/12 73/21	Muchow [3] 125/21	9/21 12/1 14/14 62/4	normal [2] 62/20
mitigation [2] 95/1	73/25 74/1 74/2 76/14		88/18 122/9 124/22	142/8
95/6	78/8 79/11 79/17	multi [2] 8/18 9/1	135/17 136/2	normally [1] 143/25
mitigations [1]	80/14 80/16 80/21	multi-counter [1] 9/1	needs [4] 38/19	not [141] 4/16 9/23
112/14	81/9 81/17 81/18	multiple [10] 8/21	52/25 58/8 77/1	10/9 10/23 10/23
Mmm [4] 91/16	81/20 81/20 81/22	99/19 120/15 137/1	negative [1] 93/13	13/14 14/11 17/1
124/16 146/8 151/20	85/24 97/24 125/12	137/14 138/2 138/2	negotiate [1] 97/10	17/21 18/7 21/8 28/8
MO [1] 95/3	125/13 139/2 139/9	138/5 138/6 151/14	negotiating [1] 140/8	29/8 29/9 29/17 30/5
model [17] 16/2 38/24 39/1 39/1 39/12	139/13 139/18 139/21		negotiation [1] 98/4	30/12 30/15 30/19
39/14 39/18 40/22	140/12 140/13 140/17		negotiations [1]	30/23 31/7 31/22
41/5 41/18 42/6 42/7	142/10 146/21 146/21		122/20	32/24 33/12 34/5
42/10 43/8 95/4 95/8	147/5 150/11 150/19	43/18 107/5 135/10	network [3] 4/3 9/11	34/14 35/5 38/14
95/9	151/3 151/6 151/24	136/25 143/24	86/14	38/21 39/3 39/14 40/8
modem [1] 12/5	152/12 153/17 154/3	mutually [1] 25/5	never [13] 20/12 32/4	40/10 40/14 41/25
moderated [1] 76/24	154/10 155/4 155/7	my [42] 3/4 6/24	32/19 35/11 36/23	43/3 43/12 44/4 45/4
moment [1] 112/18	155/8	15/18 21/24 22/5 25/3		45/5 47/8 47/9 48/17
	Mr Booth [14] 1/7	29/18 30/6 30/14	129/20 136/25 137/2	49/25 50/20 52/10
L	1	1	1	(55) metric not

(55) metric... - not

N	110/16 116/9 124/12	office [174]	online [1] 38/6	118/16 118/22 124/3
not [95] 53/16	126/9 126/25 142/15	Office's [6] 66/1	only [21] 29/9 31/20	124/4 124/8 127/19
54/18 56/8 56/17 57/8	144/9 144/19 146/9	102/18 102/21 119/3	35/25 36/8 41/25 50/8	130/19 131/15 132/3
57/11 57/20 58/4	146/10 149/16	135/16 136/7	50/17 54/14 55/15	133/8 133/13 134/9
58/16 58/17 60/4 60/6	NR2 [1] 47/1	offices [9] 13/10 39/2		135/18 138/17 139/18
61/25 62/9 62/21	number [36] 11/15	39/2 39/3 39/3 108/19		139/21 145/15 148/2 153/13
63/25 64/6 64/19 65/4	12/16 15/14 20/5 20/6 21/20 44/21 46/15	117/12 117/13 118/10 offshore [1] 84/5	80/23 81/1 124/23 136/18 148/5	
65/17 65/18 66/10	50/22 52/4 53/11	often [3] 54/22 54/24	onwards [2] 143/23	oral [1] 89/3 order [5] 28/18 64/10
68/22 69/10 70/8	53/20 55/19 60/16	95/8	152/22	65/9 79/1 146/6
71/21 71/24 72/4 72/21 73/5 75/3 75/8	61/24 67/15 67/18	oh [6] 34/12 85/19	open [12] 1/18 3/19	organisation [1]
75/8 75/11 76/7 76/7	70/19 70/22 84/2	104/25 110/18 117/2	13/12 13/15 13/20	138/18
78/4 79/21 79/24 80/7	90/17 98/23 102/20	149/4	14/1 14/10 14/14 30/1	original [2] 148/12
83/19 84/24 85/15	109/4 110/3 112/22	oil [2] 83/23 84/3	55/13 55/14 115/3	149/11
88/23 88/25 89/22	121/22 123/15 125/18 129/16 136/25 140/18		open-plan [3] 13/12 14/10 14/14	originally [2] 148/7 149/14
94/13 95/10 95/24	142/20 146/9 153/22	143/10 144/1 145/5	opening [3] 55/12	other [38] 3/6 9/4 9/4
96/18 100/3 101/14	154/5	145/12 146/17 147/15		10/19 14/3 17/15
102/6 106/3 106/9 107/13 108/4 110/22	numbers [2] 36/8	147/16 150/21	operate [1] 89/22	20/16 23/1 26/17 31/4
111/13 112/12 114/3	36/9	old [3] 8/16 8/17	operating [4] 9/5	34/19 50/12 53/23
114/6 114/20 114/21	nuts [1] 86/13	57/23	19/8 79/5 97/13	67/25 69/8 69/8 73/23
115/1 116/9 116/16	0	older [1] 58/11	operation [3] 19/17	77/2 77/17 83/8 88/16
116/22 118/9 120/16	objective [2] 87/4	on [241] on by [1] 152/18	72/8 100/13 operational [3] 87/11	96/5 99/15 101/11 101/15 103/14 111/17
	87/12	once [4] 64/1 85/17	93/14 131/1	123/1 124/17 133/11
127/7 127/18 127/22 128/3 128/10 131/23	objectives [2] 134/21	93/23 121/20	opinion [2] 77/6	137/15 137/17 138/13
133/2 134/15 135/24	145/9	one [98] 4/16 5/13	151/4	139/19 142/1 142/5
136/12 137/9 138/2	observation [3]	8/5 8/5 10/6 11/5 12/9		146/22 151/16
138/3 139/5 139/17	107/9 148/6 148/17	12/13 13/4 13/9 13/12		others [7] 21/22
145/25 148/9 148/16	observed [3] 104/14 105/1 106/25	15/1 17/14 18/23 20/16 22/1 22/11	148/5 opposed [2] 76/24	73/14 96/7 110/17 110/18 113/2 147/6
149/12 150/1 150/4	obtain [8] 17/6 32/5	22/12 22/13 22/14	114/13	otherwise [2] 17/6
152/11	35/2 56/19 65/8 91/3	22/22 24/1 25/3 26/6	opposite [1] 129/16	50/21
note [4] 62/3 110/5 112/1 132/25	97/11 97/12	26/9 31/10 31/12	opt [1] 121/8	ought [1] 75/17
noted [2] 35/24 45/5	obtained [4] 2/6 7/11	42/19 42/24 45/4	options [2] 42/20	our [15] 36/10 41/10
notes [4] 12/3 12/3	7/21 29/1 obvious [3] 54/6	46/10 49/2 49/8 50/6 53/10 53/18 55/13	115/3	52/21 71/1 80/21 81/2 90/5 90/9 101/2 114/5
13/20 17/16	62/17 105/9	56/4 56/8 57/2 58/5	or [109] 3/22 8/14 12/6 14/24 17/1 18/7	114/9 115/3 121/6
nothing [9] 31/2	obviously [7] 14/7	58/7 59/17 59/20 60/2		142/16 147/11
32/19 33/5 36/25 90/18 93/25 123/5	53/7 66/21 67/14	69/3 69/15 69/17 77/7		ourselves [2] 9/16
125/7 153/25	72/10 145/5 145/7	77/14 77/14 77/15	34/14 34/16 34/24	75/9
notice [1] 133/18	occasionally [1] 54/8	77/18 78/14 83/7 85/4		out [64] 8/19 8/23
notification [1]	occasions [1] 153/22 occur [5] 45/3 72/23	87/17 92/8 92/9 92/25		17/13 18/24 19/11
127/24	94/14 94/15 107/12	96/23 99/12 99/14 99/15 99/25 101/13	47/17 48/14 49/10 49/11 49/19 50/4	20/18 26/18 26/19 27/25 28/12 28/15
notify [2] 11/23	occurred [2] 51/3	101/14 101/14 101/20		28/19 29/12 29/17
106/22	107/8	102/12 104/2 104/2	53/17 56/1 59/1 61/15	33/22 35/11 36/21
noting [1] 33/11 Notwithstanding [1]	occurring [1] 77/12	104/11 105/8 106/14	61/15 63/2 63/10	40/2 46/11 52/22 55/4
71/16	October [3] 2/18 5/16	108/18 116/25 118/1	65/10 65/11 65/12	55/10 55/16 57/3
November [7] 1/1	127/13 October 1990 [1]	119/2 120/14 122/19	65/20 67/23 69/3 69/6 70/8 71/8 72/8 72/14	57/21 60/11 69/10
12/12 18/14 42/13	2/18	122/23 128/13 129/5 132/16 134/5 134/21	70/8 71/8 72/8 72/14 73/9 75/8 75/24 77/21	69/12 71/12 72/15 72/18 73/4 73/17
78/14 121/11 134/15	October 1999 [1]	137/3 138/1 140/2	81/6 82/19 87/25	76/16 77/3 77/20
November 1999 [1] 78/14	127/13	140/3 143/15 144/3	88/18 88/20 88/24	77/25 78/1 78/13 79/6
now [43] 4/17 11/14	October 2006 [1]	145/8 145/17 145/24	89/9 89/21 91/6 92/11	80/2 85/20 88/11
12/6 12/10 28/8 29/17	5/16	146/22 148/5	92/15 92/17 93/10	93/16 113/21 120/22
36/9 41/12 41/21 42/8	odd [1] 50/22 odds [1] 49/10	one's [1] 58/6	93/15 96/4 97/24	123/16 123/25 124/3
46/8 52/15 54/3 57/11	off [8] 25/25 26/4	onerous [2] 55/3 73/12	99/20 100/2 101/14 102/4 102/25 103/3	124/7 124/21 130/1 130/2 132/13 134/6
58/5 59/20 61/9 61/14	28/4 54/15 55/7 58/3	ones [4] 40/4 40/13	107/19 108/5 108/18	136/22 137/13 143/12
66/5 81/2 81/6 81/19	118/3 147/12	40/14 105/20	110/17 111/10 111/17	144/3 150/8 150/11
82/12 82/12 83/18 89/12 94/9 96/7 98/1	offer [2] 118/17	ongoing [5] 21/4	112/2 112/9 112/14	150/13 150/19 150/23
101/22 109/16 110/1	153/23	61/24 73/14 88/5	112/20 113/20 114/7	outcome [7] 24/5
	offering [1] 21/22	129/24	114/20 115/25 118/6	24/6 24/7 24/12 42/4
				(56) not outcome

(56) not... - outcome

0	113/16 115/9 115/9	82/13	party [4] 58/22 116/6	per [9] 3/1 34/9 65/15
outcome [2] 116/7	115/19 119/23 120/2	paragraph 12 [1]	136/17 149/3	110/23 112/21 116/11
133/8	121/4 130/21 132/24	86/25	pass [2] 101/13	116/19 118/15 128/3
outcomes [1] 25/6	134/5 137/5 141/3 141/4 141/6 141/9	paragraph 13 [1] 87/18	128/5	perfect [2] 9/23 9/24
outlet [3] 109/3	141/11 141/12 141/13		passed [5] 34/4 34/10 62/9 69/23	perfectly [1] 34/20 perform [3] 90/4
109/14 126/15	141/14 141/18 141/19		100/2	135/1 135/3
outlets [3] 44/4			passing [3] 33/5	performance [2] 21/1
123/15 126/14 output [2] 56/12	142/21 143/6 143/8	33/8 33/10	128/7 129/6	121/12
112/16	143/9 146/25 147/9	paragraph 19 [1]	past [4] 3/22 62/9	performant [1] 20/10
outs [1] 26/22	151/7 151/10 155/5	89/14	81/6 113/9	performed [3] 22/25
outstanding [8] 36/1	page 1 [5] 13/6 115/9 115/9 115/9 115/19 141/3	paragraph 2 [1] 43/6	patch [2] 72/23 106/21	44/13 107/9
59/15 59/16 60/17	page 10 [1] 89/14	paragraph 2.1.2 [1] 43/6	path [1] 95/7	perhaps [3] 60/13 67/13 111/14
60/23 61/11 63/6	page 118 [1] 78/11	paragraph 2.2.1 [1]	paths [1] 33/14	period [12] 23/15
133/20 outturn [1] 78/25	page 13 [1] 99/24	43/22	pathway [167]	42/12 99/3 108/5
outweighed [1]	page 16 [1] 95/21	paragraph 2.2.2 [1]	Pathway's [18] 15/16	
76/25	page 18 [4] 82/7	45/2	16/20 17/24 20/19	138/1 142/9 148/6
over [23] 2/14 4/9 8/3	137/5 151/7 151/10	paragraph 2.2.3 [1] 45/9	31/13 41/21 46/9 70/16 71/18 74/8	148/17 150/6
11/1 12/4 16/18 22/20	page 2 [4] 15/12 97/4 105/12 113/16	paragraph 23 [1]	89/17 96/20 103/17	persist [1] 96/4 person [7] 15/19
23/14 43/23 48/4	page 23 [1] 70/12	99/24	110/12 147/14 147/19	
49/11 51/2 62/20 96/24 98/8 107/2	page 249 [2] 141/13	paragraph 26 [1]	149/14 150/16	118/2 146/13
123/14 133/14 133/22	141/14	121/17	patterns [2] 102/10	personal [4] 4/16
133/25 141/18 141/22	page 249-250 [1]	paragraph 28 [1]	102/13	44/7 66/22 76/4
142/21	141/9	27/5	Paul [1] 139/24	personally [2] 11/19 88/15
over-typing [1] 51/2	page 250 [1] 141/19 page 3 [2] 63/5 134/5	Paragraph 29 [1] 95/21	pause [1] 124/3 pausing [2] 62/12	persons [1] 138/17
overall [3] 10/12	page 39 [1] 33/7	paragraph 30 [1]	100/14	perspective [5] 9/7
87/16 108/23	page 392 [2] 142/18	76/15	paved [1] 4/13	36/13 36/19 49/15
overly [1] 30/24 overseeing [1] 28/20	142/19	paragraphs [4] 78/13		75/1
overseen [1] 52/5	page 4 [1] 130/21	79/15 147/21 149/17	38/10 67/5 117/14	perspectives [1]
oversight [3] 56/5	page 5 [6] 15/25 20/22 61/10 82/13	parcels [1] 14/4 pardon [1] 145/1	117/16 paying [1] 64/6	49/8 Peter [2] 86/18 125/5
65/6 68/15	97/17 108/12	parenthesis [1] 62/3	payment [8] 6/9 7/5	PFI [7] 6/25 85/8
<b>OVSC [1]</b> 86/12	page 57 [1] 104/19	parked [1] 100/5	26/6 27/10 28/5 28/7	89/23 91/1 93/22
own [9] 4/7 8/1 15/16 25/22 85/2 100/20	page 6 [3] 60/12	part [22] 10/2 22/14	64/21 117/11	93/23 94/5
107/9 111/13 125/14	60/18 132/24	33/16 33/18 46/19	payments [4] 56/6	phase [17] 6/13 7/12
owned [1] 4/10	page 63 [1] 1/22	47/9 48/13 49/12 64/7 66/1 66/5 85/8 87/10		17/3 18/12 21/14 21/17 22/3 22/15
owner [4] 11/5 11/6	page 8 [1] 60/24 page 9 [3] 56/16	96/2 103/17 110/23	pays [1] 118/1 Paystation [1] 5/13	23/10 23/20 23/24
15/19 93/5	92/24 93/1	116/1 141/14 141/22	PC [1] 3/1	26/24 30/4 42/24
ownership [1] 14/19	pages [2] 1/20		PCs [4] 3/5 4/15 4/15	84/18 86/2 95/9
Р	143/14	participant [1] 47/12	54/2	phases [4] 43/9 44/2
pace [2] 4/22 63/22	pagination [1] 141/9	participants [1]	PDA [8] 86/17 86/19	95/8 108/11
pack [3] 114/25	paid [4] 64/19 77/4 117/11 117/13	73/23 participate [1] 90/10	91/5 103/9 110/23 132/10 145/14 146/18	philosophies [1] 16/11
132/6 134/11	paid-for [1] 64/19	participated [2] 7/22		
package [1] 14/8 page [79] 1/22 13/6	pairs [1] 50/6	22/4	11/11 16/14 24/20	54/24 55/4 109/16
15/12 15/25 20/22	Pamela [1] 151/21	participation [2]	32/11 40/11 40/19	phone-round [1]
33/7 43/4 43/23 45/19	paper [3] 3/8 16/3	10/13 48/3	47/8 47/15 47/16	55/4
56/16 60/12 60/13	134/7 papers [1] 19/1	particular [14] 25/18 33/5 36/16 41/15	51/13 52/4 66/17 67/25 69/6 72/16	phrase [2] 54/4 103/11
60/18 60/24 60/25	paragraph [31] 27/5	42/11 47/9 57/10 59/2		phrased [1] 24/3
61/10 63/5 70/12 76/11 76/12 78/11	33/8 33/9 33/10 35/22	59/5 64/3 94/11	90/14 94/22 103/9	physical [1] 30/15
82/7 82/13 89/14	41/21 43/6 43/6 43/22	145/21 146/15 146/23	105/7 110/3 110/22	physically [1] 32/10
92/24 92/25 93/1 94/8	45/2 45/9 76/15 82/13			
95/21 97/4 97/17	82/17 86/25 87/18	95/8 108/18	117/11 117/13 117/14	1 1
99/24 102/16 104/1	89/12 89/14 95/21 99/24 100/25 107/3	parties [3] 97/11 117/9 141/7	117/16 117/24 118/4 118/12 125/18 127/7	picture [1] 55/2 piece [1] 135/1
104/19 105/12 105/21	110/10 115/11 120/6	partitions [1] 8/19	127/8 139/19 140/4	pieces [1] 9/12
105/22 105/24 105/25 106/5 106/7 107/2	121/17 125/19 130/22	partner [2] 7/4 77/10	140/18 145/13 145/16	pilot [1] 87/1
108/12 110/5 111/1	132/25 142/4 143/1	parts [3] 19/18	146/18 147/7 148/19	PinICL [5] 87/19
	paragraph 10 [1]	129/17 141/8	152/12 152/17 153/13	87/22 88/17 88/21
				(57) outcome - PinICI

(57) outcome... - PinICL

P	147/9 147/12 151/10	POL00028508 [1]	prescribed [1] 137/8	120/7 131/15
• PinICL [1] 89/1	151/11	59/24	presence [1] 30/16	problems [21] 8/11
PinICLs [6] 79/6	plumbing [1] 86/14	POL00028544 [1]	present [8] 13/22	14/11 20/11 20/14
88/13 88/16 88/20	plus [1] 123/24	132/17	16/4 32/10 32/11 36/1	43/10 43/12 45/2 45/8
88/24 89/2	pm [5] 81/13 81/15 113/11 113/13 154/13	POL00028552 [1] 130/4	100/4 115/24 138/3	45/9 58/24 72/7 94/15 106/14 106/16 106/18
place [17] 9/12 14/6	POCL [43] 9/15	POL00028553 [1]	presented [2] 38/6 88/24	120/25 124/9 127/17
18/9 23/24 38/5 38/19	26/19 29/6 63/12 64/1	133/23	presenting [2] 4/22	133/11 151/25 153/20
38/20 39/19 52/17 62/11 79/12 87/10	78/21 79/8 79/22	POL00028564 [1]	16/23	procedural [2]
88/9 94/10 122/7	79/23 79/25 86/3 86/4	125/17	press [1] 92/21	140/22 142/17
129/3 139/22	89/18 90/16 93/11	POL00043682 [1]	pressed [3] 78/20	procedure [2] 40/6
placed [2] 28/24	93/12 94/15 97/22	146/24	79/22 91/10	61/11
49/18	107/5 107/8 107/14 108/21 112/23 112/25	POL00043699 [1] 100/23	pressure [9] 90/11 91/10 95/23 95/24	procedures [10] 18/9 47/2 48/8 94/10 94/16
plan [13] 13/12 14/1	114/18 127/22 133/14		114/4 114/14 114/15	95/2 95/9 95/13 95/15
14/10 14/14 56/24	134/16 134/19 141/21	48/6	114/17 115/16	106/20
69/15 95/6 107/19 110/13 112/6 113/24	141/23 142/5 142/24	Police [1] 141/24	pressures [1] 77/13	proceed [1] 115/4
114/12 129/22	143/2 146/17 148/7	polished [1] 17/7	presumably [7]	proceeding [2] 89/19
planned [1] 138/8	148/8 148/14 148/16	politics [1] 15/4	45/15 49/4 63/15	107/13
planning [1] 84/4	149/13 149/13 149/17		64/23 65/6 126/9	process [40] 14/23
plans [8] 103/3	149/22 POCL's [7] 63/20	portmanteau [1] 99/18	135/20 previous [6] 3/3 34/2	21/16 22/3 22/18 23/23 23/25 28/3 28/4
103/18 103/21 115/2	134/16 147/14 147/19		71/2 84/9 122/19	30/25 35/19 38/22
122/7 122/10 123/24 133/11	148/1 149/1 150/14	102/18 108/18 124/7	130/23	41/12 51/6 60/8 62/15
play [1] 125/5	POID [1] 66/9	124/18 125/10 134/7	previously [6] 34/2	72/8 85/9 88/4 88/6
played [1] 35/11	point [39] 2/19 5/3	135/16 135/25 136/1	58/1 68/4 68/12 71/10	90/1 97/3 97/10 97/13
players [1] 121/6	6/16 8/19 13/7 15/14	136/16 140/8	153/21	97/14 100/15 100/21
playing [1] 73/20	16/1 16/12 17/10 18/11 20/24 30/19	positioning [1] 80/5 positive [3] 87/17	price [2] 11/13 38/3 pricing [1] 126/17	109/11 110/20 111/11 111/20 112/7 116/14
please [113] 1/7 1/10	48/13 57/6 71/13	114/5 114/10	primarily [4] 25/12	116/17 118/5 118/11
1/22 2/22 8/2 13/6	76/20 92/1 97/19	possibility [1] 57/7	25/20 30/10 48/1	122/10 127/6 130/12
15/12 15/13 15/25 19/3 19/25 20/21	105/3 107/18 112/3	possible [10] 53/7	primary [2] 71/10	131/10 135/13
20/23 20/23 23/4	112/4 112/9 120/12	86/7 87/23 103/1	87/4	processes [4] 16/8
25/19 27/3 27/24	123/8 123/21 124/12	112/14 112/15 137/16		37/21 47/2 78/18
27/25 33/7 33/18	127/15 130/3 131/18 135/9 135/17 135/20	138/13 141/12 151/16	principal [2] 23/18 37/24	processing [4] 27/22 42/23 44/15 58/24
33/20 35/22 36/5	137/20 137/24 140/5	possibly [5] 70/24 78/15 113/2 114/11	printed [1] 88/24	procurement [7]
37/25 42/15 42/16	141/6 147/17 148/19	133/14	prior [5] 14/17 37/21	4/25 6/13 6/15 21/15
43/4 43/22 44/16 46/21 46/23 47/4 48/6	point 11 [2] 112/3	post [160]	39/17 41/18 46/11	22/3 23/24 84/14
52/15 56/10 56/16	112/4	postmasters [1]	private [3] 4/24 6/22	produce [6] 16/3
57/13 59/18 59/24	Point 3 [1] 147/17	75/17	6/24	63/15 63/24 64/12
60/12 60/18 60/24	pointed [1] 107/7	potential [3] 6/18	privatisation [1] 84/7	119/3 119/15
61/10 61/21 62/24	pointers [1] 71/7 points [5] 36/15 69/9	84/17 107/11 potentially [2] 65/11	privilege [2] 49/25 51/15	produced [7] 11/16 31/17 70/9 138/9
63/5 64/11 70/5 70/13	112/3 125/20 135/3	101/5	privileged [2] 4/4	141/21 142/24 144/2
76/14 78/8 78/10	POL [1] 77/1	pounds [2] 13/14	52/9	producing [1] 112/5
78/11 78/13 81/24 82/7 92/23 92/25 93/1	POL00028332 [1]	13/15	privileges [3] 46/9	product [15] 15/12
94/8 95/21 97/5 97/17	105/12	pour [1] 96/12	51/20 51/25	15/20 20/6 25/11
99/23 100/23 102/16	POL00028342 [1]	power [1] 9/10	pro [1] 104/4	31/17 40/20 63/14
103/25 104/1 104/19	110/2 POI 00028357 [1]	PR [1] 87/11	proactively [2] 71/22	76/25 77/15 78/6 84/20 85/3 114/22
105/11 105/12 105/17	POL00028357 [1] 103/25	practically [1] 149/19 practice [1] 89/7	probably [23] 3/1 4/6	
105/21 106/4 106/7	POL00028360 [1]	pre [5] 16/24 32/1	4/8 11/6 23/12 32/14	production [2] 17/15
107/2 108/12 110/1	56/10	57/3 77/5 100/18	32/22 35/3 35/6 35/14	
110/5 111/1 111/23 112/3 113/16 115/19	POL00028367 [1]	pre-allocated [1]	47/24 60/3 65/24	products [5] 5/10
119/22 119/23 120/2	97/4	100/18	72/22 77/24 92/19	77/1 77/7 77/21 78/7
121/4 125/1 125/17	POL00028370 [1]	pre-eminent [1] 77/5	96/2 101/9 109/14	professional [4] 2/5
125/19 130/3 130/21	92/24 POL00028465 [1]	pre-LT2 [1] 57/3 pre-tender [1] 32/1	111/16 113/20 133/19   137/1	17/19 30/23 40/18 professionally [1]
132/17 132/24 133/5	119/22	preceding [1] 11/24	problem [15] 17/11	150/25
133/23 134/5 137/4	POL00028471 [1]	prefer [1] 55/2	34/22 35/16 54/13	professionals [2]
137/6 137/22 141/1 141/3 141/11 141/22	113/16	premature [1] 123/19	55/10 55/21 55/22	35/7 74/11
142/18 143/6 146/23	POL00028476 [1]	prepare [1] 11/25	57/25 72/6 88/8	program [4] 3/14
	112/1	prepared [1] 56/11	102/15 103/4 106/18	5/14 9/22 62/19
·				(59) DinICI program

(58) PinICL... - program

Р	prove [1] 39/4	18/10 21/14 33/17	read [16] 13/21 50/17	receipt [3] 38/9 44/10
programme [13] 6/16	proved [3] 38/14		63/15 64/4 70/6 76/16	
7/11 12/15 14/24 23/6	39/22 10//21	90/21 90/22 94/2	78/12 85/17 85/19	receipts [4] 40/15
23/10 23/20 87/7 89/5	proven [4] 43/14	95/23 96/25 108/9	100/19 113/18 119/10	
93/3 105/7 105/13	114/3 123/14 135/11	128/10 136/6 149/7	141/17 147/20 148/25	
138/21	provide [6] 24/6 37/16 63/4 89/18	150/22	149/8	142/14
programmer [2] 2/11	130/24 135/4	questionable [1] 73/12	read-only [1] 50/17 reader [1] 71/7	receiving [1] 127/19 recent [1] 6/8
36/17	provided [8] 8/6	questioned [13] 1/9	reading [9] 45/12	recently [3] 8/6 11/21
programmers [3]	11/21 12/8 43/11	22/19 74/1 76/11	57/24 58/12 64/18	35/14
2/12 33/24 34/15	69/25 70/3 88/20	81/22 140/17 150/4	65/2 67/8 79/13 136/4	
programming [2]	131/3	154/5 155/3 155/4	152/25	62/2
38/19 50/12	provider [7] 7/1 8/8	155/5 155/7 155/8	reads [6] 14/16 16/1	recipients [1] 68/2
progress [1] 107/5 progression [1]	9/19 10/22 11/23 24/5	questions [17] 2/5	20/25 33/9 43/7 70/15	
124/21	24/11		ready [1] 108/19	113/22 115/13
project [38] 3/10	provider's [1] 10/24	73/22 74/2 74/10	real [12] 24/22 39/2	reclassify [4] 114/4
5/11 5/12 5/20 6/8	providers [10] 8/5	80/12 80/15 81/23	39/10 39/12 39/13	114/15 114/16 115/17
14/25 16/19 16/21	8/17 9/25 10/4 10/11	83/19 138/23 138/24	39/13 40/18 41/1 41/3	
23/14 24/15 24/16	10/19 21/19 22/12	142/10 151/6 154/1	41/5 72/18 94/19	114/12
32/23 46/10 47/23	22/24 23/2	queueing [1] 109/18	real-life [1] 41/5	recognise [5] 38/7 104/6 106/9 107/10
78/23 79/8 84/4 84/8	provides [3] 43/24 61/12 61/23	quicker [1] 29/24 quite [11] 7/6 14/25	real-world [1] 24/22 realisation [1]	133/1
84/12 89/16 94/23	providing [9] 7/2 7/4	27/4 28/8 35/11 42/5	127/18	recognised [1]
96/10 103/20 113/5	11/6 44/8 65/16 67/4	50/14 68/9 109/17	realise [2] 31/1 72/13	138/24
124/12 124/21 126/2	90/16 131/22 142/12	136/6 150/21	reality [4] 9/25	recollection [19]
126/2 126/4 126/5 127/2 129/16 133/13	provision [8] 60/24	quotes [1] 119/8	136/22 136/24 151/5	15/18 21/23 29/18
137/19 137/22 137/24	64/16 64/18 65/21	R	really [13] 38/12	30/6 43/2 43/16 45/11
145/7 145/25	67/17 68/16 69/3		72/21 73/9 79/25	45/13 53/22 56/6 57/9
projects [4] 34/3	128/23	radar [1] 65/7	99/11 117/9 118/17	83/5 87/9 98/12
83/25 85/13 126/7	provisional [2]	Radka [3] 121/8	118/18 118/22 123/5	105/15 125/15 128/18
promoted [1] 39/5	106/10 106/20	121/10 130/7	127/3 139/15 139/20	133/3 133/9
pronunciation [1]	pull [3] 12/9 36/19 105/17	raise [9] 1/12 53/10 64/1 64/11 64/11 99/2	reason [9] 14/10 35/1	recommence [1] 45/24
80/22	pulled [2] 36/21 78/9	99/4 102/4 113/25	90/23 112/11 124/13	recommenced [1]
proof [3] 107/13	Pulling [1] 21/1	raised [12] 52/23	124/17	60/11
114/5 114/10	purely [1] 67/10	58/18 63/11 64/14		recommendations
propagated [1] 68/2	purpose [9] 8/1	76/23 91/24 92/19	73/9 143/3	<b>[4]</b> 92/11 92/13
proper [2] 3/2 22/7 properly [3] 39/16	12/25 18/25 37/24	102/7 127/12 127/14	reasoning [1] 57/19	92/16 97/21
57/8 62/2	49/6 87/22 97/19	127/14 129/21	reasons [9] 61/16	recommending [2]
propose [1] 110/12	134/9 137/9	raising [1] 73/18	96/9 99/19 103/14	61/17 115/1
proposed [6] 8/9	pursue [2] 74/20	ran [2] 3/1 151/21	103/14 116/18 120/15	
15/16 109/23 111/14	139/1	ranked [1] 102/24	120/21 122/23	117/9
131/5 134/25	pursued [2] 75/18	rapid [2] 25/2 25/9		
proposes [1] 134/19	133/10	rapid-application [1] 25/9	109/15	27/17 79/5 135/10 135/17 135/23 136/1
proposing [3] 10/18	<b>push [2]</b> 19/11 136/16	rate [5] 54/17 107/5	rebooted [1] 55/24 rebooting [2] 54/25	136/8 136/12
134/16 134/18	put [15] 14/5 14/6	116/11 117/1 117/22	109/16	record [3] 12/22 50/9
prosecute [1] 74/20	19/7 44/10 51/18	rates [1] 118/15	reboots [4] 55/8	97/5
prosecuted [8] 74/3	51/19 51/23 54/18	rather [15] 21/12	108/23 109/11 120/4	recorded [3] 42/24
75/21 137/14 151/14 152/8 152/13 153/12	57/20 58/5 72/14 83/2	49/16 51/1 51/6 54/23	recall [45] 4/1 6/15	49/20 56/13
152/0 152/13 153/12	87/9 88/9 94/2	63/2 69/11 70/20 72/5	6/23 7/19 10/7 11/19	recording [1] 56/12
prosecution [7]	putting [3] 72/18	79/21 80/5 86/6 89/6	13/2 17/12 18/19	records [3] 56/9
63/17 65/10 65/11	75/4 75/6	97/14 136/16	22/25 23/11 23/17	102/17 106/12
68/17 74/23 141/15	Q	rating [8] 102/21	33/6 42/7 42/14 45/16	
142/8	qualifiable [1] 22/18	147/12 147/13 147/14 147/15 147/19 147/20		56/24 103/3 103/18 103/21 107/19 110/13
prosecution' [1]	qualification [1]	149/14	62/17 68/18 70/8	113/23 114/3 122/7
63/23	107/17	rationale [2] 29/19	77/24 94/16 95/6 96/1	122/9 123/24 133/10
prosecutions [8]	qualified [1] 52/23	149/25	96/7 101/7 102/23	138/3
59/19 66/3 68/19	quality [7] 21/22	RDP [3] 44/4 44/6	104/4 104/6 104/7	rectify [1] 59/9
119/5 119/16 142/7 142/13 152/19	31/17 31/22 34/5 34/7	94/12	104/24 112/9 116/24	redesign [1] 92/12
prosecutor [1] 75/22	34/11 92/2	reached [2] 6/16		reduce [3] 101/25
protect [1] 51/18	queried [1] 16/2	36/22	129/21 130/12 130/14	
	question [18] 17/8	reaching [1] 153/2	134/9	reduced [4] 4/9
L	I	I	1	(59) programme - reduced

(59) programme - reduced

R	regional [1] 126/23	remedy [2] 19/23	requirement [21]	return [6] 37/12
reduced [3] 120/14	regions [1] 126/21	52/25	13/22 13/24 14/13	37/12 37/15 62/12
120/17 120/20	registered [1] 31/25	remember [24] 13/9	14/17 24/2 24/7 63/13	
reducing [2] 48/2	regress [1] 62/1	22/6 22/7 30/7 50/4	63/25 85/16 119/6	<b>Returning [1]</b> 21/14
140/24	regular [1] 30/8	82/25 86/5 86/16 88/9	119/8 119/18 119/19	revealed [1] 32/19
	regularly [2] 55/8	88/25 92/9 104/9	141/13 141/15 142/11	reverted [1] 133/12
refer [6] 85/20 87/18	55/21	106/3 109/15 125/13	142/22 143/11 143/23	
98/7 99/11 100/6	reintroduced [1]	126/3 129/23 130/15	143/24 146/16	30/18 48/12 48/14
125/12	57/23	132/8 134/11 134/11	requirements [21]	62/10 62/25 63/2 63/2
reference [54] 7/10		135/2 144/9 152/25	23/21 23/23 24/25	130/6 130/10 130/16
19/24 44/4 44/7 44/13	reintroducing [2]			
45/2 56/18 56/23 57/1	57/3 58/1	remmuneration [1]	25/7 26/9 28/20 31/19	
57/4 62/23 62/24 63/6	rejected [1] 44/19	27/19	85/5 85/7 85/8 85/10	133/6 133/8 133/8
70/12 82/21 83/3 83/8	rejections [1] 94/14	remote [1] 50/13	85/11 85/12 85/18	133/17 144/16
89/13 92/24 97/19	rejoin [1] 5/16	removed [1] 120/19	89/19 119/3 119/10	reviewed [3] 48/17
125/16 125/22 125/25	relate [1] 25/11	repair [1] 79/4	140/24 141/9 143/17	88/16 100/13
	related [7] 5/21 21/21	repeatable [2] 22/18	149/23	reviewing [4] 49/4
126/6 126/8 126/9	33/4 46/11 53/11 56/5	37/9	requiring [2] 116/3	49/13 76/20 102/9
126/12 126/13 126/19	71/17	repeatedly [2] 37/7	120/4	revised [1] 22/11
126/24 126/25 127/4	relates [9] 31/13	91/4	residual [2] 78/17	revolves [1] 63/18
127/8 127/9 128/5	35/17 47/1 59/18 60/7	replenishment [1]	79/9	reward [1] 6/25
128/14 129/15 130/5				
130/6 130/13 130/19	61/10 76/14 132/19	14/18	resigned [1] 5/18	rewrite [2] 92/11
131/10 131/14 131/19	140/24	reply [1] 36/22	resilient [2] 9/18 9/22	92/16
131/21 132/7 132/7	relating [14] 21/22	report [23] 11/18	resolution [6] 19/19	RH [1] 108/15
132/18 133/16 142/19	46/15 49/5 53/20	12/11 15/10 15/14	66/22 71/16 105/13	Rich [1] 139/25
143/10 147/1 151/9	58/18 60/23 67/15	18/15 42/17 42/20	106/19 107/19	right [53] 2/12 3/25
151/12	67/17 67/21 67/23	42/25 43/2 43/18	resolve [3] 71/14	5/1 5/10 5/22 5/25 6/6
	68/11 68/16 68/20	50/20 50/23 63/2 63/9		6/10 6/14 12/15 12/18
referenced [1] 48/6	125/22	68/13 78/8 78/24	resolved [2] 17/25	12/23 23/21 28/24
references [3] 88/10	relation [24] 17/11	85/24 86/15 86/23	69/18	29/6 31/6 31/8 31/9
91/5 147/8	24/19 27/12 27/25	93/3 97/23 106/23	resource [1] 87/8	31/14 32/24 35/20
referred [18] 11/14	51/25 53/24 60/21	reported [14] 7/19	resources [5] 55/10	36/7 38/3 38/5 38/21
12/23 25/10 60/22	64/2 69/14 75/14	7/20 57/3 78/16 86/16		40/21 41/14 41/24
68/13 95/16 104/21				
105/20 109/19 109/22	103/23 126/1 130/15	86/20 86/22 92/1	respect [4] 93/25	42/6 48/20 50/14
110/10 116/11 117/21	142/11 142/12 143/16		116/11 117/22 118/8	73/24 74/24 81/6
129/2 133/24 144/19	145/19 146/15 149/22		respective [1] 130/25	
147/6 153/8	150/5 150/23 151/9	reporting [4] 15/6	responded [1] 70/20	110/8 120/9 127/9
referring [17] 41/13	151/13 152/8	86/1 86/6 112/7	response [4] 4/20	130/8 133/1 134/1
	relationship [6] 32/9	reports [6] 11/16	16/4 36/18 142/20	136/14 140/10 143/7
41/15 42/8 42/10	70/11 93/23 103/7	11/21 12/10 79/16	responsibility [6]	144/19 146/13 147/3
47/16 47/17 72/7 72/9	103/8 117/25	79/20 146/14	62/15 66/6 66/22	147/16 149/8 154/12
95/23 100/7 101/7	relative [2] 22/23	represent [5] 38/22	97/14 110/12 111/6	right-hand [3] 12/15
115/10 134/24 138/16	23/1	108/1 140/18 148/19	responsible [14]	29/6 147/3
143/7 145/3 146/10		151/21	10/24 23/9 26/16	
refers [7] 114/14	relatively [4] 3/5 26/1			rights [1] 52/9
125/20 125/22 142/1	56/9 83/4	representative [2]	27/18 48/22 58/16	<b>Riposte [6]</b> 13/1
142/22 147/10 149/10	relativity [1] 141/9	11/15 146/17	59/21 62/2 86/3 86/4	15/12 15/20 16/16
refined [1] 22/14	release [3] 41/16	representatives [6]	97/15 110/16 125/25	19/1 20/6
refinement [3] 23/25	43/15 55/14	11/17 12/16 16/15	129/14	rise [1] 81/4
26/9 28/20	released [1] 119/8	61/18 73/23 138/25	rest [3] 29/8 29/9	Rising [1] 2/14
	relevant [5] 63/19	represented [1]	49/9	risk [17] 6/25 18/22
refining [1] 23/21	69/4 134/23 141/20	145/13	restart [1] 55/17	21/11 31/25 47/25
reflect [6] 13/23 16/9	142/24	representing [4]	restarting [1] 55/20	54/16 58/1 66/17 69/7
21/4 62/13 98/11	reliable [2] 53/17	113/4 113/5 118/7	resubmission [1]	93/3 93/5 94/13 94/19
120/10	54/2	146/6	44/18	101/10 101/24 107/10
reflected [1] 68/12	reluctance [2]	reputations [1] 74/4	result [7] 16/17 72/4	107/12
reflecting [1] 16/10	125/11 130/24		74/4 74/7 74/8 101/23	
reflects [1] 16/22		request [10] 36/23 36/23 37/2 38/15 64/1	106/25	risks [4] 18/23 66/18 93/12 118/2
refusal [1] 31/13	reluctantly [1] 121/8			
regard [2] 118/24	rely [4] 40/11 40/11	64/11 64/14 89/23	resulting [1] 93/14	<b>ROBERT [3]</b> 1/8 1/11
143/3	75/6 78/18	141/23 142/24	results [3] 56/24	155/2
regarded [1] 151/19	remain [1] 6/5	requested [1] 64/6	101/1 128/24	robust [5] 94/11
regarding [2] 121/21	remained [4] 23/5	require [4] 36/16	resume [1] 45/25	103/8 123/11 123/12
151/6	71/19 73/3 99/12	56/1 64/9 64/21	retailer [1] 8/21	123/18
	remaining [2] 56/25	required [7] 24/13	retain [2] 115/3 115/4	
regardless [2] 88/8	121/24	63/24 64/20 110/13	retained [1] 142/7	robustness [3] 123/7
124/10	remarks [1] 56/15	114/2 131/12 143/15	retention [1] 142/9	123/13 123/16

(60) reduced... - robustness

	124/13 127/13 138/7	19/24 21/2	60/20 60/25 62/23	22/12 23/1 24/5 24/11
<u>R</u>	138/10 138/15 139/8	scalable [1] 21/8	63/5 63/7 68/15 70/24	I I
rock [1] 39/19	143/19 148/21 150/3	scale [2] 20/14 72/17	79/20 82/9 85/2 88/10	I I I
role [22] 2/14 15/11 18/20 23/19 26/10	152/16	scampering [1]	91/5 93/4 96/16	64/25 65/4 67/5 69/8
26/11 48/13 59/19	sales [1] 2/19	127/2	101/10 102/13 105/13	
61/13 66/25 76/19	Sam [1] 81/23	scenario [2] 40/25	106/17 107/21 113/14	
84/24 85/2 85/4 85/20	same [10] 18/17 24/4		122/9 133/16 141/4	108/17 108/24 118/3
86/15 97/8 97/9 97/23	24/6 24/8 24/24 55/5	scenes [1] 21/3	141/5 141/12 141/14	141/21 144/4 147/10
130/15 132/21 133/12	75/22 78/24 139/6 142/22	scope [1] 63/25 scored [1] 21/20	142/19 143/7 143/8 143/10 147/3 147/7	148/5 149/15 services [3] 3/23 7/5
roles [3] 86/9 110/6	sample [1] 148/22	scoring [2] 22/4	147/16 152/20	84/5
	satisfactorily [2]	22/24	Seedall [2] 111/2	set [10] 15/4 22/16
roll [18] 26/18 26/19 46/11 60/11 73/4	94/20 106/11	Scotland [1] 142/3	111/16	29/13 29/15 37/2
88/11 93/16 123/25	satisfactory [3]	Scott [1] 132/9	seeing [2] 17/4 88/13	73/19 125/20 130/17
124/3 124/7 124/21	96/22 103/6 118/16	screen [8] 54/3	seek [2] 30/20	143/12 147/4
134/6 137/13 150/8	satisfied [7] 61/14	104/11 104/11 105/17		sets [1] 134/13
150/11 150/13 150/19	119/21 122/2 122/14 144/15 144/16 144/17	109/2 109/8 120/4 141/4	seeking [2] 113/22 114/23	setting [2] 3/22 33/22
150/23	Saturday [1] 8/23	screens [1] 121/1	seem [1] 102/12	settlement [1] 27/19 setup [1] 52/10
roll-out [17] 26/18	saw [6] 16/11 42/4	script [1] 89/9	seems [4] 50/11	several [11] 7/11
26/19 46/11 60/11	51/5 69/15 85/4	scroll [11] 15/13	102/23 148/10 148/14	13/13 18/15 21/24
73/4 88/11 93/16 123/25 124/3 124/7	114/24	15/25 20/21 20/22	seen [10] 4/13 8/17	23/13 23/15 24/21
123/25 124/3 124/7	say [71] 10/21 12/13	35/22 43/4 47/4 56/16	20/6 42/7 76/6 79/15	39/2 44/18 45/7 54/11
150/11 150/13 150/19	22/20 25/12 25/15	60/12 78/12 147/11	96/16 122/11 134/2	severe [2] 43/14
150/23	27/13 28/20 30/6 33/3		139/25	108/18
rolled [1] 80/2	34/1 34/11 37/1 37/13 41/21 42/1 47/15 52/5		selected [1] 84/15 sell [1] 38/2	severities [1] 56/14 severity [38] 40/3
rolling [1] 78/1	52/24 54/18 54/22	22/14 26/11 33/18	send [3] 28/4 36/17	53/18 56/4 57/17
room [4] 1/13 19/5	54/23 55/12 55/24	43/4 60/13 78/9 97/19		59/20 60/19 60/23
79/14 154/2	57/6 57/12 57/15	106/5 107/3 115/11	sense [8] 66/11	98/9 98/14 99/5 100/7
root [2] 55/11 106/13 rosy [1] 98/24	62/14 64/9 64/10	119/23 120/6 125/10	69/13 95/17 99/18	100/18 101/25 102/21
roughly [3] 84/13	64/16 65/16 67/2 72/1			102/25 104/3 108/25
85/14 143/19	74/24 75/20 80/4 81/7		124/1	121/22 147/12 147/13
round [7] 34/20	82/17 84/23 85/7 86/9		sent [5] 36/21 100/24	
54/24 55/4 77/17	86/22 87/3 87/16 87/21 89/9 95/22	Second Sight [1] 152/23	106/10 106/12 110/2 sentence [3] 14/16	147/19 147/22 147/24 148/8 148/11 148/12
78/16 79/23 152/17	95/22 95/25 99/25	secondly [1] 109/4	33/19 110/11	148/15 148/23 149/5
route [1] 59/8	100/10 102/10 111/9	section [2] 20/25	separate [7] 5/20	149/14 149/17 149/18
row [1] 94/9 rule [2] 114/6 114/10	112/4 112/25 120/18	121/4	25/13 25/15 26/21	149/20 149/22 150/15
rule [2] 114/6 114/10 rules [4] 44/14 73/20	121/17 129/17 132/14		64/21 126/21 141/8	shall [8] 35/5 45/23
128/15 150/20	135/15 137/7 139/19	secure [4] 13/19	September [9] 1/17	45/25 113/8 141/20
run [6] 4/7 34/3 50/20	143/24 148/3 148/10	13/20 14/6 14/9	48/9 82/5 91/22 108/7	141/23 142/7 142/25
54/16 55/16 101/24	150/2 152/16 153/10 153/10 153/16 153/19	security [31] 46/12 46/16 46/17 47/5 47/9	115/21 119/25 121/9 151/22	shape [3] 8/10 33/22 75/10
running [2] 55/10	saying [23] 4/21	48/7 48/22 49/5 66/7	September 1974 [1]	share [4] 28/25 30/5
70/21	17/22 20/8 22/16 36/6	66/14 66/16 67/20	151/22	36/11 71/17
runs [1] 1/20	44/9 45/15 62/18 64/5		September 1998 [1]	shared [7] 6/25 25/13
Ruth [16] 108/16 110/22 111/3 111/5	64/18 65/1 72/4 72/5	144/10 144/13 144/22		29/17 31/21 149/12
111/12 112/5 112/11	77/2 89/15 107/20	144/23 144/25 145/2	series [5] 10/3	150/1 150/4
113/2 113/17 113/18	114/9 127/7 128/4		109/23 144/1 144/6	sharing [2] 32/3
114/9 114/23 115/6	133/25 139/17 144/1	145/13 145/15 145/16		132/4
115/11 121/6 138/20	150/9 says [30] 18/22	146/9 146/10 146/15 146/19	serious [6] 42/5 44/21 105/9 107/12	she [12] 61/15 111/8 111/13 111/15 113/18
S	22/21 57/11 62/8	see [69] 1/5 1/23	127/16 137/11	114/11 114/14 114/19
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	63/11 63/14 79/17	8/24 12/12 12/16	seriously [2] 103/13	134/3 151/21 151/24
<b>SADD [2]</b> 144/4 144/20	93/5 93/6 94/9 95/1	12/25 13/21 14/2	103/16	152/1
safe [2] 13/14 13/16	97/20 100/25 101/19	14/16 15/10 15/25	seriousness [1]	shifted [1] 93/23
said [28] 32/20 35/23	104/14 105/1 107/3	16/7 16/12 18/25	127/1	shocked [4] 137/16
48/17 50/9 50/11 74/9	108/14 110/11 112/4	20/21 27/4 29/10	served [2] 77/19	137/16 138/14 151/17
74/9 74/11 76/18	113/19 114/19 115/21 120/6 121/5 125/4	34/23 36/8 36/8 41/25 42/1 42/3 42/5 45/2	137/9 service [42] 7/1 7/2	shop [1] 8/25
76/21 90/20 107/19	130/5 130/22 134/20	46/5 46/14 47/3 48/6	8/4 8/8 8/16 9/18 9/25	short [9] 12/23 45/22 46/3 62/11 78/18
108/22 111/5 115/15	135/9	48/10 56/13 56/17	10/3 10/11 10/22	80/23 113/12 115/15
116/25 118/24 119/9	scalability [3] 19/2	60/5 60/13 60/18	10/24 11/23 21/19	146/25
				(61) rock short

(61) rock - short

S	site [6] 28/21 30/12	90/15 95/7 96/2 96/24	85/12 138/17	starting [1] 3/8
	32/7 47/18 47/19	96/24 103/23 111/14	specifically [3] 47/17	starts [2] 78/13 89/15
shortcomings [1] 30/1	138/21	111/25 112/11 114/23		state [3] 81/25 93/20
	sitting [4] 13/12	115/6 120/23 120/23	specification [6]	153/9
shorter [1] 128/7 shortfalls [3] 74/21	13/15 14/5 26/23	120/24 122/9 124/24	144/8 144/10 144/12	stated [1] 63/22
151/25 152/9	situation [4] 96/21	125/13 126/7 134/19	144/13 144/22 144/24	statement [50] 1/17
	136/20 136/23 137/2	138/24 144/16 144/17	specifications [1]	1/20 1/23 1/24 2/1
shorthand [1] 44/17	situations [1] 120/15	somebody [1] 29/10	97/12	21/13 22/6 23/18
shortlisted [1] 21/19 shortly [1] 151/25	six [3] 2/10 8/3 121/6	someone [10] 4/20	specifics [2] 10/9	26/10 27/4 28/18 30/8
should [40] 1/16 11/2	size [4] 9/19 34/21	69/23 85/15 97/24	42/14	31/13 33/8 35/17
15/20 15/21 16/23	107/12 148/22	99/1 117/25 118/20	specified [1] 79/4	45/19 61/1 63/17 64/9
35/24 38/9 38/10	sizing [3] 16/2 19/1	138/7 146/5 151/21	specs [1] 97/16	64/13 64/16 64/20
57/16 61/15 61/17	19/24	something [28] 3/20	spelling [1] 40/19	65/16 65/19 67/9 69/2
63/14 63/15 75/20	skin [1] 17/8	9/22 22/19 24/2 24/11	spending [1] 154/4	76/5 76/15 80/17 82/4
75/21 75/23 82/3 82/4	slight [1] 73/1	36/19 40/5 40/6 49/11	spent [1] 133/20	82/15 82/22 83/15
82/9 95/22 96/4 97/18	slightly [4] 1/12 4/20	51/8 51/9 51/10 54/18	split [3] 28/8 84/9	83/18 84/23 85/21
102/16 105/18 112/4	24/8 132/24	54/20 59/11 65/21	101/24	86/25 87/18 89/4
118/16 127/5 127/13	slow [2] 4/19 124/4	89/9 91/14 96/13 99/5	spoken [1] 7/6	89/13 93/20 95/20
129/10 129/18 129/20	small [3] 20/17	99/7 111/13 123/14	sponsor's [1] 23/21	98/7 99/23 121/17
134/17 141/14 147/1	123/15 148/22	123/17 131/9 131/16	sponsors [1] 13/24	137/4 151/7 151/9
148/1 148/8 148/15	smaller [1] 20/7	131/17 153/10	spread [1] 8/3	151/18 154/4
149/14 152/7 153/11	Smith [9] 111/17	something's [2] 72/4	spurious [1] 44/4	statements [7] 63/21
shouldn't [1] 57/15	113/2 114/25 115/20	153/11	Square [1] 9/1	63/22 64/19 65/15
show [7] 59/24 94/18	121/7 121/10 139/25	sometimes [3] 71/21	SRR [1] 22/6	67/23 75/7 76/7
103/21 120/3 148/9	139/25 140/3	126/21 139/16	stability [3] 53/21	statements' [1] 63/24
148/16 149/16	so [206]	somewhat [2] 70/17	99/14 108/13	states [2] 78/20
shown [8] 42/16	society [1] 67/15	121/8	stable [1] 138/4	78/24
42/18 56/24 62/8 70/8	softly [1] 7/6	somewhere [1] 132/5	staff [14] 29/7 29/8	station [1] 9/10
148/4 149/2 149/4	software [13] 11/9	sooner [2] 113/20	29/15 30/9 30/22 32/7	Status [1] 93/3
shows [1] 105/19	19/8 33/21 34/23 39/4	113/20	32/16 49/19 51/25	steel [1] 13/16
side [8] 29/6 86/9	53/16 57/5 57/20	sorry [26] 15/11	52/8 52/11 96/5	steer [1] 125/9
86/10 86/11 99/1	57/23 78/19 79/24	20/23 23/3 42/14 59/3	108/16 138/12	STEIN [2] 140/17
140/23 146/5 148/22	88/18 135/1	59/17 60/14 66/15	stage [38] 5/20 6/2	155/8
sides [1] 129/15	solely [2] 110/16	68/1 68/10 82/12 85/3		stem [1] 73/6
siding [1] 121/14	118/10	92/25 93/1 105/22	14/24 16/20 21/5 23/1	
Sight [1] 152/23	solution [33] 8/9	105/24 105/24 105/25		steps [2] 68/18 94/3
sign [1] 8/24	10/15 10/17 10/22	108/8 108/14 118/15	54/12 62/19 63/1	Steve [3] 125/21
signature [3] 1/23	10/23 11/12 15/17	128/19 140/2 144/12	82/24 86/20 95/15	130/10 130/11
82/9 82/10	17/5 17/24 18/4 18/5	149/4 150/12	96/9 96/22 96/24 97/3	
signed [1] 84/25	20/3 21/6 24/3 24/4	sort [17] 10/9 15/6	97/24 103/20 107/23	81/18 81/20 81/22
significant [7] 40/4	24/12 25/8 31/6 31/8	23/16 26/1 29/3 42/12		81/23 139/2 142/10
43/10 79/2 92/1 100/4	31/9 43/9 55/5 55/23	46/25 47/16 72/13	122/1 123/13 123/19	151/6 154/10 155/7
119/1 128/21	61/25 85/5 87/15	77/16 80/7 85/25	125/12 127/12 129/20	
significantly [1]	99/15 107/16 137/10	98/20 129/22 130/2	132/4 153/1 153/14	still [11] 3/7 8/20
108/20	143/12 143/23 143/25		stages [2] 85/25	23/12 24/12 25/20
similar [3] 54/7	144/3	sorted [2] 79/6	114/8	32/22 47/21 47/24
102/13 134/3	solutions [7] 6/6	132/13	stall [2] 123/25 124/6	
simpler [1] 54/25	21/23 131/5 142/16	sought [2] 94/1 102/8		stop [6] 8/24 36/20
simply [3] 45/15	143/4 143/10 143/22	sound [1] 7/12	stamps [1] 38/4	122/22 124/3 124/10
95/10 114/21	solve [1] 11/10	source [1] 45/7	stand [1] 131/8	125/10
simulator [1] 39/8	some [66] 4/22 7/10	space [1] 14/3	standards [1] 6/10	stopper [1] 53/4
simulators [1] 38/13	8/5 8/16 11/2 12/17	Spar [1] 8/25	Standring [1] 23/13	stopping [1] 131/8
since [5] 106/22	14/11 15/15 17/4	speak [8] 7/8 75/9	stands [3] 20/1 61/5	storage [2] 14/9
107/8 119/7 137/18	18/18 21/20 31/4	81/10 82/15 84/20	83/18	143/4
137/21	34/13 35/13 36/15	112/5 140/12 140/12	start [18] 20/17 21/11	
single [5] 26/6 45/5	38/13 40/24 42/5	speaking [2] 114/5	40/20 47/25 55/18	straight [1] 141/18
48/13 76/25 77/3	42/22 46/8 46/25	123/20	72/10 72/17 81/12	straightforward [2]
sir [15] 1/3 1/7 45/21	47/12 49/6 51/3 51/4	spec [6] 100/2	82/4 83/20 88/11	26/1 83/4
46/5 73/25 80/12	53/14 53/22 53/23	119/20 119/20 128/9	93/15 113/8 113/16	strand [9] 7/23 8/2
80/19 111/24 113/6	54/1 54/6 54/12 56/15		126/4 140/22 147/12	9/4 9/6 17/15 22/5
113/9 113/14 138/23	56/20 56/25 60/3	specialist [2] 30/19	154/9	25/14 25/16 25/19
153/24 154/1 154/11	62/23 63/4 71/11	30/20	started [6] 54/19	strands [2] 9/4 9/5
sit [1] 25/4	73/22 76/6 82/21	specific [7] 11/18	60/11 81/7 84/23	strategy [1] 102/4
	83/19 86/20 90/14	13/4 33/4 45/4 68/7	145/7 152/20	stream [3] 10/2 21/15
L				(62) chortoomingo stroom

(62) shortcomings - stream

S	suddenly [1] 77/22	switch [1] 9/8	37/11 68/7 138/19	116/21 117/6 124/8
stream [1] 43/11	sued [1] 74/3	sympathy [1] 54/1	146/14	126/17 130/4 130/12
streams [1] 21/24	suffered [1] 140/20	system [110] 2/19	target [6] 79/1	131/14
Street [2] 8/16 8/17	suffering [1] 54/7	2/23 3/8 3/23 5/1 9/13		Terry [2] 90/10
strength [1] 113/23	sufficient [6] 9/17	11/8 19/1 19/3 19/5	136/7 136/16	132/11
strengthened [1]	51/14 74/25 81/11	19/9 19/11 20/2 20/10		test [21] 34/10 34/17
134/18	107/4 131/2	20/17 20/17 20/20	91/15 91/20 91/25	34/17 36/15 37/10
stress [1] 124/22	sufficiently [1] 122/8	24/19 25/23 25/23	92/15	39/3 39/8 39/8 39/14
strict [1] 86/6	suggest [7] 8/14 30/24 55/6 56/20	27/1 28/7 29/24 30/4 33/14 35/19 36/12	task-force [4] 91/15 91/20 91/25 92/15	42/2 43/8 61/6 62/1 66/21 72/13 72/19
striving [1] 136/21	57/14 57/19 113/24	37/11 37/14 38/20	<b>TCD [1]</b> 13/10	73/2 95/7 95/9 95/10
structure [1] 9/3	suggested [1]	38/24 39/17 40/12	TCDs [3] 13/7 13/8	95/11
structured [2] 10/19	108/10	40/18 41/14 44/8	13/25	tested [5] 33/15 39/4
86/1	suggesting [1] 65/18	47/25 49/9 50/1 50/15		57/8 95/2 106/15
structures [1] 23/16	suggestion [1] 80/7	51/9 51/21 52/17	6/22 6/23 7/15 7/17	testers [4] 29/14
Stuart [7] 86/23 91/8	suitability [1] 93/11	52/22 53/8 53/21 54/1		29/20 36/10 72/14
116/23 119/24 125/3	summarising [1]	54/9 54/10 58/19 60/9		
139/23 139/24	115/15	60/21 63/1 70/14	87/22 88/3 88/12	30/4 34/1 34/16 35/19
study [1] 131/2	summary [7] 6/12	70/17 71/4 71/17	89/16 90/13 96/3	36/2 36/10 36/12
sub [1] 132/25	43/24 73/6 74/14	72/13 72/17 74/20	118/6 119/15 132/10	36/13 37/22 37/25
sub-paragraph 4 [1] 132/25	94/18 107/18 121/4	75/1 75/4 75/14 77/5	132/10 133/13	38/1 38/21 38/22
subject [5] 30/15	summer [3] 52/17	77/21 82/19 82/21	teams [5] 12/6 26/17	38/23 38/25 39/1
47/13 48/18 127/5	64/15 94/5	82/23 82/24 83/1 83/4		39/20 39/21 41/2
143/3	sunk [1] 96/11			41/19 42/6 42/11 44/2
subject-matter [1]	supplemental [3]	88/22 88/25 89/1	7/14 7/16 13/1 17/19	95/4
30/15	79/3 109/22 135/23	95/11 95/12 97/2	21/23 21/25 30/11	tests [9] 33/14 33/19
subjects [2] 49/16	supplied [1] 147/2	98/24 99/14 101/16	30/12 36/15 37/5	34/3 34/4 37/5 37/8
49/17	supplier [4] 12/16	108/13 109/15 116/5	37/19 41/23 51/13	37/19 42/1 121/21
submit [1] 97/21	18/19 73/8 75/24	120/3 120/4 120/23	51/13 55/1 67/3 69/22	
submitted [1] 44/13	suppliers [5] 6/18 6/20 22/4 31/4 84/17	120/24 123/7 124/22 129/3 131/24 137/12	70/23 71/2 74/13 75/3 75/7 75/8 85/21 86/3	
subordinate [1]	support [16] 26/19	138/4 139/20 149/3	86/3 86/9 86/13 95/10	than [34] 17/5 17/20 20/8 21/12 32/9 40/9
144/6	38/7 52/13 63/17	150/9 150/23 151/5	99/14 110/8 111/2	49/16 51/1 51/6 54/2
subpostmaster [2]	63/23 65/9 68/17 79/5		111/9 130/18 130/25	69/11 70/20 72/5
56/1 117/4	84/5 93/8 93/11 94/12		132/15 144/6 144/21	72/19 79/1 80/5 83/2
subpostmasters [12]	119/4 141/16 142/6	153/19 153/21	146/14 146/19	86/6 89/6 91/11 91/24
3/6 4/7 65/11 74/3	142/12	systemic [1] 102/14	technically [1] 11/7	97/14 99/11 108/20
76/2 76/13 118/7	supported [3] 9/15	systems [15] 3/6	technique [1] 25/9	108/23 118/21 128/8
118/10 137/14 138/8 140/19 151/15	63/21 131/6	19/10 25/22 26/6	technology [4] 4/17	129/9 136/16 137/16
subsequent [1]	supporting [1] 34/17	39/11 49/22 49/22	11/10 11/11 26/23	143/25 145/5 149/20
144/2	sure [27] 9/16 9/24	50/13 53/11 55/24	teeth [1] 21/1	151/16
subsequently [8]	20/20 21/8 26/20 28/8	83/7 84/4 84/9 94/15	telecash [2] 13/10	thank [60] 1/6 1/7
86/5 87/10 98/3	28/11 34/8 39/11 40/7	108/21	13/16	1/12 1/16 2/4 4/18 7/9
108/11 117/8 119/21	41/3 50/3 50/8 57/2	Т	tell [2] 17/2 80/8	12/9 14/22 19/24
134/3 144/11	81/11 88/23 88/25		temporarily [1] 87/25	20/21 20/24 43/23
substantial [1]	106/3 109/9 109/12	table [1] 60/16	ten [5] 28/12 28/13	46/1 46/6 46/7 52/15
149/21		tactical [1] 125/3	36/7 40/9 81/6	58/14 59/17 62/23
substantiate [1]	116/22 118/9 128/3	tactics [1] 113/25 take [15] 45/21 62/11	tend [1] 56/20	69/24 70/14 73/21
57/18	140/10 Surroy [1] 2/8	79/16 81/2 111/23	tended [1] 143/24	76/9 80/11 80/12
substantive [1] 76/19	Surrey [1] 2/8	113/7 114/8 116/9	tender [2] 22/9 32/1	80/16 80/19 81/11 82/2 83/14 92/25 93/2
success [7] 3/13	suspect [3] 70/10 95/14 128/3	120/8 139/22 140/11	tendering [1] 85/9 tenders [1] 6/18	95/18 95/19 97/17
4/12 21/5 107/15	suspected [2] 65/12	141/8 142/15 143/22	tenure [1] 96/3	98/1 105/18 105/25
110/14 111/6 131/2	90/25	153/6	term [4] 26/14 30/23	106/1 107/3 108/14
successful [4] 3/10	suspicion [1] 115/6	taken [11] 12/3 12/4	78/18 87/6	109/20 113/6 113/17
87/12 107/25 108/1	sustain [1] 148/23	42/2 66/19 95/19	terminology [1]	116/10 119/23 120/3
such [23] 9/13 9/14	SW [1] 57/4	106/24 107/11 108/25	79/21	121/5 125/1 137/6
	Swansea [1] 151/22	109/20 116/10 152/13		140/15 147/10 151/11
19/20 22/17 24/7	swap [2] 57/3 57/21	takes [2] 20/11	21/18	153/24 153/25 154/3
29/15 29/24 51/19 52/11 55/8 66/19	swap-out [1] 57/3	152/22	terms [24] 2/6 6/24	154/7 154/11 154/12
72/20 72/24 78/19	Sweetman [8] 86/23	taking [6] 14/8 33/24	7/13 25/9 27/6 33/12	that [870]
88/6 88/18 91/3 92/4	91/8 97/24 116/23	44/18 68/18 74/10		that's [67] 2/9 2/13
148/11 150/14	119/24 125/4 139/24	101/20	69/2 84/4 97/18 98/5	2/16 2/21 5/2 6/4 6/11
	139/24	talking [6] 20/4 36/24	98/20 109/1 115/22	6/14 7/16 9/23 12/21
L				(63) stream that's

(63) stream... - that's

T	97/13 99/3 100/18	39/3 39/3 40/12 40/24	104/10 105/8 108/2	99/17 103/24 106/19
that's [56] 13/9	101/25 106/7 108/5	42/7 43/25 45/18	108/4 108/10 108/10	110/7 138/4 146/25
15/9 15/12 20/5 21/10	108/6 111/14 115/5	47/22 49/1 49/21	108/22 109/16 110/21	three-page [1]
	117/9 118/2 118/22	49/24 50/8 50/8 50/9	111/21 112/11 112/12	
22/6 26/1 28/23 29/18	124/9 126/16 126/19	51/21 52/5 52/6 52/12		threshold [3] 121/21
30/6 30/7 37/23 39/25	128/20 130/3 130/7	53/6 54/2 54/22 54/24		122/6 122/19
45/6 45/23 51/9 53/23	141/18 141/22 141/22	63/22 64/5 64/5 65/5	115/15 116/9 117/20	thresholds [2]
57/23 58/12 59/11				
64/15 64/20 65/22	142/1 142/4 142/15	65/21 67/5 68/11	117/23 118/3 118/16	122/24 147/24
66/23 67/6 69/25 73/9	142/19 143/1 143/4	71/20 71/21 71/24	118/25 119/1 122/14	threw [1] 11/10
73/20 74/15 79/16	143/12 143/18 144/5	72/1 77/9 77/20 77/22		
81/16 82/11 95/4	144/11 144/20 147/5	77/23 78/3 78/5 79/23	123/2 123/13 123/18	29/12 32/6 41/6 42/2
95/16 96/13 102/2	147/9 147/14 147/20	83/17 85/15 85/17	124/2 124/19 129/5	58/21 66/13 70/22
	148/3 148/14 149/10	86/1 88/7 88/17 89/2	129/8 129/25 132/2	77/4 87/25 88/4 88/11
106/1 107/2 110/5	150/5 152/1 152/22	89/21 90/24 90/24	133/12 133/14 133/19	89/4 89/6 89/6 91/5
110/8 113/10 116/22	153/1	91/24 103/16 103/21	133/24 134/2 134/11	95/8 97/25 114/23
120/3 131/17 131/24	theory [1] 101/23	104/10 106/17 106/25		117/12 117/13 117/14
134/24 135/15 136/3	there [173]	107/4 107/5 107/8	140/3 140/8 140/11	127/2 137/12 141/17
137/25 139/8 139/9		107/10 108/5 110/17		142/16 147/20
143/15 143/18 150/23	there's [22] 13/4 13/7		148/21 148/25 150/3	
154/1 154/11	16/1 45/6 56/18 56/23			throughout [1] 30/25
their [46] 2/24 3/7 4/7	57/6 62/3 70/12 72/15	120/17 120/21 123/25		thrown [1] 122/18
7/5 8/9 8/22 10/15	88/6 89/8 91/6 115/19	127/9 127/18 127/19	thinking [3] 101/10	thrust [1] 87/14
10/22 15/16 16/19	117/20 118/3 126/13	129/3 136/18 136/19	113/24 149/4	Thursday [1] 8/7
17/15 17/16 18/3	129/5 129/8 132/5	138/11 138/12 139/1	thinking about [1]	thus [1] 11/25
	132/25 150/17	139/22 144/21 145/14	113/24	time [90] 2/14 3/1 3/4
20/20 21/21 24/11	thereabouts [2]	145/17 145/18 145/21	thinks [1] 120/8	3/5 4/2 4/14 4/17 7/19
25/22 30/5 31/9 31/9	77/22 81/7	145/23 145/23 146/2	third [5] 57/1 79/3	8/15 11/25 12/23
47/24 52/1 52/13 74/4		they'd [6] 29/11 42/2	110/10 117/9 135/22	14/11 17/9 17/25
74/16 77/3 77/8 77/19	therefore [12] 14/12	64/10 96/24 110/18	thirdly [1] 128/20	18/23 20/3 23/12
78/22 79/16 80/1 84/9	20/8 49/10 57/21	121/3	this [274]	26/15 28/6 29/1 31/24
89/21 90/19 96/7		they're [2] 39/3 64/18		32/22 32/24 34/4
103/15 107/9 117/12	58/10 69/4 77/19			
117/13 117/14 117/16		they've [4] 34/1	6/19 9/12 10/6 10/7	34/10 35/8 43/3 43/19
118/1 130/25 131/24	101/23 131/1	36/25 51/22 127/21	10/13 11/4 12/7 12/10	
149/9 153/6		thing [3] 3/3 54/21	19/2 19/6 23/23 24/17	45/23 47/20 47/22
them [44] 3/6 8/11	these [48] 13/10 17/4	99/25	24/21 26/3 34/13 37/5	49/1 51/8 51/11 51/21
8/13 8/14 8/22 11/4	18/13 26/12 30/22	things [28] 9/12 9/14	37/14 38/10 40/17	52/7 52/10 52/13 54/3
11/25 19/7 22/17	34/22 37/7 37/20 40/3	10/25 11/4 12/6 13/9	40/22 47/12 47/15	57/12 59/4 59/19
	40/9 43/12 44/9 45/16	20/16 21/12 28/8 32/2	48/21 51/20 54/19	63/10 64/6 65/7 65/23
27/15 27/16 28/4	48/12 49/4 49/7 49/16	34/18 35/13 39/7 40/7	67/19 67/21 67/22	67/14 67/16 70/1 70/9
29/11 31/10 32/1 33/2	10/17 51/04 50/0	52/20 62/20 72/11	67/23 68/5 68/19	71/12 71/15 74/11
36/7 37/6 42/19 48/19	58/12 62/14 63/10	72/24 73/18 80/1	73/18 79/15 79/20	74/18 80/23 81/8 87/5
54/24 55/16 59/8 59/9	66/2 68/1 72/25 74/21	82/21 89/11 115/25	83/1 85/11 85/17 92/1	90/6 90/22 91/2 91/8
62/22 66/9 66/12 77/7	79/13 90/20 93/17	116/25 126/23 129/5	92/13 95/15 99/9	92/7 94/23 96/2 98/14
85/19 99/19 100/19	95/7 100/17 101/18	137/17 146/22	99/17 99/22 100/19	103/10 104/15 108/17
100/20 103/7 111/15	103/5 104/4 104/8			113/7 113/8 114/15
111/16 115/24 116/6		think [132] 3/15 4/12		
120/23 120/23 120/24	105/6 112/15 117/16	5/20 6/2 6/8 6/12 7/6	111/15 117/18 117/19	I I
128/5 139/1 140/19	119/17 120/15 130/12	8/3 9/9 9/10 9/20	118/18 120/22 122/9	120/10 123/15 128/6
152/14	131/14 142/17 144/20	10/15 11/6 15/22	123/21 125/24 133/10	
themselves [4] 88/13	149/12 149/16 154/6	16/22 17/15 18/11	136/22 136/22 138/6	139/7 140/5 145/19
126/14 146/6 153/7	they [142] 3/24 4/15	18/21 21/18 26/5 27/9		150/16 152/6 153/1
then [88] 4/8 5/12	8/11 8/11 8/14 8/23	29/2 30/10 30/23	though [5] 24/8	153/9
5/13 12/6 16/7 20/5	9/15 10/1 10/15 10/16	31/23 32/18 33/1 35/3		timeline [2] 23/17
21/11 22/14 23/11	10/25 12/1 17/21	35/13 36/14 39/19	85/17	84/19
	17/21 18/4 18/5 18/8	40/9 42/8 46/16 47/22	thought [19] 8/10	timely [1] 53/17
25/20 26/4 28/3 29/5	21/7 21/8 21/9 21/10		10/21 11/3 16/8 57/22	
30/20 33/23 33/25	22/12 22/16 22/21	56/19 65/1 66/13	64/25 65/5 87/13	146/9
34/6 34/11 34/21	22/22 22/22 24/22	67/12 68/24 69/14	96/11 96/17 122/17	timescale [1] 77/23
39/10 40/14 40/24	25/2 26/5 29/14 29/16	69/19 70/2 71/6 71/20		timescales [4] 43/13
40/25 44/18 48/4 50/2	20/17 20/22 20/25		124/14 124/23 127/13	
53/1 53/6 54/17 55/16	30/4 30/5 30/25 31/1	73/16 73/25 74/24	136/19 137/25	timings [1] 7/13
56/15 62/3 62/22	31/2 31/21 32/13	76/15 81/1 86/16 89/1		<b>TIP [16]</b> 27/25 28/4
64/11 64/12 70/25				
71/12 71/13 75/16	32/17 32/18 33/2 33/4			42/21 42/22 43/14
76/21 79/11 84/14	33/23 34/20 35/14	93/1 95/16 96/19	three [15] 6/17 6/18	44/1 44/5 44/14 44/25
84/17 86/18 86/20	36/11 36/12 37/8 37/9		6/20 10/3 10/11 21/19	
	37/13 38/2 38/4 39/2	99/1 101/9 103/19	39/23 72/15 99/11	106/22 135/6 135/10
L				(64) that's TIP

(64) that's... - TIP

Т	transcribing [1] 4/21	U	University [1] 2/7	37/22 37/24 38/1 38/2
TIP [1] 135/12	transfer [1] 5/25	UK [1] 20/8	unknown [1] 54/17	38/12 38/21 39/21
title [4] 47/8 60/14	transferred [4] 5/6	ultimately [4] 10/22	Unless [1] 80/12	47/2 51/20 95/12
61/1 130/5	44/25 62/16 79/9	24/24 40/9 49/22	unproven [2] 70/18	95/13
TMS [4] 19/1 19/24	transition [1] 62/18	umbrella [1] 15/2	71/19	user-acceptance [1]
20/1 20/13	translates [1] 41/3	unable [4] 89/24	unreasonable [1]	39/21
today [9] 6/6 13/12	transparency [4]	91/25 93/9 109/3	73/9	users [7] 9/14 54/10
20/4 55/6 58/4 74/6	90/7 90/23 93/21 94/4	unacceptable [1]	until [7] 5/4 86/17	72/12 72/20 99/13
82/2 125/7 143/20	trapped [1] 106/16	149/13	107/9 107/14 121/11	109/11 124/9
today's [1] 154/8	traumatic [2] 76/5	unclear [4] 49/21	151/23 154/14	using [6] 21/11 28/6
toe [1] 16/25	76/6	79/12 79/18 109/10	up [72] 8/16 12/5	43/10 104/4 144/23
together [3] 83/2	treat [1] 103/13	under [28] 12/12	12/9 14/6 15/1 15/4	150/1
86/5 130/1	treated [2] 76/3	12/25 14/15 17/8	18/11 20/12 20/14	usual [2] 62/18
token [1] 25/25	103/16	18/18 32/4 43/5 47/5	20/20 22/10 25/5 27/3	133/13
told [2] 41/25 76/1	trees [1] 101/11	48/9 58/19 61/3 61/22	29/14 29/15 34/18	usual' [1] 79/10
tomorrow [1] 154/9	trial [5] 57/4 72/8	64/8 69/20 70/14	35/22 36/7 36/9 38/4	utility [1] 117/17
tone [1] 80/4	72/15 93/13 94/10	72/11 79/2 79/25	38/10 39/10 40/15	V
too [7] 15/3 40/17	tried [1] 14/10	96/19 97/19 105/22	42/15 46/23 54/1 54/5 54/8 54/19 56/10 58/8	
74/10 91/8 107/12	trouble [1] 139/21	106/2 114/4 114/14	70/13 73/24 74/10	valuable [1] 87/5
140/11 148/22	true [3] 2/1 52/25 83/15	134/20 135/9 147/13	76/16 78/9 84/9 86/15	van [3] 58/3 58/6
took [11] 23/24 36/7	try [12] 8/10 9/16	150/20	86/17 86/19 89/12	58/7
52/17 59/2 79/12	10/25 25/5 28/11	underlying [3] 11/8	89/15 92/23 93/1	variety [2] 5/9 67/20
87/13 94/3 109/14	10/21 80/5 112/12	50/18 69/3	95/20 95/20 96/14	various [6] 11/16
109/15 109/17 133/14	127/3 130/1 132/13	undermined [1] 90/2	97/4 99/23 100/20	16/15 23/15 56/13
tool [3] 51/1 135/17	150/2	underneath [1] 40/21	100/23 104/1 105/12	85/25 125/22
135/23	trying [17] 9/24 10/21	understand [25]	109/18 110/2 111/13	verbal [1] 21/13
tooling [2] 50/3 51/5	11/3 18/3 20/18 26/5	14/22 16/14 20/19	112/1 113/16 118/20	verdict [1] 38/14
tools [1] 78/19	32/12 32/12 49/10	24/17 29/19 41/13	118/21 119/22 121/16	
top [8] 32/14 51/23	67/12 69/11 69/11	41/22 48/20 49/18	123/17 125/17 130/17	
93/4 105/1 115/19	101/17 120/22 130/17	51/24 68/9 80/23	133/23 135/17 135/24	107/15
130/5 134/13 147/3	131/24 131/25	82/12 82/16 99/13	136/2 137/5 137/18	verified [1] 25/25
Topham [1] 96/6	Tuesday [2] 1/1 8/6	100/19 112/13 118/18	140/13	verify [1] 107/6
topic [5] 23/4 52/16	TUPE'd [1] 5/18	118/19 122/10 136/6	update [7] 19/6 19/8	version [6] 19/8 43/1
58/15 116/8 125/16	turn [28] 1/22 33/7	139/10 140/23 145/22 150/21	19/9 58/6 78/22 112/2	47/3 48/9 58/11 60/15
topics [2] 11/24 59/17	54/15 54/15 54/23		120/5	version 1.0 [1] 43/1
totals [1] 44/20	55/7 82/7 82/12 82/13	understanding [22] 6/24 8/9 10/20 15/16	updated [2] 21/1 58/7	version 1.2 [1] 48/9
touch [2] 9/14 145/14	92/24 94/8 97/1 97/17	21/24 30/3 32/22 49/6	undates [1] 19/11	version 2.0 [1] 47/3
toward [2] 91/6 121/9	102/16 104/19 105/21	49/9 50/5 62/13 65/19	unon [12] 2/10 22/6	versions [1] 44/3
towards [1] 121/14	106/12 110/1 110/5	65/21 78/17 79/23	32/21 37/15 59/5 75/7	versus [1] 150/15
towel [1] 122/18	115/9 121/4 121/16	90/9 94/7 99/20	90/4 90/19 92/21	very [49] 3/7 3/17 4/4
track [1] 112/6	130/3 130/21 132/17	101/17 117/7 123/21	129/8 152/14 152/16	4/10 4/18 7/8 8/20
tracked [1] 53/6	132/24 134/5 137/4	139/3	153/12	8/20 9/1 9/2 14/1
traditional [1] 93/24	turned [4] 9/7 55/7	understood [14] 3/20	ups [2] 104/11 120/4	15/19 17/13 18/2 18/4
Trafalgar [1] 9/1	58/6 118/3	9/19 9/25 32/2 33/1	upwards [1] 139/14	18/23 20/5 25/13
trail [2] 142/5 143/4	two [26] 8/3 16/11	37/19 73/3 90/8 100/3	us [29] 2/22 8/8 13/5	31/24 38/12 46/7 47/25 52/4 55/1 65/14
training [4] 26/17	19/18 23/1 23/18 35/3	103/1 103/21 120/16	24/10 29/11 29/12	69/9 70/10 73/13
26/22 105/21 113/21	36/8 45/4 49/8 50/6	120/17 139/7	29/12 35/7 35/8 35/8	73/19 77/8 80/4 82/20
tranche [2] 102/19	50/16 76/13 77/14 78/15 83/7 102/20	undertaken [1] 28/1	35/9 37/11 38/18 41/10 45/21 55/1 55/2	87/9 87/9 87/12 91/1
103/5	108/2 108/11 108/18	undertook [1] 121/25	77/9 77/9 80/8 92/21	95/18 103/13 103/16
transact [1] 109/4	117/24 123/25 129/5	undue [1] 77/6	94/25 99/4 110/23	103/19 106/1 141/6
transaction [9] 2/25	135/3 139/18 141/8	unexplained [1]	115/23 125/9 147/12	142/20 143/8 147/10
20/1 27/21 28/1 38/6	145/23	115/24	150/5 152/22	150/8 151/11 154/3
42/23 49/20 50/14	type [9] 50/13 50/15	unhang [1] 54/15	use [4] 13/25 54/10	154/12
58/24	53/3 59/15 64/17	uniforms [1] 36/11	84/3 121/11	via [1] 51/1
transaction's [1]	94/10 94/16 95/14	unit [4] 33/14 34/1	used [18] 3/21 11/9	viable [1] 4/13
118/2	145/21	37/10 42/1	15/20 15/21 20/6	view [37] 3/10 10/17
transactions [16]	types [8] 8/21 50/16	unit/system [1] 33/14	21/18 25/2 30/13 58/9	11/9 26/6 27/17 27/17
26/3 27/15 28/4 28/13	99/9 105/6 117/19	United [1] 142/2	58/12 72/25 87/10	30/19 31/9 31/11 34/8
28/14 39/13 44/3	118/25 126/12 145/23	United Kingdom [1]	96/19 119/4 119/16	54/25 63/20 76/4
44/12 106/9 117/8 117/18 117/19 117/21	typically [3] 38/2	142/2	131/23 139/5 144/19	93/18 98/14 100/20
118/25 131/21 145/8	61/18 62/8	units [3] 34/18 34/18 34/18 34/19	user [16] 36/2 36/10	118/14 118/15 118/17
110/20 101/21 140/0	typing [2] 40/19 51/2		36/13 36/19 37/7	120/10 121/5 124/1
				(65) TIP view

(65) TIP... - view

V	152/19	were [240]	6/15 6/16 8/17 11/16	139/4
view [15] 125/8	ways [4] 32/13 69/8	weren't [15] 4/16	11/17 11/21 12/22	whomsoever [1]
137/18 137/21 137/23	96/17 142/17	18/6 31/1 31/2 40/12	13/4 14/6 16/14 16/17	81/9
138/16 139/6 141/6	we [335] we'd [11] 8/14 12/4	72/1 77/23 85/11 109/9 109/12 116/13	17/9 19/21 19/22 20/7 21/16 21/19 21/20	whose [1] 126/3 why [31] 10/20 21/11
148/1 148/10 148/19	17/5 26/20 29/10 36/8		21/25 22/12 22/19	32/2 35/1 35/6 45/18
149/1 149/9 149/17	54/8 71/14 84/3 90/10	133/16	25/6 25/9 25/10 28/25	65/3 67/7 68/25 72/1
150/14 150/18	103/19	what [193]	29/4 29/4 29/7 29/18	74/9 102/23 109/7
viewed [4] 77/9 115/4 137/25 138/1	we'll [6] 35/10 108/8	what's [15] 21/17	30/3 30/14 31/4 31/21	109/10 112/12 113/3
views [7] 15/15 15/21	111/23 112/18 141/18	34/9 44/16 47/1 57/24		117/20 122/4 122/15
16/9 76/22 96/3	154/9	58/13 64/13 79/17	39/21 43/19 43/23	127/12 127/14 129/12
103/12 139/13	we're [22] 9/23 10/17	95/16 102/19 118/14	46/10 47/7 50/17	129/13 135/25 136/5
virus [1] 19/9	35/7 39/19 42/12	124/10 143/22 150/10		136/15 145/3 153/10
visibility [7] 35/17	62/19 74/11 81/4 86/8 91/1 123/20 124/12	152/23	53/18 54/20 56/4 57/3 57/25 59/1 59/21 60/7	153/12 153/16 153/19
74/19 75/1 89/25 93/7	131/24 136/24 141/5	whatever [4] 49/25 50/1 108/6 137/3	60/22 61/1 62/15	widely [1] 51/11 widening [1] 69/10
93/9 130/24	142/16 143/7 143/9	wheels [1] 34/20	67/17 68/3 68/13	wider [6] 4/2 89/5
visit [1] 8/22	150/8 150/8 150/20	wheels [1] 5/6 6/17	68/20 70/23 70/24	108/23 111/10 145/5
voice [1] 1/12	153/2	16/2 16/3 24/14 28/1	71/16 72/21 75/5 82/4	145/16
volume [8] 53/15	we've [18] 7/10 21/16			will [61] 10/18 18/11
59/13 59/14 124/8 127/19 127/19 129/9	33/16 41/2 41/7 41/10	38/5 38/6 39/6 39/9	90/14 90/15 90/19	20/9 20/10 20/10
129/9	44/9 56/19 72/5 93/17	41/21 47/15 47/21	91/22 91/24 92/9	33/21 37/4 38/16 39/9
volumes [3] 128/24	93/20 98/2 103/9	54/16 58/8 61/14 62/5		39/15 49/8 51/14 58/4
129/4 143/3	107/19 143/11 143/12	72/11 72/17 72/25	96/12 96/21 97/18	58/7 61/13 61/24 62/1
vote [1] 124/11	143/21 147/13	76/18 77/20 77/25	98/5 99/17 100/15	62/9 62/10 63/20
voted [2] 96/5 140/4	weak [1] 16/19	79/19 82/18 84/2 85/7	104/20 107/13 108/22	63/22 63/25 64/5
W	wed [1] 15/20	88/10 92/7 92/8 94/4 96/3 96/25 100/6	110/2 112/1 112/8 112/18 112/21 120/16	70/21 73/22 76/16 78/18 81/11 81/12
	Wednesday [2] 8/7 8/8	105/8 112/25 114/6	121/25 123/2 127/13	89/9 93/13 94/13
waiting [1] 128/14	week [5] 11/24 11/24	114/9 114/19 116/18	128/15 128/24 129/7	94/15 99/22 103/2
walking [1] 11/1 walls [1] 29/15	12/8 14/17 113/22	117/7 119/16 123/20	132/18 132/19 134/5	103/23 106/6 106/17
want [23] 10/16 14/7	Weekly [1] 152/21	126/4 129/17 129/17	138/13 141/2 142/15	106/18 107/13 108/15
33/23 40/16 53/8 64/5	weeks [4] 7/11 8/4	129/21 137/13 138/15	144/20 145/18 145/24	108/22 110/13 112/8
71/7 71/11 73/7 74/16	18/15 91/13	141/5 142/10 145/7	146/2 147/15 152/16	113/22 114/3 114/4
78/9 82/16 84/19 94/8	weight [2] 76/23 77/6		whichever [1] 152/17	114/5 114/6 114/14
97/1 103/14 103/15	welcome [1] 128/16	152/20	while [2] 109/17	114/20 118/20 120/8 125/8 125/9 141/4
110/1 115/8 118/17	well [78] 12/20 19/14 20/9 34/19 34/23 37/3		137/19 Whilst [4] 5/9 101/22	142/15 142/18 142/23
118/22 125/16 134/20	42/18 51/12 65/10	11/5 13/25 14/5 20/3	110/12 116/16	143/5 144/1
wanted [4] 29/10	67/22 78/6 83/4 83/6	20/11 25/3 26/5 31/23		willing [1] 67/5
50/21 107/20 132/14 wanting [3] 3/24 96/9	OFIDE OCIAA OCIAC	33/1 33/22 36/11	12/3 14/20 23/9 25/22	
115/4	87/8 87/12 87/18 88/4	38/13 40/14 45/6	48/22 48/24 49/1	win [2] 24/10 24/10
was [529]	90/8 90/24 91/4 92/19	50/25 51/21 54/8	51/13 61/18 67/2 68/2	winding [1] 62/19
wasn't [27] 12/5 17/6	94/22 95/7 96/11	55/20 56/13 63/10	68/19 69/6 69/23 70/1	wire [2] 36/20 36/21
18/2 22/18 31/3 47/13	96/16 96/23 97/9	71/8 71/15 76/25	73/24 74/3 75/24	wiring [1] 9/10
50/20 67/3 69/3 77/15	98/16 98/22 100/17	77/13 80/20 84/18	77/14 77/15 85/15	wish [2] 8/14 80/24
95/10 109/21 112/11	102/6 103/1 103/8 105/7 107/21 108/2	97/1 101/20 102/11 102/20 114/15 120/15	86/15 86/17 86/21 88/4 88/15 104/7	withdrawal [1] 39/9 withdrawn [1] 47/23
112/22 113/4 116/6	109/3 109/9 111/12	122/12 124/7 125/9	104/17 106/3 110/19	withdrew [1] 76/18
119/7 123/5 124/7	111/18 112/11 113/4	126/15 129/8 132/6	110/22 112/25 117/13	
127/6 129/12 129/13 129/13 136/11 136/17	114/11 114/19 114/23		117/14 117/24 118/4	116/1
153/15 153/18	117/6 117/18 118/9	whereas [3] 86/13	125/24 129/14 130/7	within [36] 2/24 3/23
wasted [1] 87/5	118/14 118/17 120/21	102/12 117/25	133/24 138/22 140/4	7/15 14/19 18/22 19/4
way [33] 4/13 8/3	122/5 122/9 123/10	whereby [3] 85/4	140/18 140/19 145/13	20/2 25/14 43/13 45/9
15/23 22/5 24/3 29/2	123/23 124/19 126/6	128/4 136/20	146/11 146/16 146/19	
30/1 40/1 54/14 55/5	126/24 127/11 127/16		who'd [1] 3/21	64/19 64/25 73/15
69/18 69/23 76/2	129/5 136/3 136/7 136/17 137/25 138/11	17/1 18/8 32/10 42/7 42/8 65/20 67/10	who's [3] 75/21 115/1 140/15	75/12 91/5 92/11 92/22 104/7 110/24
77/17 83/2 83/3 90/3	139/19 145/23 146/17	68/18 70/8 73/8 81/1	whoever [1] 129/16	111/9 114/18 118/6
96/18 96/24 99/20	440/04 450/47 450/00	87/15 88/17 88/19	whole [4] 41/14	121/22 123/1 123/6
101/25 113/21 114/23 119/19 124/23 128/10	150/15 150/10 151/0	88/23 88/24 95/23	118/11 127/2 127/4	125/8 127/4 131/23
129/11 142/16 147/11	went [6] 28/12 54/10	96/4 148/2	wholesale [1] 127/5	133/13 143/12 143/21
150/10 150/13 152/17	58/21 82/20 106/10	which [119] 2/23 3/4	wholly [1] 45/9	146/11 149/16
	124/2	4/9 5/14 5/21 5/21	whom [3] 7/19 68/5	without [4] 43/14
l				(66) view without

(66) view... - without

W without [3] 57/17 107/13 107/15 WITN04150100 [5] 89/13 95/21 99/24	88/15 106/11 137/19 137/21 138/19	32/23 32/24 41/14	
107/13 107/15 WITN04150100 [5]		15/15 50/0 00/00	
WITN04150100 [5]		45/15 58/3 60/20	
	working [27] 10/1	101/7 150/9 152/23	
04/13 45/21 44/24	12/3 23/5 24/17 29/1	you've [8] 6/21 12/22	
137/5 151/10	30/2 32/6 32/9 32/13	23/20 26/11 42/16	
WITN05970107 [1]	33/24 38/11 50/12	49/24 70/2 139/25	
12/10	52/7 66/17 72/5 78/3	your [153] 1/10 1/12	
WITN05970122 [1]	78/5 86/5 90/11 94/22	1/22 1/23 1/24 2/1 2/5	
42/16	103/6 103/8 129/25	2/6 2/14 3/10 4/19	
WITN05970123 [1]	130/1 138/22 139/4	4/20 5/25 6/8 7/8 8/1	
70/5	142/16	10/2 10/12 10/13 13/4	
WITN05970134 [1]	workings [1] 77/9	14/8 16/9 19/10 19/12	
62/24	works [3] 4/6 39/6	19/13 21/4 21/5 21/23	
WITN05970141 [1]	41/1	22/2 23/9 23/18 23/19	
18/16	works.' [1] 16/6	24/7 24/14 24/14	
witness [32] 1/16	workshop [6] 102/19 102/21 102/22 102/24		
26/10 45/19 61/1	110/6 149/10	26/12 27/3 28/18 28/24 28/25 29/1 30/3	
63/17 63/21 63/24			
64/9 64/12 64/16	workshops [10] 90/17 90/20 103/5	30/8 31/12 31/16 32/6 32/7 32/15 33/7 33/17	
64/19 64/20 65/14	103/10 109/24 110/4	35/10 35/16 37/3	
65/16 67/9 67/17	111/05 111/1 105/14	43/16 45/18 46/8 47/4	
67/23 68/16 69/2 76/5	131/5	48/11 48/13 50/11	
76/15 80/13 80/16	world [11] 3/9 9/23	52/7 52/18 53/24	
80/21 82/4 84/23	9/24 10/17 24/22 31/9		
93/20 95/20 99/23	31/10 41/1 41/4 41/4	55/17 57/9 57/13	
121/16 137/4 154/4	72/18	58/23 62/13 65/7	
witnessed [1] 91/10	worth [1] 33/11	67/19 70/1 73/7 73/14	
witnesses [1] 92/9	would [298]	74/6 74/14 74/24	
witnessing [1]	wouldn't [24] 4/4	74/25 75/13 76/15	
144/18	11/2 19/18 29/25 36/8	76/19 77/21 81/4	
wobbly [1] 40/16 won't [3] 37/3 39/9	38/17 38/18 40/16	81/25 82/9 82/9 82/15	
58/7	47/13 47/19 50/23	83/15 83/15 83/20	
wonder [8] 4/19 7/7	57/11 68/1 68/23 69/4	84/23 85/2 85/2 85/20	
12/9 27/3 33/7 40/20	79/15 101/10 113/3	85/21 86/8 86/15	
42/15 70/13		86/25 87/18 89/3 89/3	
wood [1] 101/11	123/12 123/18 123/18		
word [1] 139/5	write [1] 37/16	93/5 93/18 93/20	
wording [1] 24/7	writing [1] 43/3	95/20 96/9 96/14 97/8	
words [8] 8/1 26/12	written [4] 11/15	97/23 98/7 98/11	
35/6 77/2 85/2 96/19	11/20 12/11 90/25	98/14 99/23 109/16	
101/11 144/23	wrong [8] 9/20 9/21	115/8 115/16 116/12	
work [34] 2/14 2/18	29/23 32/20 34/21 52/14 59/12 153/11	118/14 118/14 119/9 120/10 121/16 124/1	
5/24 9/23 10/2 10/18	wrongly [1] 44/3	120/10 121/16 124/1 124/11 124/17 126/10	
14/2 20/9 25/23 26/7		129/2 129/21 130/15	
27/25 28/11 35/10	X	132/21 136/6 137/4	
39/9 39/9 39/12 39/15	Xansa [6] 5/7 5/8 5/9	139/3 139/17 140/23	
39/22 40/5 40/7 40/8	5/16 5/18 5/19	142/11 143/16 149/7	
40/10 40/11 40/12		150/22 151/7 151/9	
41/1 52/11 56/25	<u>Y</u>	151/18 152/3 153/8	
63/24 64/10 70/23 71/2 88/19 127/3	year [4] 1/17 78/1	154/4	
143/15	78/2 133/19	yourself [2] 68/3	
work-around [3] 40/8	years [5] 2/11 4/9	150/25	
40/12 41/1	101/10 101/10 100/21	Z	
work-arounds [1]	yes [163]		
40/11	yet [3] 70/17 120/7	zero [2] 117/19 137/3	
workarounds [2]	149/17		
89/4 89/6	you [721]		
worked [18] 2/10 5/3	<b>you'd [4]</b> 16/25 16/25 51/21 51/23		
5/9 5/20 6/13 26/25	you'll [4] 32/24 33/23		
27/14 28/21 31/4 83/5	88/10 91/5		
	•		(67) without zer