19 December 2023

1		Tuesday, 19 December 2023	1		all participants in the Inquiry are cooperating
2	(10.08 am)		2		at all levels, Mr Beer.
3	MR BEER:	Good morning, sir, can you see and hear	3	MF	R BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
4	us?		4		RICHARD DUNCAN ATKINSON (continued)
5	SIR WYN W	VILLIAMS: I can, thank you.	5		Questioned by MR BEER (continued)
6	MR BEER:	Before we start, two things. I understand	6	MF	R BEER: Good morning, Mr Atkinson.
7	the live	e link for those with log-in details is	7	A.	Good morning.
8	workin	g, hence we can see and hear you, and	8	Q.	Can we pick up topic 8, please, which is the
9	other p	people who have those log-in details will	9		topic we were about to move to which is
10	be able	e to access this live feed, but the	10		cross-disclosure of Horizon issues.
11	YouTu	ube link is not working at the present time.	11		Can we turn please to page 239 of your
12	It's	s been your practice in the past,	12		second report. I'll just wait for that to come
13	I think,	, to continue to sit because either the	13		up on the screen. At paragraph 668, you say:
14	YouTu	ube link will be restored and a recording of	14		"As time passed, the number of cases where
15	now wi	ill be available, or people can read the	15		Horizon issues were being raised proliferated
16	transci	ript.	16		and the need for cross-disclosure between them
17	SIR WYN W	VILLIAMS: Yeah.	17		should have become all too obvious. It is far
18	MR BEER:	Then, secondly, can I say thank you to	18		from obvious that this was carried out,
19	David	Enright, who gave me a lift to the station	19		however."
20	this mo	orning. As you know, he's a partner at	20		Then further down the page, at
21	Howe+	+Co and represents many subpostmasters here	21		paragraph 670, you conclude that
22	and ha	appens to catch the same train as me and he	22		cross-disclosure between cases where Horizon had
23	has en	nabled us to start nearly on time this	23		arisen was not being undertaken and that there
24	mornin	ng.	24		is "no evidence of routine cross disclosure
25	SIR WYN W	VILLIAMS: Well, I'm very glad to hear that	25		where Horizon evidence was relied on"; is that
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1	right?		1		"The relevance of such cross-case issues was
2	A. Yes.		2		highlighted in Mr Wilson's case by a letter from
3		n paragraph 19 of your report, no need to	3		his then MP, the Right Honourable Jacqui Smith
4		up, you'd noted that you had seen	4		MP. In her letter to the [Chief Executive
5		sions of the need to disclose in one case,	5		Officer] of the Post Office in December 2009,
6		ers where similar issues had arisen.	6		she referred to issues with the operation of
7	-	d the form of words that we discussed	7		Horizon that had arisen in the case of
8		day, was any such cross-disclosure in fact	8		Mr Wilson, and similar issues that had arisen in
9	•	ed in any of the cases that you reviewed?	9		the cases of Hughie Thomas, Seema Misra and also
10		at I saw. No.	10		referring to the Falkirk post office"
11		r Volume 2A report, if we can just turn	11		You say:
12		o, please, EXPG0000005, at page 25, at	12		"It is pertinent to observe that if such
13		raphs 71 and 72, you're dealing here with	13		cross-case issues were obvious to Mr Wilson's
14		se of Mr Julian Wilson. You say:	14		MP, they should have been all the more obvious
15		Despite this issue having been raised	15		to those concerned in the cases who played
16		and at the time of Mr Wilson's plea"	16		a role in that of Mr Wilson.
17 10		hat's looking at Horizon issues in other	17		" there is no evidence that cross-case disclosure was considered."
18		, being this:	18		
19 20		and at the time of Mr Wilson's plea,	19		So are you there making the point that
20		s no evidence of cross-disclosure of	20		cross-disclosure was considered to be obvious to
21		cases where complaints about Horizon, even	21 22	Λ	a layperson, in that case Mr Wilson's MP?
22 23	_	n the reviewing lawyers had personal edge of a number", at least by reference to	23	A.	To someone who had knowledge of that of the fact that such issues had arisen in more than
23 24		ses you've considered above.	23		one case, yes.
25		nen you say:	25	0	Overall, how serious a failure did you regard
	11	ion you day.	23	æ.	S TOTAII, HOW GOTIOUS & Idilute and you regald

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1		the absence of cross-disclosure in the Horizon
2		cases that you looked at?
3	A.	Well, the case of Mr Wilson highlights it, in my
4		view, but in that case, counsel instructed for
5		the Post Office to prosecute the case, both the
6		person originally instructed when the case was
7		charged and then the person who prosecuted it
8		once it had reached court, both raised the
9		question of whether the kind of issues that
10		Mr Wilson was describing with Horizon had come
11		up before because it's clear that neither of
12		them were aware that they had, but that they
13		recognised, if they had, that was potentially
14		disclosable.

And so the position appears, therefore, to be that the -- those being instructed in these cases recognised that the fact that an issue with Horizon had come up before was potentially disclosable, and yet those who were responsible for the superintendence of disclosure in those cases, the in-house lawyers in the Criminal Law Division, who knew that they had come up before because they were dealing with these cases again and again, had not identified that this was

an issue even to be investigated for disclosure

beyond the very limited discussions that I saw.

And I consider that to be a serious issue because they should have been considering whether there was disclosure to be made in relation to the operation of Horizon anyway, but for them still not to be addressing it when they knew that these issues were coming up and had come up before, is a serious concern.

- 9 Q. Did you see any evidence of consideration of the 10 issue and a reasoned decision to not give 11 disclosure?
- 12 A. No, and so, for example -- and I spotted 13 an error in my report, for which I must apologise, in paragraph 667 I suggested that the 14 15 same lawyer had dealt with the cases of David 16 Blakey and Tahir Mahmood at the charge stage. 17 I was wrong about that: it was Mr Singh in the 18 case of Mr Blakey and Ms McFarlane in the case 19 of Mr Mahmood. But each of them then went on to 20 deal, in rapid succession, with a series of 21 further cases.

For example Mr Singh dealt with the cases of Ms Palmer, Mrs Rudkin and Mrs Misra, Ms McFarlane dealt with the cases of Ms Thomas and Ms Hall, each of which raised issues with

1 Horizon, in the same way that the cases of 2 Blakey and Mahmood had raised issues. And yet 3 I didn't see in their correspondence with the 4 Investigators anywhere them saying "It's 5 interesting that this person is saying they'd 6 had a problem with Horizon because we had this, 7 didn't we, last time and should we have 8 a conversation about that?" That would have 9 been a step forward.

Q. That document can come down, thank you. Does the point that you made in 667 of your second report remain, that this was a small pool of lawyers?

14 A. Yes.

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15 What was the point that you were making on the 16 back of it being a small pool of lawyers?

17 A. The fact that it was a small pool of lawyers meant that issues that were coming up in one 18 19 case would resonate if they had come up before 20 because there was only a few of them dealing 21 with those cases, and so the -- in one sense, 22 they didn't need to be told by anyone that this 23 was something that needed to be looked at 24 because they knew from their earlier experience 25 in cases that it was an issue to be dealt with.

To give a parallel, one of the virtues of 1 2 the Treasury Counsel system is that, because 3 there is a small team who deal with these difficult cases, where one person has an issue 5 in a case, someone else will have dealt with that issue before and that -- and where there's 7 an issue that does arise in one case, they can alert the others to watch out for it in other 9 cases.

This was a small team in much the same way and the need for inevitability, perhaps, of sharing of experiences ought to have alerted them to the fact that this was a problem that went beyond one case.

15 Q. Thank you. Can we move to topic 9, which is the 16 acceptance of pleas and, to start with, look at 17 something that you say in relation to Mr Singh, 18 and it's a point that arises in a number of 19 cases. The point is whether the acceptance of 20 a plea to false accounting is a concession or 21 arguably a concession of the absence of 22 sufficient evidence to theft. You address this 23 on page 127 of your report. It's paragraphs 351 24 and 352. At the end of 351, you say that: 25

"Mr Singh observed that 'if Mrs Misra

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1		pleaded guilty to the false accounting [charges]	1		alternatives to each other or are referring to
2		then it is recommended that the prosecution in	2		or addressing different species of criminality?
3		respect of theft is not proceeded with'."	3	A.	Yes.
4		Then 352:	4		You have also, I think, given evidence on the
5		"This was arguably a concession to the	5	_	last occasion that evidential sufficiency and
6		absence of actual evidence of theft and	6		public interest must be kept under review
7		consistent with an approach whereby theft was	7		throughout the life of a case?
8		charged to encourage pleas to false accounting."	8	A.	•
9		Now, I think on the last occasion you	9		Does it follow from that that a change in
10		confirmed that the judgment of the Court of	10	_	circumstances may affect whether continuing
11		Appeal in Eden made it clear that it could be	11		a prosecution is in the public interest?
12		appropriate to charge both theft and false	12	A.	Very much so.
13		accounting where they are either put as	13		In a prosecution pursued by the CPS, for
14		alternatives to each other or where they are	14		example, if a defendant was willing to plead
15		both advanced to cover different forms or	15		guilty to one count but not another, would the
16		species of criminality?	16		CPS have to consider whether it remains in the
17	A.	Yes.	17		public interest to go to trial on the
18	Q.	Would you agree that that means that the mere	18		outstanding count?
19		fact that theft and false accounting are charged	19	A.	Yes.
20		in the same indictment is not, of itself,	20	Q.	I think the at least the 2010 edition of the
21		improper, so long as there's sufficient evidence	21		Code, dealing with pleas and the acceptance of
22		and a public interest to charge both of the	22		pleas includes, amongst the factors to be
23		counts	23		considered, the following: whether the court
24	A.	Yes.	24		will have sufficient sentencing powers to match
25	Q.	and the two charges are either put as	25		the seriousness of the offending behaviour
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1		Yes.	1		benefit to Mrs Misra, that he had concluded that
2		and the wishes and interests of the victim?	2		there was a realistic prospect of a conviction
3		Yes.	3		for theft of £74,609.84 when there was no
4 5	Q.	In a private prosecution, where there isn't	4 5		evidence that Mrs Misra had received £74,609.84.
6		an obligation to prosecute, even if the	6		So he had charged that, and false
7		evidential and public interest tests are	7		accounting, with no reference to the case of
8		satisfied, is a prosecutor entitled to consider	8		Eden, no reference to why both charges were
9		whether, in the light of a plea or a proposed	9		there, how one was an alternative to the other
10		plea, pursuit of the remaining count or counts	10		or how one reflected different criminality to
11		on the indictment is a proportionate use of the	10		the other, but had then said that he considered
12		private prosecutor's resources? Yes.	12		there was a realistic prospect of a conviction
13		Given those things, why is it that you consider	13		for theft but, if she pleaded guilty to false accounting, then that would be sufficient.
14	Œ.	that Mr Singh's observation must necessarily	13		And where there was no explanation as to how
15		in fact, I don't think you say "necessarily",	15		he had reached a conclusion as to theft and
16		you say "arguably" arguably amounts to	16		where on the face of the investigation report
10		you say arguably arguably amounts to	10		where on the lace of the investigation report

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the case, that there was a recognition in his
mind that the case for theft was not strong and
therefore false accounting was sufficient and,
if that was his mindset, given the lack of
evidence, I queried why he was charging theft in
the first place.

there was a limit to the evidence that there had

been theft, it struck me in those circumstances

that it was arguable, rather than necessarily

a concession that there was insufficient

does reflect Mr Singh's position but, taking it

a charging decision without setting out in any

way the evidential basis for his conclusions,

which means it is not clear to me where there

as a starting point, Mr Singh had reached

19 A. Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was --

evidence of theft?

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1	Q.	Thank you very much. So it might be that, even
2		if there was sufficient evidence of theft, and
3		there was a public interest in prosecuting
4		theft, it may not have been in the public
5		interest or the Post Office's private interests
6		to proceed to trial with the theft account, if
7		there was a plea to false accounting, but you
8		saw no reasoning to that effect
9	A.	Yes.
10	Q.	on the face of the papers?
11	Δ	Ves, and I'll be corrected if I'm wrong but

- A. Yes, and I'll be corrected if I'm wrong but 12 I think Mrs Misra did then plead to false 13 accounting and was still prosecuted for theft.
- Q. Yes. That's exactly right. 14
- A. And I saw no analysis to explain that either. 15
- Q. Thank you. That can come down. 16

Can we turn to considerations of confiscation. I think it's right that the 2010 iteration of the Code did not state that the availability of the court's powers to make confiscation orders was a consideration that had to be taken into account as part of the public interest test. I think that came in a later edition of the Code. That notwithstanding, would it have been a proper consideration for

reasoning, that we've just explored, ever brought into account in Mrs Misra's case?

3 A. No.

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Q. Can we look more generally about the issue of accepting pleas to false accounting instead of theft, and you address this on page 227 of your report. If that can be shown, please. 227, at paragraph 640. In 640 you say:

"The approach to charging as between theft on the one hand and factoring on the other lacked consistency ... In a number of cases there was also a lack of [consistency] in the charging decision exhibited by the willingness to accept a plea to false accounting instead [of theft]."

Are those comments limited to the particular facts of one or more of the cases that you examined or are they a general point?

- 19 A. I think more of a general point.
- 20 Q. Can you help us then: why would a willingness to 21 accept a plea to false accounting necessarily 22 imply a lack of confidence in the evidential 23 merits of the theft charge?
- A. Again, it doesn't necessarily reflect one but 24 25 where, in case after case after case, a charge

a prosecutor when considering whether to accept 2 a guilty plea to some counts but not others, or 3 to a lesser or a different offence, to consider 4 the impact on the court's confiscation powers? A. It would be reasonable to consider that, yes. 5 6 Q. So, in Mrs Misra's case, when the Post Office 7 was considering whether to accept a plea to 8 false accounting or whether to proceed with the 9 theft count, would the impact on confiscation 10 have been a legitimate factor for the Post 11 Office to consider as part of the balancing 12 exercise? 13 A. In the sense that, if the theft count reflected 14 the actual benefit to Mrs Misra of the money and 15 an appropriation by her of the money, which 16 could lead then to confiscation, if she were 17 convicted of taking the money, through 18 a conviction for theft, on the one hand, and 19 false accounting reflecting putting off the 20 "evil day", to use the words in Eden, to avoid 21 identification that there were errors that had 22 not involved her taking money on the other 23 through false accounting, the latter route

25 Q. Was there any evidence that that was the kind of

arguably not leading to confiscation.

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of theft was selected without any explanation as to the evidential basis for it, particularly in relation to an evidential basis for appropriation and/or dishonesty. And then there was a willingness to accept a plea to false accounting which carried with it a recognition that there was not sufficient evidence of those elements of theft. It did raise the question as to whether theft was being charged without sufficient consideration of those elements.

And also because the charging decisions were 12 such models of brevity, it was very difficult to see how the thought process had been gone 14 through as to why theft was there as well as 15 false accounting, in these cases.

16 Thank you. Can we turn to page 229, please and 17 paragraph 644. You say:

> "However, the greater concern in a number of the cases [that] I have considered was that evidence that the theft charge was used as a means to pressure a defendant into pleading guilty to false accounting, with conditions attached to the acceptance of that plea ..."

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I think you give three examples: Hughie 24 Thomas, between paragraphs 645 and 647;

1		Josephine Hamilton, 648; and then Alison Hall,	1	shown to have been taken, and to an undertaking
2		649 to 651.	2	not to criticise the Horizon system."
3		Yes.	3	This appears, from the material you'd seen,
4	Q.	Three examples.	4	to have:
5	A.	Yes, and one if one wanted a fourth,	5	" followed from a discussion between the
6		Mrs Henderson would be in the same category.	6	principal Post Office lawyer, [Juliet] McFarlane
7	Q.	Allison Henderson too, thank you. If we can	7	and the Post Office agents in the prosecution in
8		just look at those, the three you've given in	8	which [Juliet McFarlane] said, ' we would
9		the report, starting with Hughie Thomas, Noel	9	proceed with false accounting providing the
10		Thomas. If we look at what you say at	10	Defendant accepts that the Horizon system was
11		paragraph 645 onwards, he pleaded guilty to	11	working perfectly Further instructions are
12		false accounting in September 2006, the theft	12	that the money should be repaid'."
13		charge not pursued.	13	You say that:
14		The memorandum of the hearing noted:	14	"Mr Thomas reported to the Second Sight
15		"This was pursuant to a basis of plea which	15	Review that the approach taken was 'aggressive
16		makes it clear that no blame was attributed to	16	and inappropriate'."
17		the Horizon system. The defendant accepted	17	You say that, from the perspective of
18		that there was a shortage but he could not	18	a defendant, it should not be forgotten that
19		explain how it came about. He accepted that as	19	there is a very significant difference between
20		a subpostmaster he is contractually obliged to	20	theft and false accounting as outcome:
21		make good the shortage."	21	"Theft by an employee in breach of trust, in
22		You say:	22	the period with which the Inquiry is concerned,
23		"In other words, the acceptance of this plea	23	was recognised"
24		was made conditional on the repayment of monies	24	You cite two cases, Barrick and Clark, from
25		which, consistent with the plea, had not been	25	the 1980s, establishing that:
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1		" as an offence usually attracting	1	[you] have seen are the recovery of money
2		an immediate custodial sentence even in a case	2	and the protection of the reputation of the
3		with strong personal mitigation a defendant,	3	Horizon system."
4		confronted by the evidence of loss deriving from	4	On a scale of concern about the conduct of
5		the Horizon system and a lack of possible	5	prosecutions, where does what you identified
6		questions as to its reliability, would	6	there sit?
7		understand that a plea to an alternative offence	7 <b>A</b> .	I recognise that it is always open to the
8		would increase the chances of them retaining	8	prosecution to consider whether, on a review of
9		their liberty, and it is reasonable to	9	the evidence and a review of the public
10		anticipate that they would receive legal advice	10	interest, in fact a plea to an alternative count
11		to that effect."	11	meets the justice of the case. I also recognise
12		Does that include, for example,	12	that it is always open to the prosecution to
13		an anticipation or at least a hope of	13	consider a proffered basis of plea and identify
14		a suspended sentence?	14	whether that basis of plea is acceptable and, if
15	A.	Yes.	15	it is not acceptable, to make that clear to
16	Q.	At 647:	16	those acting on behalf of a defendant.
17		"The Post Office submitted in the context of	17	What concerned me here was that the
18		the Second Sight Review that the decision to	18	discussions that I saw in the communication
19		accept the plea was reached in accordance with	19	involving Mrs McFarlane were investigating
20		the Code However, as was acknowledged, there	20	internally their view as to whether a plea to
21		is no evidence of such a review which in the	21	false accounting would be acceptable in a case
22		first instance did not follow the Code test.	22	where she had identified, at the charging stage,
23		Rather than a review of the evidence, the	23	there was a medium prospect of success and
24		prospects of conviction or the public interest,	24	identifying, in that context, the concerns being
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the only matters raised in the material that

recovery of the money and no criticism of

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Horizon. 1 2 It's -- putting those factors together, it 3 seemed to me a reasonable reading of what 4 occurred was that those involved from the Post 5 Office side were identifying their conditions 6 for a plea being accepted, which were conditions of the recovery of money, where there was no 8 acceptance by the plea that money had been 9 taken, and a lack of any criticism of the 10 system, which was something that Mr Thomas had 11 identified from interview on as being a concern 12 on his part and would have been mitigation for 13 him.

> And so that's a very long way of answering your question, though I think it's a very real concern that, on the face of those facts, this was a plea that was being tailored to address concerns that the Post Office had, in terms of getting the money and protecting their reputation of their computer system, rather than an assessment of the factors in the Code by reference to evidential sufficiency or the public interest.

24 Q. Thank you. Cutting it shortly, do the same 25 issues arise in paragraph 648, concerning the

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not 'making any explicit criticism of Horizon'."

You say that it was improper of the Post Office but who within the Post Office had engaged in that improper conduct?

A. Well, in each of those cases there were 5 6 documents that I saw that involved discussions 7 between those in-house -- so the lawyers and 8 Investigators -- about, effectively again, the 9 preconditions or the necessary conditions for 10 there to be a plea accepted by reference to money and by reference to the reputation of 11 12 Horizon.

13 Q. Thank you. So it's the lawyers on each 14 occasion?

15 Those are the persons whose emails I saw or 16 memos I saw that identified those being the 17 factors.

18 Q. Thank you. Then the last sentence of that 19 paragraph, I think this is something that you've 20 mentioned a moment ago:

> "It would ... have been a relevant, and likely a strong mitigating factor ... that the falsification of records was to cover a shortfall for which the defendant was not responsible and may [instead] have been

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case of Josephine Hamilton, and 649 and

2 following, in the case of Alison Hall?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 A. I should just add, in relation to that, those 6 cases, those of Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Hall, were 7 considered by the Court of Appeal and the Court 8 of Appeal took a very clear view of what they 9 considered had occurred there, and the material 10 that I saw did not, in any way, lead me to take 11

a different view from Lord Justice Holroyde and

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13 Q. That's paragraph 650 of your report, you're 14 referring to there --

15 A. Yes.

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16 Q. -- if we can turn to that on page 231. If we 17 scroll down -- thank you -- you say:

"Adopting the language ..."

19 That's you adopting the language of the 20 Court of Appeal?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. "... when it considered these cases, it was 'improper' of the Post Office to have made their 23 24 acceptance of a plea to a lesser alternative offence to theft conditional on the defendant 25

a computer error. To deny the defendant that 1 2 mitigation was 'wrong'."

3 Can you just say what you mean there,

5 A. It's, on the one hand, someone who has 6 dishonestly and deliberately manipulated the 7 system and, on the other hand, someone who has 8 been confronted by an error in the system that 9 they cannot understand but which they do 10 understand they will be held accountable for and 11 made to pay for and, in panic, has adjusted the 12 system to stave off the day when they know that 13 will be found out, on the other.

> It is a significant potential difference as to how a judge will view their offending if they are -- if it is a one-off result of panic through something beyond their control. A judge is much more likely to view that sympathetically and much more likely to consider that a custodial sentence is not required and, if they are prevented from advancing that mitigation, then they are being prevented from putting forwarded a strong argument for them not going to prison.

25 Q. Thank you. Lastly, over the page at

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paragraph 651, the Court of Appeal, in Hamilton -- it's their paragraphs 113 and 147 -said that it was 'irrational and unjust' for the Post Office to have required that they 'had the money short of theft' and the Court of Appeal observed that:

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"[The Post Office's] conduct gives a firm impression that the condition of repayment in return for [the Post Office] dropping the charge of theft placed undue pressure on Mrs Hamilton. It gives the impression that [the Post Office] was using the prosecution to enforce repayment."

Did you find any material that undermined

the impression that the Court of Appeal formed? No, and the words that her plea would be A. accepted on her recognition that she had the money short of theft were words from the lawyer in the Criminal Law Department at the Post Office and, again -- and that was a discussion in advance of Mrs Hamilton pleading to false accounting.

And so, on the one hand, you have an acceptance of a plea to adjusting records that revealed a loss, rather than causing the loss, in the sense of taking the money, through

or email or terms of reference to provide the expert with instructions upon what it is that his or her opinion is sought, setting out the issues or questions that the expert is expected to address or to answer; to provide explicit guidance as to what it is the expert is being asked to do and the material they are being asked to consider in order to do it; to set out the material upon which reliance has been placed 10 in the prosecution and which may be relevant to 11 the questions that the expert is expected to 12 answer; to inform the expert of their duties 13 under the common law and the Criminal Procedure 14 Rules; to make sure that the expert not only 15 understands their duties, but that they had 16 complied with the duties in order to ensure that 17 the expert's evidence was admissible; and, 18 lastly, to satisfy themselves that any material 19 or any literature of which the prosecutor was 20 aware, and which might undermine the expert's 21 opinion, was reviewed by the prosecution and 22 disclosed to both the expert and to the defence. 23 A. Yes. Those -- the duties on the expert were

well established before the Inquiry's period

started, the responsibility of the person

the acceptance of false accounting, rather than theft, and yet it being a condition of that that the individual in the criminal proceedings be made liable for paying back money that you are accepting they have not taken.

There may be a separate, civil discussion as to whether, under the postmaster's contract they were required to make good a loss that they had not caused but this is in the criminal proceedings, making it a condition or pursuing criminal mechanisms in order to get money that you are accepting they have not taken.

13 Q. Thank you. Can we turn to topic 10 -- that can 14 come down, thank you. The last topic is expert 15 evidence.

Can we start by way of a recap of your previous evidence to the Inquiry. You said that a prosecutor intending to rely on expert evidence in criminal proceedings was, during the relevant period, subject to the following obligations -- and this is just by way of brief recap to the questions I am going to ask -- to satisfy themselves that the expert had been appropriately instructed, including by the provision of a detailed letter of instructions

instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing 1 2 an expert, to communicate those duties to the 3 expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from 5 quite early in the period, it was again clear 6 that that was what was required of them. 7 Q. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post 8 Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth 9 Jenkins -- that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton 10 and Nield and Ishag --11 A. Yes. 12 Q. -- forgive the use of the surnames -- did you 13 14

identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, 15 later, those acting on their behalf from 16 Cartwright King, informed or instructed 17 Mr Jenkins about the duties of an expert? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Did you see any evidence that such prosecutors

20 were themselves cognisant of the existence of 21 any of these duties? 22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you see any evidence that they complied with 24 any of these obligations in their dealings with

25 Mr Jenkins?

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1	A.	No.	1		been provided and considered, assumptions which
2	Q.	Did you see any instructions to Mr Jenkins which	2		are material to the opinions expressed?
3		might conform in any way with a written form of	3		Information relating to who carried out any
4		instruction that a prosecutor ought to provide	4		examinations or the methodology used and, if
5		to a person whom it is proposed to give expert	5		they weren't carried out by the expert
6		witness evidence?	6		themselves, the extent to which there was
7	A.	No.	7		supervision?
8	Q.	In relation to the evidence that Mr Jenkins	8		Whether there was a range of opinion in the
9		himself gave, you told us previously about	9		matters dealt with in the report, a summary of
10		a case in 2006, and then the Criminal Procedure	10		that range of opinion and reasons for the
11		Rules Rule 33, which came into force in November	11		opinion given?
12		2006, that there were a number of necessary	12		Relevant extracts of any literature or other
13		inclusions in a report?	13		material that might assist the court?
14	A.	Yes.	14		Then, finally, a statement from the expert
15	Q.	We've looked just now at duties on a prosecutor;	15		that they had understood and complied with their
16		we're now turning to duties on an expert	16		duty to the court to provide independent
17		themselves. Did they include I'm going to	17		assistance by way of an objective and unbiased
18		summarise them all detail of the expert's	18		opinion.
19		academic and professional qualifications,	19	A.	Yes.
20		experience and accreditation insofar as they are	20	Q.	Were they the necessary inclusions in the report
21		relevant to the opinions expressed?	21		itself?
22	A.	Yes.	22	A.	Yes.
23	Q.	A statement setting out the substance of all the	23	Q.	In the five case studies that you have
24		instructions received, the questions upon which	24		considered, did you find that the witness
25		an opinion is sought, the materials that have 29	25		statements served by Mr Jenkins set out any of 30
1		those matters that I've mentioned, that are	1		those were not normally set out and there was
2		necessary inclusions for an expert report or	2		never a statement identifying that he recognised
3		an expert statement?	3		the duties that were imposed upon him.
4	A.	In most of his statements he did set out his	4	Q.	Thank you. Did you see any evidence that the
5		qualifications, in some instances, or at least	5		Post Office informed Mr Jenkins that the printed
6		in one instance, those who were receiving the	6		statements should contain those necessary
7		statement from him, the lawyers at the Post	7		matters?
8		Office, did ask him to do that. To an extent,	8	A.	No.
9		he set out the questions that he'd been asked,	9	Q.	Did you see any evidence that the Post Office
10		in that he would identify what he was making the	10		and, later, lawyers at Cartwright King, were
11		statement about, but he would not set out the	11		aware that an expert report or an expert

11 statement about, but he would not set out the 12 details of what had been asked of him.

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He did not, I think, usually set out what materials he had been provided with or what sources of information he was relying upon. Insofar as that was the work of others beyond himself, that was not identified by him. Insofar as there was a range of opinions and/or contrary views or material that was capable of undermining his opinions, that was not set out at all.

In terms of literature, which would include expert reports that he had seen in earlier cases in relation to Horizon and which would include his own expert reports in earlier proceedings,

11 aware that an expert report or an expert 12 statement should contain those necessary inclusions? 13

14 A. I never saw any material that I can think of that involved the discussion of that to tell me 15 16 whether they appreciated that or not. They

certainly didn't say they did. 17

18 Q. When you gave evidence on the last occasion, you 19 told us that, even with those experts who were 20 trained, accustomed and made their living, or at 21 least in part made their living, from giving 22 expert evidence, ie even if you were preaching 23 to the choir, a prosecutor had to make sure that 24 the expert understood what their duties and

25 obligations were; is that right?

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1	Α.	Yes.

6

- 2 Q. You emphasised that, in relation to an expert
- 3 who was not functionally independent of the
- 4 prosecutor, that it was all the more important
- 5 that they understood the nature of the role that
  - an expert performs and that they properly
- understood what the requirement of independence
- 8 actually entailed?
- 9 A. Yes, and not least because the expert would need
- 10 to demonstrate that independence and so they
- 11 needed to be reminded to set out the basis upon
- 12 which it was so demonstrated.
- 13 Q. Was Mr Jenkins one of those witnesses in respect
- of whom there was that heightened duty to ensure 14
- that they understood the nature of their expert 15
- 16 duties and, in particular, what the requirement
- of independence entailed? 17
- A. Yes. 18
- 19 Q. Was that because he was not a professional 20 expert witness?
- 21 A. It was -- yes, it was because he was giving
- 22 evidence of something outwith the knowledge of
- 23 the jury, because it was something about which
- 24 he had knowledge because he worked with the
- 25 people whose software it was.

- 1 and demonstrating independence?
- 2 A. They understood the -- how it might look, in the
- 3 sense that in the conversations that we looked
- 4 at in emails leading up to the generic statement
- in 2012, there was discussion about whether it 5
- 6 was -- it might be better to have someone
- 7 independent of Fujitsu, rather than working for
- 8 Fujitsu, delivering that statement. That was as
- far as it went. 9
- 10 Q. So recognising the lack of independence but then
- not taking the next step: what do we do to 11
- 12 address it?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Before we look at any of the communications
- 15 lawyers had with Mr Jenkins, did you observe
- 16 that some of them -- and this is communications
- 17 between lawyers and Investigators, on the one
- 18 hand, and Mr Jenkins, on the other -- were
- 19 inconsistent with how a prosecutor ought to
- 20 address and to communicate with an expert?
- 21 A. Yes, I should say that I have seen a lot more in
- 22 terms of communications between those at the
- 23 Post Office, on the one hand, and Mr Jenkins, on
- 24 the other, within the last week than I had 25
  - before.

- Q. So his day-to-day work was as a software
- 2 engineer or a computer engineer, rather than
- 3 a professional witness?
- 4 A. Yes.

- 5 Q. He wasn't, I think you know, a member of any
- 6 expert witness institute or similar?
- 7 A. I certainly don't recall him listing any such
  - membership.
- 9 Q. Would you agree that the heightened duty applied
- 10 in particular because he was not independent of
- 11 the subject matter of his evidence --
- 12 A. Absolutely.
- 13 Q. -- he was, in part, speaking about his own work?
- Yes. His own work and the work of his employer. 14
- Q. He wasn't, would you agree, functionally 15
- 16 independent of the prosecutor?
- 17 A. No, because of the interrelation between the
- 18 product that he was talking about and the
- 19 application of that product by the prosecutor.
- 20 Q. Have you seen anything in the material to
- 21 suggest that the Post Office or, later,
- 22 Cartwright King lawyers understood the
- 23 heightened need to ensure that Mr Jenkins
- 24 understood his duties as an expert, in
- 25 particular the especial need for independence

- 1 Q. Yes.
- 2 A. That which I had seen before was a cause for
- 3 concern. That which I have seen since
- 4 heightened those concerns considerably.
- Q. Can I summarise them: did you find that there 5
- 6 was a lack of formality in the communications?
- 7 A.
- 8 Did you find the guidance given to him to be
- adequate or inadequate? 9
- 10 A. Inadequate.
- Q. Did you find some of the language used to be 11
- 12 appropriate or inappropriate?
- 13 A. Inappropriate.
- 14 Q. Did you find that, whether any of the
- 15 instructions given had, as their intent, the
- 16 service of the Post Office's interests, rather
- 17 than the provision of an independent opinion?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. As well as some of the communications being
- 20 inconsistent with the way a prosecutor ought to
- 21 approach an expert, did you find any of them to
- 22 be the opposite of that, ie the antithesis to
- 23
- 24 Yes. A.
- 25 Q. If it's right that the Post Office or its

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1		agents, Cartwright King, later, did not provide	1		prosecution policy reflected in the Post
2		Mr Jenkins with written instructions that	2		Office's practice, as you saw it, in the case of
3		conform to the requirements that we've	3		Mr Jenkins?
4		mentioned, didn't provide Mr Jenkins with	4	A.	Yes.
5		instructions as to his duties as an expert and	5	Q.	The things we've spoken about, so far, were
6		none of the statements included the necessary	6		failures of omission, things that the Post
7		elements that we've identified, would you be	7		Office didn't do or its lawyers did not do. Did
8		able to draw an overall conclusion that there	8		you identify any material in the five case
9		was a fundamental failure by the Post Office	9		studies, that prosecutors and Investigators
10		properly to instruct Mr Jenkins as an expert?	10		communicated with Mr Jenkins, that were
11	A.	Clearly, that's ultimately a conclusion for	11		inconsistent with the approach that a prosecutor
12		others than me but, certainly, it is not	12		ought to take: so worse than mere failure?
13		a conclusion from which I would dissent at all.	13	A.	Some of the emails that we considered yesterday,
14	Q.	With the limitation you've just included, was	14		where, on the face of them, they were telling
15		that a persistent failure?	15		the expert what to say and telling him what not
16	A.	Yes.	16		to say, that, I think, goes beyond an omission.
17	Q.	You told us back in your first report it was	17		In material that I've seen, again, since the
18		paragraph 67, no need to turn it up that	18		end of last week, there are examples of
19		there was "no prosecution document that I have	19		Mr Jenkins' statements being rewritten by
20		seen that gave guidance as to what an expert	20		Investigators and lawyers at the Post Office, in
21		being instructed needed to address".	21		the sense of them saying, "Can you take that bit
22	A.	No, Post Office document.	22		out, please?" or "That bit doesn't sound good;
23	Q.	Yes, no Post Office document.	23		can you say something else?"
24	A.	Yes.	24		This is in relation to the evidence of
25	Q.	Was that absence of a framework within	25		an independent expert, that is the role that
		07			0.0
		37			38
		37			38
1		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and,	1		far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins'
1 2			1 2		
		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and,		A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins'
2		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for	2	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence?
2		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with	2	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his
2 3 4		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that	2 3 4	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his
2 3 4 5		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you	2 3 4 5	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his
2 3 4 5 6		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or	2 3 4 5	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final
2 3 4 5 6 7		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that	2 3 4 5 6 7	Α.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence?  They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.  Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence?  They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility.  In order to put that person in a position to do
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.  Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can you delete", "Can you add", "Can you rephrase",	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence?  They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility. In order to put that person in a position to do so, disclosure of the communications would have
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.  Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can you delete", "Can you add", "Can you rephrase", and sometimes they simply cut it out?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence?  They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility.  In order to put that person in a position to do
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Α.	Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.  Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can you delete", "Can you add", "Can you rephrase", and sometimes they simply cut it out?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence?  They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility. In order to put that person in a position to do so, disclosure of the communications would have been necessary?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.  Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can you delete", "Can you add", "Can you rephrase", and sometimes they simply cut it out?  Yes. The issues that you identified where the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility. In order to put that person in a position to do so, disclosure of the communications would have been necessary? Yes. Did you see any evidence at all that such
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Α.	Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.  Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can you delete", "Can you add", "Can you rephrase", and sometimes they simply cut it out?  Yes.  The issues that you identified where the evidence was amended, deleted or tailored in	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility. In order to put that person in a position to do so, disclosure of the communications would have been necessary? Yes. Did you see any evidence at all that such communications between Investigator and lawyer,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Α.	Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and, whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.  Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can you delete", "Can you add", "Can you rephrase", and sometimes they simply cut it out?  Yes. The issues that you identified where the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q.	far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins' evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility. In order to put that person in a position to do so, disclosure of the communications would have been necessary? Yes. Did you see any evidence at all that such

22 A. Absolutely.

24 A. Extremely.

23 Q. How serious, in your view, was this conduct?

25 Q. Did any of the issues that we've identified so

23  $\,$  **Q**. Did you see any evidence of any formal request

from the Post Office to Fujitsu for third-party

22 **A.** No.

24

#### The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

1		referring to? So, to take an example, the	1		Can I start, then, with Lisa Brennan. This
2		locking issue, which caused transactions to be	2		is paragraph 46 of your Volume 2 report, which
3		lost, or the record of system errors, the Known	3		is on page 24. There is no need to turn it up
4		Error Log: did you see any communications at	4		for the moment.
5		that level?	5		In general terms, you there are critical of
6	A.	No.	6		the failure to conduct a fuller financial
7	Q.	Did you see anything to suggest that the Post	7		investigation as to any financial benefit to
8		Office pursued such issues with the Fujitsu Head	8		Ms Brennan of the conduct that was alleged
9		of Legal, despite, on occasions, that channel of	9		against her, yes?
10		communication being used?	10	A.	Yes.
11	A.	I can't think of any, no.	11	Q.	As you said yesterday, investigating a suspect's
12	Q.	Thank you. Can I turn, then that's the ten	12		financial records was a reasonable line of
13		topics over to the case studies.	13		inquiry?
14		Your reports address 22 case studies and	14	A.	Yes.
15		your evidence speaks for itself. It's been	15	Q.	During the period 2000 to 2013 would ordinary
16		disclosed to all Core Participants and is	16		theft and fraud cases be prosecuted in the
17		available on the Inquiry's website. I'm not	17		public sector, eg by the police and the CPS,
18		going to go through each of the 22 case studies	18		without any enquiry of this sort having taken
19		and, instead, only cover those where one of the	19		place?
20		Core Participants has asked me to ask questions	20	A.	I'm sure there well have been some but,
21		of you by way of challenge to what you say	21		certainly, my experience is that "follow the
22	A.	Yes.	22		money" is a mantra for those dealing with any
23	Q.	or where one of the Core Participants has	23		form of financial crime and so they would
24		asked for additional context to be given to what	24		normally look because, if they found evidence of
25		you do say in either of your reports.	25		the money, for example, going into someone's
		41			42
			4		and delice 2
1	^	bank account, that would be quite good evidence.	1		conviction?
2	Q.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor	2	Α.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in
3	۸	trying to prove your case?	3		terms of where the financial inquiry was and
4		Absolutely.	4		what material had thus far been generated by it.
5	Q.	But you ought to do it, I think you told us	5		But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor
6		yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry	6		was satisfied, despite the fact that the
7		because it might assist the defendant too?	7		financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was
8	Α.	Yes.	8		a realistic prospect of conviction, then they
9	Q.	Because an active and healthy financial	9		would be entitled to reach an assessment,
10		investigation which produced nil returns, it	10		providing they were also satisfied that what was
11		might be powerful evidence for a defendant to be	11		outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public
12		able to deploy?	12	_	interest assessment.
13	A.	Yes, especially if they have, in interview, said	13	Q.	I think you would agree that, in a charge of
14		in terms "I didn't take the money", that raises	14		theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the
15		the reasonable line of inquiry of, well, did	15		theft, whether by direct evidence or
16		they? And the obvious place to look as to see	16		circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact,
17		whether they've got it and whether that be a new	17		being able to show where the money went?
18		speed boat or the money in the bank, you have	18	A.	Yes.
19	_	a look.	19	Q.	Was your experience in looking at these papers
20	Q.	Was it usual in that period, 2000 to 2013, for	20		that such financial enquiries that were made had
					as their tocus not proving or disproving theft
21		charging decisions to be made in cases	21		as their focus not proving or disproving theft

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prosecuted by the CPS, whilst financial

nonetheless the case that there was sufficient

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evidence to provide a realistic prospect of

inquiries were outstanding, if it was

but recovery of proceeds for the benefit of the

Yes, in some cases it wasn't very clear what

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Post Office?

1		did make for, because there would be a reference	1		position than she was, either at the point of
2		in an investigation report to the fact that	2		the charging decision or before the jury?
3		they'd asked the postmaster for consent to	3	A.	Only if it could have confirmed that they had
4		access their bank account, they'd obtained that	4		looked and not found any evidence that she had
5		consent, they may have obtained some bank	5		benefited financially and/or confirmed that she,
6		statements and then there'd be no further	6		if this were the case, had made, attempted to
7		reference to them, and so it wasn't quite clear	7		make, repayments at an earlier stage of losses,
8		what they'd done with them.	8		and/or if it confirmed that she was not in
9		But where there was more intensive	9		a position where she needed to steal the money,
10		examination of the finances, it did appear to be	10		those things would have further supported her
11		by Financial Investigators preparing for	11		case, not least because they were coming from
12		confiscation, rather than Investigators	12		the prosecution, rather than, for example, just
13		preparing for prosecution.	13		from her.
14	Q.	Would you agree that, in the context of a fraud	14	Q.	Thank you. That's all I ask in relation to Lisa
15		involving the alleged theft of cash of the type	15		Brennan's case.
16		alleged in Lisa Brennan's case, that the absence	16		I am going to move over the cases of David
17		of evidence of her having the missing money	17		Yates, David Blakey and Tahir Mahmood and turn
18		could not exclude the possibility that she did,	18		to the case of Carl Page and, in particular,
19		in fact, take the cash?	19		your consideration of his case at page 58,
20	A.	It couldn't exclude it, no.	20		paragraph 146 to 148 of your report.
21	Q.	Given that the case was left to the jury on the	21		Page 58, please, paragraph 146.
22		basis that there was no evidence of her having	22		Between paragraphs 146 and 148, you raise
23		the money, how, in your view, could	23		some criticisms based on your understanding,
24		an investigation of her finances by the Post	24		I think, from the Court of Appeal Criminal
25		Office have placed her in a more advantageous	25		Division's judgment in Hamilton, that the
		45			46
1		prosecution had changed its case between the	1		based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal
2		first and second trial.	2		Division had said in Hamilton?
3	A.	Yes.	3	A.	In part, also based on the assessment in the
4	Q.	The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the	4		Second Sight review, which was to the same
5		Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford,	5		effect.
6		the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the	6	Q.	That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to
7		first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the	7		there?
8		second trial. He has told the Inquiry that	8	A.	It is, yes.
9		there were two counts in trial 1, the first	9	Q.	Other than those tertiary sources or
10		count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud	10		secondary sources did you see anything in the
11		between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to	11		contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had
12		foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde	12		been a material change of case between the two
13		Moneychanger and not Horizon	13		trials?
14	A.	Yes.	14	A.	I saw a transcript of the evidence or, more
15	Q.	and a second count of theft of £282,000,	15		particularly, cross-examination of Mr Page at
16		alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit	16		the first trial, which was very much to the
17		shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon.	17		effect that he had stolen foreign currency and
18		Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at	18		that that was the basis upon which the theft
19		the first trial, jury unable to reach a verdict	19		charge appeared to be presented there, which was
20		on Count 1 at the first trial, therefore there	20		how Second Sight characterised it in their

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review.

So there was that material, contemporaneous material, that accorded with what they were saying had been the prosecution's case at the first trial, which was not its case at the

was a retrial on Count 2 alone against Mr Page.

23 Q. As such, the second trial was a retrial and did

not involve a change of case. Was your

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22 A. Yes.

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1		second trial. I can't, off the top of my head,
2		remember anything else but I didn't see
3		anything, equally, that would positively say
4		that the case had not changed in the sense of
5		a review between trial 1 and trial 2, as to how
6		the case would now be put in the light of the
7		acquittal on Count 1, first time round.
8	Q.	Does anything that I have said in relation to
9		what Mr Tatford has told the Chair change your
10		view in relation to this aspect of the case
11		against Carl Page?
12	A.	Clearly, I haven't considered what Mr Tatford
13		had to say. All I can say is that the material
14		that I saw and I can only speak to that
15		didn't cause me to take a different view to
16		either Second Sight or, more pertinently, the
17		Court of Appeal, as to the fact that there had
18		been a change of case.
19	Q.	Thank you. Can I turn to Oyeteju Adedayo's case
20		please. You pick this up at page 66 of your
21		report
22	A.	Yes.
23	Q.	paragraph 169 and following. I think,
24		amongst the material that you've seen since the
25		preparation of your original report and this
25		preparation of your original report and this 49
25		
25		
	Q.	49
1	Q.	49 Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so.
1 2	Q. A.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so.  Did you read the transcript of the interview of
1 2 3		Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo?
1 2 3 4	A.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes.
1 2 3 4 5	A.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning
1 2 3 4 5 6	A.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	A.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions,
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was ultimately attributed to her in the
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was ultimately attributed to her in the Investigating Officer's report was one that had
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q. A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was ultimately attributed to her in the Investigating Officer's report was one that had been extracted through closed questions to her?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was ultimately attributed to her in the Investigating Officer's report was one that had been extracted through closed questions to her? Yes, I think that's a fair characterisation.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was ultimately attributed to her in the Investigating Officer's report was one that had been extracted through closed questions to her? Yes, I think that's a fair characterisation. There was when open questions were asked
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was ultimately attributed to her in the Investigating Officer's report was one that had been extracted through closed questions to her? Yes, I think that's a fair characterisation. There was when open questions were asked initially, the account she gave was not clear
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q.	Investigator but, yes, I'd have thought so. Did you read the transcript of the interview of Mrs Adedayo? Yes. I wonder whether we can do this without turning it up. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion that, when asked open questions, Ms Adedayo appeared incoherent in some of her answers? They weren't easy to follow. Did you find that the account that was ultimately attributed to her in the Investigating Officer's report was one that had been extracted through closed questions to her? Yes, I think that's a fair characterisation. There was when open questions were asked initially, the account she gave was not clear and more more closed questions were then

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what she was agreeing with.

inconsistent and confusing? 25 A. I can certainly understand why that would be

22 Q. Would you agree or disagree with the suggestion

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that the account overall was internally

1		revised report, included the CCRC referral
2		document?
3	A.	Yes.
4	Q.	The reference to which we needn't display it
5		is POL00121224. Did your view remain that
6		the case was poorly investigated?
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	Did your view remain that, in particular,
9		Mrs Adedayo's account was not explored or
10		examined by the Investigators or the
11 12	A.	prosecutors?  Yes, and, in that regard, I focus on the account
13	A.	that she gave at the time. I've seen what she
14		has said about that since, but I focus purely on
15		what she gave as an explanation to the
16		Investigators at the time, which was an account
17		that required investigating.
18	Q.	Was it incumbent upon the Investigator,
19		Ms Bernard, to have investigated that account to
20		see, for example, whether there had been any
21		payments to third parties by Ms Adedayo?
22	A.	Yes.
23	Q.	Would that have been a relatively
24		straightforward exercise?
25	A.	I would have thought so. I'm not a Financial
		50
1		suggested, yes.
2	Q.	When she gave evidence to us, the Investigator,
3		Natasha Bernard, said that she viewed it as
4		inconsistent and confusing, and she said that
5		it's quite clear from her report that she didn't
6		believe what Mrs Adedayo was telling her.
7	A.	In certain respects, yes, I agree with that.
8	Q.	Given the equivocal nature of what was being
9		said, would you agree that that added an impetus
10		for the case to be properly investigated?
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	There wasn't any clear evidence of a theft and
13		a contradictory or internally inconsistent, in
14		
		some respects, baffling confession.
15	A.	Yes.
16	A. Q.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to
16 17	Q.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to prosecute?
16 17 18	Q. A.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to prosecute? Without that being resolved, yes.
16 17 18 19	Q.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to prosecute? Without that being resolved, yes. If we look at paragraph 181 of your report,
16 17 18 19 20	Q. A.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to prosecute? Without that being resolved, yes. If we look at paragraph 181 of your report, please, which is on page 70. Last sentence, in
16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to prosecute? Without that being resolved, yes. If we look at paragraph 181 of your report, please, which is on page 70. Last sentence, in the light of what you said earlier in
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to prosecute? Without that being resolved, yes. If we look at paragraph 181 of your report, please, which is on page 70. Last sentence, in the light of what you said earlier in paragraph 181:
16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A.	Yes. Would that have been a questionable basis to prosecute? Without that being resolved, yes. If we look at paragraph 181 of your report, please, which is on page 70. Last sentence, in the light of what you said earlier in

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1		an issue as a result."	1		correct?
2		Are you there essentially adopting the same	2	A.	We have a transcript of the hearing at which it
3		approach as the Court of Appeal Criminal	3		was indicated by counsel acting for the Post
4		Division.	4		Office that, although they didn't accept the
5	A.	Yes, I hope so.	5		reasons that had been advanced on Mrs Adedayo's
6	Q.	Thank you very much. Can we turn to Mr Thomas'	6		behalf for why her conviction should be quashed
7		case next, please.	7		they nevertheless considered that it would be
8	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Before you do, Mr Beer, can	8		contrary to the public interest to seek to
9		I just understand what went on in Mrs Adedayo's	9		uphold her conviction and so they didn't oppose
10		case. Her conviction was quashed by Southwark	10		her appeal.
11		Crown Court; that's correct, isn't it?	11		There was no judgment given, and I'll be
12	A.	Yes.	12		corrected if I'm wrong about it, no judgment
13	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: So this is purely technical but	13		given by the Recorder of Westminster who
14		where you write that she pleaded guilty at the	14		presided over that hearing, separate from that,
15		Crown Court, I don't think can be right, can it?	15		but and so the transcript is less than
16		Presumably what happened, she pleaded guilty at	16		helpful as to exactly why it came about that
17		the Magistrates Court but was then committed for	17		Mrs Adedayo's conviction was quashed.
18		sentence?	18		Certainly the Post Office made clear they
19	A.	That must be right, yes, sir.	19		didn't accept a good deal of what Mrs Adedayo's
20	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: That's just a mere technicality.	20		case, as considered by the Criminal Cases Review
21		But what's of more interest in her case is	21		Commission, had been.
22		that there's no real rationale, is there, in how	22	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: So, in effect, at court, there
23		her conviction was quashed or why it was	23		was an issue which was unresolved by the judge.
24		quashed, because we haven't got a formal	24		Mrs Adedayo's case was presented in a particular
25		judgment of the Southwark Crown Court; is that 53	25		way, the Post Office said what you've just 54
1		described to me and the judge didn't determine	1	Q.	Is that the relevant transcript?
2		the issue between them?	2	A.	It is, yes.
3	A.	No, that's right, sir.	3	Q.	The hearing starts, we can see on page 2, at
4	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: So am I right in thinking that	4		10.47. Ms Carey, I think that's Jacqueline
5		the only objective by which I mean	5		Carey, appears on behalf of the prosecution, and
6		independent of Mrs Adedayo or the Post Office	6		speaks over pages 2, 3 and 4, and then
7		assessment is that which we currently have, is	7		Mr Moloney, who appeared for both appellants,
8		that which is contained in the reference by the	8		says a few words, ten words or so.
9		Criminal Review Commission?	9	A.	Yes, he was largely inaudible, apparently.
10	A.	Yes.	10		Yes, which is no doubt due to the recording,
11	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, fine. Thank you.	11		rather than Mr Moloney.
12		Sorry, Mr Beer, I wanted to be clear in my	12	A.	Sure.
13		mind about this case.	13	Q.	There's then a discussion or something that Her
14	MR	BEER: Yes, thank you.	14		Honour Judge Taylor said, which concerns
15		I think the document that you saw was	15		jurisdiction.
16		a transcript of the hearing at Southwark Crown	16	A.	Yes, because Mrs Adedayo had pleaded guilty in
17		Court in front of Her Honour Judge Taylor	17		the and so you're entirely right, she pleaded
18	A.	Yes.	18		guilty in the Medway Magistrates Court to the
19	Q.	of 14 May 2021. That ends the hearing	19		offences and was then sent to the Crown Court,
20		starts at 10.47. Do you want to just have	20		to Maidstone Crown Court for sentence. So,
21		a look at it? I'm not sure we're going to be	21		procedurally, her guilty pleas had to be set
22		able to display this.	22		aside before her conviction could be quashed and
23		I think it's Volume 1 of the Rule 10	23		so that's the discussion at the end.
24		material at tab D32.	24	Q.	Then the hearing concludes with this, Judge
25	A.	Thank you very much. Yes, thank you. 55	25		Taylor saying: 56

1		"Thank you. In these appeals of Mr Kalia	1	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, yes.
2		and Ms Adedayo, the Court finds that the effect	2	MR	R BEER: Can we turn on to Mr Thomas' case then,
3		of Section 11.2.4 of the Criminal Appeal Act	3		please. This is paragraph 198 and following of
4		1985 are such that they do not have to apply to	4		your report on page 76. In fact, we needn't
5		set aside their guilty pleas. We adopt the	5		turn this up, I can deal with this without
6		background (inaudible) to these cases, which is	6		looking at this material. In paragraphs 193,
7		set out in Hamilton v Post Office [and the	7		198 and 213 of your report, in the context of
8		citation given ]. Whilst it is not conceded by	8		Mr Thomas' case, you examine the preparation of
9		the performance that these are (inaudible)	9		a witness statement by Gareth Jenkins.
10		cases, in terms of judgment the appeals are not	10	A.	Yes, I think the first witness statement he
11		opposed (inaudible), will not be contested and,	11		made.
12		in the public interest (inaudible). Their	12	Q.	Exactly. You say at paragraph 198 that
13		sentences have been served and we hope that	13	-	consideration of the reference material,
14		(inaudible) they can put this behind them and	14		ie material that was referenced in the "Gareth
15		continue with their lives without the shadow of	15		Jenkins Chronology", is necessary. We mentioned
16		a conviction. Any other applications"	16		the nature and status of that document
17		It says "Mr Carey".	17		yesterday.
18	A.	Yes.	18	٨	Yes, that's right.
	_		19		•
19	Q.	It should be Ms Carey. Yes.		Q.	So can we look at the reference material and,
20	Α.		20		indeed, some other underlying material in
21	Q.	She says, "No thank you".	21		chronological order. Can we start, please, with
22		Is that the extent of a judgment determining	22		FUJ00122203. Can we look at page 6, please. If
23		the appeal?	23		we scroll down, please, we should see
24		Yes, it is.	24		an email we can from Graham Ward and
25	IVIN	RBEER: Sir, I hope that helps. 57	25		it's a generic email account to Fujitsu of 58
1		10 March 2006. This appears to be the original	1		scroll down thank you we should see
2		or originating form of instruction from Mr Ward	2		an email from Mr Pinder to Mr Jenkins, with
3		of the Post Office to Fujitsu. If we just	3		a heading "Fujitsu Statements Gaerwen":
4		scroll down, please, and go on to page 7, he	4		"As discussed please see extract from
5		says:	5		a recent email below in italics from Graham Ward
6		"On a separate matter, I also require	6		"
7		a witness statement in respect of the following	7		We've just looked at that email.
8		ARQs all of which relate to the Gaerwen	8	A.	Yes.
9		SPSO."	9	Q.	" regarding provision of a statement about
10		That's Mr Thomas' branch on Anglesey.	10		nil transactions and online banking. If you are
11	A.	Yes, that's right.	11		able to put something together for us I would be
	Q.	"We need the usual (leave out paragraphs H(b)	12		very grateful. If you send it back I will
13		and J, but we do need paragraph K (call logs)	13		arrange for Neneh or Penny to write into
14		covering an analysis over the period 01/11/04 to	14		a statement for your signature."
15		30/11/05. Penny you may recall this one	15		Then you will see the relevant part of
16		which relates to nil transactions Can you	16		Mr Ward's email cut in to this email and the
17		had an extra paragraph in your statement	17		part in italics:
18		explaining how online banking transactions are	18		"Can you add an extra paragraph in your
19		processed and the data downloaded and how nil	19		statement explaining how online banking
20		transactions can occur."	20		transactions are processed and the data
21		If we go forwards, so that's 10 May (sic),	21		downloaded and how nil transactions can occur."
22		Post Office, Ward, to Fujitsu.	22		Having looked at this material, do you agree
23	A.	Yes.	23		that it was the Post Office, via Mr Ward, routed
23 24	Q.	If we go forwards, please, to the 21 March,	24		through Mr Pinder, who had asked Mr Jenkins to
<b>-</b> T	٠.	35 formardo, piedeo, to the 21 maion,	27		and a second will be the second to the second to

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focus on the issue of nil transactions in the  $$\operatorname{60}$$ 

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FUJ00152582, and look at page 2, please. If we

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1		witness statement	1	A.	That was how I read it, yes.
2	A.	Yes.	2	Q.	Quite aside from the format of the instruction,
3	Q.	rather than a request to consider any broader	3		is it right that you saw no material in which
4		issues affecting the operation and reliability	4		the Post Office provided to Mr Jenkins detail as
5		of Horizon?	5		to what the prosecution case was against
6	A.	Yes.	6		Mr Thomas?
7	Q.	Would you agree you'll see the reference to	7	A.	That's right.
8		the three ARQs in the first line of the cut-in	8	Q.	No material setting out what Mr Thomas had said,
9		email, I'm not going to read the numbers out	9		for example, in interview
10		that it was the Post Office which had selected	10	A.	Correct.
11		the three specific time periods for the	11	Q.	or in the audit, and in the audit report?
12		examination of nil transactions, and that it had	12	A.	Yes.
13		done so by enclosing ARQs for time periods that	13	Q.	There was no analysis for him of the competing
14		it had selected?	14	-	issues between the parties?
15	A.	Yes.	15	A.	No, that's right.
16		Would you agree that this instruction to	16		Would you agree, on these materials, that
17	~.	Mr Jenkins didn't constitute or indeed come	17		Mr Jenkins wasn't, in fact, instructed to
18		close to being a proper instruction to	18		undertake an examination of the scheme
19		an expert?	19	Δ	Yes, I agree.
20	A.	Yes.	20		•
21	Q.	Instead, it's a request coming from the Post	21	Q. A.	Yes.
22	Q.	Office to the Fujitsu Litigation Support Team	22		Thank you very much.
			23	Q.	
23		asking them to add a paragraph to their standard			Sir, it's just gone 11.30 now, I wonder if
24		statement, which was then rerouted to	24	CIE	we could break until 11.45.
25		Mr Jenkins? 61	25	211	R WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly, yes. 62
		Ç.			<u></u>
1		BEER: Thank you.	1	Q.	If the CCRC make a reference, the test that the
2	(11	.32 am)	2		CCRC apply is not whether the conviction is
3		(A short break)	3		unsafe but whether it's arguable that it might
4	(11	.45 am)	4		be?
5	MR	BEER: Sir, good morning. Can you continue to	5	A.	
6		see and hear us?	6	Q.	If the CCRC do make a reference to the Crown
7	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.	7		Court on a case involving a plea in the
8	MR	BEER: Before I continue with the chronology in	8		a Magistrates Court, that results in a hearing
9		Mr Thomas' case, can we just return to	9		de novo?
10		Ms Adedayo's case and just clarify couple of	10	A.	Yes, so a rehearing of the case.
11		points, in the light of the questions you asked	11	Q.	Yes, so, essentially, a retrial?
12		and the evidence that Mr Atkinson gave.	12	A.	Yes.
13		Can we start, please, Mr Atkinson, just by	13	Q.	A rehearing of the case?
14		explaining the different nature of appeals from	14	A.	Yes.
15		the Crown Court to the Court of Appeal Criminal	15	Q.	Upon such rehearing of the case, the prosecutor
16		Division and from a Magistrates Court to a Crown	16		must, or ought to, consider both limbs of the
17		Court in CCRC reference cases.	17		Code test at that point in time?
18		Is it right that an appeal from the Crown	18	A.	Yes.
19		Court to the CCAD (sic) is, essentially,	19	Q.	What happened in Ms Adedayo's case was that the
20		a review of the safety of the conviction?	20		Post Office made a concession on the public
21	A.	Yes.	21		interest limb of the test, as complained by
22	Q.	Whereas, if a person has pleaded guilty in the	22		Ms Carey in the transcript, that that limb was

23

24 A. That's right.

not at that point satisfied?

25 Q. That approach by the Post Office meant that

Magistrates Court, there is no power to appeal,

unless the CCRC make a reference?

23

24

25 A. Yes.

1		Mrs Adedayo did not have the opportunity to	1	Q.	Thank you. Can we go back to Mr Thomas' case,
2		argue by reference to the evidence and to make	2		please.
3		submissions whether the evidential threshold was	3	A.	Yes.
4		met that wouldn't be for the court anyway	4	Q.	Can we look in the next step of the chronology,
5		but to argue in court, by reference to evidence,	5		at FUJ00152587, and page 5, please. We'd
6		as to whether her case was an Horizon case or	6		previously been looking at 10 March and
7		not?	7		21 March. We're now looking at 22 March.
8	A.	No, that's right.	8		If we scroll down a little bit, please, we
9	Q.	Is that why we don't see a judgment from Her	9		see Mr Ward emailing the Fujitsu employees that
10		Honour Judge Taylor resolving whether	10		we see set out, confirming, in the second
11		Mrs Adedayo's case was or was not an Horizon	11		paragraph, that the Post Office required
12		case because, essentially, the Post Office	12		a witness statement producing ARQ extracts in
13		offered no evidence against her and there was	13		spreadsheet form, relating to Mr Thomas' post
14		nothing for her then to do?	14		office, and a statement explaining the headings
15	A.	And there had been no submissions before Judge	15		and under what circumstances nil transactions
16		Taylor on that issue which would have allowed	16		can occur. Can you see that in the second
17		her to come to a view.	17		paragraph?
18	Q.	No, save that I think in the inaudible part of	18	A.	Yes.
19		the transcript, it's agreed between the Post	19	Q.	Then, if we scroll up, please, to the top of
20		Office and Mr Moloney that what was said was	20		page 5., we see Ms Lowther providing Mr Ward
21		that the Post Office analysis that this was not	21		with a draft witness statement later that day on
22		a Horizon case was not accepted, and he was	22		22 March:
23		essentially preserving his position and her	23		"Please see the draft [witness statement]
24		position for the future?	24		for the above re 'Nil Transactions'.
25	A.	Yes.	25		"[Does this meet] your requirements."
		65			66
4		Then the name shave places page 4	4		The position has been been been included
1		Then the page above, please, page 4.	1 2		"In particular, I don't feel I can include
2		A reply from Mr Ward later that day, the 22nd.	3		the last two [paragraphs], which may make the statement useless."
3		In the third paragraph, second line:	4		Can we look at what that attachment was.
4		" I'm concerned at the words 'system			
5		failure' which is also in an earlier line	5		FUJ00122204. 23 March, draft statement. Scroll
6		'There has been some sort of system failure'	6		down, please. You'll see the introduction and
7		What does this mean exactly and is there any	7		then the part of the text in single line
8		indication of a system failure at this office	8		spacing:
9		during the period in question?"	9		"There are three main reasons why a zero
10		Can we go forwards, please, to FUJ00122203,	10		transaction may be generated as part of the
11		and page 3, please. On that day, 22 March,	11		banking system"
12		Ms Lowther forwards Graham Ward's email to	12		1 and 2, and then 3:
13		Mr Jenkins:	13		"There has been some sort of System Failure.
14		"Hi Gareth,	14		Such failures are normal occurrences."
15		"Please see reply from Graham below	15		So the point remains in Mr Jenkins'
16		regarding your statement.	16		statement in this draft, despite Mr Ward's
17		" ignore the first bit"	17		questions expressed to Ms Lowther and passed on
18		Then:	18		to Mr Jenkins: why is that there, what does it
19		"Could you please look at his second	19	_	mean?
20		[paragraph] and advise with your comments again.	20	Α.	Yes.
21		"I have attached a copy of your draft	21	Q.	So he's maintaining that the reasons why a zero
22		statement"	22		transaction may be generated include some sort
23		If we go up to page 1, please. Reply later	23		of system failure and that they are normal
24		the next day, the 23rd. Mr Jenkins sending	24		occurrences.
25		a revised witness statement saying:	25		Can we go to FUJ00122203
		67			68

The	Post	Office	Horizon I	T	Inquiry

1		I'm so sorry. If we can go to the third	1		insist upon the removal of any references to
2		page of the witness statement, please. If we	2		system failures from Mr Jenkins' witness
3		scroll down, just a little bit, you'll remember	3		statements?
4		that in his covering email, Mr Jenkins said	4	A.	Yes. The emails that we've just seen, I don't
5		that: I don't think I can say the part in the	5		think there was anything inappropriate about
6		last two paragraphs, and these are the last two	6		them asking what he meant by that or asking him
7		paragraphs in the statement.	7		to explain that further, but asking him to
8		" no reason to believe that the	8		remove it is a different matter.
9		information in the statement is inaccurate	9	Q.	To the extent that it was removed subsequently,
10		To the best of my knowledge and belief at all	10		do you agree that Mr Jenkins' recognition in
11		times the computer was operating properly	11		this draft of his witness statement, that system
12			12		failures are normal occurrences in the system,
13		Then a records declaration.	13		ought properly to have been disclosed in this
14		Then Mr Jenkins said, as well as in his	14		prosecution
15		email, at the foot of the page:	15	A.	Yes.
16		"I'm not sure that the yellow bit is true.	16	Q.	and in others?
17		Can this be deleted? All I've done is interpret	17		Yes, with more information as to what he meant
18		the data in spreadsheets that you have emailed	18		by that.
19		to me."	19	Q.	No matter what went on subsequently, in terms of
20		Just pausing here for the moment, in	20		the deletion of that line from his witness
21		relation to the page 1 point, system failures	21		statement, should that have been material
22		being a reason for nil transactions and being	22		disclosed by Mr Jenkins himself?
23		normal occurrences in the system, would you	23	A.	It should, if it was his view. If it was part
24		agree that it wasn't appropriate for the Post	24		of his expert assessment, it should have stayed
25		Office as an Investigator or as a prosecutor to	25		there and formed a part of what he produced.
		69	20		70
	_	Da con a sure at the time to a big at the at the	4		
1	Q.	Do you agree that Mr Jenkins' request that the	1		served or disclosed, then his disagreement with
2	Q.	last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at,	2	•	them needed to be disclosed as well.
2	Q.	last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement	2	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at
2 3 4	Q.	last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this	2 3 4	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to
2 3 4 5		last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?	2 3 4 5	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:
2 3 4 5 6		last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  If the two paragraphs remained in the statement	2 3 4 5 6	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:  "Hi Graham,
2 3 4 5 6 7		last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  If the two paragraphs remained in the statement as ultimately served, then the fact that he	2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:  "Hi Graham,  "[Please see attached] second draft for the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  If the two paragraphs remained in the statement as ultimately served, then the fact that he didn't agree with them clearly needed to be made	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:  "Hi Graham,  "[Please see attached] second draft for the above with further explanation regarding the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  If the two paragraphs remained in the statement as ultimately served, then the fact that he didn't agree with them clearly needed to be made clear.  That's what happened. Despite his request for their removal, we'll see that eventually, in the statement of 6 April 2006, those paragraphs	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:  "Hi Graham,  "[Please see attached] second draft for the above with further explanation regarding the issues you raised."  That second draft is the one that we've just looked at:  "Please let me know of any amendments [as
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q.	last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  If the two paragraphs remained in the statement as ultimately served, then the fact that he didn't agree with them clearly needed to be made clear.  That's what happened. Despite his request for their removal, we'll see that eventually, in the statement of 6 April 2006, those paragraphs remained.  Without qualification.  Yes.  Yes.  Therefore, his unhappiness at including those two paragraphs in a witness statement ought properly to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  Yes.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:  "Hi Graham,  "[Please see attached] second draft for the above with further explanation regarding the issues you raised."  That second draft is the one that we've just looked at:  "Please let me know of any amendments [as soon as possible] as we need to put this in the post", et cetera.  Then, further up on page 1, later the same day, on the 24th, Mr Ward replies at 11.37:  "Neneh,  "This statement needs more work I have attached a suggested draft with a number of comments (as mentioned previously [I think that's the previous email we just looked at]
2 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.	last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  If the two paragraphs remained in the statement as ultimately served, then the fact that he didn't agree with them clearly needed to be made clear.  That's what happened. Despite his request for their removal, we'll see that eventually, in the statement of 6 April 2006, those paragraphs remained.  Without qualification.  Yes.  Yes.  Therefore, his unhappiness at including those two paragraphs in a witness statement ought properly to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  Yes.  And in other prosecutions?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:  "Hi Graham,  "[Please see attached] second draft for the above with further explanation regarding the issues you raised."  That second draft is the one that we've just looked at:  "Please let me know of any amendments [as soon as possible] as we need to put this in the post", et cetera.  Then, further up on page 1, later the same day, on the 24th, Mr Ward replies at 11.37:  "Neneh,  "This statement needs more work I have attached a suggested draft with a number of comments (as mentioned previously [I think that's the previous email we just looked at] I think the 'system failure normal
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at, be removed from the draft witness statement ought to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  If the two paragraphs remained in the statement as ultimately served, then the fact that he didn't agree with them clearly needed to be made clear.  That's what happened. Despite his request for their removal, we'll see that eventually, in the statement of 6 April 2006, those paragraphs remained.  Without qualification.  Yes.  Therefore, his unhappiness at including those two paragraphs in a witness statement ought properly to have been disclosed in this prosecution?  Yes.  And in other prosecutions?  In any prosecution where this statement was	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.  Can we go, please, to FUJ00122210. Just look at the bottom of page 1, please, from Ms Lowther to Mr Ward:  "Hi Graham,  "[Please see attached] second draft for the above with further explanation regarding the issues you raised."  That second draft is the one that we've just looked at:  "Please let me know of any amendments [as soon as possible] as we need to put this in the post", et cetera.  Then, further up on page 1, later the same day, on the 24th, Mr Ward replies at 11.37:  "Neneh,  "This statement needs more work I have attached a suggested draft with a number of comments (as mentioned previously [I think that's the previous email we just looked at] I think the 'system failure normal occurrence' line is potentially very damaging).

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1		(where is he based?).	1	Q.	and replaced by Mr Ward typing:
2		"Whilst there is some urgency with this, it	2		"(This is a really poor choice of words
3		is more important to get it right and ensure	3		which seems to accept that failures in the
4		that we are not embarrassed at court, which we	4		system are normal and therefore may well support
5		certainly could be if we produced a statement	5		the postmaster's claim that the system is to
6		accepting 'system failures are normal	6		blame for the losses!!!!)"
7		occurrences'	7		Do you consider this type of intervention in
8		"Let me know what you think of the draft."	8		relation to the content of Mr Jenkins' evidence
9		Then if we see at the top of that page there	9		to be appropriate conduct by a member of
10		later in the day, that's passed, that email,	10		a prosecuting authority?
11		directly by Ms Lowther to Gareth Jenkins:	11	A.	•
12		"[Please] see the mail below and the new	12	Q.	Do you consider the degree of input into the
13		draft statement."	13		drafting of Mr Jenkins' witness statement to be
14		So let's look at Mr Ward's drafting efforts.	14		appropriate, if it was the case that Mr Jenkins
15		POL00047895. If we scroll down, please, so this	15		was being treated as an expert witness?
16		is the relevant paragraph at the top of the page	16	A.	
17		here:	17		Mr Ward, as he had in earlier emails, asking
18		"There are three [then Mr Ward has inserted]	18		what system failures meant and having a better
19		(if these are the main reasons what are the	19		understanding of that, but to take it out
20		rest?) reasons why a zero value transaction may	20		because it was embarrassing or damaging, or
21		be generated as part of the banking system"	21		would help the postmaster
22		Then I think 1 and 2 remain the same. The	22	Q.	
23		third reason, system failure, has been	23	Α.	
24		deleted can you see that	24		of what they should have been doing.
25	A.	Yes.	25	Q.	
		73			74
1		an Investigator or a Manager of Investigators	1		But it should have generated discussion as
2		had made deletions or proposed deletions to	2		to why they were wrong or what the issue was
3		a witness statement and had given as a reason	3		and, if the issue was, as I read Mr Jenkins'
4		that the evidence that the expert was proposing	4		email to suggest that, for him to attest as to
5		to give might well support the defendant and,	5		the operation of the system, he needed more
6		therefore, the words should be deleted, ought to	6		material than he had been given, then the
7		have been disclosed in the prosecution?	7		discussion needs to be about that, rather than
8	A.	It shouldn't have happened and, if it did	8		just deleting the paragraphs and moving on as if
9	Α,	happen, it should have been disclosed.	9		nothing had happened.
10	Q.	Can we go to page 3, please. Can we see that	10	0	Thank you.
11	Œ.	the two paragraphs in relation to the operation	11	Œ.	Can we move on, please, to POL00122217
12		of the computer and we'll come back in	12		FUJ00122217. My mistake, I said POL rather than
13		a moment to exactly what they may have meant,	13		FUJ.
14		what their focus may have been in a moment, but	14		FUJ00122217. Can we start with page 2,
15		they have been removed by Mr Ward	15		please. We can see that Mr Ward's amendments to
16	A.	Yes.	16		the second draft of the statement are sent back
17	Q.	in this draft. Again, was that proper	17		to Mr Jenkins. Then, if we go up, please,
18	Œ.	conduct by a member of the prosecuting	18		Mr Jenkins emails Mr Ward directly, copying
		authority?	19		
19 20	٨	It would depend on why it was done and what else	20		Ms Lowther in, an updated draft statement,
20 21	A.	was done in relation to it. Clearly, if the	20		saying:
22		person whose statement this was said that they	22		"I've added some further annotations to your annotations. Does this move us forward?"
		were that they wanted those paragraphs to be	23		So shall we see what the attachment said?
23 24		deleted because they were wrong, then it was not	23		FUJ00122218. This is the attachment to that

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wrong to delete those paragraphs.

email. Although it was being sent on 28 March,

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1	the statement remained dated 24 March. If we
2	scroll down, please, you'll see the third
3	reason, system failures, remains deleted.
4	You will see Mr Ward's annotations on
5	"really poor choice of words", and you'll see
6	Mr Jenkins reply:
7	"Please can you suggest something better

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then? What we have here are genuine failures of the end-to-end system which are not part of normal operation, but are anticipated and the system is designed to cope with them. Some such failures could be engineered as part of a malicious attack (but that doesn't apply to those failures that appear in the evidence presented). In all cases the system is designed to identify such failures and handle them in such a way that the Customer, the Postmaster, Post Office and [Financial Investigators] are all clear as to the status of the transaction and any necessary financial reconciliation takes place. I guess one option is to delete the paragraph since it is purely an introduction to the following more detailed description."

So Mr Jenkins has asked Mr Ward to suggest something better and raised the possibility of

Q. Can we go forward to FUJ00152587. Mr Ward emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins in, saying:

> "I do not understand why this statement ... is taking so long to be put together. I appreciate it is slightly unusual, but I do not understand the confusion as I thought I'd made our requirements clear."

> Remember the word "requirements", if you may

"Unfortunately, Gareth's annotations do not take us forward at all (and I'm sure this is not Gareth's fault). Gareth has indicated in the attachment below that the 3 spreadsheets produced by your team ... were not produced by him, therefore as he quite rightly points out, he is not in a position to produce them in his statement."

That's a side point. Then scroll down, please:

"As already stated, we urgently need a statement producing these 3 additional spreadsheets, explaining in general terms, under what circumstances 'nil' transactions occur and in particular how the 'nil' transactions at

deleting the paragraph. 1

2 In the light of the fact that Mr Jenkins

3 recognised, in this further draft or the

4 response to the proposed amendment, that system

5 failures were anticipated, was it appropriate

6 for the Post Office, as an Investigator or

prosecutor, to insist upon the removal of the

reference to "system failures" from the witness

9 statement?

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10 A. No. What was necessary was for them to provide

11 a proper explanation of what that meant.

12 Q. The recognition in the text that he added that

13 such system failures were anticipated, do you

agree ought properly to have been disclosed in 14

15 the prosecution?

16 **A**. Yes.

17 Q. If we go over the page, please. Scroll down.

18 You'll see that the system operation paragraphs,

19 those two paragraphs at the end that were in the

20 original coloured yellow, remain removed.

21 A. Yes.

22 Do you agree that this draft of the witness

23 statement ought properly to have been disclosed

24 in the prosecution?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Gaerwen occurred ... The same statement needs to 2 include a paragraph which states that there is

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no evidence of a system error at Gaerwen

(assuming this is the case) in relation to 'Nil' 5 transactions at the office. We do not need to

mention 'system failures being normal

7 occurrences' if there is no evidence of such

8 a problem at this office.

"... it may now be best if the Investigator 9

10 ... arranges to meet with Gareth to take the 11 statement in person ..."

12 Do you consider this intervention by Mr Ward 13 to be appropriate conduct by a member of 14 a prosecuting authority?

15 A.

16 Q. Do you consider the degree of input into the

17 drafting of this witness statement to be

18 appropriate?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Ought this exchange to have been disclosed in 21 the prosecution?

22 A. Yes, especially if the statement was being

23 relied upon. 24 Q. No need to turn them up but some evidence the

Inquiry has got, FUJ00155721 and FUJ00152592, 25

1		suggests that Mr Pinder of Fujitsu then spoke
2		with Ms Matthews, the Investigator, and arranged
3		for her to meet Mr Jenkins in person on the
4		6 April 2006 to "record the statement".
5		It appears, as a result of that meeting,
6		an updated draft witness statement was prepared,
7		dated 6 April 2006, if we can look at that,
8		please, FUJ00122237. If we scroll down,
9		please and again, and again you'll see,
10		I think, that the three main reasons for nil
11		transactions occurring, including system
12		generated occurrences, do not appear in this
13		final witness statement nor any reference to
14		system failures at all.
15	A.	That's right.
16	Q.	But in the last draft, the final draft, the
17		signed version, the two paragraphs about the
18		operation of the computer system reappear. Can
19		you see that? There's one on the page there.
20		Then, if we scroll to the next page, yes:
21		" no reason to believe the information in
22		this statement is inaccurate because of the
23		improper use of the computer."
24		I think they have had been combined into
25	A.	They have.
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disclosed, in particular because, from 2005 1 2 onwards, the CPIA Code at paragraph 5.1 required 3 drafts of statements to have been recorded on 4 the Unused Schedule, if they differed materially 5 what the final version? 6 A. Yes, and because applying the disclosure test, 7 for reasons that Mr Ward had identified, this 8 was material that undermined the prosecution case and fell to be disclosed anyway. 9 10 Q. So the failure to reveal, by recording on the 11 schedule the existence of these drafts, may he 12 a breach of Section 7 of the CPIA, in that the 13 reference to "system failure" in the drafts 14 meant that they might reasonably be considered 15 to be capable of undermining the prosecution or 16 assisting the defence? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. So, gathering all of that information together, 19 had the Post Office adhered to the law in 20 relation to disclosure here, then the fact that 21 the witness statement had evolved over time and 22 at whose insistence it had evolved over time 23 would have been revealed to the defence? 24 A. Yes Q. That can come down. Thank you. You tell us in

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Q. -- a compressed version of both statements. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. So standing back, at the moment, from this run 4 of correspondence, would you agree that 5 Mr Jenkins openly referred to system failure in 6 his original draft of the statement? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. It was Mr Ward who objected, on behalf of the 9 Post Office, to the reference to system 10 failures? A. Yes. 11 12 Q. Mr Ward inserted his criticisms of the inclusion 13 of those words into a text of the statement --14 Q. -- "This is a really poor choice of words" --15 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. -- and it appears to be Mr Ward who was pressing 18 for the amendment of the statement, because 19 Mr Ward was worried about how "system failure" 20 might be interpreted and that it might actually 21 help a defendant? 22 23 Q. Putting aside whether that approach was 24 acceptable, I think you said that each of the versions of the statement ought to have been 25 paragraph 213 of your report, which is on 1 page 82, that the snapshot of data that 2 3 Mr Jenkins examined in his witness statement was a very restricted one --A. Yes. 5 6 Q. -- and that the examination which was undertaken does not appear to have been disclosed, so it's 7 8 limitations were unlikely to have been appreciated by the defence. 9 10 Having seen now the underlying material, and putting aside the fact that the work done 11 12 reflected, I think, what Mr Jenkins had been 13 asked to do, do you agree that Mr Jenkins sought 14 guidance as to whether what he was doing was the 15 correct approach? 16 I'm not sure I entirely follow that. 17 Q. Let's look at some other material, then. 18 FUJ00122230. If we scroll down, please, I think 19 this is an email of 30 March between Mr Jenkins

and Mr Pinder saying: 20 21 "I've taken the data from the PEAK ..." 22 Do you recall what PEAKs were? 23 A. No. 24 Q. You don't, okay:

25 "... and carried out my own analysis of it

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1		and presented the results in the attached Word	1		table provides a summary"
2		Document.	2		Then the three ARQ periods are set out by
3		"Hopefully this is the sort of thing that	3		reference to the three ARQ numbers: 401, 459,
4		[the Post Office] want. If you want to pass it	4		and 460. Then scroll down:
5		through to them before Thursday then fine."	5		"I have produced a separate spreadsheet"
6		So PEAK was an incident management system	6		Then he goes on and explains what he's done.
7		maintained and operated by Fujitsu that recorded	7	A.	· ·
8		the reporting investigation and possible	8	Q.	So my question, and I cut to the chase too
9		escalation of system issues within a certain	9		quickly with you, Mr Atkinson, was that what
10		level of service helpdesk within Fujitsu.	10		Mr Jenkins did was tell Mr Pinder "This is what
11	A.	Yes.	11		I've done, attaching this Word document", and
12	Q.	Mr Jenkins says, he's taken the data off the	12		essentially asking: is this correct, is this
13		PEAK, so from that system.	13		what the Post Office want, by saying in his
14	A.	Yes.	14		covering email "Hopefully this is what the Post
15	Q.	If we can look, please, at FUJ00122229. This is	15		Office want"?
16		the attachment to that email that we've just	16	A.	Yes.
17		looked at. This note sits under Mr Jenkins'	17	Q.	Can you recall any reply to that coming back to
18		hand:	18		him and saying, "No, you've done the wrong
19		"This note is provided as input to a Witness	19		thing"?
20		Statement regarding Gaerwen	20	A.	I can't recall one no and this material does
21		"Penny Thomas provided me with extracts	21		reflect what is in the statement of the 6 April.
22		for 3 [periods from audited data].	22	Q.	6 April, yes, exactly. Did you see any
23		"I have taken this data and extracted	23		instruction or guidance to Mr Jenkins about the
24		details of all banking transactions and analysed	24		retention of working materials such as this or
25		the zero value transactions. The following	25		the disclosure of underlying analysis, the type
		85			86
1		of which is referred to in this document?	4		we just look at the and of the witness
1 2	A.		1 2		we just look at the end of the witness statement, please. It's that paragraph:
3		Is that the type of material that should be	3		"There is no reason to believe the
4	Œ.	retained by an expert witness and made available	4		information in the statement is inaccurate
5		for disclosure?	5		because of the improper use of the computer. To
6	A.		6		the best of my knowledge and belief at all
7		Thank you very much.	7		material times the computer was operating
8	٠.	If we go back to paragraph 213 of your	8		properly, or if not, any respect in which it was
9		report, which is on page 82, in paragraph 213,	9		not operating properly, or was out of operation
10		in the middle of the paragraph, can you see	10		was not such as to affect the information held
11		a line which says:	11		on it."
12		"Mr Jenkins of Fujitsu does not appear to	12	A.	Yes.
13		have been asked to review the underlying data	13		This is the abridged version of those two
14		more generally"	14		computer operation paragraphs
15		Then this:	15	A.	Absolutely.
16		" but does appear to have provided	16	Q.	that we saw earlier.
17		reassurance as to the integrity of the system	17	A.	Yes.
18		despite that underlying data not being	18	Q.	Is it the line "To the best of my knowledge and
19		analysed."	19		belief at all material times the computer was
20	A.	Yes.	20		operating properly", that you're referring to?
21	Q.	Are you there referring to that line at the end	21	A.	Yes.
22		or that paragraph at the end of Mr Jenkins'	22	Q.	If we go back to the beginning of the statement,
23		witness statement?	23		please, and if we scroll down, you'll see in the
24	A.	Yes.	24		second paragraph Mr Jenkins refers to the
0.5	_	Can we look at that, please. FUJ00122237. If	25		Fujitsu PEAK system:
25	Q.	87	20		88

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"Fujitsu have a fault management system
called the PEAK system, which is used for
passing faults around the team and tracking
faults raised regarding the Post Office
Account."

Then, subsequently, Mr Jenkins records that he extracted data from the PEAK system:

"I extracted data from this system regarding the Gaerwen Post Office."

10 Then he says:

"From this data, I then extracted all thebanking transactions which showed a zero value."

That's ARQ data.

14 A. Yes.

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Q. He then produces spreadsheets analysing the existence of or the reasons for the zero values.

The statement at the end, if we go to it at the foot of the next page, please, page 3 at the bottom:

"There is no reason to believe that the information in this statement is inaccurate because of improper use of the computer."

Was your understanding that the computer that was being referred to was the PEAK system or the Horizon system on which the ARQ data was

1 by a computer?

2 A. Yes.

Q. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the
 Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of *Miners* --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- which you cite in your second report. Was
10 Section 69, in fact, only concerned with
11 admission of facts into evidence rather than
12 whether the facts were true?

13 A. Yes, it was to do with the operation of the14 system, rather than the truth of the content.

Q. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether - you've explained how you understood that
 statement as referring to Horizon more

18 generally?

19 **A.** Yes.

20 Q. You can't assist us as to what Mr Jenkins',
 21 obviously, intention was on the basis of the
 22 materials that you've seen?

A. No, although that perhaps underlines why the
iterations and evolution of this statement was
so important and why its disclosure was so

stored and from which it was obtained or could vou not tell?

3 A. My reading was the latter, that it related to

4 the -- relating to the Horizon system, but it's

5 not altogether clear.

Q. So I think you read this paragraph, the abridged
 version of what is a standard paragraph in other
 witness statements, as equating to an opinion
 that Horizon was working properly, insofar as it

affected the Gaerwen branch at all relevant

11 times --

12 A. Yes.

10

13 Q. -- rather than that the information in the
 witness statement refers to information
 extracted from the PEAK system?

16 A. Rather than that that paragraph related just to17 the PEAK system, yes.

18 Q. Thank you. Can you see that this statement is19 at least open to interpretation?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. That can come down. Thank you.

22 Before repeal, would you agree that 23 Section 69 of PACE permitted the admission into 24 evidence of a statement contained within

a document where that document had been produced

important because it was that underlying
material that would help someone, particularly
someone acting on behalf of the defendant, to
approach what he meant by this and what his

5 intention was.

Q. So, in circumstances where an Investigator, as we've seen the material suggest, took a witness statement from Mr Jenkins, would you agree that, if the witness was asked to include a form of words such as this at the end of their witness statement, it was important that it was made

clear to the witness what the words weresupposed to indicate?

3dpposed to indicate:

A. Yes. Particularly where they had expressed
 reasons as to why its relation to the operation
 of the Horizon system would not be something
 they would sign up to.

Q. Because the witness was saying, "I've looked at one computer system, the PEAK system, I've identified from that some data that I need to look at, three lots of ARQ data" --

22 **A.** Yes.

23 Q. -- "I've extracted three lots of ARQ data from
 24 Horizon, the computer system was working", I'm

25 summarising it?

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1	A.	Yes, and what I'm not saying is that the Horizon	1		inaccurate!)"
2		system was operating correctly. That's so	2		Then if we go to page 2, please, and scroll
3		that it was clear what this assertion as to	3		up, we can see the reply from Ms Matthews. Just
4		correct operation related and to what it,	4		scroll down to her second paragraph her third
5		equally importantly, didn't relate to.	5		paragraph, rather, which is a reply to the
6	Q.	So you would you agree, I think, that it was	6		request for help from Mr Jenkins:
7		important that it should be made clear to the	7		"All witnesses will have to be present on
8		witness what the words were supposed to mean,	8		the 1st day unless the defence has agreed
9		and to which system they were intended to	9		[their] statement and don't wish to ask any
10		relate?	10		questions about that evidence."
11	A.	Yes.	11		Then this:
12	Q.	Can we move forwards, please, to FUJ00152616.	12		"It is pretty much as you see on the TV
13		Can we look at page 3 to start with, please.	13		really but remember that you will have sight of
14		We've moved on from March and April into the	14		your statement prior to taking the stand and can
15		summer. If we scroll down, please. Yes, this	15		only be asked questions specifically about your
16		is an email to Diane Matthews, the Investigator	16		statement."
17		of this case, from Mr Jenkins. At the bottom of	17		Was that guidance appropriate?
18		the next page, you will see it is dated 12 July,	18	A.	I'm not altogether sure what it means but,
19		and Mr Jenkins says:	19	Λ.	insofar as I understand it, no.
20		"I understand also that this trial is at	20	Q.	What do you understand it to mean?
21		Caernarfon. Do you have any idea as to how much	21	A.	Well, I understand it to be saying that the
			22	Α.	criminal process is like a TV programme,
22		time will be involved and exactly what is	23		
23		required? I've never been to court in any	23		presumably an American TV programme, by
24		capacity and my knowledge of such things is			reference to "the stand" and that the witness
25		based on films and TV (which I'm sure are 93	25		can only be asked questions about what is 94
1		already in their witness statement, and I don't	1		agree with the suggestion that, overall, the
2		know where that comes from, even in America.	2		Post Office appeared to seek to harden up
3	Q.	Would you agree that that part is positively	3		Mr Jenkins' witness statement?
4	٠.	misleading?	4	A.	Yes.
5	A.	Yes.	5		Looking at that series of communications and
6	Q.	Because it's wrong?	6	٦.	drafts, do you agree that it succeeded in that
7	Α.	Yes.	7		objective?
8	Q.	Would it carry any special relevance in	8	A.	Yes.
9	Œ.	circumstances where a witness had already been	9	Q.	Do you agree that Mr Jenkins participated in
10		asked to delete aspects of their witness	10	Œ.	that enterprise?
		statement and was now being told by the		۸	Yes.
11			11	Α.	
12		prosecutor "You can't be asked questions about	12	Q.	I think you've agreed that all of the drafts
13		things outside your witness statement, you'll	13		that we've seen, including observations within
14		only be asked questions specifically about your	14		the drafts and the communications themselves,
15		statement"?	15		ought to have been disclosed?
16	A.	Yes, I suppose it might have a different message	16	Α.	Yes.
17		to someone if they understood that the various	17	Q.	Thank you. Can we turn to the case of
18		drafts of their statement had also been	18		Suzanne Palmer, please. You address this in
19		disclosed and, therefore, questions about their	19		paragraph 229 of your report. In fact, you
20		statement might include that but, subject to	20		start at 220 but the bit I want to ask about is
21		that, it would tell them that the final draft is	21		229, which is on page 87.
22	_	all that you're going to be asked about.	22		In paragraph 229 on page 87, you comment
23	Q.	Thank you. That can come down.	23		that prosecuting counsel, Stephen John, provided
24					
2 <del>4</del> 25		Having reviewed the emails, correspondence, and draft statements that we've seen, would you	24 25		an advice on evidence, which identified a number of lines of inquiry or investigation that he

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1		thought should be pursued but that, other than	1		clear-cut one.
2		commenting on the particulars of the indictment,	2	0	Put it another way, then: given he advised on
3		he didn't advise on the sufficiency of evidence	3	Œ.	further lines of inquiry, is it implicit or can
4		and say this was another opportunity to review	4		we draw an inference reasonably that he had read
5		whether there was a proper evidential basis to	5		all of the papers, he'd considered the evidence
6		assert dishonesty was lost.	6		in the case and decided that there was
7	A.	Yes.	7		a reasonable prospect of conviction, even if he
8		Would you agree that dishonesty, as an element	8		never said so?
9	۳.	of many offences, is one which, more often than	9	A.	That would be one interpretation and that might
10		not, is proved by inference from the	10	, u	be the right interpretation. It would perhaps,
11		circumstances, rather than by direct evidence?	11		to an extent, depend on what his instructions
12	A.	Yes.	12		asked him to do. Certainly, the standard
13	Q.		13		instructions, such as I have seen them in
14		counsel, had taken the view that there was not	14		across these 22 cases, do ask counsel instructed
15		sufficient evidence to satisfy the first limb of	15		to draft the indictment and to advise on
16		the Full Code Test, he could not have properly	16		evidence. And where I've seen them, I have seen
17		continued to prosecute the case?	17		advices from counsel that firstly say, "I attach
18	A.	I'm not sure I altogether follow that. Clearly,	18		the indictment", and why it does or does not
19		if he identified that the there was	19		include what it does or doesn't include and
20		insufficient evidence to prove dishonesty for	20		a list of further things that are required.
21		the purposes of theft, he should have said so.	21		The instructions to counsel didn't
22		Whether he would have been professionally	22		specifically ask them to advise as to the
23		embarrassed so he would have to have withdrawn	23		sufficiency of evidence and whether they agreed
24		from the case if that advice was not acted on,	24		that this was a proper case to prosecute or not,
25		is a separate question, I think, not a very	25		so I could see that there would be there may
		97			98
1		be circumstances where a prosecutor would not	1		or not.
2		understand that's what they're being asked,	2	Q.	Thank you.
3		although I have to say I think they would still	3		Can we turn to the case of Susan Rudkin,
4		be duty bound to do so but it may also be that	4		please. I've skipped over Josephine Hamilton.
5		those who instruct them were not expecting them	5		If we can look, please, at paragraph 306 of
6		to do that and, therefore, their failure to do	6		your report, which is on page 113. In this
7		it wouldn't necessarily tell them very much one	7		paragraph and it's an observation that you
8		way or the other.	8		make elsewhere in your report too you say
9	Q.	In fact, we've heard from the lawyers so far	9		that, although the Post Office may have had
10		that the request to advise on evidence was meant	10		evidence of theft or fraud by way of admissions,
11		to encompass, was intended to encompass	11		it did not have sufficient evidence or at least
12		a request to advise on evidential sufficiency,	12		there had been insufficient consideration of the
13		not just further lines of inquiry, and the	13		adequacy of the evidence to prove the level of
14		counsel that we've heard from, the only one,	14		the loss. This is a point that you make
15		Mr Tatford, has said that he understood the	15		a number of times in the report.
16		request to advise on evidence to include	16	A.	Yes.
17		a requirement to advise on evidential	17	Q.	Would you agree that the amount of
18		sufficiency but the vagaries of life at the	18		particularised loss in a charge can be relevant
19		criminal bar was such that there was often not	19		to an assessment of whether a prosecution is in
20		time to do so.	20		the public interest
21	A.	Certainly, my experience would be that, if you	21	A.	Yes.
22		were instructed to prosecute a case, you would	22	Q.	any sentencing exercise
23		not just be looking at whether there was	23	A.	Absolutely.
20					

24

25

a statement from the plan drawer, you would be

looking to see whether the case was sustainable

24 Q. -- and confiscation or other ancillary orders?

25 A. Yes, both as to whether it's appropriate to do

1		it and certainly as to how much you're asking	1		But it was also relevant to the assessment
2	_	for.	2		of the public interest and where there was
3	Q.	Would you agree that although there's	3		a lack of evidence as to that, it is difficult
4		a requirement to prove that there was a loss for	4		to see how, without further enquiry, one could
5		offences of theft, the courts do not generally	5		go from the beginning to the end of the charging
6		consider the amount of loss to be a material	6		process without, at any stage, raising that as
7	_	averment in a count on an indictment?	7	_	a concern.
8		No, that's right.	8	Q.	Thank you.
9	Q.	Because the amount of loss is not a relevant	9		Ms Rudkin's case raises issues of
10		consideration in assessing whether a defendant	10		post-conviction disclosure as well, which you
11		is guilty or not?	11		address in your report on the previous page at
12	A.	It's not a necessary requirement to establish	12		page 305, at the foot of the page. You say:
13	_	that, that's right.	13		"In the subsequent 2014 review by Cartwright
14	Q.	So what's the force of your criticism here,	14		King, the Post Office retained the view that
15		then, in the light of those points?	15		there was no evidence of Horizon failings
16	A.	That in this case and in such cases where there	16		contributed to the loss, and was clearly aware
17		were questions as to whether there was theft, it	17		of potential issues with cross-disclosure to
18		was clearly relevant for the investigation to do	18		other cases. That advice took a concerning
19		what it could to identify what it was being said	19		approach to post-conviction disclosure focusing
20		had been taken. And it was necessary for	20		on the consequences of disclosure rather than
21		a prosecutor in deciding whether to prosecute to	21		whether it was required."
22		have a sense and an understanding of what had	22		Can we just look at that, please
23		been taken, because it was relevant to the	23		Yes.
24		assessment of whether there was a realistic	24	Q.	this concerning approach to post-conviction
25		prospect of conviction.  101	25		disclosure. It's POL00046579.
		101			102
1		We can see that this is the case of	1		and/or restitution of monies paid by this
			_		
2		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll	2		appellant under any confiscation order.
3		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by	3		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed
3 4		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer	3 4		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may
3 4 5		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes.	3 4 5		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of
3 4 5 6	A. Q.	Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes. an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:	3 4 5 6		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to
3 4 5 6 7		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King: "It is Post Office's firm belief that the	3 4 5 6 7		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.
3 4 5 6 7 8		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:   "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were	3 4 5 6 7 8		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render
3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King: "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor	3 4 5 6 7 8 9		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive
3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King: "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple	3 4 5 6 7 8 9		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."     Then over the page, please, "Dangers to Post	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions can or should be made; to do so has the
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."     Then over the page, please, "Dangers to Post Office", second paragraph:	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions can or should be made; to do so has the potential to render her conviction by guilty
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."     Then over the page, please, "Dangers to Post Office", second paragraph:     "If concessions are made that might render	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions can or should be made; to do so has the potential to render her conviction by guilty plea unsafe, or her sentence as manifestly
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."     Then over the page, please, "Dangers to Post Office", second paragraph:     "If concessions are made that might render this conviction unsafe then the Applicant's wife	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions can or should be made; to do so has the potential to render her conviction by guilty plea unsafe, or her sentence as manifestly excessive; and accordingly to invite
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."     Then over the page, please, "Dangers to Post Office", second paragraph:     "If concessions are made that might render this conviction unsafe then the Applicant's wife may well be put in a position whereby she is able to appeal that conviction.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions can or should be made; to do so has the potential to render her conviction by guilty plea unsafe, or her sentence as manifestly excessive; and accordingly to invite an application to the Court of Appeal."  Are they the paragraphs which you thought
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."     Then over the page, please, "Dangers to Post Office", second paragraph:     "If concessions are made that might render this conviction unsafe then the Applicant's wife may well be put in a position whereby she is able to appeal that conviction.     "Were an appeal to succeed, then [the Post	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions can or should be made; to do so has the potential to render her conviction by guilty plea unsafe, or her sentence as manifestly excessive; and accordingly to invite an application to the Court of Appeal."  Are they the paragraphs which you thought indicated a concerning approach to
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		Mr Rudkin, Mrs Rudkin's husband. If we scroll down, please, "Analysis". This is written by Harry Bowyer Yes an in-house barrister at Cartwright King:     "It is Post Office's firm belief that the major losses suffered by the Applicant were caused by theft by his wife. Other very minor losses were likely to have been caused by simple human error There is no evidence to support the Applicant's assertions that there were failings with Horizon which contributed to losses at the branch.     "Unless this position is resiled from this case should not cause any problems with any [Post Office] prosecutions past or pending."     Then over the page, please, "Dangers to Post Office", second paragraph:     "If concessions are made that might render this conviction unsafe then the Applicant's wife may well be put in a position whereby she is able to appeal that conviction.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		"Such concessions would have to be disclosed to those with similar convictions. This may well necessitate a review of many hundreds of cases to establish who else may be entitled to such disclosure.  "If concessions are made that might render the sentence imposed manifestly excessive then the Applicant might well be put in a position whereby she might be able to appeal that sentence, with similar consequences for [Post Office].  " again, those concessions would have to be disclosed"  Then, finally:  "This is not a case where any concessions can or should be made; to do so has the potential to render her conviction by guilty plea unsafe, or her sentence as manifestly excessive; and accordingly to invite an application to the Court of Appeal."  Are they the paragraphs which you thought

1	A.	Yes.	1		So my concern was, looking at this document
2	Q.	Can you just explain why, please?	2		overall, it was not clear to me, as the final
3	A.	Well, if the position was that there was no	3		assessment, whether it was being assessed here
4		material that and that material had been	4		that there was nothing that needed to be
5		reviewed that there was no material following	5		conceded or that there were reasons of impact
6		a review that identified any Horizon issues in	6		why they didn't want to concede it.
7		relation to Mrs Rudkin's case, then there would	7	Q.	Can we look, please, at another example this
8		be no material that needed to be disclosed and	8		involves Lynette Hutchings whilst we're
9		no concession that there were Horizon issues	9		looking at post-conviction disclosure.
10		needed to be made and that would be on a proper	10		POL00060715. This is addressed at 435 to 436 in
11		assessment of the material.	11		your report, Mr Atkinson.
12		If the reason not to make such a concession	12	A.	Thank you.
13		was that it might allow a proper appeal against	13	Q.	So POL00060715. This is an advice written by
14		conviction or it might show that the figure of	14		Simon Clarke of Cartwright King. If we just
15		loss was not as had been contended, such that	15		scroll through it, please. The offence is set
16		the sentence that was imposed was excessive,	16		out, the case history is described. If we carry
17		then that would not be a proper reason to	17		on through the case history, and over the page,
18		disclose. Indeed, if a concession properly	18		it sets out the prosecution case. If we
19		would allow for an appeal to be advanced, then	19		continue, please. Then "Discussion":
20		that would be a reason to disclose it, rather	20		"The defendant has unequivocally admitted
21		than not. If the reason for not making	21		making false entries into Horizon in the belief
22		a concession in one case was its impact on	22		that the balances would be corrected in the
23		others, where that was a concession that was	23		fullness of time she stated in her prepared
24		rightly to be made, then that's right not	24		statement that she did not do so dishonestly.
25		a reason not to make it.	25		Had she chosen to advance that account at trial
		105			106
1		the jury would have been entitled to accept what	1		and the reference in the Basis of Plea to the
2		she said and acquit her; or to reject the	2		leading case on the topic the Second Sight
3		account and convict her. Thus the opportunity	3		Report and the Helen Rose report would not
4		was there to seek an acquittal."	4		have been disclosable during the currency of the
5		Over the page. There's a discussion about	5		prosecution and accordingly do not now fall to
6		Eden in paragraphs 11 and 12; 13 addresses the	6		be disclosed.
7		defence statement; and then 14 addresses	7		" had we [possessed] the material at the
8		conviction. Mr Clarke says:	8		relevant time, we would not have disclosed [it]
9		"It is not the purpose of this review, nor	9		to the defence"
10		of the review process overall, to determine	10		Why do you say that this misunderstands the
11		whether or not any particular conviction is	11		disclosure test?
12		unsafe: that decision is reserved to the Court	12	A.	It proceeds on the basis that there was a guilty
13		of Appeal only. The purpose of this process is	13		plea and she, Ms Hutchings, could have contested
14		to identify those cases where the material	14		this matter at trial, she chose not to, she had
15		contained in the Second Sight Interim Report	15		legal advice, so that's down to her.
16		would have met the test for disclosure as	16		It doesn't recognise that there was a stage
17		provided by the [CPIA], the Code of Practice	17		before Ms Hutchings was arraigned and it was at
18		enacted thereunder and the [AG's] Guidelines on	18		that stage that the question should have been
19		Disclosure, had that material been known to Post	19		asked as to whether there was material that was
20		Office Limited during the currency of the	20		capable of undermining the prosecution case or
21		prosecution and accordingly would or ought to	21		assisting hers that ought to have been
22		have been disclosed to the defence."	22		disclosed.
23		Then over the page:	23		And this is all concerning, as I read it,
24		"In this case I advise that, given the	24		that the Second Sight review and the issues that
0.5		the continue and also continue at the continue at	25		it was a riag to go to subathoutha anamati

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chronology and circumstances of the guilty plea,

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it gave rise to, as to whether the operation of

Horizon and material relating to the operation of Horizon had been properly appreciated and/or disclosed.

And to say "We don't need to worry about this because she pleaded", is to ignore the fact

this because she pleaded", is to ignore the fact that there should have been disclosure before she had the opportunity to. To say "There's a reference in her basis of plea to *Eden*, therefore, she was clearly advised by counsel", ignores the fact that counsel had not had this material disclosed to them either and a failure to recognise that it was at least possible that counsel, told that the basis for the prosecution case was susceptible to challenge, may have given different advice to his client to one who was not told that.

And also, that in relation to any appeal against sentence that was potentially available, and/or to submissions that could be made to a judge before sentence, issues as to the operation of the system and confirmation of those issues by the prosecution, would have been of assistance to the defendant. It is a different thing for a judge to consider a case where the explanation is given that this was

disclosure as being, in the one case, concerning
and, in the other case, involving a fundamental
misunderstanding of the test to apply, are you
saying that the approach that was being taken
was inconsistent with the law?

6 A. Yes.

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7 MR BEER: Thank you.

8 Sir, we're about to move to another case 9 study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might 10 we break until 2.00, please.

11 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course.

12 (1.00 pm)

(The Short Adjournment)

14 (1.59 pm)

13

MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and hear us?

17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.

18 MR BEER: Good afternoon, Mr Atkinson. Can we turn19 to Peter Holmes please?

20 A. Yes.

Q. In paragraphs 309 to 333 of your report -- no
 need to display them, but they're on page 114
 and following -- you deal with the prosecution
 of Peter Holmes. One of the things that
 happened was that interview, Mr Holmes said

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1 inadvertent rather than anything deliberately by

2 the defendant, on the one hand, and to be -- to

3 have had confirmed by the prosecution, on the

4 other.

Q. At that time and indeed today, the leading
 decision -- in fact the operative decision -- on
 post-conviction disclosure obligations was that
 of the Supreme Court in Nunn?

9 **A.** Yes.

10 Q. The decision was reflected in the then Attorney11 General's Guidelines on Disclosure at

12 paragraphs 59 and 60, the acid test being

whether there presently existed information

which might cast doubt upon the safety of the

15 conviction?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. That test is to be applied, have I got this
18 right, irrespective of whether there was a plea
19 or not, it's material that might cast doubt on
20 the safety of the conviction --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- however the conviction was obtained?

23 A. Yes.

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24 Q. Overall, then, in these two cases, when you

25 describe the approach to post-conviction

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1 "It's the Horizon system that has let us down".

2 A. (The witness nodded)

Q. That was an interview taking place in September2008. That was after a civil claim involving

the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme

6 had been settled, after she raised Horizon

7 integrity issues, after the formation in

8 December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon

9 integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee

10 Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly

11 challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury

12 had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten

minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with

14 the integrity of the Horizon system.

15 Was there, to your understanding, any 16 investigation of Horizon integrity or the 17 figures produced by Horizon?

18 **A.** No.

25

19 **Q.** The investigation report recorded that Mr Holmes
20 had spent many years in the police service, and
21 that he had been a subpostmaster at the
22 Monkseaton branch office for six or seven years.
23 He was of good character. Should such good
24 character have been brought into account when

considering the investigation of an offence or 112

1		the merits of prosecution?	1		Ought his previous position and the	
2	A.	It should certainly have been a factor in the	2	longevity of his service to be a factor in		
3		public interest test. It would not have been	3		deciding whether to take seriously concerns	
4		the only factor or necessarily the decisive	4		raised by him in interview about the reliability	
5		factor but it was a factor. I'm afraid I can't	5		of the Horizon system?	
6		speak to as whether it was taken into account in	6	A.	Certainly not as a reason not to take those	
7		the charging decision because the public	7		matters seriously.	
8		interest didn't get a mention.	8	Q.	Yes. In reality, does it matter who you are if	
9		It was a factor relevant to the assessment	9		you raise issues such as this in an interview,	
10		of Mr Holmes' credibility. He as with any	10		whether you've got good character or not, as to	
11		person of good character, their good character	11		the pursuit of a reasonable line of inquiry?	
12		is a factor in their favour in the assessment of	12	A.	No, but, as I said, the fact that you are of	
13		their credibility, again not decisively so, but	13		good character may support your credibility in	
14		a relevant factor in that regard as well.	14		raising an issue and perhaps give an extra	
15	Q.	In fact, it was used against him in the	15		underlining to why it needs to be investigated.	
16		investigation report	16	Q.	Thank you very much. I'm going to move over the	
17	A.	Yes.	17		cases of Seema Misra, Lynette Hutchings, Joan	
18	Q.	because he said that he hadn't reported the	18		Bailey and Alison Hall, and turn to Allison	
19		accruing shortfalls showing on Horizon for some	19		Henderson. That's paragraph 515 of your report	
20		11 months and the Investigator said that it was	20		to 519 I'm so sorry.	
21		incredulous that he should not have done so,	21		Yes, in paragraph 515 of your report, when	
22		having spent many years in the police service	22		you're dealing with Mrs Henderson's case, you	
23		and having been the subpostmaster for six or	23		say that her case was one where acceptance of	
24		seven years at Monkseaton, so it was used	24		her plea was dependent upon repayment and a lac	
25		against him.	25		of criticism of Horizon?	
		113			114	
1	A.	Yes.	1		false accounting."	
2	Q.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649,	2		Then Mr Wilson's response to Dianne Chan's	
3		which we looked at earlier	3		email said:	
4	A.	Yes.	4		"Clearly if there were to be a plea to false	
5	Q.	when you're making your general points.	5		accounting but on the basis that the Horizon	
6		Would you accept that there is a difference	6		system was at fault then that would not be	
7		between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand,	7		an acceptable basis of plea with the	
8		and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other?	8		prosecution."	
9	A.	Yes.	9		Do you agree that what was being said by	
10		You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go	10		Mr Wilson was not about acceptability of plea	
11		to that, you say:	11		but rather acceptability of a potential basis of	
12		"On 16 November, the day on which it appears	12		plea?	
13		the second defence statement was served, Dianne	13	A.	That's certainly an interpretation of that.	
14		Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken	14		It's not, I have to say, the interpretation the	
15		to a defence solicitor who indicated the	15		Court of Appeal reached but it is	
16		defendant may be willing to [plead] to false	16		an interpretation of it.	
17		accounting and pay money back. Taken	17	Q.	Was the potential for a guilty plea to false	
18		instructions from Chris [a reference to	18		accounting accompanied by repayment of shortfall	
19		Christopher Knight, the Investigator, we think]	19		an issue first raised by the defence?	
20		who has confirmed that he would be happy to	20	A.	That's not altogether clear because it's not	
21		proceed on that basis.'."	21		clear who, in the conversation between Dianne	
22		You say that:	22		Chan, who was prosecuting counsel, and defence	
23		"[Mr Bowyer's] 2014 review also recorded	23		counsel, who it was who first raised repayment.	
		- · · ·			Certainly, it was part of what was communicated	

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phone that the defendant might plead guilty to

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by her to those who instructed her.

prosecution of Mr Allen.

1 Q. So it's not clear who was tethering repayment to

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2		the plea?	2		If we scroll down, please, an email from
3	A.	No.	3		Rachael Panter if we just scroll up we'll see
4	Q.	What's the basis for your view that the Post	4		that it's on 16 November, thank you. Rachael
5		Office made acceptance of the plea to false	5		Panter, she is a lawyer at Cartwright King, to
6		accounting conditional upon repayment?	6		Gareth Jenkins:
7	A.	In part, I confess I was influenced by that	7		"As you may already be aware, your expert
8		being the finding of the Court of Appeal in that	8		report detailing the reliability of the Horizon
9		case, and I quote that at paragraph 511, and the	9		system has been served as evidence in a number
10		fact that the I was influenced, I suspect,	10		of cases"
11		also, by the time I dealt with the case of	11		We've seen a similar email to this, I think,
12		Mrs Henderson, I had already dealt with other	12		twice, yesterday.
13		cases where there had been that connection,	13	A.	Yes.
14		those, for example, of Mrs Hall.	14	Q.	" to date, most, if not all cases raising the
15	Q.	Thank you. Can we move to the case of Grant	15		Horizon system as an issue have been unable/no
16		Allen, please, which you address from your	16		willing to particularise what specific issues
17		paragraph 516 onwards on page 182. Can we look	17		they may have with the system and how that
18		at some of the underlying material here, please.	18		shapes the nature of their defence.
19		Can we start please with POL00097138.	19		" I would like to serve [your report] in
20		Again, this principally involves a series of	20		each case listed below."
21		questions about liaison between Post Office,	21		We can see that one of them is Mr Allen,
22		Fujitsu and Mr Jenkins	22		number 6, at Chester Crown Court.
23	A.	Yes.	23	A.	Yes.
24	Q.	in the preparation of evidence, whether	24	Q.	If we scroll down, please. Just under the
25		witness statements or reports, for the 117	25		"Grant Allen" highlighted yellow part it says: 118
1		"I would like to serve your report in the	1		" there is no commercial cover"
2		remaining cases and have attached a case summary	2		Then up the page, please, "concerned about
3		of each listed above so you may familiarise	3		the approach taken", we saw that yesterday.
4		yourself with the facts of each case."	4		Then up the page, again. Keep going to
5		Then, if we go over the page sorry, it	5		Ms Panter's email. She says:
6		was at the foot of the previous page, actually:	6		"As I provided a list of cases rather than
7		"In order for me to serve your report in	7		approach each individual Investigator for each
8		time, please could you either send copies of	8		case, to then [re-pose] the same question
9		your report via Special Delivery and/or as	9		I thought it would save time and duplication
10		an email attachment."	10		
11		The paragraph above, the request was:	11		"In response to your email Gareth, I do
12		" to read the case summaries send 5	12		intend to use the report that you have already
13		original signed and dated copies of your report	13		provided. It doesn't matter that you have not
14		to [her]."	14		mentioned a specific case in your report, as
15	A.	Yes.	15		there has not been any specific criticisms
16	Q.	Can we see what happened next, please,	16		raised by any of the defendants provided by the
17		FUJ00153856. Then scroll down, please.	17		defendants in my list of cases."
18		Mr Jenkins replies by saying:	18		Reading on:
19		"Can't you use the report I have already	19		"What I propose to do is serve your
20		sent you? There is no mention of the case on	20		statement on each defence solicitor so that the
21		the report", ie no mention of any of the cases	21		issue of Horizon is then addressed. That will
22		that you have listed.	22		then place the onus on the Defence to specify
23		"You should really be addressing such	23		what if anything, they say is wrong with the
24		requests through Post Office Limited rather than	24		Horizon system
25		directly to myself.	25		"That is why it is important for you to

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1		consider the case summaries that I have provided	1	Q.	It, the Post Office, was not providing
2		so that you are familiar with each case."	2		Mr Jenkins with any instructions specific to the
3		Looking at that exchange, as it stands at	3		case in question?
4		that point in time, were there problems with the	4	A.	Or data, no.
5		approach that was being taken?	5		It was proposing to give or did give Mr Jenkins
6	A.	Yes, we considered yesterday the issues	6		nothing more than a bare case summary in each
7		potentially with the generic statement and what	7		case?
8		it did or did not do, and here we have further	8	Δ	Quite.
9		communication in relation to that generic	9		That's aside from the limitations of the
10		statement and the decision that was taken to	10	٠.	statement, the generic statement, itself?
11		rely on, effectively, bald assertion that there	11	A.	Yes.
12		•	12	Q.	
		was "nothing to see here" in relation to the		Q.	·
13		operation of the Horizon system, rather than to	13		summary to be for; what was its purpose?
14		look at the data on a case-by-case basis, on	14	A.	Again, it wasn't altogether clear to me what its
15		a branch-by-branch basis, to identify whether	15		intended purpose was, other than so that
16		there was something to see or not and, if so,	16		Mr Jenkins would know perhaps which post office
17		what.	17		it was, the name of the defendant, the amount of
18	Q.	So the Post Office wasn't itself considering	18		the shortfall. It perhaps would have given him
19		each case on its merits and was not instructing	19		some indication as to what the postmaster had
20		Mr Jenkins as an expert in each case?	20		said in interview about it but it wasn't asking
21	A.	No, that's right. It was effectively	21		him to do anything with that information
22		a one-size-fits-all answer to any suggestion	22	Q.	Because
23		from any postmaster that there may be an issue	23	A.	other than to know it.
24		with Horizon, without actually looking to see	24	Q.	I'm sorry. As we see here, the Post Office was,
25		whether there was, in their case. 121	25		via its agent, telling Mr Jenkins it didn't 122
1		matter that he had not referred to a specific	1		Sefton and Nield, Andrew Bolc, copied to
2		case in his report and yet it was telling him to	2		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins:
3		read the case summary	3		"Please find enclosed outlines of the two
4	A.	Yes.	4		cases which involve me.
5	Q.	for each case?	5		"Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more
6	A.	Yes.	6		urgent concentrate on that one first. The
7	Q.	Was that approach made better or worse by the	7		Allen case is only for plea and case management
8		fact that the statement, on its face, did not	8		on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like
9		explain that it was itself responsive to the	9		to serve a report before the 10th if possible
10		four questions that we saw earlier?	10		"
11	A.	It made it worse, in the sense that no one	11		That doesn't improve the extent of the
12		coming to a particular case from the defence	12		instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given,
13		perspective, for example, or a court's	13		does it?
14		perspective, would know would properly	14	A.	No.
15		understand what this statement was or where it	15	Q.	If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins
16		had come from.	16		replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny
17	Q.	And the genesis of it?	17		Thomas to the chain, saying to Mr Bolc:
18	A.	Absolutely.	18		"Thanks for the info you have supplied me
19	Q.	And, if it's right that it contained	19		with on these two cases. I thought I should try
20		limitations, what those limitations were?	20		and clarify exactly what you want from me.
21	A.		21		"My understanding from Rachael was that all
22	Q.		22		that is required is a signed version of
23	-	forward now to the end of November and an email	23		a standard report I produced a couple of months
24		from a different solicitor at Cartwright King,	24		ago If that is the case I can get that
25		in the case of Allen, and also in the case of	25		produced, scanned and emailed to you in a couple
		123	_0		124

of days.

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4 December from Mr Bolc to Mr Jenkins, in the

2		"However having read through the info you've	2	case of Allen:
3		given me, perhaps you want me to cover some	3	"I have just spoken to the solicitor for
4		further things. Some observations"	4	Grant Allen."
5		Then Mr Jenkins sets out some further lines	5	Then skipping a paragraph:
6		of inquiry	6	"I attach an extract from Mr Allen's
7	A.	Yes.	7	interview. As in the case summary I sent you he
8	Q.	number 1, in the Sefton and Nield case and,	8	is trying to suggest that an initial loss of
9		number 2, contrasting the Allen case to the	9	£3,000 is attributable to lost data which has
10		Sefton and Nield case. Would you agree that at	10	not reached Head Office because of installation
11		this point Mr Jenkins appears to be seeking	11	problems. Are you able to comment on this
12		clarification as to exactly what it was that	12	scenario at all? Ultimately we would need to
13		lawyers wanted him to do, given that they wanted	13	discredit this as an explanation that holds any
14		a standard statement because these cases, they	14	water. He denies stealing the subsequent losses
15		said, didn't give rise to specific Horizon	15	and therefore by implication may be seeking to
16		systems?	16	blame the system for these losses as well."
17	A.	It's a combination of seeking clarification,	17	Is the email from Mr Bolc, the lawyer,
18		because he does say that he's trying to clarify,	18	consistent or inconsistent with the proper
19		but also an offer of the further help that he	19	instruction of an expert, in that it appears
20		could give on particular issues that he's	20	informally to ask Mr Jenkins if he can comment
21		spotted from the case summaries, I presume, that	21	at all on a defence explanation?
22		he had seen.	22 <b>A</b> .	It's inconsistent but not just for that reason.
23	Q.	Can we move forward to FUJ00153881. If we	23	There's potentially no issue, depending on how
24		scroll down, please, and again, if we just	24	it is done, with putting a scenario to an expert
25		scroll up to catch the date it should be	25	and asking for their assessment of it. But
		125		126
4		have the towns of the management is not been	4	plaining. However whose there are common
1		here, the tenor of the message is rather	1 2	claiming. However, where there are comms
2		different, and the use of the word "we",		problems it is normal to recover any missing
3		"Ultimately we would need to discredit this as	3	data once the comms are sorted out (provided it
4			1	is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be
5 6		an explanation that holds any water", and the	4	
		approach being to discredit this as	5	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes
		approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of	5 6	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where
7		approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really	5 6 7	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more
7 8		approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the	5 6 7 8	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual
7 8 9		approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone	5 6 7 8 9	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding
7 8 9 10	0	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice.	5 6 7 8 9 10	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement
7 8 9 10 11	Q.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice. So rather than doing what it should do, which	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the
7 8 9 10 11 12	Q.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice. So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice. So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."
7 8 9 10 11 12 13		approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice.  So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively sought to suggest the outcome?	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."  Skip the next paragraph. We should note:
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice.  So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively sought to suggest the outcome?  Yes, and that they were working as a team to get	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."  Skip the next paragraph. We should note: "[Post Office] have not requested any audit
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice. So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively sought to suggest the outcome? Yes, and that they were working as a team to get there. Can we look, please, at FUJ00153881 that's in fact this document and the reply further up the	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."  Skip the next paragraph. We should note:  "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls  "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice. So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively sought to suggest the outcome? Yes, and that they were working as a team to get there. Can we look, please, at FUJ00153881 that's in fact this document and the reply further up the page, please. If we carry on to see Mr Jenkins'	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."  Skip the next paragraph. We should note:  "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls  "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting together a specific statement or is a simple
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice.  So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively sought to suggest the outcome?  Yes, and that they were working as a team to get there.  Can we look, please, at FUJ00153881 that's in fact this document and the reply further up the page, please. If we carry on to see Mr Jenkins' reply, if we keep going. So it's the next day 5 December:  "I've had a look at the statement here and	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."  Skip the next paragraph. We should note:  "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls  "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting together a specific statement or is a simple generic one sufficient?"  Then some cost issues.  So Mr Jenkins highlighting no requests for
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice. So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively sought to suggest the outcome? Yes, and that they were working as a team to get there. Can we look, please, at FUJ00153881 that's in fact this document and the reply further up the page, please. If we carry on to see Mr Jenkins' reply, if we keep going. So it's the next day 5 December:  "I've had a look at the statement here and I think it might be helpful to have a dig as to exactly what went on in the Branch at the time	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."  Skip the next paragraph. We should note:  "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls  "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting together a specific statement or is a simple generic one sufficient?"  Then some cost issues.  So Mr Jenkins highlighting no requests for audit data or Helpdesk call records and that there are two ways of going about this, and
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A.	approach being to discredit this as an explanation that holds any water, neither of those things really fit well, not "really fit" neither of those things fit with the instruction of an independent expert by someone acting as a minister of justice. So rather than doing what it should do, which was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the expert's duties of independence, it actively sought to suggest the outcome? Yes, and that they were working as a team to get there. Can we look, please, at FUJ00153881 that's in fact this document and the reply further up the page, please. If we carry on to see Mr Jenkins' reply, if we keep going. So it's the next day 5 December: "I've had a look at the statement here and I think it might be helpful to have a dig as to	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding  "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."  Skip the next paragraph. We should note:  "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls  "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting together a specific statement or is a simple generic one sufficient?"  Then some cost issues.  So Mr Jenkins highlighting no requests for audit data or Helpdesk call records and that

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1		prosecutor required.	1		with it adequately Gareth tells me that it
2	A.	Yes.	2		is in fact possible for him to retrieve the
3	Q.	If we go further up the page, please. Second	3		actual data from this time to see what actually
4		line, Mr Bolc's reply:	4		occurred at this branch, and that the retrieval
5		"I would appreciate if you could add your	5		of the data is free to POL it will take
6		general comments at this stage regarding the	6		approximately two and a half days for him to
7		safeguards in place for comms problems to your	7		look at it and analyse what it means and this
8		statement, and send this to me as before and	8		will be chargeable to POL at £2,500. I have
9		I will refer back to the Post Office to consider	9		told him at present that we do not wish to
10		whether we go on to request the retrieval of	10		pursue this option unless it becomes
11		data for your further analysis."	11		unavoidable."
12		So this exchange, I think you'll agree,	12		Then some instructions.
13		shows that Mr Jenkins informed the Post Office	13		Mr Jenkins then signed a witness statement
14		lawyers that he could examine the data to work	14		in Mr Allen's case on 17 December. This was
15		out "exactly what had happened at the branch"?	15		identical to the general statement, the generic
16	٨	Yes.	16		
17	Q.		17		statement that had been signed back earlier in
	Q.	The Post Office said that they didn't want this	18		the year, except for the additional paragraph
18		to occur in response	19		that had been included addressing the
19	Α.	Yes.			non-polling data. Can we look, please, at that,
20	Q.	in the first instance. If we look, please,	20		POL00089077. Thank you.
21		at POL00089380, we should be able to see	21		This is the statement dated 17 December,
22		an email between Mr Bolc and the Investigator:	22		it's quite hard to read. I'm not going to go
23		"Please see [Mr Jenkins' report]. I had	23		through it because we're familiar with it as the
24		asked him to look at non-polling issue raised in	24		generic statement but just look at the addition
25		[the] interview and I believe that he had dealt 129	25		which is on page 2, if we scroll down. Just 130
		120			100
		and the same of the same	4		Allock has Been Louding assessment of the consensation
1		scroll up a moment, he says:	1		that he, Mr Jenkins, was aware of the specific
2		"I have been asked to provide a statement in	2		issue raised by Mr Allen and didn't follow
3		the case of Grant Allen. I understand the	3		through in the investigation of it, but this
4		integrity of the system has been questioned and	4		appears, however, to have been a Post Office
5		this report provides some general information	5	_	decision?
6		regarding the integrity of Horizon."	6		Yes.
7		Then if we scroll down. There is then, in	7	Q.	
8		the paragraph underneath, the explanation of	8		examined, rather than it appears to have been
9		Mr Jenkins' evidence on the non-polling issue.	9		a Post Office decision not to obtain this data,
10		Then over the page, at the end of that paragraph	10		the evidence suggests that it was a Post Office
11		that's at the top of the page, Mr Jenkins says:	11		decision not to obtain the data?
12		"I have not had an opportunity to examine	12	A.	Yes, the material that you've just gone through
13		the detailed logs from this period to see	13		is more than I had seen when I wrote my report.
14		whether there were any issues, and any	14	Q.	So would you agree that it's clear that, in the
15		justification in the claim that this resulted in	15		face of Mr Jenkins saying that the obtaining of
16		apparent system losses of £3,000 as claimed."	16		that data would resolve the question of what had
17	A.	Yes.	17		happened in branch, the Post Office took the
18	Q.	So he has provided the generic explanation	18		decision not to obtain the data?
19		beforehand?	19	A.	Yes.
20	A.	Yes.	20	Q.	Was that consistent or inconsistent with its
21	Q.	But made it clear, is this right, that he's not	21		duty to pursue reasonable lines of inquiry?
22		actually looked at the data?	22	A.	Inconsistent.
23	A.	Yes.	23	Q.	And consistent or inconsistent with its duties
24	Q.	You tell us in your report that this was	24		of disclosure more generally?
25		an unfortunate failure in the evidence, given	25	A.	Inconsistent.
		131			132

#### The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

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1	Q.	In paragraph 545 of your report, which is on	1	A.	Yes, and I also have in mir
2		page 192, you say:	2		I'd seen in context of the ca
3		"The greatest concern in this case is the	3		the discussions back, in me
4		instruction of and reliance on expert evidence	4		bugs in the system, and it i
5		from Mr Jenkins to rebut any question as to the	5		me, to opine as to whether
6		integrity and reliability of Horizon. First	6		potential relevance to the i
7		this is because his offer to examine the data	7		case. The generic stateme
8		relating to Mr Allen's branch and his complaints	8		room for there being any a
9		was rejected in favour of a generic statement."	9		the system and that, I think
10		We've seen that in the underlying material.	10	_	I was also addressing there
11	Α.	Yes.	11	Q.	You continue:
12	Q.	"This was clearly a missed opportunity for which	12		"A generic report was
13		little justification was advanced."	13		flawed both in relation to th
14		Do you stand by that comment in the light of	14		relation to the limitations of
15		the underlying material?	15		actual data that would have
16	Α.	Yes.	16		the Horizon system was op
17	Q.	"Secondly, given that his generic statement was	17		not. Whilst there was discu
18		relied on, it is of note that Mr Jenkins was in	18		Mr Jenkins, there does not
19		possession of material directly relevant to that	19		any disclosure of these imp
20		question, which is nowhere referred to. His	20		These represented very re-
21		duty of disclosure ought to have at least	21		in relation to expert eviden
22		required consideration of this, and I have seen	22		prosecution was relying on
23		no communication to suggest this."	23		Dealing with the two th
24		Again, do you stand by that comment in the	24		there, content of the report
25		light of the material we've looked at?	25		disclosure second, you say
		133			134
1		statement, was flawed in relation to the	1		prosecutor to comply with t
2		limitations of the analysis of the actual data	2	Q.	Thank you. Back in paragi
3		that would have confirmed whether or not Horizon	3		which is on page 186, you
4		was operating correctly. Given that Mr Jenkins	4		September 2010 witness s
5		had indicated to Mr Bolc that the data would	5		rather concerning the red
6		show what had happened at the branch, given that	6		mismatch bug
7		Mr Bolc, in conjunction with the Investigator	7	A.	Yes.
8		Mr Bradshaw, had decided that Mr Jenkins	8	Q.	and state that he did not
9		shouldn't review the data and, given that	9		issues in Mr Allen's case?
10		Mr Jenkins stated in his witness statement, in	10	A.	No.
11		that paragraph I showed you, that he hadn't	11	Q.	I think that's one of the thin
12		examined the data, would you agree that it was	12		cross-referring back to ther
13		the Post Office that was responsible for that	13	A.	Yes, yes.
14		flawed approach?	14	Q.	the cross-reference back
15	A.	Ultimately, yes.	15		Then forward to paragraph
16	Q.	As to disclosure, which is the second and third	16		omission is of particular co
17		sentences of that passage I've just read you	17	A.	Yes, insofar as I understoo
18		there, who was responsible for the very real	18		from September 2010 and
19		disclosure failings that you identify?	19		questions of the integrity ar
20		Well the engueric both the Deat Office on the	20		the quatern that his generic

20 A. Well, the answer is both the Post Office as the 21 prosecutor and Mr Jenkins as the expert, because 22 both had disclosure responsibilities, and it was 23 for the expert to comply with his 24 responsibilities as an expert as to disclosure

and it was certainly for the Post Office as the

25

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ind there the material case of Mrs Misra and nemory, from 2010 about is for others, not er those bugs had any issues of Mr Allen's nent didn't leave any apparent bugs at all in nk, was the concern served, which was the issue and also in of the analysis of ive confirmed whether perating correctly or cussion of this with ot appear to have been nportant limitations. eal disclosure failings nce that the n." things that you address rt first, then ay the report, the theirs. graph 528 of your report u refer to Mr Jenkins' statement -- or report, eceipts and payments t disclose those ings you were ere -ck to the Misra case. oh 540 you say that oncern. ood Mr Jenkins' report d put that against and reliability of 20 the system that his generic statement sought to 21 address, it seemed to me that there was

a disjunct between what was known by him and

Mr Jenkins' own duty of disclosure ought to have

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Q. As we've seen in paragraph 545, you said that

what was set out by him.

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1		at least required consideration of disclosure of
2		that issue and you have seen no communication to
3		suggest that occurred?
4	A.	That's right and because, again and I may

- 5 just have completely misunderstood the technical 6 nature of all of this -- but, on the face of it, 7 the September 2010 report represented material 8 that was inconsistent with or potentially 9 inconsistent with conclusions that he was 10 asserting in the generic statement and, as such, 11 he had a duty to draw attention to that, 12 irrespective of the prosecution's own
- Q. Do you agree, however, that in the material that 14 15 you have seen, there's nothing to suggest that 16 the Post Office informed Mr Jenkins of any 17 disclosure duties that he owed personally and, 18 in particular, at the time of the provision of 19 the generic statement as an expert?

unquestionable obligation to do so.

A. No, that's right. 20 21

13

Q. I think it's right that your knowledge of the 22 Misra case would indicate to you that the Post 23 Office lawyer in that case, Jarnail Singh, was 24 aware of the Callendar Square bug, the locking issue that had caused transactions to be lost, 25

1 been asked to address four questions and whether 2 he had understood that he was being asked to 3 answer only those questions and nothing else?

4 A. Yes.

- 5 Q. Have you seen any evidence that in Mr Allen's 6 case the Post Office gave any formalised or 7 reasoned consideration to obtaining, recording 8 and then disclosing information about Horizon 9 hardware or software faults held by other 10 departments within the Post Office?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. A duty of disclosure doesn't start with the 13 prosecutor going to third parties; is that 14 right? It must look at which material it itself 15 possesses?
- 16 Α. Yes, I mean, it can think about both things at 17 the same time but it has to think about what 18 it's got itself, absolutely.
- 19 Q. What would you have expected for a prosecutor of 20 this nature, ie a repeat player of many year's 21 vintage -- it had been in the business of prosecuting people for hundreds of years -- to 22 23 have had by way of systems for retaining, then 24 obtaining by a prosecution division, analysing, 25 recording and then disclosing?

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1 Mr Jenkins' email to him saying that there had

2 been 200,000 faults recorded on the system, and

3 the provision of the receipts and payments

4 mismatch bug report to Jarnail Singh?

5 A. Yes

6 Q. Is there anything in the papers to suggest that, 7 in the Allen case, Mr Singh considered that 8 these needed to be explained or disclosed when 9 the generic statement was being sought?

10 A. I'm afraid not.

11 Q. More generally, is there anything to suggest 12 that Mr Singh gave consideration to whether any 13 of those issues needed to be referred to or 14 explained when the generic statement was being 15 sought, ie not just in the context of the Grant 16 Allen case?

17 A. Not that I've seen.

1

12

Q. Ought the drafts of Mr Jenkins' original witness 18 19 statements, in this case Grant Allen, to have 20 been recorded on the schedule of unused 21 material?

22 A. As in drafts of the generic statements as it 23 evolved in this case? Yes, they should.

24 Q. In particular, would you agree that that may 25 have revealed the extent to which Mr Jenkins had

A. Gosh. As a prosecutor, they should have

2 recognised that they had duties under statute to 3 complete the three Rs in relation to material. They needed to recognise that they were relying 5 on the operation of a computer system as the basis for a whole series of prosecutions and 7 that the reliability of that system was 8 a potential issue in those cases, and that 9 material that was relevant to the question or 10 potentially relevant to the question of 11 reliability had to be retained, had to be

13 And they had to recognise that, if they were 14 in the Criminal Law Department and that the 15 material as to the operation of the Horizon 16 system was kept in a department down the 17 corridor, they needed to go down the corridor. 18 They couldn't just look at what was in their own

reviewed and had, ultimately, to be disclosed.

19 office. 20 Q. Did you see any appreciation by either the

21 Investigators or the lawyers that there were 22 lots of other departments down the corridor. 23 including departments that had, as a function 24 liaising with the manufacturer and operator of 25 the system, Fujitsu, over faults with it?

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1	A.	No, I think the only departments that would get	1	A.	Yes, and so by way of example of that, they
2		mentioned in, for example, investigators'	2		might, because they had it from the audit, look
3		reports, other than the Criminal Law Department	3		at transaction logs which are derived from as
4		that they would be sending their report to, were	4		I understand it, from the Horizon system, but
5		the Contract Managers and the Auditors. And	5		were things they had because the auditor had got
6		that's because it was the Auditors that were	6		to them. They wouldn't look at anything that
7		identifying the shortfall on the system in the	7		they hadn't got, as a result of that process or
8		first place and the Contract Manager who would	8		ask for it.
9		· .	9	Q.	
		be making a decision about whether to sack the		Q.	Thank you. Can we turn to the case of Angela
10	_	postmaster or not. I think that was it.	10		Sefton and Anne Nield.
11	Q.	So no recognition that, down the corridor, as	11	Α.	Yes.
12		you put it, elsewhere within the business, there	12	Q.	I think you've noted that these cases were being
13		were whole teams of people, most of whom were	13		dealt with in an overlapping way, including, in
14		called managers, whose job it was to liaise on	14		an overlapping way, with Allen; is that right?
15		a daily basis with the Post Office or between	15	A.	Yes, and the email from Ms Panter we looked at
16		the Post Office and Fujitsu, over Horizon	16		earlier had a little list of cases, including
17		faults?	17		that of Mr Allen, including that of these two,
18	A.	Whether they appreciated that or not, the	18		and Mr Ishaq, as well.
19		material I've seen doesn't say, because it	19	Q.	Therefore similarly, if we turn up FUJ00124105,
20		doesn't mention them.	20		in the case of Sefton and Nield too on
21	Q.	No. Instead, was the vista that was looked at	21		3 December 2012, Mr Jenkins is making the point
22		by Investigators and prosecutors, what is within	22		back to Mr Bolc:
23		the Investigation Team and what is within the	23		"Please tell me exactly what you want from
24		prosecution team, sometimes extending to what	24		me, also in relation to the Sefton and Nield
25		happened at audit?	25		case."
		141			142
1		Yes.	1	Q.	Would you say that Mr Bolc's rejection of
2	Q.	He makes the point in the email that he hadn't	2		obtaining the ARQ records in these cases was
3		been presented with any audit data relating to	3		consistent or inconsistent with the approach of
4		any of these cases, including Sefton and Nield	4		an open minded prosecutor?
5		to examine	5	A.	Inconsistent. It was a reasonable line of
6	A.	Yes.	6		inquiry, it was allied almost inevitably to
7	Q.	and he makes suggestions about what might be	7		duties of disclosure.
8		done?	8	Q.	Mr Jenkins signed a witness statement in this
9	A.	Yes.	9		case on 5 December 2012, that's POL00059424.
10	Q.	If we go to POL00089394, and go down to	10		I think this is 5 December, maybe 6 December
11		3 December, reply from Mr Bolc:	11		2012, identical to the generic statement that
12		"The only clarification I think I need at	12		had been signed back in October 2012, except for
13		the moment relates to the timeline, 2005 removal	13		an additional paragraph addressing an aspect of
14		of cash Could you clarify what this means	14		Ms Sefton and Ms Nield's case. If we scroll
15		and discount it as a possible explanation for	15		down, we can see that. It begins, in substance:
16		the losses beginning to occur at that time in	16		"I have been asked to provide a statement in
17		the Sefton and Nield case.	17		the case of Angela Sefton I understand that
18		"The audit reports will simply show the	18		the integrity of the system has been questioned
19		money missing so will not take things further."	19		and this report provides some general
20		Again, does that contain the loaded language	20		information regarding the integrity of Horizon."
21		about which you were critical before?	21		Then if we go over the page, please,

22

23

24

25

a generic statement that we're all familiar

with. If we carry on, please. If we scroll

through, just to see that this is the generic statement that we're familiar with --

144

22 A. Yes.

25 **A.** Yes.

24

23 Q. Because it's an instruction as to what to do:

discount something as a possible explanation?

7	A.	Yes.	1	the change has no impact on the overall
2	Q.	and keep going. Then just over the page,	2	integrity of the system as outlined in the
3		please, we can see the line at the conclusion,	3	statement.
4		where Mr Jenkins says:	4	You've seen now how the generic statement
5		" I would conclude by saying I fully	5	came about and the emails involving Ms Panter
6		believe [the Horizon system] will accurately	6	and Mr Bolc, on the one hand, and Mr Jenkins, on
7		record all data that is submitted to it and	7	the other, in November 2012, insofar as that
8		correctly account for it it cannot	8	statement was adapted to deal with the Sefton
9		compensate for any data that is incorrectly	9	and Nield case.
10		input into it as a result of human error, lack	10	A. Yes.
11		of training or fraud (and nor can any other	11	Q. Would you agree that those underlying
12		system)."	12	communications demonstrate that it was the Post
13		I think I skipped over I think it was	13	Office's idea and intention that the statement
14		page 2, if we can just go back to page 2.	14	should be a generic one?
15	A.	Yes, there's a reference to the defence	15	A. Yes.
16		statements on page 2.	16	Q. That it was represented to Mr Jenkins, secondly,
17	Q.	Yes. If we scroll down, please. Yes, there:	17	that the cases in which his generic statement
18		Losses started in 2005, and that Horizon was	18	was being provided were not cases which raised
19		installed at that time. Horizon was rolled out	19	specific Horizon issues?
20		in 1999 and 2002, so I am surprised at the	20	A. Specific issues, no.
21		reference to 2005. There was a change	21	Q. That when he sought clarity on what that meant
22		implemented in late 2005, the removal of the	22	and what could be done, the Post Office, through
23		weekly cash report. They were thoroughly tested	23	its lawyers, declined suggestions that further
24		at the time. There's been no indication of	24	investigations be carried out?
25		there being any issues regarding this change and 145	25	<b>A.</b> Yes.
1	0	He wasn't in any case, fourthly, provided any	1	A. Yes, the same point I made in relation to
2	Ψ.	instructions, proper instructions, as an expert	2	Mr Allen and that case.
3		in these cases?	3	Q. We should read that across?
4	Α.	No.	4	A. Yes.
5		Less still instructions that were specific to	5	MR BEER: Thank you very much.
6	۳.	the issues that arose in any of these cases?	6	Sir, it's 2.55 now. I wonder if we could
7	Δ	Quite.	7	take the afternoon break now and return at 3.10.
8	Q.	In paragraph 566 of your report, which is on	8	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Can you just give me a clue about
9		page 199, you say that Mr Jenkins' statement in	9	how much longer you will be and whether or not
10		the Sefton and Nield case is generic in its	10	there are likely to be questions from Core
11		content. It mirrors that served in the case of	11	Participants' representatives?
12		Allen, in which Mr Jenkins' statement reviewed	12	MR BEER: Sir, yes, I'm intending to pick up at 3.10
13		data specific to that defendant and said he had	13	and finish by 4.00. I think there will be some
14		also run through hypothetical issues with	14	questions from two or three CP representatives,
15		integrity, and concluded there was no evidence	15	each of which is five minutes, or so.
16		of any issues?	16	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Fine. Thank you.
17	A.	Yes, in fact, it's clearer to me now from the	17	(2.56 pm)
18		material I've further seen that he hadn't	18	(A short break)
19		reviewed data specific to that defendant in the	19	(3.10 pm)
20		way that I thought he had.	20	MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear
21	Q.	Thank you very much. You tell us in	21	us?
22	٠.	paragraph 565, which is on page 198, that	22	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
23		there's no reference by Mr Jenkins in his	23	MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
24		statement to his own 2010 report addressing	24	Can we turn to the case study, Mr Atkinson,
25		a fix for an identified bug.	25	lastly, of Khayyam Ishaq. Can we dive straight
_0		147	20	148

### The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

in with the material, please, by looking at	1		"Please see below. I have read the expert's
POL00059481. Again, this about the genesis of	2		report and it is perfect."
Mr Gareth Jenkins' statements.	3		In your report, it's paragraph 611, on
If we scroll down, please, email from	4		page 215 no need to display it at the
Mr Jenkins to Ms Panter of 8 January. Copied to	5		moment you characterise generally Mr Jenkins'
Penny Thomas:	6		statement of 15 January 2013, which is the one
"Rachael,	7		being referred to in these emails, as a generic
"I've taken my previous statement and	8		one.
amended it to refer to the Ishaq case."	9	A.	Yes.
That's the generic statement that he's	10	Q.	In the light of the emails that we've just
saying he's taken.	11		looked at, would you agree that this was a case
Yes.	12		in which the Post Office sought a generic
"Reading through the Prosecution and Defence	13		statement from Mr Jenkins?
Summaries, I don't think there is anything for	14	A.	In the main, yes, although the email chain that
me to comment on specifically.	15		we're looking at here, the email that we started
"Please can you confirm this is all you need	16		at was a response from Mr Jenkins to an email
in this case, and if so I'll get a signed copy	17		from Ms Panter on
together with the related exhibits to you."	18	Q.	Yes, if we scroll down in this chain. Sorry to
Then if we scroll up, please.	19		speak over you, Mr Atkinson.
"Morning Gareth	20	A.	No, not at all. The email header is at the
"Thank you for your statement which I have	21		bottom of page 3 but the content is on page 4.
had an opportunity to read. There is nothing	22		So the bottom of that page.
that you need to add, it covers everything."	23	Q.	Keep going.
Then forwarded by Ms Panter to Martin Smith,	24	A.	And so Ms Panter is sending Mr Jenkins and
if we scroll up: 149	25		copying a cast of thousands into a list of cases 150
	POL00059481. Again, this about the genesis of Mr Gareth Jenkins' statements.  If we scroll down, please, email from Mr Jenkins to Ms Panter of 8 January. Copied to Penny Thomas:  "Rachael,  "I've taken my previous statement and amended it to refer to the Ishaq case."  That's the generic statement that he's saying he's taken.  Yes.  "Reading through the Prosecution and Defence Summaries, I don't think there is anything for me to comment on specifically.  "Please can you confirm this is all you need in this case, and if so I'll get a signed copy together with the related exhibits to you."  Then if we scroll up, please.  "Morning Gareth  "Thank you for your statement which I have had an opportunity to read. There is nothing that you need to add, it covers everything."  Then forwarded by Ms Panter to Martin Smith, if we scroll up:	POL00059481. Again, this about the genesis of Mr Gareth Jenkins' statements.  If we scroll down, please, email from 4 Mr Jenkins to Ms Panter of 8 January. Copied to 5 Penny Thomas:  "Rachael,  "I've taken my previous statement and amended it to refer to the Ishaq case."  That's the generic statement that he's saying he's taken.  Yes.  "Reading through the Prosecution and Defence 13 Summaries, I don't think there is anything for me to comment on specifically.  "Please can you confirm this is all you need in this case, and if so I'll get a signed copy 17 together with the related exhibits to you."  Then if we scroll up, please.  "Morning Gareth "Thank you for your statement which I have had an opportunity to read. There is nothing 12 that you need to add, it covers everything."  Then forwarded by Ms Panter to Martin Smith, if we scroll up:	POL00059481. Again, this about the genesis of Mr Gareth Jenkins' statements.  If we scroll down, please, email from 4 Mr Jenkins to Ms Panter of 8 January. Copied to 5 Penny Thomas:  "Rachael,  "I've taken my previous statement and amended it to refer to the Ishaq case."  That's the generic statement that he's saying he's taken.  Yes.  "Reading through the Prosecution and Defence 13 Summaries, I don't think there is anything for me to comment on specifically.  "Please can you confirm this is all you need in this case, and if so I'll get a signed copy together with the related exhibits to you."  Then if we scroll up, please.  "Morning Gareth  "Thank you for your statement which I have had an opportunity to read. There is nothing the scroll up:  Then forwarded by Ms Panter to Martin Smith, if we scroll up:  25

and indicating what, in some instances, she is 1 2 sending him.

3 Q. If we scroll down a little further.

4 A. Point number 5, in relation to the case of 5 Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of 6 documents for his consideration, having asked 7 him to prepare a report in that case and 8 essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what 9 10 it is she was asking him to do, other than to 11 prepare a report, but she was not, on the face 12 of that paragraph, telling him not to properly 13 examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq.

> I can understand, given the context and the history that we have gone through, why he may have considered she was just asking him to sign a copy of his generic statement for Mr Ishaq's use but, equally, it was open to him to have, as he did in other cases that we've looked at earlier, flag up things that had occurred to him, having looked at those materials.

22 Q. Indeed, when he did provide a generic statement, 23 strictly generic statement, she, Ms Panter, 24 regard it as "perfect"?

25 A. Yes.

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Q. Here --

A. I don't share her view as to its perfection.

3 Q. Here she's providing him with a copy of the 4 indictment, the summary of facts, and the 5 defence case statement --

6 A. Yes.

Q. -- and identifying a claim by Mr Ishaq that he 7 8 was not dishonest, he had to make reversals in order to balance and that there had been 9 10 a malfunction with the Horizon system?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can we go forwards, then, a couple of weeks, until after this statement had been signed off, 13 14 to the 31 January 2013, POL00089427. If we 15 scroll down, please, to 31 January. There we 16 are, thank you. Rachael Panter to Gareth 17 Jenkins and lots of other people:

18 "The week of 11th ... will be fine ..." 19 Sorry, if we can scroll down a little 20 further, and again:

21 "Ishaq -- Having served your report, the 22 defence have queried it and are claiming that 23 Ishaq had to make false entries in order for the 24 figures to reconcile, as the Horizon system kept 25 malfunctioning."

1		That is something that he'd originally said?	1		to have been provided to an expert, nor provided
2	A.	Yes.	2		him with all of the material relevant to the
3	Q.	"Please could you make a note in your diary as	3		issues in the case, nor giving him instructions
4		you will be needed to clarify our position with	4		as to what material himself to obtain?
5		Horizon."	5	A.	No, quite.
6		Then can I just check there's nothing	6	Q.	Looking at what should have been done, would
7		underneath this email. Yes, if we just scroll	7		this be right: the lawyers and the Investigator
8		up, please:	8		should have looked at the defence statement and
9		"Our barrister has asked if you could read	9		seen what disclosure obligations it gave rise
10		the Defence case statement attached and make	10		to?
11		a list of your initial thoughts on the	11	A.	Yes.
12		assertions he is making. We may need you to add	12	Q.	Looked for what issues that it raised and which
13		a few of these comments into your report so that	13		questions, therefore, required to be answered,
14		each issue is addressed."	14		and whether they were to be answered by expert
15		Do you consider it an appropriate or	15		or lay evidence?
16		inappropriate approach to send a defence	16	A.	Yes.
17		statement to a prosecution witness, whether	17	Q.	If expert evidence, properly to have instructed
18		an expert or not, for generalised thoughts or	18		an expert with written instructions complying
19		comments?	19		with the obligations I mentioned earlier?
20	A.	It's unusual, certainly, in relation to	20	A.	Yes.
21		an expert, and I can't imagine it happening in	21	Q.	Do you agree that, in addition to being provided
22		relation to a non-expert witness.	22		with relatively scant information
23	Q.	In particular, was it appropriate, given the	23		an indictment, a case summary and a defence
24	_	context, that the Post Office had not given	24		statement asking Mr Jenkins to comment on the
25		Mr Jenkins the kind of instructions which ought 153	25		defence case or provide comments on a defence 154
1		case was risky?	1		disclosure issues because his answers were
2	A.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned	2		rather unprepared by anything they'd given him.
3		to do with what he came back with but,	3	Q.	This shift in approach from "the generic will
4		certainly, if they were then going to comply	4		do", to now "We're delving into the specifics of
5		with their obligations properly, yes, it was.	5		a case", was that a moment for the lawyers to
6	Q.	I mean, previously, the instructions had been	6		grasp the instruction of an expert with both
7		"Don't look at the specifics of any case, your	7		hands and to do it properly?
8		generalised generic statement will do". They	8	A.	Yes.
9		were now saying, "We've got a defence statement	9	Q.	Can we look, please, at Mr Jenkins' comments on
10		here, can you provide comments on it?" and	10		the defence case statement, POL00059602,
11		you're saying that the risk that arose or the	11		"Comments on Ishaq [defence case statement]
12		caution that needed to be applied was dependent	12		DCS", authored by Mr Jenkins on 1 February. He
13		on what was intended to be done with the reply?	13		says he's been asked to comment on the defence
14	A.	Yes, and I suppose the issues might arise if	14		case statement:
15		Mr Jenkins identified something in an aspect of	15		" I have copied in the [statement] below
16		the defence statement that was nothing actually	16		in blue font and added my comments in black
17		to do with him, and expressed his view, for	17		font.
18		example, on the honesty or dishonesty of	18		"I'm not sure that the responses are of much
19		someone. That would give rise to issues in and	19		use and I don't think there is anything that can
20		of itself. But, assuming that he focused on	20		really be added to my statement as a result.
		or noon. Dut, documing that no records			
21		those aspects that had a technical element to	21		However if you feel any of this could usefully
21 22			21 22		However if you feel any of this could usefully be added I'm happy to be convinced.
		those aspects that had a technical element to			
22		those aspects that had a technical element to them, then clearly his answers to them were,	22		be added I'm happy to be convinced.
22 23		those aspects that had a technical element to them, then clearly his answers to them were, potentially at least, disclosable and, given the	22 23		be added I'm happy to be convinced. "Much of it relates to requiring further

1		I think you've seen this document.	1		experience with the operation of Horizon. They
2	A.	Yes.	2		were being told by their expert that an analysis
3	Q.	Mr Jenkins, in addition to suggesting that	3		of the data would assist in relation to that,
4	Œ.	further data may be required for analysis and	4		and that they didn't need to wait for Mr Ishaq
5			5		
		that help may be needed in order to understand	6		to give them further and better particulars to
6 7		it, indicates, in relation to Horizon	7		know that that's what clearly needed to happen
		malfunctions, that:			next.
8		"If the defence can specify some examples of	8		If there were further and better particulars
9		this, I'm happy to investigate. However,	9		from Mr Ishaq, clearly that would further aid
10		I would contend that the system doesn't	10		the process but they weren't an essential
11		malfunction with leaving some trail to indicate	11	_	prerequisite to anything being done at all.
12		what has happened. Without examining the logs	12	Q.	In paragraph 611 of your report, that's
13		it is difficult to be more specific."	13		page 215, you say:
14		In the light of that, do you agree that, at	14		" the default statement and exhibits of
15		the very least, there ought to have been	15		Gareth Jenkins were served in this case. As has
16		a discussion or a formal follow-up to the	16		been discussed before its service, the statement
17		comments made about the need for further data	17		is a generic one."
18		analysis	18		Do you agree that the provision and then
19	A.	Yes.	19		service of a generic statement reflected the
20	Q.	in order for Mr Jenkins to be able to look at	20		Post Office's intention that the statement be
21		the system malfunctions that Mr Ishaq had	21		a generic one?
22		complained about?	22	A.	Yes.
23	A.	Yes, well, it's again a two-stage matter. So	23	Q.	Although Mr Jenkins explained his ability
24		far as the prosecution's obligations are	24		further to investigate the specific malfunctions
25		concerned, Mr Ishaq had raised concerns from	25		of which Mr Ishaq had raised, the Post Office
		157			158
1		did not, in fact, ask Mr Jenkins to do so?	1		emphatic terms than he did here "If I'm asked
1 2	A.	did not, in fact, ask Mr Jenkins to do so?  No, that's right.	1 2		emphatic terms than he did here "If I'm asked questions about the operation of the Horizon
	A.				•
2	A.	No, that's right.	2		questions about the operation of the Horizon
2 3	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that,	2	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post
2 3 4	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that	2 3 4	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that".  What about the suggestion that that was
2 3 4 5	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going	2 3 4 5	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that".  What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being
2 3 4 5 6	Α.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the	2 3 4 5	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that
2 3 4 5 6 7	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind,	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Α.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what	2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what was being said by the defendant in that case, he	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it. He wasn't asked to analyse underlying data.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what was being said by the defendant in that case, he needed to look at the underlying data. So it	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it. He wasn't asked to analyse underlying data. What was he to do?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what was being said by the defendant in that case, he needed to look at the underlying data. So it wasn't just a matter for the Post Office, it was	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it. He wasn't asked to analyse underlying data. What was he to do?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what was being said by the defendant in that case, he needed to look at the underlying data. So it wasn't just a matter for the Post Office, it was a matter for the expert, exercising independent	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it. He wasn't asked to analyse underlying data. What was he to do?  That the instructions were muddled is clear. That they were inadequate is clear. That
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what was being said by the defendant in that case, he needed to look at the underlying data. So it wasn't just a matter for the Post Office, it was a matter for the expert, exercising independent judgment, to make clear to them that to do that	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it. He wasn't asked to analyse underlying data. What was he to do? That the instructions were muddled is clear. That they were inadequate is clear. That he could have gone back to them and said more,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<b>A</b> .	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what was being said by the defendant in that case, he needed to look at the underlying data. So it wasn't just a matter for the Post Office, it was a matter for the expert, exercising independent judgment, to make clear to them that to do that he would need to look at the data, rather than	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it. He wasn't asked to analyse underlying data. What was he to do? That the instructions were muddled is clear. That they were inadequate is clear. That he could have gone back to them and said more, I consider also to be clear. I can understand
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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	Q. A. Q.	No, that's right.  The further observation I'd make about that, though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going to be called at trial to give evidence as to the integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind, to do so needed in that case, and given what was being said by the defendant in that case, he needed to look at the underlying data. So it wasn't just a matter for the Post Office, it was a matter for the expert, exercising independent judgment, to make clear to them that to do that he would need to look at the data, rather than it was just an option.  Are you saying that that should have been done by him because he knew that he was going to be called and there would therefore come a moment at which it would be crunch time?  Yes.  He would be asked or he might be asked about specifics?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Α.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was a function of the instruction of him being rather muddled, that he was told initially that the case raised no specific Horizon issues, then he was provided with some information about it. He wasn't asked to analyse underlying data. What was he to do?  That the instructions were muddled is clear. That they were inadequate is clear. That he could have gone back to them and said more, I consider also to be clear. I can understand how it came about but that doesn't mean that it was not, in my view, clearly incumbent upon him to at least continue that discussion before he found himself in the uncomfortable position of the witness box dealing with these matters, having identified that there is work that he could do, better prepare himself for it, and not being asked to do it.
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1		a forensic accountant. The cross-reference to	1		day of trial to respond to, or discuss matters
2		that we needn't look at it is POL00119433.	2		with, a defence expert was alarming, given that
3		Then four or five months later, Mr Jenkins was	3		Mr Jenkins had not been told about any expert
4		told about that.	4		before then?
5		If we look, please, at POL00059808, if we	5	A.	
6		scroll down to 14 February, please, thank you.	6		between the experts to narrow the issues, in and
7		"An update for you [Gareth]", from Ms Panter:	7		of itself, was a reasonable thing for them to
8		"Our counsel Mark Ford would like you to	8		have done. The rules now very much envisaged
9		attend court on the Monday before the start	9		that there will be a meeting between experts in
10		of the trial to allow you to discuss the case	10		advance of the trial, in order to narrow the
11		with the defence 'expert'."	11		issues but that is in advance of the trial
12		This seems to be the first, I should say,	12		rather than on the day it starts, in the normal
13		that Mr Jenkins knows that there is an expert.	13		course of events.
14	A.	Yes.	14		The experts would not come upon each other
15	Q.	"I think the rationale behind this is to narrow	15		by chance at that meeting. They would know in
16		any issues we may have with the defence from the	16		advance what the other one was saying, so that
17		outset so as to reduce the amount of time you	17		they could have assessed the contents of those
18		are required to attend.	18		reports. So it isn't a matter just of
19		"Our counsel is still waiting to hear from	19		Mr Jenkins' travel arrangements that needed to
20		defence counsel and will update us if any issues	20		be planned in advance; he also needed to see the
21		arise. However your presence on the first day	21		material in advance and arrangements needed to
22		will still be required so you can make your	22		be put in place for how the experts were to
23		travel arrangements."	23		meet, what they were going to address and how
24		Would you agree that suggesting to	24		what they discussed was going to be recorded, so
25		Mr Jenkins that he should attend on the first 161	25		that others outside that meeting thereafter knew 162
			_		
1	_	the outcome.	1		a meeting, to either decide whether to agree or
2	Q.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have	2		to disagree with suggestions made in the defence
3		been told at least that there existed a defence	3		expert report?
4		expert?	4	A.	Yes. Clearly, that would be a more realistic
5	A.	Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would	5		possibility if he had reviewed the underlying
6		need at any point to respond to anything in that	6		data himself before producing his original
7		report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he	7		reports that Ms lbbotson's report was a response
8		needed to see the document from the expert, as	8		to. But yes, one of the reasons why an expert
9	_	well.	9		should see any other expert's report in advance
10		Yes, ie the defence expert report? Yes.	10	^	is so that they can check it.
11	Α.		11	Q.	Can we look, please, at FUJ00153977. We're now
12	Q.	You don't just walk into the room with your	12		on the Monday, Monday, the 18th, and we can see
13		hands in your pockets and say, "What have you	13		that Mr Jenkins has a conversation with Penny
14	٨	got to say?"	14 15		Thomas. Can you make out the conversation?
15	A.	No, quite: "Who are you and what are you doing here?"	16	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	Yes.	17	Q.	,
17		Yes.	18		case. I see you had some ARQs on this", and he gives the string of them.
18	Α.				
19 20	Q.	Moreover, Mr Jenkins would not have known what	19 20		"Do you still have the info you can pass to me easily?"
		material the defence expert had himself or	21		
21 22	A.	herself examined?  Quite.	21		Then he gives the branch code.
23		It would also, would this be right, mean that it	23		"I can copy all you quote above out for you. "That would be good, so at least I have the
24	Œ.	would be difficult for Mr Jenkins himself to	23 24		info, even if I don't have time to analyse it!"
25		revert to any underlying data in advance of such	25		So it's apparent that Mr Jenkins was seeking
20		163	25		164

1		to obtain material that might help him to answer	1	Q.	Moving on closer to the trial, then, to
2		questions and liaise with the defence expert,	2		22 February 2013, which I think is the Friday
3		even though he had not at that stage been	3		before the Monday, can we look, please, at
4		provided with a copy of the report or known	4		FUJ00153990. If we scroll down, please, we can
5		which issues to address?	5		see some travel arrangements being referred to
6	A.	Yes, it's not clear to me where he had seen that	6		on the 18th. Then, if we go up, please. We can
7		they had some ARQs, whether that was because	7		see Ms Panter's reply, if we keep going.
8		they were referred to in Ms Ibbotson's report or	8		On the 22nd at 11.15 in the morning, there's
9		they were referred to in something else but,	9		some material about the Wylie case and then
10		clearly, something had told him that there was	10		"Urgent". We can see there's an attachment
11		ARQ material available and he had rightly	11		"Addendum [defence case statement]":
12		recognised that he ought to see it.	12		" Please see attached.
13	Q.	How concerning was it, as the prosecutor, that	13		"The defence solicitors in the case of Ishaq
14	Œ.		14		have served an addendum defence case statement
		the Post Office was asking Mr Jenkins to go to	15		
15 16		court to respond to expert evidence without him			on us this morning, which attempts to
16 17		having seen it?	16		particularise the problem with the Horizon
17	Α.	Well, it's moderately remarkable. To expect any	17		system.
18		witness, but certainly an expert witness, to	18		"Please could you have a look at the
19		deal with complex issues and to try and narrow	19		comments that they have made and try to address
20		those complex issues with another expert, not	20		as many of the points as you can, in order that
21		knowing what that expert said, not knowing what	21		we can email that to our counsel Mark Ford ahead
22		material they had seen, not being able to check,	22		of Monday's trial.
23		either, anything that they had said or that they	23		" apologies for such a last minute
24		have seen; I can't quite think how anyone	24		request, I think there is no coincidence that
25		thought that was a good idea. 165	25		the service of this addendum [defence case 166
1		statement] is last minute."	1		provided with information that could be obtained
2		So at this point, there hasn't been, it	2		by the Post Office, in order to consider the
3		seems, an attempt on the lawyer's part,	3		very points raised by Mr Ishaq.
4		Ms Panter's part, to analyse the defence	4	Δ	Yes.
5		statement herself and isolate from it issues	5		Can we go forward to FUJ00156747. If we see,
6		that Mr Jenkins would in writing be asked to	6	٠.	we're on the 25th now, the first day of trial,
7		deal with?	7		at 9.37 in the morning. Martin Smith is sending
8	A.	No.	8		to Mr Jenkins the expert report
9	Q.	It's just a forwarding and saying, "Please deal	9	Λ	Yes.
10	Q.	with this", essentially?	10		with a blank email.
11		•	11		
	Α.	Yes.			Yes.
12	Q.	, , , , ,	12		So just an attachment?
13		FUJ00153997. If we see this reply at 1.10 the	13		Yes.
14		same day, the Friday:	14	Q.	This is Beverley Ibbotson's report and, later
15		"I've added my comments to the [amended	15		that day, if we look, please, at FUJ00154006,
16		defence case statement].	16		Ms Ibbotson herself sent Mr Jenkins, just after
17		"I have now had confirmation that Fujitsu	17		2.00, the appendices and there are lots of
18		have not supplied any details of any Helpdesk	18		them to her report, which Martin Smith the
19		calls to Post Office Ltd regarding this Branch.	19		solicitor had not done. I think we can follow
20		There is nothing I can easily do to address any	20		that up by looking at the attachment to Martin
21		specifics."	21		Smith's email earlier in the day.
22		If we scroll down, please. That was the	22	A.	Yes.
23		response to the last-minute request.	23		You will see it was just the bald report
24		Again, Mr Jenkins was pointing out to the	24		Yes.
25		Post Office's lawyers that he hadn't been 167	25	Q.	rather than the attachments. 168

# The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

19 December 2023

1		So was the result of that, to your	1	A.	Yes. The focus in this case appeared, from the
2		understanding, that Mr Jenkins had to deal	2		investigative and prosecutorial point of view,
3		overnight with this rather detailed forensic	3		to be that Mr Ishaq had made allegations against
4		accountancy report, which he had seen for the	4		an employee or a colleague. There was a lot of
5		first time on the first day of trial?	5		focus on him and not a lot of focus on anything
6	A.	Yes, that would appear to be the position.	6		else.
7	Q.	He wasn't, unlike Ms Ibbotson, a forensic	7	Q.	If we turn up paragraph 619 of your report,
8		accountant?	8		which is on page 218, you say, at 218, and then
9	A.	No.	9		paragraph 619:
10	Q.	He hadn't been provided with any formal written	10		"Although Mr Jenkins was engaged, he was not
11		instructions to be an expert in the case nor had	11		asked to analyse the underlying data, and there
12		he been provided with any broader background to	12		were serious shortcomings to the disclosure of
13		the case?	13		material within his knowledge relevant to the
14	A.	Beyond as we've seen	14		operation and reliability of the system, and as
15	Q.	Indictment case summary, defence case statement?	15		to cross-disclosure from other cases. This
16	A.	Yes.	16		continued to be the position even after focused
17	Q.	He had not been asked to obtain the data,	17		defence requests and the instruction of
18		albeit, off his own bat, had obtained some ARQ	18		a defence expert who, like other experts before
19		data	19		her, relied on the material and information
20	A.	Yes.	20		provided by Mr Jenkins to reach her
21	Q.	from Penny Thomas. Would you agree with my	21		conclusions."
22		characterisation of this episode of this part of	22		That last part, is that, in fact, in error,
23		the prosecution being run chaotically, and with	23		that she wasn't reliant on what Mr Jenkins
24		little or no grasp as to the significance of the	24		provided her?
25		need properly to instruct an expert?	25	A.	Yes, I think that must be right.
		169			170
1	Q.	In this case, as in others, is it right that	1	A.	Yes.
2		disclosure was not made in relation to the	2	Q.	Regarding the Fujitsu helpline, you're further
3		earlier bugs, errors and defects in particular,	3		aware that that had four layers to it: a simple,
4		which had emerged in the Seema Misra case?	4		if you like, answer the telephone and, we
5	A.	That's right.	5		believe, driven by scripts; those answering the
6	MR	BEER: Thank you. Those are the questions that	6		telephone, our clients say, would basically tell
7		I ask you. There may be some additional	7		our clients to pay up if there was a shortfall.
8		questions from other Core Participants, I think	8		But there were also other layers to the
9		starting with Mr Stein. Thank you.	9		helpline run by Fujitsu, which were resolving
10		Questioned by MR STEIN	10		issues if there were issues concerned with the
11	MR	STEIN: Mr Atkinson, you're aware that	11		Fujitsu Horizon system; is that correct? You're
12		I represent a large number of subpostmasters and	12		aware of that?
13		mistresses.	13	A.	Not to any great extent and not least because
14	A.	Yes.	14		there wasn't very much discussion of the
15	Q.	You answered questions from Mr Beer earlier on	15		different layers of the Fujitsu helpline in any
16		as to whether there was a system in place that	16		of the material that I saw.
17		allowed those investigating or lawyers dealing	17	Q.	But outline, you're aware that there was such
18		with the prosecution of subpostmasters the	18		a helpline
19		ability to access material down the corridor?	19	A.	Yes.
20	A.	Yes.	20	Q.	and you're aware that there were individuals
21	Q.	Can we just take that one stage further. You're	21		involved in the process of and fixing issues,
22		aware, I believe, that there were two helplines	22		bugs, errors, defects, within the Horizon
23		set up for subpostmasters and mistresses, one	23		system, insofar as they could?
		the Deat Office Head the attention			

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set up by the Post Office itself, and the other,

if I can call it loosely, a Fujitsu helpline?

24 A. Certainly I was aware that there were people who

could be called at Fujitsu when there was

#### The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

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1	a problem, whether it was identifying bugs or
2	not is a separate question.

- 3  $\,$  **Q.** All right. So not only would you have, if
- 4 you're investigating a particular branch,
- 5 an inability to access a library of faults and
- 6 problems with the system, but also, have you
- 7 seen any way that Investigators and lawyers
- 8 would have access to the results of the
- 9 telephone line complaints system?
- 10 A. Well, they were clearly able to obtain records
- 11 and the contents of contact with the Post
- 12 Office's own helpline, because there are
- 13 references to that. They were clearly able to
- 14 obtain records of and the content of contacts
- 15 with the Fujitsu line because there were
- 16 occasions when -- I think it was a gentleman
- 17 called Mr Dunks made statements in particular
- 18 cases about selections from that.
- 19 Q. Did you see anything to suggest that there was
- 20 a joined-up type of thinking, that when one
- 21 subpostmaster was saying that the system won't
- 22 work, can't find out what it is, there are these
- 23 problems, and tried to explain it, that that was
- 24 then linked to other individuals that were
- 25 making similar complaints?

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- 1 Magistrates Court and the Crown Court, yes?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure
- 4 system that is used by prosecutors. Can we
- 5 reverse the coin. So where an individual
- 6 defendant is seeking to make further
- 7 applications for disclosure, there's a system
- 8 for that, as well, isn't there?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture
- 11 that relates to disclosure is, in theory, how it
- 12 should operate is that the prosecution should
- 13 identify relevant material that might or may
- 14 assist the defence case?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Okay. Now, there then is a system that relates
- 17 to the provision of a defence statement by
- an individual, where the defence statement, it's
- 19 not mandatory but, essentially, it is what
- 20 happens in the courts. The individual will then
- 21 set out what their case is?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. Now, that system has been in operation
- 24 now for sometime?
- 25 **A.** Yes.

- 1 A. No. On the contrary, they would -- when they
- 2 did it at all, would look just at calls from the
- 3 person they were investigating to the helpline,
- 4 rather than, on some occasions, even other
- 5 people at the same branch.
- 6 Q. So we've got a lack of access to, overall, the
- 7 picture of what's going on and the faults within
  - the system, we've got a lack of overall access
- 9 to the complaints and the difficulties that are
- 10 being encountered by subpostmasters, mistresses;
- 11 do you agree?
- 12 A. Do you mean access by a defendant?
- 13 Q. Access, first of all, by Investigators and the
- 14 lawyers?
- 15 A. In the sense that they didn't access it, rather
- 16 than they couldn't access it?
- 17 **Q**. Yes

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- 18 A. Yes, I agree.
- 19 Q. Let's move on to the other way round. Now,
- 20 you've been giving evidence in relation to the
- 21 system of disclosure that is operated through
- the criminal justice system in the criminal
- 23 courts?
- 24 **A.** Yes.
- 25 Q. That's a system that operates in both the

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- 1 Q. Okay. Clearly, until there is disclosure by the
- 2 Post Office of the bugs, errors and defects
- 3 within the system and the problems that the
- 4 system can cause, in other words create
- 5 shortfalls, create hidden losses, it is very
- 6 difficult for the defence to make applications
- 7 based upon that material?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. The applications that can be made through the
- 10 process, Section 8 applications -- is that
- 11 correct --
- 12 **A.** Yes.
- 13 Q. -- and that would be essentially saying that "We
- 14 wish to have material that relates to
- 15 a particular aspect of a defence case"?
- 16 A. Well, it's asserting we have reason to believe
- that you have material that will help us in
- 18 relation to this.
- 19 Q. Yes. The way that that can work -- and you've
- 20 prosecuted many cases and you well know that
- 21 I have defended in many cases -- the situation
- is that a defence, once on notice of such
- 23 material, can then make an application for it.
- 24 If you're prosecuting the case, you can respond
- 25 with the release of material that you believe is

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relevant to that request; is that correct? we don't, in fact, find that there's much of 1 2 A. Yes. 2 an ability for the criminal justice system to 3 Q. That process can continue. In fact, it can be bite on these disclosure provides as you go 4 quite a continuation of a process as more and 4 through, unless you get that starting point more material is targeted and found for 5 5 right? 6 disclosure purposes? 6 All that can happen is that, against a blanket 7 A. 7 of silence in relation to a particular topic, is Yes. 8 Q. Eventually, a judge is brought in to sometimes 8 the defence can ask for disclosure of material 9 that might touch on the reliability of the 9 resolve any issues that lay between the parties? 10 A. Yes, and the stage that can intervene between 10 system, as in most of these cases they did. But 11 those is -- particularly after the service of 11 there is a limit to how far that can go, 12 a defence statement, and as was the case in most 12 certainly in terms of any particularity, without 13 of these cases, there are letters from defence 13 something to bite on, you're right. solicitors asking for further disclosure without 14 Now, other aspects that you've been discussing 14 15 with Mr Beer relate to individual subpostmasters 15 got in the extent of waving Section 8 at the 16 prosecution, because the prosecution have 16 that have -- Mr Holmes is an example of this --17 17 a continuing duty of disclosure, and so the that have complained about the system, said that 18 defence ask, and it is often if the prosecution 18 the machine wouldn't work, essentially, is what 19 either responds saying no, or don't respond, 19 he's saying --20 that a Section 8 application may follow. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Yes. Where we're talking about the starting 21 Q. -- and that he rolled over, essentially, didn't 22 point, the inability or the failure to look into 22 account for those losses in the way that arguably the Post Office required because, 23 the questions of errors and defects within the 23 24 system that you've been discussing with Mr Beer, 24 otherwise, he couldn't be the Post Office open. when we're looking at that as a starting point, 25 25 You're aware of that? 178 A. I think, slightly disentangling that, I think 1 A. Yes. 1 2 Q. So, essentially, people were placed in 2 from the position of those acting for 3 an invidious position, do you agree, that 3 a defendant, where they were -- their 4 sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable instructions were, if they were in accordance 5 loss, they would then have to try to account for 5 with the interview, "I don't know why this 6 it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in happened but it must be the system because 7

the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case -- the 8 combined case of Hamilton, so that individual 9 pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were 10 overturned; do you agree? 11

A. I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these cases that I considered, and what was said in a lot of other cases as well that were dealt with under the blanket of the Hamilton decision.

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Q. The burden on criminal solicitors and defending solicitors and defending counsel was therefore made rather -- I was about to say more difficult, but made very difficult indeed, stymied in relation to disclosure processes and an entire system that seemed to thwart the ability for subpostmasters to make good what was

24 going on at the Post Office branch; do you 25 agree?

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I can't explain it otherwise", that they would 7 8 be up against, particularly once generic 9 statements started floating about, a positive 10 assertion that there isn't something wrong with 11 the system. 12

So you have, on the one hand, a defendant saying "It must be the system", you have the prosecution's evidence saying "It is not the system", and you then have to decide whether you allow your client to proceed to trial against that wall or whether you discuss with your client the possibility that a plea to something less than theft will keep them out of prison.

20 And that's a decision I wouldn't -- or 21 a conversation I wouldn't envy anybody.

22 Q. You've been referred by Mr Beer to a document --23 I'll take you back to it, please -- POL00059424,

24 the statement of Mr Jenkins.

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A. I've seen a few of those.

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1	Q.	My screen is not working, so I'm just going to
2		use Mr Jacobs', so I can see it from afar.
3		Now, you'll see there that, in relation to
4		Mr Jenkins' statement, that, if you look at the
5		first page, and if you take your eyes down to
6		the first part of the page, you'll see
7		a sentence that says:
8		"However I understand that my role is to
9		assist the court rather than represent the views
10		of my employers or Post Office Limited."
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	Now, in your statement, as an example at
13		page 241, paragraph 674, you discuss there your
14		issues that have been brought to your attention,
15		regarding the instruction of Mr Jenkins?
16	A.	Yes.
17	Q.	Have you found anything within the material that
18		you've examined that explains why it is in
19		Mr Jenkins' statement he also refers to his
20		own statement as a report, within the body of
21		that document have you found anything that
22		explains why it is Mr Jenkins' report/statement
23		says, "However I understand that my role is to
24		assist the court, rather than represent the
25		views of my employers or POL"? 181

boxes of the Criminal Procedure Rules in 1 2 relation to what a statement from an expert 3 should say about their role as an expert, then 4 it doesn't do it. 5 Q. But it's a curious sentence to have within such 6 a statement, because what it appears to do, at 7 least in part, is provide a direction of travel 8 going towards an expert report; do you agree? A. It perhaps shows an awareness that he was 9 10 providing evidence as an expert without really

Mr Jenkins and solicitors or advisers on behalf
of the Post Office.
A. No, or indeed of Fujitsu.
MR STEIN: Thank you, Mr Atkinson.
MR BEER: I think Mr Moloney has some questions, as
well, sir.

understanding what -- or at least setting out

Q. Yes, and, obviously, you're not privy to any

discussions, oral discussions, between

21 Questioned by MR MOLONEY

22 MR MOLONEY: Thank you, Mr Beer.

what that meant.

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Mr Atkinson, I represent a large number of postmasters, all of whom were prosecuted and convicted and all of whom have since had their

1 A. No, I mean, it's not -- because they didn't

2 discuss with Mr Jenkins or provide for

3 Mr Jenkins instructions as to his role as

4 an expert at all. There's nothing in the Post

5 Office communications with him that told him at

6 that time.

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7 Q. Is that a normal sentence or paragraph to find8 within a statement, an ordinary witness

10 A. It's part of a normal sentence --

statement?

11 Q. Normal for who? Normal for what type of

12 sentence?

A. Well, you would normally expect to see a muchmore detailed explanation of an expert's

understanding as to what their role was and who

16 they were there for. You might find a sentence

17 rather more like that in the statement of18 a witness who is making clear that they're

speaking for themselves, rather than for their

20 employer, for example if they were giving not

21 expert evidence but factual evidence about

22 a situation that occurred at work, they might

23 make clear they were speaking for themselves

24 rather than for anybody else.

But, if this was seeking to be ticking the 182

convictions overturned.

2 A. Yes, thank you.

3 **Q.** I wish to just ask you about the case of Khayyam

4 Ishaq and if at any time you can't hear me,

5 please say so.

6 A. You're very kind!

7 Q. I want to ask you about disclosure around what

8 happened in Birkenshaw Post Office after

9 Mr Ishaq was suspended. Now, Mr Ishaq was very

10 clear from very early in the proceedings that

11 the Horizon system was the cause of the apparent

12 shortfalls he'd suffered?

13 A. Yes. I think he also made reference to someone

else who worked there but Horizon was part of

15 his account from the outset.

16 Q. Right. He was essentially saying that one of

17 the people who had worked there had also done

18 the balances --

19 **A.** Yes.

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20 Q. -- and so that needed to be looked at?

21 A. Yes

22 Q. Absolutely.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Indeed, you referred to that gentleman,

25 Mr Liaquat Ali during your evidence when being

# The Post

1		asked questions by Mr Beer.	1		establish whether the subsequent subpostmaster
2	A.	Yes.	2		had any problems with the Horizon system after
3	Q.	I want to show you a few documents, if I may,	3		all the kit in the branch would have presumably
4		around this issue I've raised about disclosure	4		remained the same.
5		after Mr Ishaq was suspended and get your views	5		"Many thanks.
6		on the disclosure process around this issue,	6		"Martin."
7		yes?	7 .	A.	Yes.
8	A.	Okay.	8	Q.	So what we see there is that, by 28 January,
9	Q.	So the first document I'd like you to look at,	9		Mr Smith thought it a good idea to prove that
10		if you would, is POL00119445. Here we are.	10		any discrepancies could not be due to the
11		This is an email from Martin Smith on 28 January	11		Horizon system or its associated kit by
12		2013, and it's to Steve Bradshaw who was the	12		reference to what had happened to the
13		Investigator in this case?	13		subpostmasters after Mr Ishaq had been
14	A.	Yes.	14		suspended?
15	Q.	The lead investigator, copying in Mark Ford, now	15	A.	Yes.
16		Mark Ford King's Counsel, who was prosecuting	16	Q.	By 31 January, that email being 28 January, so
17		counsel in the case?	17		some three days later, Mr Bradshaw had completed
18	A.	Yes.	18		and signed the statement, which was served as
19	Q.	Usual introductions, but the final paragraph I'd	19		part of a note of additional evidence. That
20		like to take you to, it's down towards the	20		statement is POL00059592. So this is three days
21		bottom of the page, and we can probably read it	21		after that email, Mr Smith, the solicitor, the
22		without having to focus in on it, but it says:	22		reviewing lawyer, suggesting that this issue be
23		"Given the stance which the defendant is	23		addressed. It's over to the second page of this
24		still taking with regard to the malfunctioning	24		statement, do you see that's dated 31 January
25		of the Horizon system, is it possible to	25		2013.
		185			186
1		Yes.	1		Ishaq in early February 2013. If we could put
2		Yes. We see that:	2		Ishaq in early February 2013. If we could put up the document POL00059652, we see this again.
2			2		
2 3 4		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the	2 3 4		up the document POL00059652, we see this again. It's an email from Martin Smith, it's dated 6 February and it shows that Mr Smith had been
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2 3 4 5 6 7		We see that:  "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered.  "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and	2 3 4 5 6 7		up the document POL00059652, we see this again. It's an email from Martin Smith, it's dated 6 February and it shows that Mr Smith had been to Bradford Crown Court on the morning of 6 February for the Mention, and the defence were unable to persuade the judge to order any
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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	Q. A. Q.	We see that:  "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered.  "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct.  "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported."  We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to assist in demonstrating that there were no problems with the system? Yes. That's pursuant to that suggestion in the email from Mr Smith to Mr Bradshaw on 28 January?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		up the document POL00059652, we see this again. It's an email from Martin Smith, it's dated 6 February and it shows that Mr Smith had been to Bradford Crown Court on the morning of 6 February for the Mention, and the defence were unable to persuade the judge to order any further disclosure.  It's to Steve Bradshaw again, with Mark Ford copied in again. The important paragraph is the second one:  "The [defendant's] solicitor told me that the [defendant] still operated the store in which the Post Office is situated. The [defendant] had instructed them that both subsequent [subpostmasters] had told him that they had experienced problems with the [Horizon] system. Although you have said in your final statement that 'During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011, no problems or discrepancies have been reported', the defence may well suggest that this does not necessarily mean that no
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	We see that:  "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered.  "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct.  "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported."  We see there?  Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to assist in demonstrating that there were no problems with the system?  Yes. That's pursuant to that suggestion in the email	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		up the document POL00059652, we see this again. It's an email from Martin Smith, it's dated 6 February and it shows that Mr Smith had been to Bradford Crown Court on the morning of 6 February for the Mention, and the defence were unable to persuade the judge to order any further disclosure.  It's to Steve Bradshaw again, with Mark Ford copied in again. The important paragraph is the second one:  "The [defendant's] solicitor told me that the [defendant] still operated the store in which the Post Office is situated. The [defendant] had instructed them that both subsequent [subpostmasters] had told him that they had experienced problems with the [Horizon] system. Although you have said in your final statement that 'During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011, no problems or discrepancies have been reported', the defence may well suggest

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1		statements from both subsequent SPMs confirming	1		penultimate sentence states that no problems or
2		that they had experienced no problems with the	2		of discrepancies have been reported since the
3		[Horizon] system etc."	3		transfer to a new interim subpostmaster since
4		Yes?	4		the suspension of Mr Ishaq in February 2011,
5		So first of all, Mr Smith has got the	5		with regards to this could you please clarify
6		statement of 31 January. Now he's looking for	6		whether further enquiries were made ie has
7			7		a full audit been undertaken since February 2011
		essentially corroboration of what Mr Bradshaw	8		•
8		says in that statement of the 31 January by	9		and if so what was the outcome of that audit.
9		seeking statements from the subsequent			"If no discrepancy has been highlighted from
10		subpostmasters	10		a subsequent audit then please be on notice that
11	Α.	Yes.	11 12		we will require that data to commission our own
12	Q.	essentially saying, "We'd better get some			audit."
13		statements from those subpostmasters to support	13		Then they look forward to the response.
14		your assertion".	14		So the defence is essentially saying, "We
15		There's then a letter dated 8 February 2013	15		know that you say [and this is on the basis of
16		from Mr Ishaq's solicitors to the Post Office.	16		Mr Bradshaw's statement] that there is no
17		That is POL00059675, please. Thank you very	17		reported discrepancy but have you done an audit?
18		much.	18		And if there is no discrepancy, we want to carry
19		If we scroll down, please. So this is	19		out our own audit and actually you know that
20		8 February 2013. The Mention is being held on	20		we've got an expert in place to be looking at
21		6 February 2013. Two days later we see Musa	21		this in any event".
22		Patels, down at the bottom, as the solicitors	22	A.	Yes.
23		for Mr Ishaq, and the second paragraph reads:	23	Q.	Yes. So putting them on notice, as they say,
24		"Further to the service of the additional	24		that they will carry out that audit, please.
25		evidence at page 43 Stephen Bradshaw's 189	25		There's then another email from Mr Smith, 190
1		this time to trial counsel, Mark Ford, and this	1		said to Mr Bradshaw about getting the
2		is POL00059675.	2		statements.
3		I'm sorry, I've just given you the same	3	A.	Yes.
4				М.	
5		reference to the letter from Musa Patels and	4	Q.	Then referring to the request from Musa Patels,
		reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate			Then referring to the request from Musa Patels, he says:
6			4		he says:
6 7		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.	4 5		he says: "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the
7		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than	4 5 6 7		he says: "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.
7 8		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads	4 5 6 7 8		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the
7 8 9		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:	4 5 6 7		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would
7 8 9 10		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"	4 5 6 7 8 9		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's
7 8 9 10 11		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in	4 5 6 7 8 9 10		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."
7 8 9 10 11		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"  So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw:	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they
7 8 9 10 11 12 13		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"  So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw:  "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today."  So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the statements I suggested, and he tells him that he's made a decision that they're not going to get the data on what is essentially the disclosure test. It won't assist or undermine
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q.	I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"  So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw:  "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today."  So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels.  Right.	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal.  Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the statements I suggested, and he tells him that he's made a decision that they're not going to get the data on what is essentially the disclosure test. It won't assist or undermine because we have the statement from Mr Patel saying there were no significant shortages, and
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"  So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw:  "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today."  So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels.  Right.  "Steve is in the process of taking statements from two subsequent subpostmasters who have not	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q.	he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal. Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the statements I suggested, and he tells him that he's made a decision that they're not going to get the data on what is essentially the disclosure test. It won't assist or undermine because we have the statement from Mr Patel saying there were no significant shortages, and he's notifying Mr Ford of the line he's going to take.
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"  So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw:  "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today."  So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels.  Right.  "Steve is in the process of taking statements from two subsequent subpostmasters who have not experienced any problems with the Horizon system. They have not had any significant	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal. Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the statements I suggested, and he tells him that he's made a decision that they're not going to get the data on what is essentially the disclosure test. It won't assist or undermine because we have the statement from Mr Patel saying there were no significant shortages, and he's notifying Mr Ford of the line he's going to take.  Yes.  Now, we don't have Mr Ford's reply to that but
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"  So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw:  "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today."  So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels.  Right.  "Steve is in the process of taking statements from two subsequent subpostmasters who have not experienced any problems with the Horizon system. They have not had any significant shortages."	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q.	"I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal. Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the statements I suggested, and he tells him that he's made a decision that they're not going to get the data on what is essentially the disclosure test. It won't assist or undermine because we have the statement from Mr Patel saying there were no significant shortages, and he's notifying Mr Ford of the line he's going to take.  Yes.  Now, we don't have Mr Ford's reply to that but we do have the letter that Mr Smith then sent to
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.  In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows:  "Hi Mark"  So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw:  "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today."  So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels.  Right.  "Steve is in the process of taking statements from two subsequent subpostmasters who have not experienced any problems with the Horizon system. They have not had any significant	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	he says:  "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal. Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case."  So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the statements I suggested, and he tells him that he's made a decision that they're not going to get the data on what is essentially the disclosure test. It won't assist or undermine because we have the statement from Mr Patel saying there were no significant shortages, and he's notifying Mr Ford of the line he's going to take.  Yes.  Now, we don't have Mr Ford's reply to that but

# The Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

19 December 2023

1		first paragraph of that and it's dated	1		I couldn't hear you, then, Mr Atkinson.	
2		15 February 2013, and it reads:	2	A.	I'm so sorry: yes.	
3		"Thank you for your letter of 8 February	3	Q. Having commenced on that strategy for proving		
4		2013. We enclose in duplicate copies of	4	their case, it was an important part of proof of		
5		a Notice of Additional Evidence, the statements	5		the integrity of Horizon.	
6		of Stephen Bradshaw of 11 February 2013 and	6	A.	Yes.	
7		Abdullah Patel of 13 February 2013 and	7	Q.	The defence, in saying that they wished to audit	
8		an up-to-date page count. There is no further	8		the data for that period, was indicating that it	
9		disclosure to be made in this case."	9		wished to put the prosecution to proof on that	
10		Now, that's one subpostmaster, Mr Patel, and	10		point?	
11		essentially that statement simply says, "I've	11	A.	Yes.	
12		had no significant shortages at there's been no	12	Q.		
13		problems with the kit", and then simply says,	13		after Mr Ishaq's suspension, had shown that	
14		"and no further disclosure to be made".	14		there had been shortages, that would obviously	
15		Now, the purpose of these statements was to	15		undermine the prosecution case?	
16		make the point that because subsequent	16	A.	Yes.	
17		subpostmasters had experienced no significant	17	Q.		
18		shortages, then there can have been no problems	18	_	prove its point on that part of the case?	
19		with Horizon in Mr Ishaq's office at the time he	19	A.		
20		was involved with it.	20		of calling the operation of the system into	
21	A.	Yes.	21		question, as well as proving that their specific	
22	Q.	It was thus a point that the prosecution relied	22		point on it wasn't a valid one.	
23	٠	on in respect of a material issue in the case	23	O.	As a natural corollary of that, it would assist	
24		and it was therefore incumbent on the	24	٠.	the defence case?	
25		prosecution to prove the point.	25	Δ.	Absolutely.	
		193			194	
1	Q.	Now, as the reviewing lawyer, could Mr Smith	1		made, were being made in the absence of	
2		forgive this, it may be a rhetorical question	2		knowledge, which is never the right position to	
3		could he know that the data would not undermine	3		be making disclosure decisions about.	
4		the prosecution case or assist the defence case	4	Q.	And simply a bare assertion that there is no	
5		without seeing the data or asking Mr Bradshaw to	5		further disclosure to be made without any	
6		even to get the data?	6		explanation of that?	
7	A.	I suppose it's a two-stage thing. If he had	7	A.	Well, making the assertion there's no further	
8		and it's not clear if he had from what you've	8		disclosure to be made when, on the face of it,	
9		shown me if he had the results of audits that	9		he didn't know whether there was any further	
10		showed at points during that period that there	10		disclosure to be made.	
11		was nothing untoward, that would allow him then	11	MR	R MOLONEY: Thank you very much. That's all I ask,	
12		to assess whether the underlying data took	12		Mr Atkinson.	
13		matters further but, on the face of this, they	13	MF	R BEER: I think, lastly, Mr Henry, sir.	
14		weren't even giving any results as to audit.	14	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Mr Henry, before you start,	
15	Q.	Wasn't he, in essence, refusing the defence the	15		I unfortunately have to rise at 4.25 today.	
16		data to make its own checks on that point that	16		I have no choice in the matter, so I'm sorry you	
17		the prosecution wished to prove?	17		are confined to ten minutes, but you'll have to	
18	A.	Certainly on what you were taking me through, it	18		blame your colleagues who told me they'd be five	
19		appears that the defence were saying, in the	19		minutes and took about half an hour between	
20		first instance, "Have you looked to see whether	20		them.	
21		there are any problems by looking for audits?"	21		Questioned by MR HENRY	
22		That question, as far as I can see, was	22	MF	R HENRY: Yes. Thank you, sir.	
23		never actually answered nor indeed asked by the	23		Mrs Adedayo's overturned conviction, you	
			24		will agree, is a shortfall case?	

25 **A.** Yes.

25

decisions that, on the face of it, were being 195

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1	Q.	Because, of course, as an irreducible minimum,
2		the calculations that gave rise to the shortfall
3		are dependent upon data generated and provided

are dependent upon data generated and provided

4 for by Horizon?

5 A. Yes

6 Q. I don't ask you, of course, to comment on the 7 merits of this but a shortfall which she had 8 a stark choice whether to submit to them -- the 9 figures, that is -- sign off on the figures, or

10 cease trading, whilst still remaining liable for 11 the shortfall?

12 A. Yes, again, I'm not familiar with the details of the contract but that is my understanding from 13 14

15 Q. Yes. Now, you are also now aware that before 16 Mrs Bernard, the Investigator, had arrived at 17 the scene, there was the backdrop of 18 an interview conducted by an auditor in breach

19 of PACE?

A. Well, I'm aware that there was -- that there had 20 21 been a conversation between Mrs Adedayo and the 22 Auditor. The material, I have to say, that I'd 23 seen, certainly before the end of last week, as 24 to the nature of that and the extent of that

25 conversation was very unclear. The

Q. No. Yet no attempt was made by Mrs Bernard to 1 2 investigate Mrs Adedayo's bewildering account, 3 to probe or question the overall effect, in 4 other words, as to whether there was any truth 5 in the mysterious payments to third parties to 6 whom she claims she owed and had paid money?

7 A. Certainly, I saw no evidence of such enquiries, 8

no.

9 Q. No. So, therefore, Mrs Bernard then 10 approached -- and I don't mean this 11 pejoratively -- an interrogatory approach. In 12 other words, she elicited through close-ended 13 questions or leading questions an account which 14 she proffered to her superiors?

15 A. Yes

16 Q. Now, if there was a risk that Mrs Adedayo's 17 account was unreliable because of things said or 18 done -- notwithstanding the paucity of the 19 information that exists now but of course the 20 circumstances were very different then -- if 21 there was a risk that Mrs Adedayo's account was unreliable because of things said or done, it 22 23 would have been all the more important, would it 24 not, to have actually investigated independently 25 of what she was telling Mrs Bernard?

investigation report, for example, didn't really

2 fill in the gaps as to what had happened and

there was, I think, no statement from the

4 auditor.

3

5 Q. That's correct, but it resulted in what I'm 6 going to describe in inverted commas as 7 a "confession", did it not, although of

8 an equivocal nature?

9 A. Certainly there was reference in the 10 investigation report to admissions having been 11 made, which were then addressed in the sense 12 there were -- questions asked about them in the 13 interview. Mrs Adedayo's answers about them rather less clear to follow. 14

15 Q. Exactly. Now, that interview that was actually 16 later conducted -- following what I'm going to 17 describe as the equivocal confession to the 18 auditor at the scene -- but the formal interview 19 conducted by Mrs Bernard was -- well, it 20 elicited contradictory, confusing and internally 21 inconsistent answers, as you have accepted --

22

23 Q. -- described by Counsel to the Inquiry as 24 "baffling", and you don't disagree with that?

25 A. No, I don't.

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1 A. If the Investigator had concerns that it might 2 be unreliable, then they needed to investigate 3 it to ascertain whether it was or not.

Q. Yes. We know from evidence given to the Inquiry 5 what Mrs Bernard said was her state of mind at 6 the time, that she did not believe the account 7 she'd been given, but she made no attempt, as 8 she admitted to the Inquiry, no attempt, to

9 investigate whether it was true or not? 10 Yes, I haven't seen or heard Ms Bernard's

11 evidence but I understand that from what Mr Beer

12 said a little earlier.

13 Q. Yes, but an examination of Mrs Adedayo's bank 14 accounts conducted by a competent Investigator 15 would have established that there were no 16 unexplained transfers of money in or out, no 17 evidence of misappropriation nor any payments 18 alleged to those mysterious third parties.

19 Sir, can I just, in conclusion, ask you if 20 you would agree with this: are we not left with 21 the impression that Mrs Adedayo's case was not properly investigated? 22

23 I can't say what would have been found had 24 Mrs Adedayo's bank accounts been examined but 25 then, equally, neither could the Investigator,

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1		because they didn't look.	1		making charging decisions.	
2	Q.	Yes. So	2	Q	. Exactly, and to adopt the word you use with	
3	A.		3		perhaps characteristic understatement earlier,	
4		a reasonable line of inquiry, both to pursue	4		"questionable to proceed in such circumstances	
5		what had happened to the money, to assess	5		without further investigation"?	
6		whether there'd been dishonesty and, as you	6	A	<del>-</del>	
7		rightly say, to assess whether the account	7	Q		
8		Ms Adedayo had given was a reliable one or not.	8	•	we've got one more minute left left with the	
9	Q.	So we're left with the impression that it was	9		potential, are we not, that this was a false	
10	Œ.	· _	10		confession, a bewildering, baffling, and	
	٨	not properly investigated?  And so, therefore in these circumstances it.	11		internally inconsistent account and that the	
11	Α.	And so, therefore, in those circumstances, it	12		•	
12	_	was not properly investigated.			underlying allegations could have been merely	
13	Q.	Therefore, that it was questionable to even	13	_	an artifact of system error?	
14		charge in such circumstances?	14		Yes, I think that's right.	
15	A.	Well, it was a situation where to an extent	15		R HENRY: Thank you.	
16		I suppose it would depend on the extent to which	16	SI	IR WYN WILLIAMS: I congratulate you, Mr Henry, on	
17		the Investigator flagged up to the lawyer	17		the conciseness of your questions.	
18		that whether there were any concerns about	18		And I thank you, Mr Atkinson, very, very	
19		the account. If it was clear from and I just	19		much for all the assistance you've given me over	
20		don't remember, I'm afraid, whether it was clear	20		a number of days at this Inquiry. I'm extremely	
21		from the investigation report that Mrs Bernard	21		grateful to you.	
22		had those concerns about the reliability of the	22	TI	HE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.	
23		accounts. If it was communicated in that way to	23	M	R BEER: Thank you very much, sir.	
24		the lawyer, then the lawyer, in my view, ought	24		Thank you, Mr Atkinson.	
25		to have been asking questions, rather than 201	25		Sir, we reconvene tomorrow with Lisa Allen 202	
1		at, I believe, at 10.00 am			INDEX	
2	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.			RICHARD DUNCAN ATKINSON (continued)	2
3	MR	BEER: which is the last witness for this			Questioned by MR BEER (continued)	2
4		year.			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	ے 171
5	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you for reminding me,			•	183
6		Mr Beer.			-	196
7	MR	BEER: Sir.			Questioned by MIN HEMNY	130
8	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: See you tomorrow morning,				
9		everyone.				
10	(4.2	4 pm)				
11		(The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am				
12		on the following day)				
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