1		Tuesday, 16 May 2023	1	Α.	Yes, it is.
2	(10	.00 am)	2	Q.	Before I ask you whether the contents of it are true,
3	MR	BEER: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear me?	3		can you turn up paragraphs 1 and 7, please. In
4		R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.	4		paragraph 1, second sentence, you say:
5	MR	BEER: May I call Michael Peach, please.	5		"I left Fujitsu in September 2009."
6		MICHAEL EDWARD PRYOR PEACH (affirmed)	6		In paragraph 7, second sentence, you say:
7		Questioned by MR BEER	7		"I held this role until I left Fujitsu on
8	MR	BEER: Good morning, Mr Peach. My name is Jason Beer and	8		30 September 2009."
9		I ask questions on behalf of the Inquiry. Can you give	9		Is there a correction that you would like to make
10		us your full name, please.	10		to those two sentences?
11	A.	Michael Edward Pryor Peach.	11	Α.	Yes, there is. I now, having reviewed documents from
12		I think in the documents you are certainly known as Mik	12		last week, believe that I did not actually leave until
13		Peach?	13		December 2009.
14	Α.	Yes.	14	Q.	Is that because we have shown you, amongst other things,
15	Q.		15		some emails with your name on it that post-date
16		Yes.	16		September 2009?
17	Q.	Thank you very much for coming to the Inquiry to assist	17	Α.	That's correct.
18		it in its work, for previously providing a witness	18	Q.	I think you heard the evidence of Mr Parker the other
19		statement to the Inquiry. We're very grateful to you.	19		day?
20		You should have in front of you a hard copy of the	20	Α.	l did.
21		witness statement. It's dated 3 March 2023 and, if you	21	Q.	Thank you.
22		turn to the last page of it, which is page 52, there	22		I think there's another issue of emphasis that
23		should be a signature?	23		you've raised later in the witness statement I won't
24	Α.	Yes.	24		get you to make the correction now we'll deal with
25	Q.	Is that your signature?	25		that in due course.
		1			2
1	A.	Understood.	1	A.	No.
2	Q.	But, subject to those points, are the contents of this	2	Q.	Was the identity of their role the same, ie their job
3		witness statement true to the best of your knowledge?	3		function
4	A.	Yes, they are.	4	A.	No.
5	Q.	Thank you very much. For the purpose of the transcript	5	Q.	or did that change?
6		the URN is WITN04510100.	6	A.	That changed as well.
7		Can I start, please, with your professional	7	Q.	Can you tell us first by job function and then by name,
8		experience, career and qualifications. Do you have any	8		if you can remember it, who the relevant report was?
9		professional qualifications that are relevant to the	9	A.	Initially I reported to Stephen Muchow, who was Customer
10		issues that we're to discuss today in your evidence?	10		Service Director. At later times, I reported to the
11	A.	No.	11		Support Services Manager, who they reported to the
12	Q.	I think you joined ICL, as it was then known, in 1980;	12		Customer Service Director.
13		is that right?	13	Q.	Who was the Support Services Manager?
14	A.	That's correct.	14	A.	There were a number: Peter Burden, Carl Marx, Andy Hall,
15	Q.	Having worked there for 17 years, you joined the Pathway	15		Naomi Elliot, at which point I've run out. There were
16		project or Pathway, as it was then known, in 1997; is	16		more.
17		that right?	17	Q.	Okay. Can you remember roughly in the 12-year period
18	A.	Yes, I did.	18		when the change over occurred, from when you were
19	Q.	You joined as manager of the SSC.	19		reporting straight into a director and then when there
20	A.	Yes.	20		was somebody who was between you and a director?
21	Q.	A role which you occupied for 12 or so years until you	21	A.	The first change occurred under Stephen Muchow, so it
22		left in December 2009?	22		would have been round about 1999. There were times at
23	A.	Yes.	23		later dates when the structure changed and I reported to
24	Q.	When you were manager of the SSC, did the person to whom	24		the CS Director, other times when I reported to the
25		you reported remain the same over that 12-year period?	25		Support Services Manager. So it wasn't a consistent
		3			4

1		move down the organisation: it was move down, move up,	1	page, please, to "Document contro
2		move down, move up.	2	provenance of it, when it was first o
3	Q.	I see. I understand. How many staff did you manage in	3	version 1. Do you know why it wou
4		the SSC?	4	the front page as a draft when it se
5	A.		5	the status of version 1 in document
6	Q.	We've heard that there was a flat reporting structure	6	A. The version number that I have at
7		with everyone reporting to you; is that accurate?	7	1.
8	A.	That's correct.	8	Q. Yes. If we just go back to the first p
9	Q.	I think, however, Mr Parker, Steve Parker, was nominally	9	under "Status" it says "Draft"?
10		your deputy and, in particular, he deputised for you	10	<b>A.</b> An oversight probably mine.
11		when you were away; is that also correct?	11	Q. Okay. Can we go to page 7, please
12	A.	That's correct.	12	document sets out the responsibilit
13	Q.	Did he perform any other roles as deputy manager?	13	first and second line support up to
14	A.	Not that I can think of.	14	support; is that right?
15	Q.	Can we look at the role of the SSC, please. We've heard	15	A. That's correct.
16		a lot of evidence about this already, so I'm going to	16	Q. So HSH and SMC obligations up to
17		take things relatively briefly. Can we do so through	17	obligations?
18		a document, FUJ00119994.	18	A. Yes.
19		You should have in front of you a document called	19	Q. If we just go down, please, to (d), the
20		"End to End Support Process, Operational Level	20	is said to be, for those two lines of
21		Agreement", dated 10 October 1999 as version 1 and, if	21	"To 'filter' all calls for which t
22		we just scroll down a little bit, please, we can see	22	already known to the support comn
23		that the author of it is you.	23	a resolution is already known or ha
24	A.	That's correct.	24	this case context the term 'resolution
25	Q.	This version is marked as a draft. If we go over the 5	25	a number of forms, including: 6
1		"The statement that the problem is resolved in	1	I would use the term "from the very
2		release xxx of the Horizon solution.	2	and SMC existed before I joined, b
3		"There is a documented workaround for the problem .	3	relationship and targets placed on
4		"The documentation relating to that part of the	4	until I wrote this document.
5		system is under review of being changed."	5	Q. I see. So why did you introduce thi
6		Then in bold and italics:	6	A. I think it was the first job that Ste
7		"No calls passed to the SSC which are subsequently	7	me to do when I arrived was "You r
8		resolved as known errors, except in cases where the	8	relationship between the four lines
9		symptoms reported by the customer did not match the	9	I based this document on previous
10		symptoms recorded in the known error documentation, and	10	supporting VME systems in order to
11		which therefore the HSH/SMC could not reasonably have	11	SSC weren't overloaded.
12		been expected to find."	12	MR BEER: Before we proceed can I ju
13		Could you explain what this direction is to the	13	camera is working? You appear to I
14		first and second lines of support, please?	14	our screen and your microphone
15	A.	The structure of the SSC and its function meant that we	15	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I think I probably
16		were supposed to receive from second line only the first	16	and inadvertently stopped the video
17		instance of a new software problem. The targets	17	MR BEER: Yes, I think that's what hap
18		throughout this document were aimed at the HSH and SMC	18	you.
19		to ensure that they did not overload the SSC with calls	19	Mr Peach, what was the reas
20		that they could have filtered themselves.	20	it, that Mr Muchow said you needed
21	Q.	So was this a direction given to them from the very	21	relationship between the four tiers
22		start, to reduce calls related to so-called unknown	22	A. Because although the four tiers of
23		errors from being diverted and escalated to the SSC and	23	the relationship between them had
24		then through to fourth line support?	24	documented.
25	A.	That was the intention of the document. I don't think 7	25	Q. Was it working adequately?

page, please, to "Document control", you can see the drafted, moving to ould still be marked on eems to have achieved nt control?

- the top of the page is
- page, you can see
- se. This section of the ities, I think, of the the third line
  - to SSC, third line
  - the responsibility support:

the problem is munity and for which as been generated. In ion' can take

ry start" because HSH but the exact them were not there

- his?
- ephen Muchow gave need to sort out the s of support". s experience of to make sure that the

ust check, sir, that your have disappeared from

y mute myself generally eo. Sorry about that.

ppened, sir. Thank

ason, as you understood ed to sort out the of support?

support were there, d not been adequately

A. There was no live system at that time and my impression 1 1 would have been performing? 2 2 was clearly not. A. I think he was the Support Services Manager. 3 Q. Why was it your impression that it wasn't working 3 Q. So somebody to whom you reported? 4 4 adequately? A. Correct 5 5 Q. The distribution at the bottom of the page, second from A. Because there was no document such as this that defined 6 the relationship between the lines of support. 6 the bottom "SSC Manager". That's you? 7 Q. Was this issue -- the passing of calls inappropriately 7 A. That's correct. 8 from lines 1 and 2 to line 3 -- an issue that remained 8 Q. Now, the role of the SSC is set out in this policy 9 over the duration of your time as manager of the SSC? 9 document. Can we turn to, please, page 8 and look at 10 A. No, it improved greatly as first and second line became 10 paragraph 4.1: better trained, properly staffed and as the SSC got more 11 "The principles by which the SSC operates are 11 12 experience with the system. 12 documented in "End-to-End Support Process Operational 13 Q. In that period of 12 or so years, were you aware of any 13 Level Agreement ..." 14 inappropriate pressure being placed on first and second 14 I think that's the document we just looked at? 15 line support not to pass calls on to third line support? 15 A. Yes. 16 A. No, I was not aware of such pressure. 16 Q. The reference CS/FSP/006 is the document we looked at: 17 Q. Can we move on a little bit, please, to FUJ00120446. 17 "... which defines the responsibilities of the 18 18 You will see this is dated 29 January 2001. It's four levels of support towards each other. This 19 described as the "Customer Support Services Operations 19 document is effectively a service level agreement 20 Manual". The owner of it is Peter Burden. The author 20 between the support units, outlining specific tasks and 21 is "Richard Burton, A&TC". Can you recall what that 21 measures of success. 22 22 stands for? "The aim of the SSC is to provide a support 23 A. No, sorry. 23 capability to Pathway that resolves technical problems 24 24 Q. Then it says "Technical Authors" and then Peter Burden. in the minimum time and with the minimum amount of 25 At this time, what function do you think Peter Burden 25 disruption to the service. The SSC aims to provide 1 a centre of technical expertise for Customer Service, 1 other people. So this is basically collating all of 2 providing technical advice, guidance and expertise 2 those into one document. 3 relating to all parts of the Pathway system. 3 Q. You see obligation number 5 is to: 4 "... specifically the SSC has responsibilities to: 4 "Ensure that the incident is resolved within the 5 "First and second ... 5 total time allowed by the contract between the customer 6 "Fourth line support." 6 and Pathway." 7 7 Then 4.1.1: Q. Were there written service level agreements regulating 8 "SSC responsibilities to first and second line 8 9 the work of the SSC setting out times, volumes and other support." 9 10 10 If we can expand that to shown all 13 obligations, 11 11 ie look at the next page as well, if possible. Thank A. No. As far as I'm aware, there were no SLAs or SLTs in 12 the contract that related to the resolution of software 12 you very much. You can see that there are 13 or so 13 problems. Most of the SLAs and SLTs related to hardware 13 obligations set out imposed on the SSC down to first and 14 second line support. What did you understand the idea 14 issues and network. 15 of this document as opposed to your document was in 15 Q. So what does this obligation mean then? 16 setting these out in this way? 16 A. For me, it meant try and keep the SSC on track with the 17 A. My recollection is that this document was a services 17 obligations which were stated in the previous document. 18 manual for the whole of Customer Service and that the 18 But, in terms of obligations to the customer in the 19 CS/FSP/006, so the previous document that we looked at, 19 contract, it has no meaning. 20 formed the basis of the SSC part of the CS operations 20 Q. Do you know why it's there, if it has no meaning? 21 21 A. Only because I believe it was extracted from the manual 22 Q. So this is looking at all four lines of support? 22 previous document as one of the SSC's obligations. 23 A. This document is the services manual for Customer 23 Q. The previous document being the one we looked at --24 Service. It's not just the SSC, it's the other units 24 25 25 within Customer Service who had their own obligations to Q. -- the one that you drafted? 11 12

1	A.	Yes.	1		included in either a maintenance
2	Q.	Why did you, therefore, include something in a document	2	Q.	Can we look at obligation 7, pleas
3		that had no meaning?	3		"[To] Create and maintain a
4	A.	I didn't write this document. I will have reviewed it	4		deficiencies within the Pathway sy
5		but I didn't write it. I think it's probably a common	5		to these problems, where known."
6		clause that would have included the other units that did	6		8:
7		have SLAs and SLTs attached to them.	7		"Allow the HSH and SMC a
8	Q.	This is taking the reader and, therefore, taking the SSC	8		that they can fulfil their function of
9		back to the contract as a measure of progress,	9		known errors."
10		performance or success, isn't it?	10		Does this essentially descri
11	A.	It is.	11	A.	Yes, it does.
12	Q.	But you're saying, in fact, to your knowledge, the	12	Q.	Was the design and creation of K
13		contract didn't contain such a measure?	13		obligation 7, essentially
14	A.	Not for the resolution of software calls, no.	14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	Were there SLAs in respect of the responsiveness of the	15	Q.	or the manifestation of obligatio
16		HSH or the SMC?	16	A.	Yes.
17	A.	Yes, there were.	17	Q.	Did both first and second line sup
18	Q.	Do you know why there wasn't an equivalent for the SSC?	18		the KEL system?
19	A.	No, for certain, no. I believe, however, that most of	19	A.	Yes, they did.
20		the SLAs and SLTs related to hardware so there were	20	Q.	Can we look, please, at 4.1.2 furth
21		specific times for engineers to visit post offices to	21		thank you which sets out SSC r
22		replace counters, et cetera, but I think it was always	22		fourth line support. Again, at item
23		accepted that, when it came to software problems, any	23		an obligation to:
24		code fix would require extensive testing before it was	24		"Filter out all calls for which
25		released to the live estate and would generally be 13	25		already known to the support com 14
1		a solution is already known or has been generated	1		placed on any call that we could s
2		[including] problems for which the SSC knows	2		I mean, if we believed there was s
3		a resolution but has not yet incorporated the resolution	3		issue and it was a code problem,
4		into the Known Error Log."	4		to fourth line, regardless of what o
5		Is this a common feature of support services;	5		there.
6		namely, the filtering out at every stage of calls before	6	Q.	That document can come down n
7		passage to the next stage?	7		You said that "if we believe
8	A.	Yes, I would describe it as that.	8		problem".
9	Q.	Was the SSC, to your knowledge, ever under any pressure	9	A.	Yes.
10		to avoid passing problems up to the fourth line of	10	Q.	If there was no evidence of a code
11		support?	11		happen then?
12	A.	No.	12	A.	The SSC person who was handling
13	Q.	If an issue was resolved under existing KEL guidance, or	13		a judgement about where they thou
14		an existing KEL, or if a problem was referred to the SSC	14		in the system. If it was possible the
15		with insufficient evidence, would that be sent to fourth	15		problem, then it would still go to fo
16		line support for investigation?	16		was likely to have been a hardwar
17	A.	Sorry, could you repeat the two conditions there?	17		have gone back to the SMC, and
18	Q.	Yes. If an issue was thought to be resolved under	18	Q.	Would it be dismissed as a user e
19		existing KEL guidance it's been referred in to SSC	19		error?
20		Right.	20	A.	It would not be dismissed as a use
21	Q.	or if the issue had insufficient evidence of a system	21		certainly possible that the SSC sta
22		problem, would that be referred to fourth line support	22		said, "I believe on the balance of
23		for further investigation?	23		is most likely to be a user error".
24	A.	It certainly could be if the KEL was believed to not	24		we tended to use was "possible us
25		actually fix the problem. There was no restrictions	25		a user error".

or a major release.

ase:

a register of known system and the solution

access to this register so of filtering out

cribe the KEL system?

- KEL the response to
  - ion 7?
- pport have access to
  - rther down the page -responsibilities to m 2 there is recorded

ch the problem is mmunity and for which

send to fourth line. still an underlying , then we would send it documentation was

now.

ed that it was a code

- de problem, what would
- ing the call would make ought the problem existed that it was a code fourth line. If it are problem, it would d so on.
- error or possible user
- ser error but it's staff member could have probability that this Actually, the term user error" not "this is a user error".

1	Q.	In what you have just said there you've used "on the	1		expect a subpostmaster to provide?
2		balance of probabilities it is a user error"	2	A.	Recollection of what it was that they had done prior to
3	A.	Yes.	3		reporting the error. It's a very difficult area because
4	Q.	and "it is possible that it is a user error".	4		there was not sufficient diagnostic capability on the
5	A.	Yes.	5		counters to examine exactly what the postmaster had
6	Q.	Do you recognise that there's a difference between	6		done. So, whilst the SSC could take all of the evidence
7		those?	7		and put it through code or utilities that SSC staff had
8	A.	Yes, I do.	8		produced, in order to check the code, what we could
9	Q.	To what level of satisfaction did an SSC diagnostician	9		never do was find out precisely what the postmaster had
10		need to be satisfied in order to attribute the code	10		done on the counter.
11		"user error" to a problem?	11	Q.	You said that there wasn't a sufficient diagnostic
12	A.	I could not quote you a percentage on that. I mean,	12		facility at the counter level.
13		they would need to be fairly certain before passing it	13	A.	That's correct.
14		back as a user error, as they would need to be fairly	14	Q.	Can you just explain what you mean by that?
15		certain that something was a code error to pass it	15	A.	A log of keystrokes performed on the counter would have
16		through to fourth line. If they were uncertain, they	16		been useful in a number of cases.
17		would gather more evidence and diagnose it properly.	17	Q.	Can you explain to us what you mean, because we've heard
18	Q.	If there was no evidence that it was a code problem	18		different descriptions of what a keystroke log means,
19	A.	Right.	19		what you mean by a keystroke log?
20	Q.	would that cause them to say "Possible user error,	20	A.	A log of every key depression or screen touch that had
21		refer back to the subpostmaster for more information"?	21		taken place on the counter.
22	A.	Yes, that's certainly possible.	22	Q.	Was it your understanding that that did not exist at
23	Q.	What further information I realise we're talking at	23		all?
24		a theoretical level at the moment, without a practical	24	A.	During the time that I was SSC manager, I don't believe
25		example what kind of further information would you	25		it existed.
		17			18
1	Q.	What was the greatest level of scrutiny you could give	1		knowledge.
2		to what had occurred at a counter level?	2	Q.	So referencing an issue back to or referring an issue
3	A.	The Riposte message store and there were three or four	3		back to a subpostmaster for the provision of more
4		log files that were kept on the counter. Their exact	4		information and evidence, that was difficult for the
5		contents I couldn't tell you.	5		subpostmaster would that be right because they
6	Q.	I described those, in the past, as recording when	6		couldn't look at their system and themselves say, "The
7		a transaction occurred or when you committed something	7		system shows that I did X, Y and Z"?
8		to a stack.	8	A.	That is correct.
9	A.	Yes.	9	Q.	If the subpostmaster couldn't produce any more evidence
10	Q.	That may be imprecise language. Using your language,	10		or information as to what had occurred, would the matter
11		what would you say those message stores and files	11		then be would the PEAK be closed?
12		recorded?	12	A.	The PEAK would have been closed at the moment that the
13	A.	The message stores recorded all of the transactions done	13		call went back to SMC and HSH to ask for the further
14		by the Riposte software and there may well have been	14		evidence. It would then, if they managed to get the
15		a number of other things that I probably never knew.	15		further evidence, would be reopened.
16		There were also the NT event logs, which is when	16	Q.	I see. So the closure of the call occurred upon
17		an application or, indeed, the Microsoft software writes	17		reference down. If the subpostmaster didn't come back
18		to a log. There were, I believe, at least one, possibly	18		to first or second line support, was there any
19		two others, PS Standard Log rings a bell but the	19		obligation on the SSC to follow the call up?
20		contents I couldn't tell you.	20	A.	On the SSC, no.
		D	24	_	\\\- \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
21	Q.	Do you remember something called there POC log?	21	Q.	Was there any obligation on first or second line support
21 22	Q. <b>A.</b>	Only because I heard it mentioned when Anne Chambers	22	Q.	to follow the call up?
		-		Q. <b>A</b> .	to follow the call up?

25

comment on that.

Q. Can I examine, please, moving on a year still further

20

24

25

Q. Have you got no greater recollection than that?

A. No, and it's way too detailed technically for my

1		into June 2002 now, and look at POL00000877. This is	1		were as follows
2		an internal assessment prepared by Fujitsu on	2		"There is considerable challenge to the Pathway to
3		11 June 2002 and I think we can see from the second page	3		continue to operate profitably in the context of
4		there's a list of those who were involved in the	4		a demanding customer facing considerable change and
5		internal assessment conducted over two days, I think, at	5		costs-reduction in their own business."
6		Feltham and Bracknell sorry, three days at Feltham	6		Did you understand the customer, ie the Post
7		and Bracknell and we see your name in the list in	7		Office, to be a demanding customer?
8		Customer Services.	8		Yes.
9		Correct.	9	Q.	In what way was POL, the Post Office, a demanding
10	Q.	Going back to the first page, please, and just scrolling	10		customer?
11		down to assessment summary, can you recall what this	11	A.	I would draw that conclusion purely from the number of
12		was, this three-day assessment, at Feltham and	12		SLTs in the contract.
13		Bracknell?	13	Q.	So it was demanding from the start, as a matter of
14	A.	No, sorry.	14		contract
15	Q.	Just looking at the document now, can you recall what	15	A.	Oh, yes.
16		its purpose or function was?	16	Q.	rather than in the way that it behaved in the course
17	A.	The format appears to be similar to a BSI audit. I can	17		of the extract; is that right?
18		only assume it was an audit done for compliance with	18	A.	The SLTs in the contract were monitored and reported on
19		ISO 9001, done internally not through BSI.	19		frequently and, if Fujitsu failed them, then there were
20	Q.	So an internal audit?	20		financial penalties. From the SSC point of view, that
21	A.	Oh, yes.	21		didn't impact us at all. All of that was done by the
22	Q.	Can we look, please, back to the second page and look at	22		MSU, the Management Support Unit. For a while, the
23		the summary. Just scroll down, please. Thank you.	23		Management Support Unit and the SSC both reported to the
24		The last bullet point on that summary says:	24		Support Services Manager, so I was aware that the
25		" the main findings, and recommendations	25		reviews were taking place because there were monthly
		21			22
1		management meetings	1	Δ	Correct
1	O	management meetings.  Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges?	1		Correct and therefore provided third line support whilst
2		Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges?	2		and, therefore, provided third line support whilst
2	A.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer?	2	Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out?
2 3 4	<b>A.</b> Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes.	2 3 4	Q. <b>A.</b>	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes.
2 3 4 5	A.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each	2 3 4 5	Q. <b>A.</b>	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of
2 3 4 5 6	<b>A.</b> Q. <b>A.</b>	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in.	2 3 4 5 6	Q. <b>A.</b>	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and
2 3 4 5 6 7	<b>A.</b> Q. <b>A.</b>	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to	2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. <b>A.</b> Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	<b>A.</b> Q. <b>A.</b>	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. <b>A.</b> Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A. A.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q. A. A.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q. A. A.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A. Q. A.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. A. A.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the work of the SSC?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. A. A.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of a support service was when you were engaged in the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the work of the SSC? The only ones that I can recall were the obligation to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A. A.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of a support service was when you were engaged in the provision of such services whilst Horizon was tested and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the work of the SSC? The only ones that I can recall were the obligation to pass all transactions through to Post Office within	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of a support service was when you were engaged in the provision of such services whilst Horizon was tested and rolled out?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the work of the SSC? The only ones that I can recall were the obligation to pass all transactions through to Post Office within a certain time period. As I said, there were no SLTs	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of a support service was when you were engaged in the provision of such services whilst Horizon was tested and rolled out? Only experiences in relation to releases of the VME
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. A. Q.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the work of the SSC? The only ones that I can recall were the obligation to pass all transactions through to Post Office within a certain time period. As I said, there were no SLTs that I was aware of relating to the fixing of software	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of a support service was when you were engaged in the provision of such services whilst Horizon was tested and rolled out? Only experiences in relation to releases of the VME operating system.
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. A. A.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the work of the SSC? The only ones that I can recall were the obligation to pass all transactions through to Post Office within a certain time period. As I said, there were no SLTs that I was aware of relating to the fixing of software calls.	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. A. Q. A.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of a support service was when you were engaged in the provision of such services whilst Horizon was tested and rolled out? Only experiences in relation to releases of the VME operating system. What was your experience, speaking in general terms, of
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. A. A.	Within the SSC, were the considerable challenges? With regard to a challenging customer? Yes. No, there were technical challenges associated with each call as it came in. This records "a considerable challenge to Pathway to continue to operate profitably", so that's the Horizon System within Fujitsu Yes being a challenge for it to continue to operate profitably? Did you feel that challenge within the SSC? No. What did you understand this to refer to? I would have taken this to refer to performance against the SLTs in the contract. Were there any SLTs in the contract that impinged on the work of the SSC? The only ones that I can recall were the obligation to pass all transactions through to Post Office within a certain time period. As I said, there were no SLTs that I was aware of relating to the fixing of software	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	and, therefore, provided third line support whilst the product was being tested and rolled out? Yes. Had you been involved in the testing or the provision of line support when other projects had been tested and rolled out? Are you referring to my previous time in ICL? Yes. Only releases of VME and, when I was managing a Rapid Application Development unit, then we were obviously releasing applications. But those tended to be very small, ten or more users certainly not 37,000 users. So nothing of this scale? No. So had you got a reference point against which to compare how easy or problematic the provision of a support service was when you were engaged in the provision of such services whilst Horizon was tested and rolled out? Only experiences in relation to releases of the VME operating system.

2 A Sorry, can you explain what you mean by that? 3 O, Yes, Looking at it in general terms— 3 O, Peter Looking at it in general terms— 4 A Right. 4 A Right. 5 O, — what was your feeling, your impression, your 5 I judgement, on how easy or difficult it view to provide third line support between, say, 1997 and mid-2000? 7 third line support between, say, 1997 and mid-2000? 8 A Instally hand, Lost of importence in first and a second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters using a completely reveny signed, with postmasters are selected, with postmasters using a completely reveny signed. Harrow, progressively easier as the different lines of support and, indeed, with postmasters are selected and the Rich Seylem was populated. 9 O By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly? 10 O, By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly? 11 O, By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly? 12 O, By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly? 13 O, By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly? 14 A I this, mid-2000, the rollout bard not been completed. 15 I'm not certain when the rollout secondleted the not continued the part of the Province of the entirely of that them the rollout secondleted the period of the second of the underlying or the end of file rollout period, it was airleady the beginning to become easier. 16 O, Did you have a view as to the obustness and reliability of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the heroran System by me and of rollout period of the he	1		mid-2000?	1	A.	Nobody ever phones you to tell you the system were
4 Right.  4 Right.  5 Q. — what was your feeling, your impression, your  5 generally working the very would have expected it to work. That sounds very vague, I know. I'm sorry.  7 the work of the project between, asy, 1997 and mid-2000?  8 A. Initially hard. Lost of inexperience in first and second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters yet and the project selected of support and, indeed, with postmasters yet as a few and the project selected in the second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters yet as a few and the project selected in the second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters yet as a few and the project selected in the second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters yet as a few and the project selected in the second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters yet as a few and the project selected in the second line of support and august 2004.  9 yet a few and the project selected in the second line of support and august 2004.  10 Q. By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly?  11 A. I think, mid-2000, the rollout had not been completed.  12 A. At the end of the rollout period, it was already  13 A. At the end of the rollout proid, it was already  14 A. I think, mid-2000, the rollout, it was already  15 beginning to become easier.  16 Q. Did you have a view as to the robustness and reliability of the horizon. System by the end of foliout?  17 Q. With MP Parker acting as your deputy?  18 A. That's very difficult for someone in support to answer.  19 View: that the system was "crapt?"  10 View: that the system was "crapt?"  11 It cannot have faults?  12 A. No.  13 Q. Sonry, can you say that sentence again, please?  14 View: that the system was "crapt?"  15 A. No.  16 Year at well well well with the second the post of the system was crapt, it needed rewriting but that that was never going to happen because the money was not the robust projects with the system was crapt.  17 Year and the customer had decided to rewrite the acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, a	2	A.	Sorry, can you explain what you meant by that?	2		
5   Qwhat was your feeling, your impression, your youngernet, on how easy or difficult it was 0 provide the provided of th	3	Q.	Yes. Looking at it in general terms	3		not. So you obviously get a fairly jaundiced view.
judgement, on how easy or difficult it was to provide the interest of the support between, say, 1907 and mid-2000?  8 A. Initially hard. Lots of inexperience in first and 8 C. Do you remember Richard Roll? 9 escendi line of support and, indeed, with postmasters 10 using a completely new system, becoming progressively 11 using a completely new system, becoming progressively 12 experienced and the KEL system was populated. 13 Q. By mid-2000, was everything running smoothity? 13 Q. By mid-2000, was everything running smoothity? 14 A. I think, mid-2000, the rollout bad not been completed. 15 I'm not certain when the rollout was completed. 16 Q. Take it by reference to the end of the rollout period. 16 A. At the end of the rollout period. It was already 18 A. At the end of the rollout period. It was already 19 beginning to become easier. 19 Q. With Mr Parker acting as your deputy? 10 of the fortizon System by the end of rollout? 11 Views was to the rollout period. It was already 12 of the fortizon System by the end of rollout? 12 of the fortizon System by the end of rollout? 13 of the fortizon System by the end of rollout? 14 Views that the system was "crapt"? 15 A. No. 16 Sony, can you say that sentence again, please? 17 Views that the system was "crapt"? 18 Views that the system was "crapt"? 19 Views that the system was "crapt"? 20 A. No. 21 Views that the system was "crapt"? 22 A. No. 23 O. Was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system shall, by the resources were not available to do so." 24 I was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system was ready and the customer, would not be end of the rollous the end of the order to the end order to the system was ready to the system was ready to the the system was ready to the system was ready	4	A.	Right.	4		Having said that, I would have described it as
third line support between, say, 1967 and mid-2000?  A initially hard. Lot of inexperience in first and  A initially hard. Lot of inexperience in first and  B A conception of the design of the second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters  using a completely new system. becoming progressively  using a completely new system becoming progressively  experienced and the KEL system was populated.  20 A Yes.  20 A Yes.  30 C S paried 2000, was evitting running amonth?  31 C S paried 2000, was evitting running amonth?  32 A Ves.  33 C S os a period of about three and a half years and you would have been this manager for the entirety of that Progressively and the relicut period.  31 C S paried 2000, the relicut period in the context of the relicut period.  32 A the end of the rollout period, it was already  33 C S os a period of about three and a half years and you would have been this manager for the entirety of that Progressively and the relicut period.  32 A the end of the rollout period, it was already  33 A Correct.  34 A the end of the rollout period, it was already  35 A T the end of the rollout period, it was already  36 A T the end of the rollout period, it was already  37 A the end of the rollout period, it was already  38 A T the end of the rollout period, it was already  39 A the end of the rollout period, it was already  40 A the end of the rollout period, it was already  41 A T the end of the rollout period, it was already  42 A T the system by the end of rollout?  43 A T the end of the rollout period, it was already  44 A T the system by the end of rollout?  45 A T the system by the end of rollout?  46 A T the system was "cap, it reded the winderlying or root cause (that was with problems with the system) were that the system was cap, it reded rewriting but that the system was cap, it reded rewriting but that the system was cap, it reded rewriting but that the system was "cap, it ended rewriting but that the system was "cap, it ended rewriting but that the system was "cap, it ended rewriting that	5	Q.	what was your feeling, your impression, your	5		generally working the way I would have expected it to
8 A Initially hard. Lots of inexperience in first and second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters 0 using a completely new system, becoming progressively 10 using a completely new system, becoming progressively 20 easier as the different lines of support became more 11 2004.  13 Q. By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly? 13 Q. So a period of about three and a half years and you would have been his manager for the entirety of that period. It was completed. 15 In mol certain when the rollout was completed. 15 In mol certain when the rollout was completed. 16 Q. Take they reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the end of the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the rollout period in the set by reference to the rollout period in the rollout pe	6		judgement, on how easy or difficult it was to provide	6		work. That sounds very vague, I know. I'm sorry.
second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters 9 A Yes, Ido. 10 Using a completely new system, bocoming progressively 10 Q. He worked in the SSC between January 2001 and August assert as the difformat lines of support became more 11 2004.  12 experienced and the KEL system was populated. 12 A Yes. 2004.  13 Q. By mid-2000, was everything running amouth? 13 Q. So a partial of about three and a half years and you would have been his manager for the entirety of that period? 16 Period? 16 Period? 16 Period? 16 Period? 16 Period? 16 Period? 17 Q. With Mr Parker acting as your deputy? 18 A Correct. 19 Depond of the rollout period, it was already 18 A Correct. 19 Depond of the rollout period, it was already 18 A Correct. 19 Depond of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System by the end of collour? 19 Order of the Horizon System Syst	7		third line support between, say, 1997 and mid-2000?	7		I don't think I can be more precise.
using a completely new system, becoming progressively 2004.  2004.  2004.  2004.  2004.  2004.  2004.  2004.  2004.  2004.  2006.  2009.  2006.  2009	8	A.	Initially hard. Lots of inexperience in first and	8	Q.	Do you remember Richard Roll?
experienced and the KEL system was populated.  2	9		second line of support and, indeed, with postmasters	9	A.	Yes, I do.
experienced and the KEL system was populated.  1 Q. By mid-2000, was everything running smoothly?  1 A I think, mid-2000, the rollout had not been completed.  1 If m not certain when the rollout was completed.  1 If m not certain when the rollout was completed.  1 If m not certain when the rollout was completed.  1 If m not certain when the rollout period it was already  1 If we end of the rollout period, it was already  1 If we had of the rollout period, it was already  1 If we had of the rollout period, it was already  2 Did you have a view as to the robustness and reliability  2 Of bid you have a view as to the robustness and reliability  2 of the Horizon System by the end of rollour?  2 of the Horizon System by the end of rollour?  2 of property.  2 of property.  2 of property.  2 of Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please?  2 of you have a view as "crap"?  3 of wew: that the system was "crap"?  4 of property.  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  2 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  3 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  4 or was 'crap' and 'needed rewriting?'  4 or was 'crap' and 'needed rewriting?'  5 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  5 of was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  5 of was	10		using a completely new system, becoming progressively	10	Q.	He worked in the SSC between January 2001 and August
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16 Q. Take it by reference to the end of the rollout period then. 17 Q. With Mr Parker acting as your deputy? 18 A. At the end of the rollout period, it was already beginning to become easier. 19 Q. Did you have a view as to the robustness and reliability of the Horizon System by the end of rollout? 21 of the Horizon System by the end of rollout? 22 A. That's very difficult for someone in support to answer. 23 Nobody ever phones you to tall you the system is working properly. 24 properly. 25 Q. Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please? 26 view: that the system was crap, it needed rewriting but that was never going happen because the money was not available, the resources were not available to do so." 26 In that period, would you say that was a common 26 view: that the system was 'crap'? 27 A. No. 28 A. No. 39 Q. Was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system 30 number of acceptable faults, as agreed between Fujitsu and the customer, would have been defined. Obviously was 'crap'? 30 A. No. I think what Richard failed to understand was that, by the time that the code gels to the live estatio, it has already been through extensive testing and 20 completely rewritten", because it's already been through a testing and 30 completely rewritten", because it's already been through a testing and 30 completely rewritten", because it's already been through a testing and 30 completely rewritten", because it's already been through a testing and 30 completely rewritten", because it's already been through a decipance process and things have been papered over and 31 completely rewritten", because it's already been through 41 acceptance criteria as specified between development 41 acceptance criteria as specified between development 41 acceptance criteria as those criteria would be state that you weren't copied in on or were not an author nor a reviewer. It's dated 10 May 2000 and you'll see from the "Abstract" it on were not an author nor a reviewer. It's dated 10 May 2000 and you'll see from the "Abstract" it on we	14	A.	I think, mid-2000, the rollout had not been completed.	14		would have been his manager for the entirety of that
then.  A. At the end of the rollout period, it was already beginning to become easier.  O. Did you have a view as to the robustness and reliability of the Horizon System by the end of rollout?  A. That's very difficult for someone in support to answer.  Nobody over phones you to tell you the system is working properly.  Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please?  O. Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please?  I view: that the system was "crap"?  A. No.  Sorry can you say that sentence again, please?  I view: that the system was "crap"?  A. No.  Vas it widely accepted within the SSC that the system  was "crap" and "needed rewriting"?  A. No. I think what Richard failed to understand was that, by the time that the code gets to the live estate, it has already been through extensive testing and acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, from the point of view of the support teams, that's the odd. There is no point in saying" was repeated between the substance of the sail acceptance of that is riddled with faults?  A. No.  What allowed for the rollout period, it was a live and the was repeated between Fullisu and the customer, would have been defined. Obviously when it goes out to the live estate it has faults.  Every software has faults.  Every software has faults.  Every software has faults.  Full that period, would you say that was a common 26  A. No. I think what Richard failed to understand was that, by the time that the code gets to the live estate, it has already been through extensive testing and acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, and acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, and acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, and acceptance process and things have been epheroper to move to acceptance process and things have been period over and a acceptance process and things have been period over and a acceptance process and things have been period over and a acceptance process and things have been period over and a acceptance process and things have be	15		I'm not certain when the rollout was completed.	15		period?
A. At the end of the rollout period, it was already beginning to become easier.  9. Did you have a view as to the robustness and reliability of the Horizon System by the end of rollout?  21. A That's very difficult for someone in support to answer.  22. A That's very difficult for someone in support to answer.  23. Nobody ever phones you to tell you the system is working property.  24. That's very difficult for someone in support to answer.  25. Nobody ever phones you to tell you the system is working property.  26. Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please?  27. In that was never going to happen because the money was not available, the resources were not available to do so."  28. In that period, would you say that was a common 26.  29. View: that the system was "crap"?  20. Was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system was "crap" and "needed rewriting"?  30. Was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system was "crap" and "needed rewriting"?  41. View: that the system was "crap"?  42. A No. It msaying that, because it has been accepted, the number of acceptable faults, as agreed between Fujitsu and the customer, would have been defined. Obviously when it goes out to the live estate it has faults.  42. Between the property was a common 26.  43. View: that the system was "crap"?  44. That's very difficult for a complete property.  45. A No. It msaying that, because it has been accepted, the number of acceptable faults, as agreed between Fujitsu and the customer, would have been defined. Obviously when it goes out to the live estate it has faults.  45. Every software has faults.  46. Every software has faults.  47. Every software has faults.  48. Every software has faults.  49. That's the customer had decided to rewrite the acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, and the customer had decided to rewrite the acceptance promets and thing it want this observed the support teams, that's the could be acceptance promets and thing it want this observed has a complant property in want the ver	16	Q.	Take it by reference to the end of the rollout period	16	A.	l would.
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20 Q. Did you have a view as to the robustness and reliability of the Horizon System by the end of rollout? 21 A. That's very difficult for someone in support to answer. 22 A. That's very difficult for someone in support to answer. 23 Nobody ever phones you to tell you the system is working properly. 24 available, the resources were not available to do so.* 25 Q. Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please? 26 In that the system contained, would you say that was a common 26  1 view: that the system was "crap"? 1 it cannot have faults? 2 A. No. 2 A. No. This sying that, because it has been accepted, the number of acceptable faults, as agreed between Fujitsu was "crap" and "needed rewriting"? 4 A. No. It think what Richard failed to understand was that, by the time that the code gets to the live estate, it 5 by the time that the code gets to the live estate, it 6 by the time that the code gets to the support teams, that's the acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, from the point of view of the support teams, that's the code. There is no point in saying "I want this code. There is no point in saying" I want this is riddled with faults? 4 A. No. 4 I have no knowledge of that taking place. 5 Q. What about if it's gone through the testing and acceptance process. 6 Q. What about if it's gone through the testing and acceptance process and things have been papered over and a decision has been made to proceed with a system that is riddled with faults?  A. No. 4 I have no knowledge of that taking place. 6 Q in 1999 and 2000 – 7 A. I would not use the term "riddled with faults". The acceptance criteria, as specified between development testing teams and the customer, would indicate that you do not take the product to live based on a number of criteria and those criteria would be things like no more than "Nr A priority calls outstanding," XF Byriority 22 calls, et cetera. So it would not, in my opinion, be 23 calls, et cetera. So it would not, in my opinion, be 24 calls, acceptance processue a system ha	18	A.	At the end of the rollout period, it was already	18	A.	Correct.
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Nobody ever phones you to tell you the system is working property.  Q. Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please?  Q. Sorry, can you say that sentence again, please?  25 In that period, would you say that was a common 26  1 view: that the system was "crap"?  1 it cannot have faults?  A. No.  Q. Was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system 3 or. Was it widely accepted within the SSC that the system 4 was "crap" and "needed rewriting"?  A. No. I think what Richard failed to understand was that, 5 by the time that the code gets to the live estate, it 6 by the time that the code gets to the live estate, it 7 has already been through extensive testing and 8 acceptance formally by Post Office. So, essentially, 8 from the point of view of the support teams, that's the 10 completely rewritten", because it's already been through 11 a testing and acceptance process. 12 A. I have no knowledge of that taking place. 13 Q. What about if it's gone through the testing and 14 acceptance process and things have been papered over and 15 a decision has been made to proceed with a system that 16 is indided with faults". The 17 A. I would not use the term "riddled with faults". The 18 acceptance criteria, as specified between development 19 testing teams and the customer, would indicate that you 20 do not take the product to live based on a number of 21 criteria and those criteria would be things like no more 22 than "N" A priority calls outstanding." "X" B priority 23 calls, et cetera. So it would not, in my opinion, be 24 "crap" when it went out to the live estate. 25 Q. Are you saying that because a system has been accepted 27	22	A.		22		that the system was crap, it needed rewriting but that
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bug.

1 action, the action owner and the date by which the 2 action is to be complete. 3 If we go to page 9, please, you'll see in the top 4 left-hand box, against the reference 4.2.1, it is 5 recorded that: 6 "The audit identified that the EPOSS continues to 7 be unstable. PinICL evidence illustrated the numbers of 8 PinICLs raised since the 1998 Task Force and the rate of 9 their being raised. 10 "The EPOSS solutions report made specific recommendations to consider the redesign and rewrite of 11 12 EPOSS, in part or in whole, to address the then known 13 shortcomings. In light of the continued evidence of 14 poor product quality these recommendations should be 15 reconsidered." 16 Did you know that there had been something called 17 the EPOSS Task Force? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Did you known that a report had been produced 20 recommending the consideration of the total or partial 21 rewrite and redesign of EPOSS? 22 A. No. 23 Q. Did you know that in May 2000 there had been 24 a recommendation by this internal audit that those 25 selfsame recommendations in the light of continued poor 1 due to lack of money or lack of resources, as far as I'm 2 concerned, is supposition on his behalf. When it comes 3 to the statement "The SSC were patching up things", 4 examining the cause of problems and fixing them is what 5 the support team did. 6 Q. He told the Inquiry: 7 "The software issues we were routinely 8 encountering could and did cause financial discrepancies 9 at branch level, including shortfalls being incorrectly 10 shown on the Horizon System." 11 Does that accord with your recollection? 12 A. There were certainly bugs in the system that could cause 13 those symptoms, yes. 14 Q. He told us that the Horizon cash accounts were, in his 15 words, "pretty ropey" and that he told you that, adding, 16 "Surely, these should be rewritten", and you agreed with 17 him and said: 18 "Yes, but it's never going to happen." 19 Is that accurate? 20 A. I don't recall that conversation at all. 21 Q. Are you saying, through the passage of time, it might 22 have occurred but you now do not recall or that, given 23 your view of the quality of the Horizon System, it is 24 something that is unlikely to have happened? 25 A. I am saying that an individual member of the SSC may 31

1 product quality should be reconsidered? 2 A. No. 3 Q. Are those facts and matters of which you ought to have 4 known? 5 A. I don't think so. From what I can see from this 6 document, it's an internal discussion between 7 Development and Testing as to the state of the product 8 before it goes to the live estate. I would not have 9 been involved in any decisions that were taken on this 10 nor would I have expected to be. 11 Q. After this time, May 2000, you find within third line 12 support a preponderance of problems with EPOSS? 13 A. I can't recall and don't have the figures to tell you 14 how much was counter-based problems and how much was 15 central systems problems. 16 Q. Thank you. That can come down. 17 Going back to what Mr Roll told the Inquiry, he 18 said that, rather than a redesign and rewrite, which was 19 never going to happen on cost grounds, the SSC was left 20 to seek to patch up with the Development team the system 21 on an ad hoc basis. Is that accurate? 22 A. I don't agree with Richard's comments. I don't agree 23 with his initial premise. He didn't know -- I mean, 24 I didn't know the head count or the development budget. 25 I'm quite certain he didn't. So saying that it's all 1 have expressed reservations of the code but I don't 2 recall the conversation, so I can't give you a reason 3 why I may have said what he believes I said. 4 Q. Mr Roll told us that: 5 "If we in the third line support were unable to 6 find the cause of a problem, this was reported up the 7 chain to fourth line but it was assumed that the 8 postmaster was to blame." 9 Was that a practice of which you were aware? 10 A. Absolutely not. 11 Q. Was it a common theme throughout the time that you were 12 the head of the SSC, that if positive evidence of 13 a software fault could not be found, it was assumed that 14 the subpostmaster was to blame and that's how it was 15 16 A. No, on two grounds. Firstly, whenever any call came in 17 I expected people to look at all the evidence and 18 diagnose it properly and that means you have no fixed 19 starting position. You don't assume from the beginning 20 that it's a user error, you don't assume it's a software

Secondly, we, to my knowledge, never used blame.

Even when calls were being returned as possible user

error, that could mean any number of things. It could

mean that documentation at the Post Office wasn't

1		accurate, hadn't been followed it's not a question of	1
2		blame.	2
3	Q.	Mr Roll told the Inquiry that:	3
4		"Sometimes we were instructed not to let the	4
5		subpostmaster know that we had altered his system whilst	5
6		he was logged on. To my recollection, sometimes the	6
7		Post Office requested this, sometimes Fujitsu and	7
8		sometimes only our department knew of it."	8
9		Did you ever give any instructions not to inform	9
10		subpostmasters to tell them that their system had been	10
11		altered whilst they had been logged on?	11
12	A.	No, I didn't give instructions of that sort.	12
13	Q.	Were you aware of that practice?	13
14	A.	I have become aware through a couple of documents that	14
15		I was sent to review by this Inquiry that somebody in	15
16		Post Office management had said "Don't tell the	16
17		subpostmaster about this". But, as far as I can see	17
18		from the documents that I've been supplied, there appear	18
19		to be two instances of it which were sent to my staff	19
20		and, without knowing the reason behind, I wouldn't like	20
21		to comment on that.	21
22	Q.	Mr Roll told the Inquiry, and I'm afraid this is a long	22
23		quote:	23
24		"I recall one particular case where branch data	24
25		was not being replicated from a mobile Post Office 33	25
1		within the departments concerned and the batch of faulty	1
2		laptops was not recalled. It's my belief that Fujitsu	2
3		senior management and the Post Office was not informed."	3
4		Do you remember that incident?	4
5	A.	From the time that it happened, no. From the Group	5
6		Litigation, yes, because I was called during that	6
7		trial not to go to the trial but I was telephoned and	7
8		asked if I remembered a specific hardware call from that	8

correctly and it appeared that the subpostmistress was turning off the power mid-transaction. As we couldn't fix the problem over the phone with the subpostmistress she sent her laptop to Fujitsu for examination. Using Post Office tests rigs on the 6th floor and comparing the results with the laptop that had been returned to Fujitsu, I discovered that the button which should have put the laptop into standby mode was actually switching off the power resulting in the disk crashing. I disassembled the laptop to confirm this. Thus when the posts mistress thought she was switching her counter to standby mode, which would have initiated a controlled shut down and allowed the data store to replicate the servers, she was actually switching about power off, which is what we were seeing in the SSC.

"When I raised this with my manager, Mik Peach, who subsequently talked to the hardware team, I found this was a known problem. One of the engineers had made a mistake with a batch of laptops which had been sent out to branches before the error was detected. No-one outside the team responsible for building the laptops had been informed of this. This meant I spent several days investigating the problem. Whereas the subpostmistress in this case was provided with a replacement laptop, knowledge of this problem was kept

- A. From the time that it happened, no. From the Group Litigation, yes, because I was called during that trial -- not to go to the trial but I was telephoned and asked if I remembered a specific hardware call from that period. So "no" was the answer that I gave at that time. I am aware of it now because I've read Richard Roll's testimony in court and his appearance at this Inquiry.
- Q. What do you now recall then about the incident?

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A. I've read through the original call and it's clear from that -- I believe it says on it something like "This is happening six minutes before POLO", which is Post Office Log On". Since it's happening before the postmaster has logged on, then no financial transactions can have been impacted.

Secondly, he made comments that I had talked to the hardware manager, which is certainly possible.

- Q. He said "My manager, Mik Peach, knew. His friend who ran the build team knew". Is that what you are referring to?
- **A.** That's what he said. To be clear, the lady that was 35

running or was our contact for hardware was based in Stevenage. I was based in Bracknell. I don't think -- I don't think we ever met face-to-face and we certainly didn't meet socially until about five years after I'd left Fujitsu. So to say I was doing her a favour as a friend is his interpretation and, in my opinion, nonsense.

- Q. He said that it never got up the chain beyond the pair of you, that he was told to hush it up. I asked him "Who told you to hush it up" and he said you. Is that accurate?
- A. No. To be specific, if I had phoned the hardware manager and was doing her the favour of hushing it up, then the first person I would not have told would be Richard Roll. I mean, if I would have wanted to hush it up, I wouldn't have informed him of what had happened and, in any case, as I've said in evidence to this Inquiry, I told senior managers about that issue in my monthly report that month.
- Q. Why would he be the last person you'd tell? Was he problematic?
- A. No, just if I was going to hush it up, I just would not have told him what had happened.
  - Q. Can we turn, please, to FUJ00087994. Can you see this is a "Group Definitions" document for the secure NT 36

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(9) Pages 33 - 36

1 build release 2, dated 22 December 1998, yes? 1 on the access rights of users? 2 2 A. Yes. A. Correct. 3 Q. If we just read the "Abstract": 3 Q. Permissions, one might call it? 4 4 "The ACP requires that access to Pathway systems A. Indeed. 5 be controlled by the use of pre-defined roles to which 5 Q. This kind of document and this kind of approach is 6 users can be assigned. Such roles will allow users to 6 natural in a system of this kind? 7 access only those parts of the system, with associated 7 A. Yes. 8 8 Q. One might say essential? objects, they need in order to complete the tasks 9 9 associated with that particular role. This document A. I would say essential, yes. 10 summarises this requirement and defines the roles, with 10 Q. Why would you say essential? associated objects, domains and access requirements." 11 A. Because you have to be clearly able to decide who is 11 12 We can see that if we scroll down a little bit 12 accessing what and why. 13 you're amongst the distributees? 13 Q. Why do you have to be able to identify who is accessing 14 A. Right. 14 what and why? 15 15 A. Partly because there will be contractual requirements, Q. Looking at this document, can you summarise, even having 16 read the abstract, what its purpose is? I think 16 partly because you have a need to establish an audit 17 I understand but can you help us to translate the 17 trail for support people and what they're doing. 18 18 delightful language used? Q. Why would you need to establish an audit trail to see 19 A. Can you give me a moment to read that summary? 19 what people are doing? 20 20 A. I would just regard that as being an essential part of 21 21 A. Okay, as I understand it, it's a way of setting up any system. Why -- I could not explain why. Just all 22 22 Windows NT systems with defined roles each of which will the systems I've ever worked on behave that way. It's 23 have defined access to the system and how the setup of 23 just natural. 24 24 those roles should be achieved. Q. Just think about it a little more. Why in a system that 25 Q. So it's a means of writing into the system limitations 25 concerns financial data, for example --1 A. Yes. 1 essential was for that reason? 2 Q. -- might you need a system of access limitations, 2 **A.** No. 3 permissions and auditability after the event? 3 Q. Can we look, please, at FUJ00088082. Can you see this 4 A. You would need them there in order to write an audit 4 is a document dated 2003? 5 trail. If you needed an audit trail, then I would 5 A. I can. 6 assume that it would be because of some form of possible 6 Q. So we've previously looked at Mr D'Alvarez's document of 7 7 litigation after the event. December '98 saying this is what we need to do, these 8 Q. What would you have in mind there, some litigation after 8 are the access rights and permissions that need to be 9 the event? written in, and these are the reasons why they need to 9 10 A. I really can't answer that. 10 be written in. 11 A. Yes. 11 Q. Speaking generally at your first couple of years, maybe 12 even further, maybe into 2000, 2001, 2002, were you 12 Q. Looking at again the abstract of this document, it describes the support and use of OpenSSH. Can you now 13 aware that the financial data produced by Horizon was 13 14 used as the basis for bringing civil and criminal 14 recall what OpenSSH was? 15 proceedings against subpostmasters? 15 A. It was a piece of software that provided secure access 16 16 to the system for the support teams which was both A. No, I was not. 17 17 Q. When did you first become aware that the Horizon data secure and auditable. 18 was used as the foundation for criminal proceedings or 18 Q. When was it introduced? 19 19 A. I'm not certain in terms of dates. I know it was civil proceedings?

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systems.

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A. When Anne Chambers went to court in what I subsequently

Q. Had anyone before then explained to you that one of the

reasons why audit or auditability of the system might be

found was the Lee Castleton case.

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Q. So about 2006?

A. Yes.

introduced with the Network Banking release of the

Q. Can we look please at page 15 and paragraph 7.1. This

on all of the counters as well as in the central

is under "Permissions Problems": 40

Horizon software because this product required software

1 "When attempting to diagnose problems with OpenSSH 2 ... it should be noted that permissions displayed by 3 OpenSSH don't necessarily reflect the full set of 4 permissions applied by Windows. This is because the 5 rich set of permissions supported by Windows with access 6 specified individually for multiple users and groups 7 cannot generally be mapped to the simple user group 8 other model offered by POSIX. Hence OpenSSH will 9 generally only display an approximation of the 10 permissions in POSIX form but will usually apply the full set of Windows permissions. The permissions 11 12 displayed and applied are also affected by the setting 13 of the CYGWIN environment variable. As a result, you 14 should not rely on the permissions information displayed 15 in CYGWIN commands such as ..." and then an example is 16 given. 17 Can you translate what that means, please? 18 A. No. Most of those terms mean nothing to me at all. 19 That's way too technical for me. 20 Q. Does that reflect that you were a manager and, 21 therefore, managed people rather than carried out any 22 technical work yourself? 23 A. I didn't carry out technical work on the live Horizon 24 System at all and this sort of document, had I received 25 it for review, I would have passed to one of my 41

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course. That's fine. MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir. (11.10 am) (A short break) (11.25 am) MR BEER: Sir, good morning. Can you see and hear me?

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can thank you.

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MR BEER: Mr Peach, can we turn, please, to a passage in your witness statement. It's paragraph 123, which is on page 41. If we just blow up paragraph 123 -- thank you -- you say:

"If a postmaster made a mistake, a transaction could be 'reversed' (by inserting a 'reversal' or 'corrective' transaction) but it could not be deleted. There were processes by which SSC staff could, under instruction or approval from POL and with assistance from the postmaster, insert corrective transactions and I recall that there were processes in place to control this rare occurrence, involving dual-person sign-off on the PEAK and approved OCP requests for the SSC to do the work, which I believe had been to be approved by POL as well as Customer Service. An example of this process is OCP 21918 ... dated 2 March", and you give the

"my recollection is that the process was

1 technical staff.

- Q. We saw on the front page that it was distributed to you.
- 3 A. Right.

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- Q. And you were a mandatory review authority?
- A. Yes

6 Q. We can see that from the second page against your name. Perhaps we should just look at page 2, please. 8 "Mandatory Review Authority, "Mik Peach", and then it's got "by proxy". Does that reflect what you have just 10 said, that you would have got somebody else to do it?

- 11 A. Yes.
  - Q. Who amongst your team would you habitually pass these things down to?
- 14 A. One of the five senior people.
  - Q. Who were they?
- 16 A. Steve Parker, Anne Chambers, Pat Carroll, Mark Wright, 17 John Simpkins.
- 18 Q. So if they did reply here -- and it looks like they did 19 because there's an asterisk against your name --
- 20
  - Q -- it would have been one of those five?
- 22 A. It would have been one of those five.

MR BEER: Sir, that's an appropriate moment. I'm about to move to a new topic. I wonder whether we could come back at 11.25, please?

technically complex and could only be done in agreement with the postmaster and was extremely rare."

So you are saying that it was very an extremely rare occurrence which could only be done with the agreement of the subpostmaster, with the knowledge and approval of POL itself and Customer Services?

- A. Correct.
- Q. Can we just look then at the example that you give or the reference you give there, which is FUJ00084131. We can see the OCP number that you previously gave, 21918.
- A. Yes.
- Q. The title of the OCP "Insert corrective transactions at branch 382137", and, if we can just read through this, we haven't seen many of these before so I want to use you to look at this.
- A. Okay.
- Q. "A set of unbalanced SC currency transactions were written in error at branch [then the number is given] on 18 February. A set of equal but opposite transactions is to be inserted to undo the effects.

"Justification: Enables the branch to balance correctly, and data in POL FS will also be correct." The date when it is going to be done by is set

out.

"Extra detail: Tested within SSC and proved to 44

(11) Pages 41 - 44

generate a further [receipts and payments] mismatch 1 2 which negates the first, and also a gain to negate the 3 loss of just under £1,000 caused by the problem and 4 currently outstanding at the branch. The gain may not 5 be precisely the same as the original loss because of 6 variations in the exchange rates. 7 "POL (Julie Edgley) have already agreed to the 8 change, in an email attached to ..." and then the PEAK 9 number is given, yes? 10 Α. Yes Q. "Regression: This change cannot be regressed." 11 12 Then further down, the email is in the comments 13 section at the bottom, I think: 14 "Anne "As discussed, POL are happy for you to make the 15 16 necessary system adjustments. 17 "From speaking to Wendy, the manager in the 18 branch, first thing on Tuesday morning (between 9 am and 19 10 am) is the quietest for them. 20 "I have advised Wendy that you will call her as 21 you are about to start and as you finish. 22 "Thank you." 23 So there is a record -- I mean, if we just look at 24 the second page of the document, POL approve this 25 change. Then scroll down to the foot of the page. 1 Q. Yes, it has. 1 2 A. If it was to be an OCR to insert a transaction at 2 3 a branch, it would have been written by the SSC person 3 4 who was going to do the work because they would have 4 5 5 received the PEAK which highlighted the error. So they 6 would raise the OCR and it would then go to POL for 6 7 7 their approval and subsequently to me for sign off 8 before the work was done. 8 9 Q. How would you sign it off? 9 10 10 A. My recollection is there was -- electronically on the form, just by sitting at my PC and putting my name in. 11 11 12 12 Q. Just go to the foot of page 2, please. You see 13 "Approval status" there. There appear to be some what 13 14 might, on a screen, be tiles to click on. 14 15 15 16 Q. Am I right in thinking that they might be a printed 16 17 version of a tile to click on? 17 18 A. Yes. I think with this particular one it's an OCP and 18 19 the reason that we used OCRs more frequently was that 19 20 there are mandatory approvals on an OCP, which were not 20 21 relevant for an OCR: POA, Core Services SMC, for example 21 22 would not be required to approve a change of this sort. 22 23 Q. So this appears to be evidence of in support of what you 23 24 were saying in paragraph 123 of your witness statement; 24 25 25 namely, POL sign off and branch knowledge and agreement?

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1 So there is a record in there that Julie -- that's 2 Julie Edgley, who was a live service assistant in POL 3 Service Delivery -- had spoken to the subpostmistress? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. There is a record, therefore, that POL had agreed to the 6 change? 7 A. Correct. 8 Q. Was that always the case? 9 A. I can't recall any occurrences where it was not. 10 Q. Was it always supposed to be the case? 11 A. Absolutely. 12 Q. Who would write this document, the OCP? 13 A. This OCP -- I'm not sure what Gaby Reynolds' exact 14 position was at that time but she would be the liaison between Post Office and the SSC. So she would be 15 16 acting, effectively, as a problem manager for this 17 instance. 18 Q. She was a Fujitsu employee? 19 A. Yes, she was. I'm not -- could we go back up? 20 Q. Yes, to page 1, please. 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Look at the bottom half of the page. 23 A. Okay, I'm not aware of who actually raised the OCP 24 itself. Certainly at times, an OCR was used, rather 25 than an OCP. Has the Inquiry been told the difference?

A. Yes.

Q. Could we look at FUJ00087194, please. Different OCP 17510:

"Write corrective bureau message for ..." and then a branch code is given:

"A single SC message 183227 [et cetera] was written in error on 26 November ... selling 1,000 US dollars, with no corresponding settlement line. To remove the effects of this message at both the branch and on POLFS, we will insert a new message to negate the effects of the original message.

"Justification: If the change is not made in the counter messagestore (before the stock unit is balanced on Wednesday), the branch will have an unexpected gain of £484 (or thereabouts -- depends on exchange rate), and a receipts and payments mismatch. This gain would have to be resolved at the branch. There would also be an inconsistency between the branch and POLFS to be resolved. By correcting the problem locally, the branch may not be aware of the problem, and there will be no inconsistency between the branch and POLFS."

Then when it's planned for, some extra detail is given. Then scroll down, please:

"The message will include a comment to show it has been inserted to resolve this problem (this will not be

1		visible to the branch)."	1		Yes.
2		Them there's some more detail. This appears to	2	Q.	Because, in your witness statement at paragraph 123, you
3		suggest that a correction was to be made and made	3		told us this was the system and you showed us exhibited
4		deliberately, in a way that ensured that the branch was	4		an OCP, which was evidence that the system was working?
5		not aware of the problem.	5		Correct.
6	A.	I'm not convinced that the wording of that means that	6	Q.	So this is evidence of something different than that,
7		the branch were not aware there was a problem.	7		isn't it?
8		Certainly POL, as is stated there, were aware of the	8	Α.	
9		problem.	9		document which suggests that the process was followed
10		Yes, I'm focusing on the branch.	10		fully.
11	A.	Okay. Okay, I don't think it's clear from the wording	11	Q.	And, indeed, there's some evidence to suggest that, if
12		whether the problem was not visible to the branch or	12		we just scroll up to "Justification", the last line of
13		whether the comment that would be inserted into the	13		"Justification":
14		message would not be visible to the branch.	14		"By correcting the problem locally, the branch may
15	Q.	Let's take it in stages. Do you agree that there's no	15		not be aware of the problem"
16		record on this document of the branch being informed of	16	A.	I agree.
17		the nature of the error	17	Q.	Under "Extra detail", second paragraph:
18	A.	Yes, I agree	18		"The message will include a comment to show it has
19	Q.	the cause of the error and the way in which it's	19		been inserted to resolve this problem (this will not be
20		going to be corrected?	20		visible to the branch)."
21	A.	I agree that there's no evidence in this document of	21		Can you think of reasons for recording the fact
22		that.	22		that the branch will not be aware of the problem and the
23	Q.	From what you said, there should be, shouldn't there?	23		message to correct the problem will not be visible to
24	A.	I would have expected there to be, yes.	24		the branch? Why would it be important to record those?
25	Q.	So there should be?	25	A.	I don't have an explanation for that.
		49			50
1	Q.	Might it seem that they were positives: it's a good	1		a document I took you to earlier] seems to be to specify
1 2		thing that the branch won't be told and can't see?	1 2		a tool set for different support units to enable them to
		thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that			a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully
2		thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them.	2		a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the
2		thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that	2		a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully
2 3 4	A.	thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them.	2 3 4		a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the
2 3 4 5	A.	thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them. Did that makes sense? Was that	2 3 4 5		a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the use of SSH software, which was fully auditable
2 3 4 5 6	A.	thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them. Did that makes sense? Was that Yes, I understood it. But that's an answer to	2 3 4 5 6		a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the use of SSH software, which was fully auditable I believe via the audit servers, which were not
2 3 4 5 6 7	<b>A.</b> Q.	thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them. Did that makes sense? Was that Yes, I understood it. But that's an answer to a different question. I'm asking why somebody would	2 3 4 5 6 7		a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the use of SSH software, which was fully auditable I believe via the audit servers, which were not accessible by the SSC."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	<b>A.</b> Q.	thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them. Did that makes sense? Was that Yes, I understood it. But that's an answer to a different question. I'm asking why somebody would record in two places on this OCP?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A.	a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the use of SSH software, which was fully auditable I believe via the audit servers, which were not accessible by the SSC."  In that last sentence there, you say that the SSH
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	<b>A.</b> Q.	thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them. Did that makes sense? Was that Yes, I understood it. But that's an answer to a different question. I'm asking why somebody would record in two places on this OCP? I don't have an explanation for that. In the second	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	<b>A.</b> Q.	a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the use of SSH software, which was fully auditable I believe via the audit servers, which were not accessible by the SSC."  In that last sentence there, you say that the SSH software was fully auditable?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	<b>A.</b> Q.	thing that the branch won't be told and can't see? In my opinion, whether or not the branch would know that they had a problem is not a reason for not telling them. Did that makes sense? Was that Yes, I understood it. But that's an answer to a different question. I'm asking why somebody would record in two places on this OCP? I don't have an explanation for that. In the second part where it's under the "Extra detail", the comment,	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	_	a tool set for different support units to enable them to continue to support the systems, and to be fully auditable. The System Outline Design resulted in the use of SSH software, which was fully auditable I believe via the audit servers, which were not accessible by the SSC."  In that last sentence there, you say that the SSH software was fully auditable? Yes.
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	1	A.	Yes.
periodically?	2	Q.	Were you aware of an individual called Andrew Dunks?
n't know the exact mechanism. I just remember	3	A.	Yes.
ng a design document that said the files are held on	4	Q.	Andy Dunks?
SAS servers and then transferred to audit.	5	A.	Yes.
that audit trail ever examined, to your knowledge,	6	Q.	What's your recollection of where he worked?
look at the keystrokes made by SSC staff?	7	A.	My recollection is that he worked in the Security team
ow that SSC did not support the audit server and did	8		inside Customer Service.
nave direct access to it, so it would never have	9	Q.	So the Customer Services POA Security Team?
n viewed by SSC staff. Whether or not it was viewed	10	A.	Yes.
ther staff, I have no knowledge.	11	Q.	CSPOA Security. What did you understand his job
n you became aware that there were prosecutions and	12		function to be?
proceedings based on Horizon data	13	A.	I don't recall knowing what his job function was.
	14	Q.	We understand that he was said to be the cryptographic
ere you aware of the SSH audit files ever being	15		key manager. Does that ring any bells?
essed for those purposes?	16	A.	Yes. In addition to not having access to the audit
ecollection is that I only ever knew of one case and	17		server, SSC did not have access to a key management
was the one which involved Anne Chambers, and I was	18		server, both of which, my understanding is, was
aware that the audit data was being used for	19		controlled by the Security team. So Andy would have
ecutions at all. Does that answer the question or	20		controlled the work of the key management applications
at	21		on that server.
, if you were only ever aware in your 12 years of	22	Q.	How frequent was your contact with Mr Dunks?
case	23	A.	Difficult to say. My recollection says perhaps once
prosecution, yes.	24		a month.
civil proceeding?	25	Q.	Were you aware that Mr Dunks had contacts with members 54
33			34
e SSC?	1		team which was litigation support. I don't recall ever
	2		associating that function with Andy Dunks.
at was the nature and content of such contact, the	3	Q.	What did you understand litigation support did?
oose of it?	4	Α.	
n't remember.	5		that they were there to, in my mind, protect Customer
frequently would Mr Dunks be in contact with members	6		Service from possible litigation from outside. I was
our team?	7		not aware that they were acting in prosecutions of
t would be, to my recollection, once/twice a month.	8		postmasters.
didn't know what they were talking about or	9	Q.	So you didn't know they were supporting litigation,
nanging emails or other communications about?	10		rather than defending against litigation?
that I recall. I recall that the key management	11	Α.	I don't think I ever thought of it in those terms.
er was kept in a locked room inside the secure area	12	Q.	In any event, we've heard from Mr Dunks that he produced
e SSC and, therefore, whenever Andy had to do some	13		witness evidence and exhibits for the purposes of
on that server somebody would have to let him into	14		criminal proceedings against many subpostmasters and
secure area.	15		mistresses. You didn't know that that was his job or
ve heard from Mr Dunks that he produced written	16		part of his job?
ess statements, so evidence	17	A.	Not that I can recall.
ıt	18	Q.	I think it follows that you wouldn't know why he, the
written witness statements and exhibits to those	19		Crypto Key Manager, had been selected to be the witness
ess statements, for the purposes of taking criminal	20		that produced evidence against subpostmasters?
eedings against subpostmasters. Do you understand?	21	A.	Him specifically, no, but he would have been one of the
derstand.	22		few people that had access to the audit servers, so, as
you know, in your decade or so of working in the	23		a function of the Security team, I can understand it but
that that was part of his job?	24		I would not have associated it with one individual.
	0.5	_	You referred to one of the few people that would have
	art of his job?	art of his job? 24	art of his job? 24

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1 had access to the audit servers. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. What are you referring to as the audit servers there? 4 A. The audit servers were holding data from the system 5 which, I believe, included data from Riposte and from 6 all the SSC workstations. I didn't really get involved 7 with what the function of that server was because SSC 8 were not allowed to touch it and we didn't support it. 9 Q. I think it follows that you didn't know that Mr Dunks 10 was providing witness statements for the purposes of 11 prosecutions that made assertions, the witness 12 statements, that were, in part, based on conversations 13 that he was having with members of your team. 14 A. No, I don't recall anything of that sort. 15 Q. He told the Inquiry that when he received a request for 16 evidence, he would speak to a member of your team: 17 "... to get them to give a clear understanding so 18 I could make my judgement on that particular call." 19 So he was making a judgement on whether the 20 content of a call made by a subpostmaster or a mistress 21 could or could not explain the shortfall for which the 22 subpostmaster was being prosecuted. Do you understand? 23 A. I understand. 24 Q. He called this his due diligence exercise, that he was 25 speaking to members of your team to help to get their 57 1 A. I cannot recall ever knowing about it and I'm not 2 certain that the SSC staff members would have been aware 3 of why they were being asked about the calls. We were 4 completely open with anybody about what is the impact of 5 this PEAK, what's happening with it. So I'm -- no, I'm 6 in the dark as to much of this process. 7 Q. By that last answer, are you suggesting that Mr Dunks 8 may not have disclosed to members of your staff the 9 purpose of his call or the use to which the information 10 that he may be given might be put? 11 A. I am not certain that, whatever was being -- involved in 12 the discussion between Andy and SSC staff, that I was 13 ever aware of the use. I don't wish to ascribe 14 responsibility to that to Andy Dunks not telling SSC 15 staff or SSC staff not telling me. I just don't think 16 the subject came up. 17 Q. If you had been aware that Mr Dunks was conducting what 18 he described as a due diligence exercise, in deciding 19 whether or not the call or calls and the content of the 20 call or calls to the SSC could possibly explain away the 21 shortfall for which a subpostmaster was being 22 prosecuted, presumably you would have looked askance at 23 that? 24 A. I don't know is the honest answer to that. That's me 25 trying to predict emotions from a long time ago.

help in explaining what calls meant and whether or not the content of the call could explain away the shortfall on which the subpostmaster was being prosecuted. Understand?

- A. I understand. I understand why Andy would have come to members of the SSC for technical advice on a call and what the Riposte messages meant. I don't recall ever being aware that that was going to be used in any form of litigation.
- Q. Why would you known that he would be coming to members of your team to ask for an explanation of what the content of calls meant?
  - **A.** Because they were the technical expert on the contents of the calls.
- Q. Do you know why they weren't being asked to provide evidence on the basis of the technical expertise that they had of what had happened, rather than Mr Dunks who performed a different function, Crypto Key Manager, being asked to provide witness statements on the basis of unrecorded and undocumented conversations with members of your staff?
- A. No. As I said earlier on, during my time as SSC manager I was only aware of the one case.
- Q. So this was going on below the surface without you ever knowing about it?

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- Q. Would you have been happy with your staff providing evidence informally in this way that was being used to prosecute subpostmasters?
- A. I don't think that I would have been happy about it but I can't be certain.
- Q. Why do you think you probably would have been unhappy?
- A. Because my understanding, limited as it was, of any form of litigation process was that all of the data had to come from the audit servers and that is specifically why the SSC were never to touch the audit servers, so that it was completely untouched by those people who had write access to the parts of the system.

If I would have known that evidence was being gathered from elsewhere, then I think in my mind that would have put in question the origin of the data being used in a case.

Q. Thank you. That document can come down from the screen

You've mentioned the Lee Castleton case being your sole experience of data from the Horizon System being used in legal proceedings involving a subpostmaster.

- A. Yes
- Q. Can we turn to paragraph 47 of your witness statement, please -- sorry, page 47, and look at paragraph 147. In paragraph 147, under "Conduct of Prosecutions", you say: 60

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"I was not involved in the case of POL v Lee 1 2 Castleton, and I did not know of this case before 3 receiving the Request." 4 Can I just understand what you meant by that 5 sentence there, because the "Request", capital "R" --6 I am not going to take you right back to it but right at 7 the beginning of the statement you define "Request" as 8 meaning the Rule 9 request that we sent you in January 9 this year. 10 A. That was --Q. That can't be right, can it? 11 12 A. When I wrote my witness statement, I was asked 13 a specific question: was I involved in the case of 14 POL v Lee Castleton? Q. Yes. 15 16 A. And I said no because, at the time, I did not know that 17 that was the case in which Anne Chambers was involved. 18 It's a question of terminology. I didn't know that that 19 was the name of the case. All I knew was that Anne 20 Chambers had had to go to court for a prosecution. Does 21 that ... 22 Q. So, essentially, what you mean by paragraph 147 is two 23 things, "I was not involved in the case which Anne 24 Chambers was involved in, which I now know to be called 25 Post Office v Lee Castleton", full stop? 1 A. No. I don't know that I was ever told. As far as my 2 recollection, Anne was, to my belief, pressured to go to 3 court. I believed that that was a function of the 4 Security team. 5 Q. Sorry, just stopping there, the function of pressurising 6 her was the function of the Security team or the 7 function that she stood in for was their function? 8 A. The function that she stood in for. I believed that she 9 was being pressured to go to court because the person in 10 the security team was not going to go. 11 Q. Can you help us with -- I'm going to press you on 12 this -- why that person declined to go to court? 13 A. No, I don't know and I'm not sure that I was ever told. 14 Q. Who told you that they had declined to go to court? 15 A. I think that that came out in an argument and I was 16 having the argument with one of three people but I don't 17 recall which one. Specifically, I think Dave Baldwin 18 was the CS director at the time, Naomi Elliot, I believe 19 to have been the Support Services Manager, and Brian 20 Pinder was the head of the Security team. 21 Q. So you had an argument with one of those three people? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Where was the argument? 24 A. Probably in a corridor. 25 Q. Did they, the Security team, work in the same building

16 May 2023 1 A. That's correct. 2 Q. Secondly, "I did not know that the case in where Anne 3 Chambers was involved was called POL v Lee Castleton"? 4 ▲ Correct 5 Q. Understood. 6 If we look over the page, please, you set out from 7 paragraph 153 down to 156 your involvement in the case 8 that you now know to be the Castleton case, yes? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. In paragraph 153, you say: 11 "In this particular case, the person at Fujitsu 12 who was originally responsible/going to give evidence at 13 court declined to go. I cannot recall who this person 14 was or why they declined. My recollection is that Brian 15 Pinder was the Customer Service manager of the security 16 team at the time, and I believe it would have been his 17 responsibility to perform this task within his team." 18 So the way you're describing it there was that 19 there was originally a person within Fujitsu who was 20 going to give evidence at court and they declined. 21 A. That was my impression at the time, yes. 22 Q. Can you recall why they, that person, were originally 23 selected to give evidence? 24 A. No. 25 Q. Can you help us with why they declined to give evidence? 1 as you? 2 A. They did. 3 Q. On the same floor? 4 A. No, they were, I think, 5th floor. SSC were 6th floor. 5 Q. And it was in the course of that argument that you 6 learnt that the person who was originally responsible 7 had declined to go to court? 8 A. That was certainly the impression I got. I don't know 9 if it was specified in those terms. I can't --10 I obviously can't remember which one of the three people 11 I was having an argument with, so I certainly can't 12 remember the exact form of words that were spoken. 13 Q. In the third sentence there -- so, second sentence you 14 say you can't recall who this person was or why they 15 declined. That's to go to court? 16 A. Correct. Q. The third sentence, you say: 17 18 "My recollection is that Brian Pinder ... it would 19 have been his responsibility to perform this task within 20 his team." 21 By that, are you saying that it ordinarily would 22 be Brian Pinder's job to go to court to perform this 23

A. No, I am saying that Brian Pinder managed the team

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within which I believed this task should have been done.

producing a witness statement.

Q. You say there "I believe it would have been his

ı	Q.	Tou say there it believe it would have been his	ı		producing a withess statement.
2		responsibility to perform this task".	2	Q.	Why was that a principle that you were fighting for or
3	A.	Yes.	3		against, the idea that somebody should go to court?
4	Q.	You're only talking about going to court in that	4	A.	A number of reasons. Firstly, nobody in the SSC was
5		paragraph.	5		trained to do presentations, certainly not trained in
6	A.	Yes.	6		court etiquette or court procedures.
7	Q.	Is that section of the statement incorrect then? That	7		Secondly, it's an open-ended commitment for
8		gives the impression, does it not, that your belief was	8		somebody to go to court, which means that I was going to
9		that it was Brian Pinder's responsibility ordinarily to	9		lose one of my most skilled diagnosticians for
10		perform the task of going to court?	10		an unspecified period of time.
11	A.	No. Perhaps it would be clearer if you read the last	11		Thirdly, on a purely personal level, she was
12		part as being "I believe it would have been his	12		clearly being very stressed by it. I wanted to make
13		responsibility to perform this task from within his	13		sure that that did not happen to any of my staff in the
14		team".	14		future.
15	Q.	Or "I believe it would have been the responsibility of	15	Q.	You say in paragraph 154:
16		a person within his team"?	16		"I was instructed by the Director of Customer
17	A.	Correct.	17		Services whose name I cannot recall, to detail
18	Q.	Rather than it would have been his responsibility?	18		someone from the SSC to go to court to explain the
19	A.	Yes.	19		workings of the message store. I strongly objected that
20	Q.	You weren't intending to say, by this paragraph, that it	20		nobody in the SSC had any experience of courts, or was
21		was Brian Pinder's job to go to court and he had	21		legally trained. I was overruled."
22		declined to do so?	22		I think you just named the Director of Customer
23	A.	No, I wasn't intending to say that.	23		Services at that time as Dave Baldwin; is that right?
24	Q.	What was the argument about then?	24	A.	My recollection and my timescales may be off at
25	Α.	The principle of sending an SSC person to court or	25		one time Dave Baldwin was Director of Customer Service
		65			66
1		and Naomi Elliat reported to him. At a different time	1	0	and she wouldn't be rattled?
1 2		and Naomi Elliot reported to him. At a different time,  Naomi was herself the Director of Customer Services.	1 2	Q. <b>A</b> .	
3		I can't be precise about the timescales because I don't	3		Rather than "I picked her because she was the one that
4		remember.	4	Q.	knew about the call"?
5	0	You don't know whether that Director of Customer	5	۸	I think that I had forgotten that she was involved in
6	Q.	Services was at the time Mr Baldwin or Ms Elliot?	6	Λ.	the original call until reading some of the more recent
7	۸	That's correct.	7		documents that the Inquiry have sent to me.
Ω	<b>7</b> .	You tell us in paragraph 155, if we just scroll down,	8	0	In your discussion with the Director of Customer
9	Q.	that, essentially, it was up to you to choose somebody	9	Q.	Services, was there any discussion about whether the
10		from the SSC to give evidence in the case against	10		witness would be giving evidence as an expert witness or
11		Mr Castleton. You had a free choice?	11		as a witness of fact of what had gone on in the call?
12	۸		12		-
		That is my recollection.		_	I don't recall the conversation, sorry.
13	Q.	Was the choice not informed or dictated by the fact that	13	Q.	Do you understand the distinction that I've just made?
14 15		Anne Chambers was the one who had dealt with the	14 15	<b>A</b> .	I believe so.
15 16		relevant PEAK arising from Mr Castleton's calls?	15 16	Q.	What do you understand the distinction to be?
16	_	I almost certainly considered that, yes.	16 47	Α.	Sorry, can you go through the terms again?
17	Q.	le you picked the person who knew about the call that	17	Q.	
18		was going to be relevant in evidence?	18		whether the person giving evidence would give evidence
19	Α.	I'm fairly certain that that would have been one of the	19		as an expert witness or a witness of fact of what had
20	•	criteria that I used to pick her, yes.	20		gone on in the call.
21	Q.	In this paragraph, you say you picked her because she	21	Α.	In that case, the correct answer is, no, I don't
22		was the most experienced and technically best in the	22	^	understand the difference between those.
23		area of counter code. You had confidence in her honesty	23	Q.	Was there any discussion between you and Anne Chambers,
24	_	and integrity	24		therefore, over the basis on which she was going to give
25	A.	Yes. 67	25		evidence, what she was going to give evidence about, the 68
		VI			

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being mentioned.

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Q. Can we look, please, at FUJ00152300. I'm about to show

1		limitations of it?
2	A.	My understanding was that she was going to give evidence
3		on the factual basis of the Riposte message store.
4	Q.	Were you told, as part of the Director of Customer
5		Services' persuasion or overruling you, that the Post
6		Office was treating the Castleton case as something of
7		a test case and was going to use it, if it won, to try
8		and discourage other postmasters from either bringing
9		cases against the Post Office or defending them?
10	A.	I don't recall that being in any way part of the
11		discussion and I don't think that I knew or became aware
12		of those implications until I received documents from
13		this Inquiry.
14	Q.	So you weren't aware that, for the Post Office, it was
15		judged that to be the case that a lot was riding on
16		this?
17	A.	No.
18	Q.	Can we look at some documents, please. Firstly,
19		POL00099397. Thank you.
20		This is an email exchange in 2013, so many, many
21		years later, after you had left Fujitsu, and it's
22		an exchange in which you are not involved, therefore,
23		but there's something in it that I want to ask you
24		about.
25		Can we look at the bottom of page 1 and the top of 69
1		hadn't been followed?
2	Α.	Correct, except clearly one of my staff was going to end
3	^	up in court when I did not believe that was appropriate.
4	Q.	
5		was not followed, Mr Jenkins couldn't give evidence.
6		Was that said to you back in 2006?
7	Α.	Not that I can recall.
8	Q.	Can you think why a process not being followed meant
9		that Mr Jenkins could not give the evidence?
10	Α.	No, I don't think that I was even aware at that time
11		that Gareth was the nominated person in 2006 to give
12	_	evidence.
13	Q.	What was your knowledge of Mr Parker's involvement in
14		these events?
15	Α.	Steve Parker would have been involved as the SSC
16	_	manager
17	Q.	Back in 2006 I'm talking about. I've asked Mr Parker
18		about this already and he said "You'd better ask Mik
19		about it"?
20	A.	I think Steve was involved because in December 2006
21	_	I was on honeymoon, so he was in charge of the SSC.
22	Q.	In your statement, you've told us that it was you that
23		
		had the conversation with the Customer Services
24		had the conversation with the Customer Services  Director

16 May 2023 1 page 2, please. You can see an email from Mr Parker to 2 Mr Winn, yes? Yes. 3 Α. 4 Q. Then if we scroll down, please, in the third paragraph, it's the second paragraph on this page, Mr Parker says: 5 6 "The litigation bit [that's referring to 7 an earlier exchange in a chain that I'm not going to take you to] is all to do with chain of evidence for 8 9 prosecutions and delivery in court. I'm sensitive about 10 it because in the distant past one of my team was 11 'persuaded' (by our side not yours) [that means by Fujitsu, not the Post Office, in context] to write 12 13 an evidence statement without fully understanding the 14 implications. As you know, our 'professional witness' 15 for these types of cases is Gareth Jenkins but in this 16 case, because process was not followed, Gareth couldn't 17 do it and preparation for court became very difficult." 18 Firstly, do you understand what the process to 19 which Mr Parker is referring there ought to have been 20 where he says "process was not followed"? 21 A. Not really. If process wasn't followed -- since the 22 Castleton case was the first one that I had come across, 23 I'm not sure I would have known what the process being 24 followed by the Security team was. 25 Q. And, therefore, you wouldn't know in what respect it 1 Q. -- and it was you that persuaded Ms Chambers to give 2 evidence? 3 A. Yes. 4 So those things didn't happen whilst you were on 5 honeymoon? 6 Α. No. 7 Q. So what did Mr Parker do, then, outside of the conversation that you had with Customer Services and 8 9 outside of the conversation persuading Anne Chambers to 10 give evidence when he was deputising for you? 11 A. I'm sorry, perhaps I'm being dense. I'm not 12 understanding the question. 13 Q. I'm trying to work out what Mr Parker's involvement was, 14 what his footprint was on this issue back in 2006. Did 15 he have any involvement in it at all, to your knowledge? A. Only if I handed over what had been going own at the 16 17 time that I was going to be away from the office. Q. Can you recall whether now you had handed over this 18 issue to him? 19 20 A. No, I can't recall if it was an extant issue when 21 I going on -- I would have briefed him along with all 22 the other things that were going on in the SSC before 23 I went on leave, but I cannot recall this specifically

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1		you a couple of documents now that we very recently
2		received from Fujitsu, over the weekend, I think. If we
3		look at the foot of the page, please, an email exchange
4		between you, Brian Pinder and Naomi Elliot, copied to
5		Anne Chambers of 29 January 2007.
6	A.	Right.
7	Q.	So just to locate that in time, this is after Anne
8		Chambers had given evidence
9	A.	Yes.
10	Q.	but I think before judgment. You say:
11		"Brian,
12		"I understand from Anne that you do not intend to
13		have an internal review on the Castleton case."
14		Why would there need to be an internal review on
15		the Castleton case?
16	A.	Because Anne was concerned about the process.
17	Q.	So it wasn't a review of the case as a whole, to your
18		mind; it was a process by which Mrs Chambers had come to
19		give evidence?
20	A.	And her concerns with the evidence that she'd given.
21	Q.	"Nevertheless, we are concerned that POA made some
22		errors during the course of this case which could prove
23		critical in any future litigation."
24		The reference to POA there, is that a reference to
25		the Post Office Account within Fujitsu, not a reference 73
1	A.	Yes.
2	Q.	It was written by Mrs Chambers, if you just scan,
3		please, both pages of the document at the same time or
4		put both up at the same time, you can see its length,
5		date and authorship.
6		So you can see it's got four headings. It's
7		signed off by Anne Chambers on 29 January 2007. That
8		was the date of your email sent at 11.34 that morning.
9	A.	Yes.
10	Q.	It's headed "Afterthoughts on the Castleton case". If
11		we can just go through this newly disclosed document,
12		please, starting on paragraph 1 or heading 1 at the top,
13		"Approach to SSC staff". Maybe if that can be blown up
14		for those that are looking online. She says:
15		III. H
16		"In the summer of 2006 I was asked directly by the
		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to
17		
17 18		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to
		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to a solicitor about a call I had dealt with in February
18		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to a solicitor about a call I had dealt with in February 2004. My initial response was that this was not the
18 19		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to a solicitor about a call I had dealt with in February 2004. My initial response was that this was not the normal process he reassured me that it was more or
18 19 20		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to a solicitor about a call I had dealt with in February 2004. My initial response was that this was not the normal process he reassured me that it was more or less a formality so somewhat reluctantly I agreed."
18 19 20 21		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to a solicitor about a call I had dealt with in February 2004. My initial response was that this was not the normal process he reassured me that it was more or less a formality so somewhat reluctantly I agreed."  You will see there that Anne Chambers has it down
18 19 20 21 22		Security Manager whether I would be prepared to speak to a solicitor about a call I had dealt with in February 2004. My initial response was that this was not the normal process he reassured me that it was more or less a formality so somewhat reluctantly I agreed."  You will see there that Anne Chambers has it down more contemporaneously with events that it was she that

I		to the Post Office?
2	A.	I would read it as the Post Office Account within
3		Fujitsu.
4	Q.	So that should read, essentially, "We are concerned that
5		part of Fujitsu made some errors during the course of
6		this case"?
7	A.	That's how I would read that, yes.
8	Q.	What errors did you think that part of Fujitsu had made

- Q. What errors did you think that part of Fujitsu had made
- in the course of the Castleton case? A. I don't recall. I only saw this document just before we
- came in this morning. I believe that there is also another document in which Anne makes her concerns clear.
- Q. You refer to that in your next paragraph. You say:

"... Anne has written up her thoughts and comments [which are attached], and I would welcome your comments."

The subject line of this being a "'Mop up' on the Castleton case".

- Α.
- 20 Q. Let's look at the paper that was attached to your email 21 then.
- 22 Okay.
  - Q. FUJ00152299. Thank you very much.

You will see that this is the paper that was attached to that email.

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Security and a row.

- A. I agree that's way it reads.
- Q. Does reading this more contemporaneous document help you to remember how matters, in fact, unfolded?
- A. My memory is probably coloured by the fact that I regarded it as my responsibility because she was one of my staff; so I may well have remembered that I persuaded her when she had, in fact, been contacted by the Security Manager. Her memory is actually considerably better than mine so I would defer to her.
- Q. She says that she was asked directly by the security manager. Who would that be?
- A. I suspect that, at this time, it would have been Brian Pinder.
- Q. So she records being asked directly by the somebody who you think would likely be Brian Pinder and the request was to speak to a solicitor about a call that she dealt with back in 2004. Mr Pinder "reassured me it was more or less a formality", so she reluctantly agreed, and then she said:

"Subsequently, before the meeting with the solicitor, he asked me what my availability was in the autumn for the court case. This was the first time there was any mention of the possibility of having to go to court. Repeated assurances that this would all be

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1 settled before getting to court proved to be unfounded. 2 "I appreciate that there may be circumstances 3 where witnesses are summoned and have no option but to 4 comply, but I was not at all happy about how this was 5 handled." 6 Does this jog a memory in you in one of the 7 elements of unhappiness, the reassurance you're not 8 going to be required but, in the event, having to go to 9 court? 10 A. I cannot recall precisely but I would suspect that this reaction from Anne formed the basis of the argument 11 12 which I had with one of the three people that I had the 13 argument with. 14 Q. Paragraph 2 or section 2, please, "Review of technical 15 evidence": 16 "When I took the initial call in February 2004, 17 I spent only a few hours on it before deciding that 18 I could not see any sign of a system problem. I only 19 looked at a couple of weeks' information. 20 "While in this case I am now sure that I did not 21 miss anything and my initial analysis was correct, I am 22 concerned that there was no technical review of the 23 Horizon [System] between the original call and the case 24 going to court. It is probable that any system problem 25 affecting the accounts would have shown up to Post 1 A. I would agree. Yes, I would be concerned. 2 Q. Albeit Mrs Chambers saying, "In the event, I don't think 3 in this case it was a problem because my view is that 4 I didn't miss anything"? 5 A. I understand. I agree with her position in both 6 respects. If she said that she's reviewed it since and 7 she didn't miss anything, then I have absolute 8 confidence that that is the case. Her concerns about 9 the process I can only agree with. 10 Q. It's one thing answering a Helpdesk call amongst a stack of tickets. 11 12 13 Q. It's quite another thing being used as a witness to 14 speak, as she does in her next paragraph, being treated 15 as an expert witness in answering a wide variety of 16 calls about the system? 17 A. Yes, I agree. 18 Q. You see that she says: 19 "... I found myself being treated as an expert 20 witness and answering a wide variety of questions about 21 the system, although nominally I was a witness of fact 22 and my witness statement covered just the investigation 23 done in 2004. Fortunately I do have extensive knowledge

Office staff who did check the all the figures very carefully, but since the subpostmaster was blaming the system for the losses I think it would have been sensible to have double checked this within Fujitsu before it got as far as court. I was certainly concerned, in the early stages, that there might be something I had missed."

Just dealing with that paragraph first, were you aware that between a call coming in about a shortfall or a discrepancy and any action being taken against the subpostmaster, there was no what she described as technical review of Horizon evidence conducted by SSC staff or by anyone?

- A. That's difficult to say because this was the only case that I knew of.
- Q. What did you think when you read this?
  - **A.** I cannot recall reading this until I was presented with it this morning.
  - Q. Would you, reading it now, recognise this as being a serious issue, serious because one is moving from an examination of a fault or error in the context of a Helpdesk call, essentially --
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. -- and then jumping into a prosecution or civil proceedings without any intervening review? 78

been handled by a less experienced SSC person?

"If there is a similar case in the future, where the system is being blamed, would it not be sensible to have a technical review of all the evidence, at the first indication that a case may be going to court? Someone involved in that review would then be well placed to give evidence in court."

Just dealing with those questions that she asked -- in a future case where somebody is blaming the system, wouldn't it be sensible to have a technical review of all of the evidence -- what was done as a result of that question being asked?

- A. I don't know.
- Q. We're 2006 here, end of 2006/beginning of 2007 and there are many prosecutions that follow this. Can you help us what happened to the, on the face of it, not unreasonable question that Mrs Chambers is raising?
  - A. I agree that the question is entirely understandable. I know that, at some point, Gareth Jenkins took over the responsibility for doing technical presentations. My recollection is that, even between 2006 and the time that I left, I was not aware of any other prosecutions.
- Q. Just going back to the email that you got in response to this -- we'll come back to the document in a moment -that's FUJ00152300, look at the response from Mr Pinder 80

but what would have happened if the initial call had 79

of the system and was able to fulfil the wider role --

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this.

unfair?

disclose all documents that may help or hinder their case or the other side's case. In this context, a "document" means anything in which information of any description is recorded, so it includes, just for example, a computer database. Previously, I had asked Fujitsu to let me have all the info it had and had been helpfully given HSH call logs, transaction logs and event logs. I was also recently told that there was

a message store which had everything else on it and we

invited Mr Castleton to look at this, but he didn't take

at the top, back to the same distribution list, ie you,

up on this particular case as such but I must stress

that from the outset this was 'new ground' and

10 years) for all concerned. It involved many ...

variables which, at any point in time could have

a particularly unusual case (1st of its kind in

culminated in a totally different outcome.

and will keep you both informed."

"Thanks Mik, there was no intention to have a wash

"This enquiry took well over a year to conclude

and routine procedures which have served us well for 10

years were suddenly being stretched to new limits, but

it does highlight how [the Post Office Account] can be

called to account and I totally agree we must learn from

highlighted some interesting areas of procedure which we

On one view, that reads as sort of a pat on the

head where nothing much is going to happen or am I being

need to recognise, and I will discuss these with Naomi

"Anne (many thanks for your comments) you have

Mrs Chambers and Ms Elliot:

"Mik Anne

She continues:

up the opportunity."

"This suggests that disclosure of the message store itself was an afterthought, though it is fundamental to the system. I know that for fraud cases the 'transaction log' and 'event log' are extracted from the ... message store and submitted, but surely the full message store has to be disclosed in all cases?

"Many other files are also archived to the audit servers as a matter of course and could hold relevant information, although the Security team are not necessarily aware of their existence or potential relevance. I'd like to suggest that a list of these files is compiled so that similar mistakes are not made in the future.

A. I don't recall this email --

- Q. What about the substance of the issue then? Do you remember anything happening? He says he's going to keep you both informed.
- A. I don't have any recollection that I was kept informed of any progress on those issues.
- Q. Can we go back then to Mrs Chambers' document FUJ00152299 and look at the foot of the page "Disclosure of evidence":

"Fujitsu made a major legal blunder by not disclosing all the relevant evidence that was in existence. I found myself in the invidious position of being aware that some information (Tivoli event logs) existed, but not sure whether they had been disclosed or not, since I had not been party to any of the requests for disclosure. It became evident in court that they had not been disclosed.

"Quoting from an email received from POL's solicitor after my revelation ..."

Then there's a quote from an email. For the Core Participants who are aficionados in this area, if they want to look at that email it's POL00070104. Anyway, it reads:

"In any litigation, the parties involved have a continuing obligation pursuant to the Court rules to

"And what about calls on PEAK, which may have evidence attached? And any evidence which might have been kept within SSC? I was not asked whether I had anything that might have been relevant (as it happens, in this case I did not).

"Of course there may be subtleties to this that I am unaware of, whereby data may exist but there is no obligation to disclose it. If this is the case, could any future witnesses be briefed appropriately? The response 'no-one has ever asked for that before' does not seem to be a good reason for non-disclosure."

Would you agree that Mrs Chambers is raising there a series of reasonable, focused and pertinent questions --

- Q. -- against the context of her saying that Fujitsu, the company that you work for, had made a major legal blunder by non-disclosure of evidence?
- A. I'm not sure that I would have categorised it in that way but the implications of what she is saying I would certainly agree with.
- Q. Why wouldn't you categorise the non-disclosure as a major legal blunder?
- A. Because I'm not sure what constitutes a major legal blunder. I agree that if these documents were not

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1		presented at litigation, then that was an error.	1		Customer Support, to Mr Pinder
2	Q.	The series of questions that she asks (for example,	2	A.	Yes.
3		surely the message store has got to be disclosed on all	3	Q.	and Ms Elliot?
4		cases), did that happen thereafter?	4	A.	Yes.
5	A.	This was the only court case that I knew about, so	5	Q.	Can you recall what happened as a result of these
6		I have no idea.	6		reasonable, focused and pertinent questions being asked?
7	Q.	What did you she refers there in the second paragraph	7	Α.	No, I cannot.
8		down:	8	Q.	As a manager, you would want to grip a situation like
9		"I know for fraud cases the 'transaction log' and	9		this, wouldn't you?
10		'event log' are extracted from the message stores but	10	A.	I agree.
11		surely the full message store has to be disclosed."	11	Q.	Can you help us what you did do to grip it then?
12		That's telling you that there's another species of	12	A.	No. I'm sorry, I've no recollection of this.
13		case, isn't it?	13	Q.	Can we move down to paragraph 4, please:
14	Α.	It is but I don't recall seeing this document until this	14		"This case highlighted a common problem, both in
15		morning and I don't recall being aware that there were	15		2004 and now. The postmaster raised many calls about
16		any other cases.	16		his continuing losses, both with Horizon and with the
17	Q.	So you weren't aware that members of your team were	17		NBSC. These kept being bounced [back] and it took weeks
18		speaking to Mr Dunks to help him compile witness	18		before a call was passed to SSC."
19		statements to prosecute people?	19		Is that accurately describing a common problem;
20	Α.	That's correct.	20		namely a subpostmaster continually raising calls about
21		You weren't aware then of your team's indirect	21		continuing losses which were bounced back or were being
22		involvement in the prosecution of subpostmasters?	22		bounced at the lower levels of Customer Support?
23	Α.	Not that I can recall.	23	A.	
24		You got this document. It was sent to you by Anne	24		earlier, the SSC was supposed to receive the first
25		Chambers and indeed you sent it on to Customer Services,	25		instance of a new incident. Subsequent incidents would
		85			86
1		become a problem, rather than an incident, and would be	1	Q.	That's what she's saying: it's a common problem?
2		handled through the problem management process. So if	2	A.	I agree that's what she's saying.
3		there were multiple calls on a single problem, then the	3	Q.	So what would you want to do, receiving this?
4		SSC would receive the first. Subsequent ones would be	4	A.	I would have wanted to know how big a problem this was.
5		referred to the problem managers by HSH and SMC.	5	Q.	It's a common one.
6		Whether or not calls were being bounced around	6	A.	That's not very specific. How I would deal with it now,
7		between Horizon and the NBSC, I wouldn't know.	7		I don't know. How I dealt with it at the time that Anne
8	Q.	This is telling you that it is a problem and it's	8		brought this, I don't remember.
9		a common problem.	9	Q.	Mrs Chambers continues:
10	A.	I agree, in which case Anne must have actually	10		"Strictly speaking, problems with discrepancies do
11		researched that to find that.	11		need to be investigated by NBSC in the first instance,
12	Q.	Again, that needs something to be done about it, doesn't	12		but where there are continuing unresolved problems it
13		it?	13		should be possible to get the issue investigated
14	A.	I was not in the when I was in the SSC, I was not	14		properly, and one of the helpdesks should be prepared to
15		involved with any relationship between the Horizon	15		take responsibility for the incident. Personally
16		Helpdesk and the NBSC, so I can't comment on that.	16		I think the fact that the Horizon Helpdesk is penalised
17	Q.	But your staff were.	17		for passing 'Advice and Guidance' type calls on to third
18	A.	In the normal course of events, no, they weren't.	18		line leads to too many calls being closed without proper
19	Q.		19		investigation or resolution. This is very frustrating
20		some knowledge.	20		for postmasters, though possibly not an issue of concern
21	Α.	She researched presumably researched it having	21		to POL."
22		recognised that there was an issue.	22		She's raising a systemic issue there, isn't she?
23	Q.	And that it's a common one?	23	Α.	She's raising what she believes to be an issue in
23 24			23 24	A.	process, which I believe was handled by the problem
		And that it's a common one?  She may have deduced that from the evidence that she'd got having researched it.		A.	_
24		She may have deduced that from the evidence that she'd	24	A.	process, which I believe was handled by the problem

1	Q.	So she was somebody who was one of your most experienced	1		actually giving evidence in the Castleton case, and then
2	α.	and trusted diagnosticians, wasn't she?	2		shortly after you answered questions about that, Mr Beer
3	Α.	Agreed.	3		took you to an email much later, 2013, when Mr Parker
4		You had absolute faith in her competence and integrity?	4		had suggested, or at least it could be thought that
5		Yes.	5		Mr Parker was suggesting, that Gareth Jenkins was due to
6	Q.	So what did you do with this problem that had been	6		give evidence but there had been a process failure which
7		raised?	7		meant that that couldn't happen.
8	A.	I probably discussed it with her and went through the	8		Now, the question I want to ask you is simply
9		problem management process.	9		this: from your memory when you were speaking either
10	Q.	What does "went through problem management processes"	10		to well, when you were speaking to anyone about
11		mean?	11		whether or not Mrs Chambers should give evidence, was
12	A.	Pointed out to her that the problem management process	12		the name "Gareth Jenkins" mentioned to you as someone
13		is the place where repeat issues should have been	13		who normally would give such evidence but couldn't on
14		handled.	14		this occasion?
15	Q.	Is that another form of a pat on the head?	15	A.	No, his to my recollection, no, his name was not
16	A.	No, it's me disagreeing with what she said.	16		mentioned and the impression that I've got from the
17	MR	R BEER: Sir, I wonder whether we could take the lunch	17		email from Brian Pinder was that this was the first
18		break earlier today at 12.45 and come back at 1.45,	18		occurrence of this sort of event and, therefore, I would
19		please.	19		not have expected there to have been a process which
20	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, by all means.	20		involved Gareth Jenkins.
21	MR	R BEER: Thank you, sir.	21	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: And I ask the question because, as
22	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: There is just one question, I think,	22		Mr Beer pointed out to you, Mr Parker couldn't really
23		while it is in my mind, Mr Peach, and it relates to	23		explain how the name "Gareth Jenkins" came to be written
24		questions you were asked about 15 minutes ago now when	24		by him in this context in 2013 but suggested you might
25		you were looking at the events which led to Mrs Chambers 89	25		know the answer. But it looks as if we have the 90
1		unsatisfactory position that neither of you can explain	1	0	Would you agree that the document raises a series of
2		that reference to Mr Jenkins. Is that really where we	2	Q.	fundamental issues about the way that evidence is
3		are?	3		presented to a court by Fujitsu in proceedings against
4	Δ	That's correct.	4		subpostmasters?
5		R WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Does that mean we start at	5	Δ	I don't think I can draw that inference from one case.
6	0	1.50 instead of 1.45, Mr Beer?	6	7.1	I agree that what's in this document means that, in this
7	MR	R BEER: Yes, thank you, sir.	7		case, I would agree with Anne there were things that
8		R WYN WILLIAMS: All right, fine.	8		were missed, but I couldn't extrapolate that into other
9		2.45 pm)	9		cases.
10	(	(Luncheon Adjournment)	10	Q.	Did you ask, "What do we do in any other cases"?
11	(1.5	(	11	Α.	No, I did not.
12		R BEER: Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and hear me?	12	Q.	So this is your total sample size, yes?
13		R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.	13	Α.	l agree.
14		R BEER: Thank you very much. I said I was going to move	14		Why wouldn't you ask, "Is this an outlier, do we do this
15		to a new topic. I realised that I omitted to ask a few	15	~.	in all cases? Do we do other cases at all?"
16		questions on our last one that I ought to ask now. Can	16	Α.	I don't recall this document and it was only presented
17		we go back, please, to FUJ00152299. This was the Anne	17		to me this morning, so I haven't had the opportunity to
18		Chambers document of 29 January 2007, the two-page	18		research whether or not perhaps I made comments in my
19		document; do you remember?	19		monthly report. I just don't know.
20	A.	Yes.	20	Q.	So we should look, should we, to your monthly we got
21		l've taken you through individual parts of it and asked	21		this document on 12 May from Fujitsu
22	_,	you questions about it. Can I take a step back and ask	22	A.	Right.
23		you to take a step back and look at the document as	23		which is why you got it recently.
24		a whole.	24	Α.	
25	Α.		25		If we are to see what action you took as a result of
		91			92

1		this, where should we look?
2	Α.	I can infer, but not be certain, that having seen this
3		document at the time that could have been when Gareth
4		Jenkins started taking on the responsibility for
5		litigation. Until this morning, I had always thought of
6		Gareth as being a technical expert on one part of the
7		system. I had seen him in the office and I knew that
8		people deferred to him for expert advice. Whether or
9		not his taking over on the litigation side was a result
10		of actions that I took from seeing this from Anne,
11	_	I just cannot say. I don't remember.
12	Q.	3 3 7 1
13	_	look for evidence of action that you took?
14	Α.	Management meetings, discussions between the CS Director
15	_	and Brian Pinder. That's all I can suggest.
16	Q.	Would you agree that this document, in general terms,
17		standing back, calls for action to be taken?
18	<b>A</b> .	Yes, I would agree.
19	Q.	Because it's sending a warning, isn't it? It's raising
20		red flags on a number of fronts to Fujitsu about the way
21 22	Α.	that evidence is presented?
23	Q.	Yes, it is.  And I think you would probably agree that, in the light
24	Q.	of what we now know, this was a harbinger for many of
25		the events that we were subsequently to see, confusion
23		93
1	Q.	He's informed the Inquiry in his witness statement that
2		he felt uncomfortable working at Fujitsu because he felt
3		that there was a culture of fear, that he was bullied by
4		a member of the staff and, therefore, walked out, and
5		that in the SSC there was a culture, which he says came
6		from the top, of prioritising short-term fixes over
7		long-term solutions.
8		Taking those allegations in turn, did you know
9	_	that he felt uncomfortable working within the SSC?
10	Α.	No, I don't recall any occasion when he raised that with
11	•	me.
12	Q.	That he felt that there was a culture of fear within the
13		SSC?
14	<b>A</b> .	I would dispute that.
15	Q.	Did you know that he said he was being bullied by
16		a fellow member of staff?
17	Α.	I knew that because it was reported to me when I got
18	0	back from leave.
19	Q.	And that there was, he says, a culture which came from
20		
20		the top of prioritising short-term fixes over long-term
21	٨	solutions?
21 22	Α.	solutions? Within the SSC, our role was to generate work arounds for
21 22 23	A.	solutions? Within the SSC, our role was to generate work arounds for any incident if we could and then to pass the call to
21 22 23 24	A.	solutions? Within the SSC, our role was to generate work arounds for any incident if we could and then to pass the call to development for a code fix. The code fix prioritisation
21 22 23	A.	solutions? Within the SSC, our role was to generate work arounds for any incident if we could and then to pass the call to

1 over whether a witness was giving evidence as a witness 2 of fact or an expert witness, non-disclosure of 3 documents? 4 A. I agree to that. As I said before, as far as I was aware, this was the only case that I knew of. 5 6 Q. Why was Anne Chambers raising it with you if it was the 7 only case? Surely the memo itself contemplates that 8 there are more. 9 A. I agree to that too. It appears that the action that 10 I took was certainly to forward her concerns to the 11 Security Manager. What happened after that I have no 12 memory of. 13 Q. Thank you. That document can come down. 14 Do you remember a man called Alvin Finch working 15 in the SSC? 16 A. I remember interviewing and subsequently offering a job 17 to Alvin. I confess I had not remembered his surname until I saw him on the witness list. 18 19 Q. Do you remember how long he worked in the SSC for? 20 A. I remember it being a very short time and that his 21 leaving was not happy. 22 Q. Why was his leaving not happy? 23 A. I went on leave. When I came back from leave, I was 24 informed that he'd thrown his pass across the floor and 25 announced to everybody that he was being bullied. 1 a member. I can see that it may be considered that from 2 within the SSC prioritising a workaround in order to 3 keep the system up and running was important but the 4 generation of the code fix was equally important, but 5 probably not visible or as visible to someone of Alvin's 6 7 Q. Can I turn to the KEL system then, please. Mrs Chambers 8 has told the Inquiry that an issue or concern with the 9 KEL system was that service tickets would be passed to the SSC with the wrong KEL quoted on them. Were you 10 aware of that problem? 11 12 A. Yes, particularly in the early days and I had meetings 13 with the SMC manager when it happened, initially, 14 I recall, monthly, because the SMC's filtration rate was 15 low, later by exception, saying something along the lines of "SMC missed this or got the wrong KEL, why? 16 17 What was wrong with it? Do we need to amend it? Do we 18 need to amend your procedure?" Q. What was the result of that? 19 20 A. Frequently an update to the KEL. A lot depended on 21 where the KEL had been written and by whom because 22 technicians at third or indeed fourth line would specify 23 a problem in technical terms, whereas what the 24 postmaster was reporting was clearly something that was

happening on a counter, and there were certainly

4		the second secon	4		and the second s
1		occasions where it was not clear from the description of	1		management process and, therefore, may not have been
2		the problem from the postmaster that a particular KEL	2		visible immediately to the SSC. However, there was
3	_	applied.	3		frequent contact between the problem managers who were
4	Q.	Did the issue have an adverse impact on Fujitsu's	4		also the Service Delivery Managers responsible for each
5		ability and POL's ability to respond timeously and	5		area. So if an incident was happening multiple times,
6		appropriately to complaints made by subpostmasters about	6		then the problem manager would be dealing with it as
7		Horizon?	7		a problem and he would talk to me and say "N" post
8	Α.	It would have had some impact purely because the call	8	_	offices have this problem.
9		was being passed to the SSC with an incorrect KEL. It	9	Q.	•
10		was then our responsibility to update the KEL so that	10	Α.	From the HSH and SMC. They had a direct line through to
11		that didn't happen again. Did it make any difference to	11		the Service Delivery Managers. So duplicates and the
12		the way in which a specific incident was diagnosed? No,	12		trend analysis were part of the problem management
13	0	I don't think so.	13		process between the HSH and the problem manager. The
14	Q.	Mrs Chambers also told the Inquiry that the SSC and	14		SSC was tasked specifically with dealing with incidents,
15		fourth line support development did not always know how	15	_	that being the first event of a new problem.
16		many branches had reported a particular problem because	16	Q.	How would a problem manager know or understand the
17		tickets never made their way up to the SSC or to the	17		breadth of a problem by reference to access to HSH
18		fourth line, and also because the breadth of a problem	18		databases?
19		in unreported instances of the problem never made their	19	Α.	They would be the ones that knew how many post offices
20		way to the SSC because subpostmasters didn't report	20		had called in with that problem.
21		them.	21	Q.	What if the post office didn't know what the problem
22		Were you aware of those two problems?	22		was?
23	Α.	·	23		Sorry, I don't
24		incident, then the process for handling that and	24	Q.	They say, for example, "I've just balanced and there's
25		tracking the duplicates was part of the problem  97	25		a discrepancy. That's all I know". 98
1	A.	Okay. So the initial version of that would come to the	1	A.	That, I don't know.
2		SSC for us to do the diagnosis and, if necessary,	2		Can we look, please, at FUJ00079939. You'll see this is
3		organise a fix with development. Multiple post offices	3		a 2005 document entitled "[Post Office Account] Customer
4		phoning in saying they had the same problem would be	4		Service Incident Management Process Details".
5		treated as a problem.	5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	So were they attributed a code by the HSH?	6	Q.	The "Abstract" says that the document describes the
7		I have no knowledge of exactly the way that HSH and SMC	7		customer service incident management process and I think
8		communicated that through to the problem managers.	8		we'll see that you're one of the people to whom it was
9		I know that the problem managers kept a database.	9		distributed.
10	Q.	What was that database called?	10	A.	Yes.
11	Α.	I think it was just called the Problem Management	11	Q.	Can we look at page 9, please. The document says:
12		Database.	12		"The inputs to this process are:
13	Q.	What was it populated with?	13		"All Incidents reported by Contact with the [Post
14	Α.	I don't know. It was populated by the problem managers.	14		Office Account] Horizon Service Desk. Contact is
15	Q.	So if you had to describe top to bottom or bottom to	15		defined as voice or Tivoli alert as the methods of
16		top, bottom-up, the system that Fujitsu employed to	16		communication with the Horizon Service Desk and fall
17		ensure that the nature, extent and breadth of a problem	17		into the following categories:
18		was established, how would you describe it?	18		"Business process error.
19	Α.	I would describe it as solely within the remit of the	19		"Hardware or software error.
20		Service Delivery Managers who would interface to their	20		"Request for information, eg progress of
21		counterparts in POL.	21		a previously reported Incident.
22	Q.	How would the Service Delivery Managers know about these	22		"Network Error.
23		pockets of instances around the country?	23		"Severity and SLT information.
24	A.	Because HSH would tell them.	24		"Evidence of an Error.
25	Q.		25		"System Alerts received automatically from OMDB."
		99			100

1		So is this recording the fact that problems might	1	Δ	Just something going wrong. Tivoli of all those
2		be identified through a number of routes via a Tivoli	2	Α.	things in there. So Tivoli error messages being
3		alert, via a system alert or via contact with the	3		reported by the SMC, incidents being reported by
4		Helpdesk itself?	4		postmasters, errors occurring on the central systems,
5	Δ	I would agree with everything in that statement except	5		they would all be an incident. If there were multiple
6	Α.	of "problem" instead of "incident".	6		instances of an incident, then HSH would forward that to
7	0	So incident issues?	7		the problem managers.
8	Α.	Incidents, yes.	8	0	What was the remit of the problem manager then?
9	Q.	You don't like the word "issue"?	9	A.	
10		I got used to using the ITIL nomenclature for	10	Λ.	a document very similar to this one called the "Problem
11	Λ.	identifying the difference between incidents and	11		Management Process" which would detail that.
12		problems, which was a struggle for me at times. So you	12	0	Where did the problem managers sit? Where were they
13		have to make a distinction on an incident between	13	Q.	physically located?
14		a problem you have to make a distinction between	14	۸	
15		an issue and an incident and a problem.	15	A. Q.	
16	0	So the problem managers weren't really there to manage	16	Q.	because of automatic detection by a Fujitsu system or
17	Q.		17		those which are reliant on a subpostmaster calling them
18		problems, they were only there to manage incidents; is	18		in?
19	۸	that right?	19		
	A.	No, it's exactly the reverse. The problem managers were	20	_	Both of those, yes.  If we look further down the page under "Dependencies":
20		there to manage problems. They were not there to manage		Q.	
21 22	0	incidents.	21 22		"The process is dependent on:
		What's an incident?			"Effective incident handling by the Service Desk.
23	Α.	A single occurrence of an anomalous event somewhere in	23		"The Known Error Database being available and kept
24	0	the system.	24		up to date with all errors as the root cause becomes
25	Q.	Anomalous in what sense? 101	25		known to Problem Management." 102
1		Just stopping there, what was the difference	1	0	Whose responsibility was it to ensure that the content
2		between the Known Error Database and the Service Desk	2	Q.	of the KEL database was consistent with the HSH one?
3		Knowledge Database?	3	Δ	I don't recall.
4	Δ	The Service Desk meaning HSH, in this case?	4	Q.	Was it anyone within the SSC's responsibility?
5	Q.	-	5	A.	No. Because the SSC did not have access to HSH ONE.
6	Α.	HSH used the KEL system as did the SMC. The HSH,	6	Q.	
7	Α.	because, speaking from memory, 90 per cent of their	7	α.	then?
8		calls were hardware-related, they kept an additional	8	Δ	I really couldn't comment. I have no knowledge of the
9		database which acted as their known error database for	9	Α.	contents of HSH ONE.
10		hardware problems.	10	Q.	
11	0	It was restricted, was it, to hardware problems?	11	Q.	effectively to HSH members?
12		As far as I'm aware but the SSC never used it, so	12	A.	
13	Λ.	I can't be certain.	13		How was that done?
14	0	If we just go over the page, you'll see that it's	14	Q. A.	
15	Q.	described, in the next bullet point:	15	Α.	HSH and SMC, which in this context we would treat as one
16		"Service Desk knowledge database (HSH ONE)"	16		unit, made sure that they understood it, had meetings
17		Is that what it was known as?	17		with their manager to ensure that they were able to use
18	٨	Yes.	18		it. SSC made sure that the server that contained it was
19			19		
20	Q.	It says it's kept up to date with POL business and	20	0	up and running all the time.
		services knowledge. You're saying, to your knowledge,		Q.	So maintaining the content and continuity of operation
21 22	٨	that was only in relation to hardware issues?	21 22	Α.	of KEL? Yes.
23	A.	The only times that I ever came across it, it was	23	<b>A</b> .	
23 24		relating to hardware problems but the SSC didn't keep	23 24	Q.	,
		it, access it or maintain it, so its exact structure	24 25	Α.	were using the KEL database?
25		I couldn't tell you. 103	۷۵	A.	Initially there were monthly reviews between myself and 104

	MC manager, who was my interface. After the	1
	on rates of the SMC rose sufficiently, then that	2
	one on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis.	3
	do you mean by that?	4
	n, if SSC staff said, "SMC have raised this KEL and	5
	n't agree with it", then I would go back to the SMC	6
	ger and say, "Why is this, what's happening? Do we	7
	to update the KEL?"	8
	ve go to page 15, please and look that foot of the	9
. •	at paragraph 2.5. The document records that:	10
11	"If the incident is not routine, the Service Desk	11
· ·	checks for Known Errors listed in HSH ONE and the	12
	KEL against records relating to the incident	13
, ,	coms. If a match is found, the agent informs the	14
	of the workaround or resolution available and he call to the master incident record."	15 16
17	Would you agree that, quite aside from the	17
	tance of the KEL, the content of the HSH ONE	18
	edge database is key to how and whether a problem	19
	scalated or resolved properly?	20
	and I would agree with that statement.	21
	go on over the page, please, to paragraph 2.7, the	22
•	nent records that:	23
20 40041		24
24		
24 25 "	"If no match is made against the Problem Database	25
24 25"	105	25
		25
25"	105	
25" 1 the fir	105 st line when they were checking HSH ONE and the	1
25"  1 the fir 2 SSC F	105 st line when they were checking HSH ONE and the KEL. So the Product Support Engineers I would read,	1 2
1 the fir 2 SSC F 3 as be	105 st line when they were checking HSH ONE and the KEL. So the Product Support Engineers I would read, ing part of the HSH.	1 2 3
1 the fir 2 SSC H 3 as be 4 Q. Okay.	105 st line when they were checking HSH ONE and the KEL. So the Product Support Engineers I would read, ing part of the HSH. You think they are people within the HSH?	1 2 3 4
1 the fir 2 SSC F 3 as be 4 Q. Okay. 5 <b>A.</b> I would	ast line when they were checking HSH ONE and the KEL. So the Product Support Engineers I would read, ing part of the HSH.  You think they are people within the HSH? d read that that way, yes.	1 2 3 4 5
1 the fir 2 SSC H 3 as be 4 Q. Okay. 5 <b>A.</b> I woul 6 Q. I have	ast line when they were checking HSH ONE and the KEL. So the Product Support Engineers I would read, ing part of the HSH.  You think they are people within the HSH? d read that that way, yes.	1 2 3 4 5 6
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1 the fir 2 SSC h 3 as be 4 Q. Okay. 5 A. I woul 6 Q. I have 7 then y 8 parag 9 Engin 10 A. Becau 11 Delive 12 of the 13 Q. So if t 14 resolv 15 right? 16 A. I don't 17 Q. Yes. 18 define	ast line when they were checking HSH ONE and the KEL. So the Product Support Engineers I would read, ing part of the HSH.  You think they are people within the HSH? dependent of the that way, yes. a suggested that they are hardware specialists and you referred to paragraph 2.8. What in raph 2.8 causes you to think that Product Support eers may also be involved with software? Use it refers to SDU which stands for Service ery Unit and SSC is listed in many documents as one Service Delivery Units. The other people within first line support can't the the incident, it goes back to SSC; is that think so. Can you reword that or  You said that SDU, Service Delivery Unit, is	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
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1 the fir 2 SSC I 3 as be 4 Q. Okay. 5 A. I woul 6 Q. I have 7 then y 8 parag 9 Engin 10 A. Becau 11 Delive 12 of the 13 Q. So if t 14 resolv 15 right? 16 A. I don' 17 Q. Yes. 18 define 19 A. No, th 20 Hardv 21 Unit, a 22 Q. Okay. 23 a grou 24 A. Yes.	ast line when they were checking HSH ONE and the KEL. So the Product Support Engineers I would read, ing part of the HSH.  You think they are people within the HSH? dependent of the HSH.  You think they are people within the HSH? dependent of the HSH and read that that way, yes. a suggested that they are hardware specialists and you referred to paragraph 2.8. What in raph 2.8 causes you to think that Product Support eers may also be involved with software? use it refers to SDU which stands for Service ary Unit and SSC is listed in many documents as one Service Delivery Units. The other people within first line support can't the the incident, it goes back to SSC; is that think so. Can you reword that or  You said that SDU, Service Delivery Unit, is ad in a number of documents as meaning the SSC? the SSC is one of the Service Delivery Units. Ware engineers would also be a Service Delivery as would the Network team.  So it's an umbrella term, SDU, referring to	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

16 May 2023 The "Problem Database", is that referring to 1 2 something other than the KEL and the HSH ONE? 3 That's how I would read it. 4 Q. Is that the thing that you were describing earlier? Yes, I think so. 6 "If no match is made against the Problem Database, the 7 Service Desk continues with first line resolution of the Incident assisted by the Product Support Engineers 8 (PSEs)". 9 10 So that's if there's no match on HSH ONE, no match 11 on KEL and no match on problem database, the incidents refer back down to first line support; is that right? 12 13 A. I'm not sure who Product Support Engineers are in this 14 15 Q. Are they people that are concerned with hardware? 16 A. Reading the next paragraph I would read it as both, 17 since the SDUs are Service Delivery Units that would include the hardware and the SSC. 18 19 Q. You have to explain that answer in a bit more detail. 20 Just sticking with 2.7 for the moment --21 A. Okay. 22 Q. -- if there's no match of the incident in HSH ONE or KEL 23 and no match on the problem database, the incident gets 24 sent back to first line resolution, yes? 25 The way I was reading this was that we were currently in 1 answer, if KEL doesn't contain the answer, if the 2 Product Support Engineers can't find the answer, then 3 you go back to one of the units within SDU using the 4 support matrix in HSH ONE? 5 A. You don't go back to, you go -- in my terms, you go up 6

- Q. Up to.

- A. If first line can't resolve the incident and there are no known errors on any of the systems, then they will pass it through to, effectively, the third line support units.
- Q. Why do you say, "effectively, the third line support units"? What about the second line?
- A. Well, because for -- as I can recall the process, HSH would send calls which were clearly hardware to the engineering team. They would send calls which were clearly or possibly software issues to the SMC and, whether or not the interface to the Network team went through HSH direct or through the SMC, I can't recall.
  - Q. Can we move forwards please to page 18 and paragraph 4.4. The document records:

"Where this incident has a number of calls referenced to it, or where there is a probability that proactive action is required to prevent further occurrences of this Incident the IMT [I think that's 108

Incident Management Team] initiate a Problem record to 1 1 2 2 be authorised by the Service Management Team and passed 3 3 to Problem Management." page 17, you say: 4 4 What do you understand that process to involve? 5 5 A. I understand that to be the process by which HSH, having 6 received a number of calls, would attach those calls to 6 7 the incident and then report to the problem managers for 7 8 8 handling as a problem. 9 9 Q. How many calls would be sufficient to justify doing so? 10 A. I believe that the problem management process says on 10 would be listed on the PEAK." receipt of the second call. Whether or not that was 11 11 12 modified to say "Only do it with 'N' calls", I don't 12 could have implications for multiple branches? 13 13 know. Q. Alternatively it says: 14 14 15 "... where there is a probability that proactive 15 16 action is required ..." 16 17 Who would decide whether it was probable that 17 18 18 proactive action would be required? they would actually trawl the system to find out if 19 A. Reading that, I would assume HSH because they're the 19 other post offices are being affected by it. 20 ones that are having the conversation with the problem 20 Q. How would they trawl the system? 21 21 managers. 22 22 Q. How would they decide the probability that proactive 23 action is required? 23 24 24 A. I don't recall if I ever knew the details of the 25 interaction between HSH and the problem managers. 25 the initial call, the SSC would go through the 109 1 correspondence server message stores in the central 1 Q. Did you ever see the scripts? 2 systems and identify which other post offices could be 2 3 affected by this particular issue. 3 4 Q. And what would they do then? 4 5 5 A. Note the details of those post offices on the PEAK, 6 probably on the KEL as well and, if it was felt to be 6 7 7 a problem rather than a single incident, then we would of the script I don't recall ever seeing. 8 talk to the problem managers in that area. 8 9 Q. Whose responsibility was it to get in touch with the 9 into a range of PEAKs --10 10 Post Office to tell them that a problem had --A. Yes. 11 11 A. Problem managers -- Service Delivery Managers who became Q. -- and saw them in that way? 12 12 de facto problem managers for their areas had interfaces A. Yes Q. Was it part of the SSC's function to either write or 13 through to Post Office management. 13 14 Q. Now, I think earlier in the process, before calls got up 14 verify the accuracy of the content of scripts? 15 to the SSC, you were aware, obviously, that, from what 15 16 we've discussed so far, that the HSH had access to their 16 17 own knowledge database and KELs. 17 18 18 19 Q. Were you aware that they were provided with scripts? 19

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A. Yes.

the scripts?

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A. I have become aware that they were provided with

scripts. I must have been aware at the time because it

was clear from some of the PEAKs coming to us the

responses from postmasters to questions were being

The exact origin of those scripts, I cannot remember.

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repeated. So I was aware they were running on scripts.

Q. Thank you. Can we move on to the PEAK system, please. At paragraph 42 of your witness statement, which is on "If the SSC recognised that a particular problem could have implications for multiple branches, this was added to the PEAK and the KEL. It is important to note that problems which occurred in overnight processing sometimes had the potential to affect all Post Office branches, but not every potentially affected branch How would SSC recognise that a particular problem A. In two ways. If HSH has received multiple calls, then they had the ability to attach the call references to the master call which was presumably by this time in the SSC. If an SSC person, when analysing a problem, realised that it might have wider implications, then A. I think that would vary widely depending on the nature of the problem. If I can think of an example ... if we take as an example, and it's hypothetical, an issue in a certain type of reference data, then having received A. Not that I can recall as scripts. I can remember seeing on PEAKs a series of questions and answers which were clearly the same between some PEAKs. So a series of questions, a series of different answers. So, yes, I was aware there were scripts there but the full nature Q. So you saw extracts from what appeared to be scripts cut A. I don't recall it ever being a responsibility of the SSC to produce scripts or verify the accuracy. I do recall on occasions Service Delivery Managers saying, "What questions do we need to ask in order to find out the root cause of this particular issue?" Q. So contributing to the content in that way?

Q. But were you aware of any quality assurance process of

Q. We've heard evidence from some subpostmasters that, when

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1		they contacted HSH, they were aware that the person they
2		were speaking to was reading from a script and, amongst
3		other things, they were told they should take no action,
4		that a shortfall would probably resolve itself. Did you
5		see any scripts of that nature?
6	A.	Not that I can recall. As I said, I don't recall seeing
7		any complete scripts at all.
8	Q.	And that others have suggested that they were told that,
9		under the subpostmaster contract, they were liable to
10		repay to Post Office any and all shortfalls and,
11		therefore, they should do so?
12	A.	I was not aware of the terms of the contract between
13		Post Office and subpostmasters probably until March this
14		year when it became obvious from the documents that the
15		Inquiry had sent to me. If I had been made aware of
16		that, then I don't recall when it was done and it
17	_	obviously didn't register.
18	Q.	, , ,
19		which is just underneath. Thank you.
20	_	You speak about the Service Management Portal
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	between this paragraph and paragraph 49. You say it
23		was:
24		" an initiative proposed by the then customer
25		service director (Dave Baldwin), to be written by the 113
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1		document and its coverage, yes?
2	<b>A</b> .	Yes.
2	<b>A.</b> Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main
2 3 4		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors";
2 3 4 5		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6,
2 3 4 5 6		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please,
2 3 4 5 6 7		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. <b>A.</b> Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. A.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. <b>A.</b> Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made? Yes. Its purpose was not to record or to summarise particular
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made? Yes. Its purpose was not to record or to summarise particular bugs or the effect of particular bugs on subpostmasters?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A. A.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made? Yes. Its purpose was not to record or to summarise particular bugs or the effect of particular bugs on subpostmasters? No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made? Yes. Its purpose was not to record or to summarise particular bugs or the effect of particular bugs on subpostmasters? No. Neither the document nor the Portal?
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made? Yes. Its purpose was not to record or to summarise particular bugs or the effect of particular bugs on subpostmasters? No. Neither the document nor the Portal? No. In practice, is this right: the Service Management
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. A. Q. A.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made? Yes. Its purpose was not to record or to summarise particular bugs or the effect of particular bugs on subpostmasters? No. Neither the document nor the Portal? No. In practice, is this right: the Service Management Portal was not used to record or to summarise particular
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	Yes. So, after the introductory section there are five main sections: Section 4, "The Management Monitors"; Section 5, "Major Incident Management"; Section 6, "Reports and SLTs"; then, over the page, please, Section 7, "Operational Business Change"; and section 8, "Operational Change".  Overall, standing back from the document and without going through all 70-odd pages of it, was the idea of the portal to provide a high level overview of the status of the component parts of the Horizon System? Both high level overview in real-time monitoring and more detailed description of performance against SLTs. It was also a record of business and operational changes that it was proposed would be made? Yes. Its purpose was not to record or to summarise particular bugs or the effect of particular bugs on subpostmasters? No. Neither the document nor the Portal? No. In practice, is this right: the Service Management

SSC as something completely separate from the live estate and the formal development of Horizon ... created in about 2006, and it was a prototype to demonstrate the ways in which Fujitsu could display data of interest to POL."

Then over the page, please, you summarise in paragraph 44 -- I'm not going to read it all now -- the incidents which the SMP would deal with or the matters that the SMP would deal with, including a number of system functions, including Alliance & Leicester Network Banking, overall failure account on Network Banking transactions, ePay connections for E-Top Ups, et cetera?

- A. Yes.
  - Q. What was your involvement in the creation of the Service Management Portal?
- 17 **A.** I wrote large portions of it and included it in several18 tools that had been developed within the SSC.
  - Q. Can we look, please, at FUJ00142216. If we look on the second page, we can see your name as an "Originator". Does that mean author?
- 22 A. Yes
  - Q. Then, if we look at page 4 of the document, please, there should be an index, if we just zoom out, please. You'll see that we get an idea of the size of the 114
  - A. No, I don't recall that ever being my intent when I wrote it.
  - Q. And, in practice, it wasn't used for that purpose?
  - **A.** No.
    - Q. Thank you.

If we just go back to paragraph 44 of your witness statement, please, which is on page 18, you say in that paragraph that the Post Office (POL) could also check on the current state of an individual Post Office?

- Δ Yes
- 11 Q. The data which was used to provide the information was 12 detailed on the Service Management Portal.
  - Δ Yes
- Q. Do you know who within POL was provided with access tothe system in this way?
- A. At the time, I knew in terms of names because I had to
   set up individual users with a username and password.
   Their roles within Post Office, no, I never knew.
- 19 Q. How many were there?
- 20 A. No, I'm sorry, I can't remember that.
- 21 Q. Are we talking 5, 50, 500?
- A. We're talking tens but not hundreds.
- Q. What sort of information was held on this systemconcerning individual branches?
- 25 **A.** As I recall, there was a map of the UK with areas that 116

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would go red if a post office was not operating, details 1 2 of the nearest working post office and, for any post 3 office, if you put in the FAD code, you would get back 4 details of address and, I think, number of counters. 5 Q. And that was the extent of the data? 6 A. In that particular section, as I recall, yes. The user 7 guide would detail exactly what was available in there. 8 Q. Yes, and we've got it. Thank you. 9 A. Okay. 10 Q. Lastly from me, can we discuss another way of sharing 11 information with the Post Office and look at 12 paragraph 107 of your witness statement, please, which 13 is on page 35. I should start with 105 to give some 14 context. Under "Sharing information" you say: 15 "There were no procedures or work instructions of which [you were] aware that restricted the flow of 16 17 information about any workaround or potential bug 18 anywhere in Horizon." 19 A. Correct. 20 Q. Then, 107, you say: 21 "When incidents were closed, this would be 22 communicated to the postmaster who raised the incident 23 by the HSH/SMC. In cases where the SSC was 24 communicating with a postmaster about an incident, SSC 25 staff would sometimes agree closure of the incident with

So what is written there was in response to that particular question and why it would not work. It's not to be taken as detail of the process. Was that not clear?

- Q. No, it's not clear. What's the correction you wish to make?
- A. Yes, I recall that it required liaising between Fujitsu, the postmaster and POL but the reason behind that, in the working day, was because the counter needed to be left switched on, logged in and left alone. That was against POL procedures, which is why we sought POL's authorisation for any such addition to a message store and why it required us to talk to the postmaster to arrange a specific time.
- Q. Can we go back to the last sentence:

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"[The] workarounds that were applied to data centre systems were not always agreed, or discussed with POL."

Why was it that workarounds that applied to data centre systems were not always agreed or discussed with POL?

A. As I recall, there were occasions where the error had arisen in the calculations inside Fujitsu code in the data centre. Again, a hypothetical example: three post offices sell three stamps and the system then turns the postmaster. If a workaround was being applied, POL would sometimes liaise with the postmaster as to when the workaround was to take place -- for example, if messages needed to be inserted into the counter message store. As I recall, these types of workaround required liaison between Fujitsu, the postmaster and POL because (a) the postmaster would have to have the Post Office branch open (otherwise transactions would appear after end-of-day processing and cause failures), (b) Post Office branch staff would have to log out of their counters (otherwise the Riposte sequence number would mismatch and cause error), and (c) POL would also be asked to confirm that the inserted transaction had been successful. However, workarounds that were applied to data centre systems were not always agreed, or discussed with POL."

Can you explain why workarounds that applied to data centre systems were not always agreed or discussed with POL?

- **A.** If I may, I would like to correct some of the statements that come before that.
- Q. Yes, go ahead.
  - A. I think I was asked specifically would it be possible to put messages into a message store out-of-hours. I can't remember who asked me that, to be honest.

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around and says, "Yes, ten stamps sold, receipts for 9".

Clearly, that's a software bug. Equally clearly, there
is a correction required to the data but it does not
affect any of the individual post office's branch
accounts and, therefore, there is no point in
contracting them.

- Q. Was it the case that no contact was made principally on the basis that, for logistical or technical reasons, which you list in this paragraph, it was necessary to make contact in order to allow the workaround to be carried into effect?
- **A.** I'm sorry, I'm not sure I understood that question.
- Q. You have described in this paragraph occasions on which liaison was required between Fujitsu, the subpostmaster and POL.
- A. Yes.
- Q. You told us that some workarounds were effected, you have just given an example of one, without such contact with either POL or the subpostmaster.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was the reason that no contact was made with them because it wasn't necessary to make contact with them to carry out the fix? You didn't need to ask them to leave their machine on, for example?
  - **A.** No. The whole process about leaving the machine on 120

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- refers solely to the very rare occasions where messages needed to be inserted into the branch message store.

  Where it was not necessary was where corrections were being made to the central systems and where there was no implications for the individual branch's accounts.
  - Q. Wouldn't POL wish to know that there was a bug in their system?
  - **A.** Yes, and they would know because the daily reports on receipts and payments would not match.
  - Q. I thought you told us that it would have no impact.
  - A. It would not have an impact on individual branches. It would have an impact on the overall concatenation of the data. Where it would have an impact on an individual branch, then we would know which branches and the branches would have been told by SSC.
  - Q. So is it your evidence that, for each and every bug that was discovered by Fujitsu, either the postmaster was told directly or POL were told indirectly through the provision of the data that you've just mentioned?
  - A. No, that's not true for every bug because there were bugs in the central systems which would not have implications of that sort.
  - Q. What do you mean implications of that sort?
  - A. Any sort of financial implications on either branch or POL business.

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**MR STEIN:** Mr Peach, my name is Sam Stein. I represent 157 subpostmasters and mistresses. I'm instructed by the solicitors Howe+Co.

Can you just help us a little bit more to understand what people within the SSC were doing by way of the more general nature of work. Is it right that not everyone was engaged in fixing bugs and problems but other work was going on; is that correct?

A. Yes, it is.

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- Q. Now, the other work that was going on, and just help us a little bit more on this, is that there was pressure to complete testing; is that correct?
- **A.** No, SSC were not directly involved in testing except for workarounds that were produced in the SSC.
- Q. Right. So regarding workarounds that had to be looked at by different members of the team; is that correct?
- **A.** No a workaround for any specific incident would need to be tested before going out to the live estate.
- Q. Right. So that work was ongoing? What about new features for the Horizon System? Was that part of the work that was ongoing?
- A. Only in as much as we would review the technical documents that came from development and architecture prior to them going live and review support guides for each product that was going into the estate that was

Q. Were they the only ones that were kept from the Post Office then, ones where Fujitsu assess that there was no financial impact on anyone?

- A. No, I think that's reading something into what I said that isn't there. There was, in my mind, no case in which POL could not be told of any bug in the system.
  - Q. And I'm asking you, of all of the bugs of which you were aware, were they told?
  - **A.** No, because I am aware that there were incidents in the central systems which would not be communicated unless they became problems.
  - Q. Is the existence of a bug not a problem about which POL should be told?
- A. No. The existence of a bug can cause an incident. Only
  if it is deemed important or there are multiple sorts
  will it be a problem and, as far as I am aware, problems
  were always communicated to POL. It's very difficult to
  be specific about this without looking at an individual
  problem that may have occurred in a central system
  overnight.

**MR BEER:** Thank you very much, Mr Peach. Those are all the questions I ask.

**MR STEIN:** Sir, I have a few questions for Mr Peach. May I go ahead now?

Questioned by MR STEIN

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- Q. Later on, did that SSC also play a role in relation to Horizon Online? So as we move from the early days of what we call Legacy Horizon into Horizon Online, did it play a role there as well?
- A. Yes. We specified a large number of requirements to Development in order to help us support the system and one of my staff was put on more or less permanent secondment to the Development teams to try and ensure those requirements were met before the system went live.
- Q. Okay. So we've looked at, first of all, with Mr Beer, King's Counsel, in the questions that he has asked you today, about the different roles of the different tiers of problem solving, the taking the calls, the more that developed, the more expert individuals that engaged in solving problems, the workaround, the testing within that that had to go on and then also the work that was ongoing as regards development of Horizon Online.
- A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Have I missed anything?
- 21 **A.** Ye
- Q. Okay. Because it seems as though there's a lot going on here.
- A. Yes. SSC developed both the KEL system and PEAK, so we
   were effectively fourth line support for those
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particular applications. We did a large number of ad 2 hoc requests for data which came usually from POL and 3 usually through the Service Delivery Managers. So POL would need certain information, they'd talk to the Service Delivery Managers, the Service Delivery Managers 6 would come and ask us whether it was feasible, how long, how much. 8 There were other things going on but I'm 9

struggling to remember.

Q. Okay. All right, so we've got a very good idea in outline terms about the number of different things that were happening.

Now, presumably, this was all part and parcel of the delivery by Fujitsu of its contractual obligations to the Post Office, yes?

- A. Yes, and in the case of the ad hoc data requests beyond the contract.
- Q. Just to clear up one matter, was the SSC or any of its staff members also engaged on other projects, so working on maybe development of other systems for other companies?
- A. Not while I was manager.

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Q. So we know that the SSC, therefore -- you used the term workarounds. One of the big drivers here is to make sure that the system remains up and running, is 125

Riddell, Dave Baldwin, Naomi Elliot, Wendy Warham, possibly two or three more I've forgotten.

- Q. The different names you are giving, are they all people who held a line managerial job relation to you over a different period of time or were they all together managing you?
- A. No, over different periods of time. So those were the Customer Services Directors. I did not report direct to all of those. A lot of the time I reported to the Support Services Manager who, in turn, reported to the Customer Service Director.
- Q. Okay. So, in terms of your knowledge about the use of the data from Horizon System, it going to support or going to be used as part of court cases. Now, you probably know by now the sort of court cases we're talking about are the prosecutions of individual subpostmasters and mistresses?
- 19 Q. You know by now that that also included some people 20 being prosecuted, a failure of disclosure and people 21 going to prison.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You must have read all about that?
- 24
- 25 Q. You also must be aware by now that we're not just 127

- 1 servicing and need of the branches and the Post Office; 2 is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.

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- Q. So a number of things all going on. There's a contractual obligation to try to do what it can for the Post Office, whole thing needs to be kept going, yes?
- A. Yes.
  - Q. It sounds as though it's a fairly, how can I put it, pressured or busy place?
- 11 A. Busy, yes. Pressure is subjective.
- 12 Q. All right. Now, help us little bit more in relation to 13 the way that things worked. We know from your evidence 14 that what you are saying is that you weren't aware until 15 around, what was it, 2006/2007 that there was the use of 16 the Horizon System to support court cases.
- 17 A. And, to my memory, only in 2006 and I didn't -- I wasn't 18 aware that it was being used for any other cases.
- 19 Q. Right. Help us a bit more with your line management, 20 okay. So you're in charge of the SSC. Who's in charge 21 of you? Who's your boss?
- 22 A. On occasion it was the Customer Service Director. More 23 usually --
- 24 Q. Name -- can you name the individuals as we go, please?
- 25 A. Customer Service Director, Stephen Muchow, Martin

1 talking about the use of the criminal system but also 2 data from the Horizon system was used in relation to 3 civil prosecutions, civil cases before the county 4 courts, yes?

A. Yes.

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- Q. A serious business.
- A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Now, help us understand a little bit more. The people 9 that you have mentioned, the people in your line 10 management, who out of those people do you think should 11 have told you that, "Look, Mik, we've got this system, 12 it's going to be used by the Post Office, they're going 13 to prosecute people with it, just so you know, you know, 14 make sure you design the thing, make sure you get your 15 people working to that level".
  - A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Who should have told you that?
- 18 A. That's extremely difficult to answer because it's one of 19 those cases where you don't know what it is that you 20 don't know. Given that I was not aware that data was 21 being used in that way, how could I say who should have 22 told me?
- 23 Q. Let's try it another way round.
  - A. I would have expected it to come through my line management.

1	Q.	Right. Was that Mr Muchow?	1		you should have been told that the information from the
2		I was not aware of any cases when Steve Muchow was my	2		Horizon System was going to be used in court
3		manager.	3		proceedings, right. You're saying you weren't told
4	Q.	All right. Let's try this another way. Do you think	4		that, okay?
5		it's unimportant, do you think it doesn't matter at all,	5	Α.	
6		that the SSC was not put into the state of knowledge	6	Q.	Right. Who out of your line managers should have told
7		that this stuff is going to be used for core purposes,	7		you that?
8		think it doesn't matter?	8	Α.	If they knew, the entire list of my line managers.
9	Α.	No, I certainly do not think that	9		STEIN: Excuse me one moment. (Pause)
10		No, well, quite. Let's go back then to my question: who	10		Thank you, sir.
11		should have told you? If it's something that was	11	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Any other questions? It looks as if
12		important and you weren't told, who should have told	12		that's it, Mr Peach.
13		you, Mr Peach?	13	MR	BEER: No, it's not there's two lots of questions to
14	Α.	Again, I would have expected that to have come through	14		come.
15		my line management.	15	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS:   see.
16	O	Right. Well, over that period of time can you name the	16	_	BEER: I think Ms Page is going to go first and then
17		individuals that should have told you this important bit	17		WYN WILLIAMS: I'm conscious that we have been going for
18		of the business?	18	0	longer than an hour and I don't want things to be too
19	Δ	Over which period of time?	19		difficult for Mr Peach. Do we need a short afternoon
20		Well, why don't you start from the first manager that	20		break?
21	Q.	you can think of that should have told you that and name	21	MR	BEER: I will just check, if they can hold up their
22		them, please.	22	10111	hands, for how many minutes they are going to be. Five
23	Δ	The first case that I knew of was 2006.	23		for one and
24		No, Mr Peach, let's try this another way round. We've	24	MS	PAGE: It may be more like 15.
25	Q.	got a situation whereby you agree it's important that	25		BEER: I think that sounds like an afternoon break then,
20		129	20		130
1		sir.	1		Mrs Chambers, calls the common problem of SPMs,
2	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Let's have our break now then, sir.	2		subpostmasters, being bounced from one Helpdesk to
3		R BEER: Can we come back at 3.15, please?	3		another and she says about some calls being closed
4		R WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly.	4		without proper investigation or resolution when they are
5		R BEER: Thank you.	5		bounced back, and those calls are problems with
6		00 pm)	6		discrepancies needing to be investigated but personally
7	(	(A short break)	7		they are being penalised for passing some back.
8	(3.	15 pm)	8		Is that fair? She's basically saying there might
9		B PATRICK: Sir, can you see and hear me.	9		be a problem about calls, about discrepancies, being
10		R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can thank you.	10		bounced back inappropriately; is that right?
11	•	Questioned by MS PATRICK	11	Α.	I agree that, from what she says, calls were being
12	MS	S PATRICK: Thank you.	12		bounced between Horizon and the NBSC but shedoes make
13		Mr Peach, my name is Angela Patrick and I ask	13		the point in there that that resulted in it taking
14		questions on behalf of a number of subpostmasters who	14		a long time before the call got to the SSC.
15		were wrongly convicted and then acquitted and I am	15	Q	Okay.
16		instructed by Hudgell Solicitors led by Mr Tim Moloney.	16		I can't answer for the processes in NBSC and HSH,
17		We only have a couple of questions about two documents.	17		sorry only for the SSC.
18		One you will be quite familiar with, and I'm not	18	0	Okay. Do you recall now whether at the time you took
19		going to spend too long on, is Mrs Chambers' January	19	α.	any specific steps to follow up on that concern she was
20		2007 afterthought document, which Mr Beer has taken you	20		raising?
21		to at some length. It's FUJ00152299 and you will be	21	Δ	It sounds as though I'm being evasive and I'm really
22		happy to hear I only want to look at the last two	22	۸.	trying not to be. The first time I saw this document
23		paragraphs of the document, which are on page 2.	23		was at about 9.45 this morning, other than when it
24		I don't think we need to read it again. These are	24		happened and I didn't recall. I would think that Anne
25		the two paragraphs that deal with what she,	25		would have made sure I took some action but what that
20		131	20		132

1		action was, I couldn't say because I don't recall the	1		operation of the Horizon Service Desk and it's
2		document.	2		identified expressly as a joint working document. If we
3	Q.	Just to be absolutely clear, and I know that it's some	3		look at the very bottom of the page we can maybe put
4		time ago, having had a bit of time to reflect, can you	4		a date on it. Thank you very much.
5		recall whether it was raised with the Post Office?	5		Can you see at the bottom right-hand side there
6	Α.	I can't recall but, since NBSC were part of Post Office,	6		it's dated 4 September 2008. So that would have been
7		I would have expected them to have known from NBSC. If	7		about a year, or more than a year, after Mrs Chambers'
8		calls being bounced between Horizon and NBSC had been	8		feedback in her afterthought note, which was
9		raised within Fujitsu, then it would have been raised	9		January 2007?
10		with the Service Delivery Manager, ie problem manager,	10	Δ	Yes.
11		responsible for that area and I would have expected it	11	Q.	
12		to have been notified to POL through that route.	12	Q.	weren't an approval authority for this document, would
	0		13		
13	Q.	Thank you. Taking that on board, can we look at another			you, Mr Peach?
14		document and it's FUJ00080096.	14	<b>A</b> .	
15		If we can look at the top of the page to start	15	Q.	If we look at page 27 though, near the bottom of the
16		with, can you see that, Mr Peach?	16		page, we can see you're named there four boxes up from
17		Yes.	17	_	the bottom as a key contact for major software problems?
18	Q.	I think this is a joint working document. We've seen	18		Yes.
19		these before. It's got both logos on the top; is that	19	Q.	Can you recall whether at the time you may have been
20		right?	20		consulted on this document, which was, as we see,
21		Sorry yes.	21		a joint working document for the operation of the
22	Q.	You'd recognise that as a joint working document, would	22		Service Desk?
23		you?	23	Α.	I don't recall the document. I would have expected to
24	A.	Yes.	24		have been consulted on procedures relating to software
25	Q.	We see the title there. It's a document on the 133	25		problems, which were going to go through the SSC.  134
1	0	Okay New if this includes instructions for the	4		and discrepancy issues as inapprepriate cells?
1	Q.	Okay. Now, if this includes instructions for the	1		and discrepancy issues as inappropriate calls?
2		Service Desk, including when something would be directed	2	A.	The way I would read that would be to say, before any
3		towards the SSC or elsewhere, as the manager of the SSC	3		call of that sort was dealt with by HSH, it should have
4		at this time in 2008, would you expect to have been	4	_	gone to NBSC first.
5		shown it?	5	Q.	But the direction there is "inappropriate calls are
6	Α.	This document, yes, I would have expected to have been	6	_	defined as below"
7	_	shown it.	7	Α.	
8	Q.	Can we look at page 11, please. About part of the way	8		to include calls about cash account and discrepancy.
9		down this page, you can see at the bottom there's	9	Α.	Yes.
10		a header 3.4 "Inappropriate Calls". This is the part	10	Q.	And the direction is to transfer to NBSC or cold
11		that I'd like us to look at together. It reads:	11		transfer. What was a cold transfer?
12		"Inappropriate calls are defined as below; all	12	Α.	I have no idea.
13		inappropriate calls are logged on the Incident	13	Q.	But, essentially, they are being told to bounce them
14		Management System. If the incident has been	14		back to the NBSC?
15		investigated by an Agent and the call is deemed to be	15	A.	I would not disagree with your interpretation of that.
16		an inappropriate call, the desk Agent will give the	16	Q.	Was that exactly the problem that Mrs Chambers was
17		postmaster an Incident number and either transfer the	17		raising concerns about in January 2007?
18		postmaster to the NBSC or cold transfer the postmaster."	18	A.	That's the way I would read her statement, yes.
19		We see a list there of what calls are considered	19	Q.	If Mrs Chambers' feedback had been taken up with Fujitsu
20		to be inappropriate. Can you see the fourth bullet	20		management and with POL management, as you said you
21		point there, Mr Peach:	21		would have expected it to have been, it wasn't reflected
22		"Caller requests advice on cash	22		in this new joint guidance to the HSH, who were
23		account/discrepancy issues."	23		providing front line support to subpostmasters, was it?
24		Is this document advising the HSH, the Helpdesk,	24	A.	
25		to treat calls from subpostmasters about cash account 135	25		I do not know the processes that were operating in 136

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either NBSC or HSH in this area, so I don't know what's 1 2 behind that. 3 MS PATRICK: Thank you. I don't have any more questions. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you. 4 5 Ms Page next then. 6 Questioned by MS PAGE 7 MS PAGE: Thank you, sir. 8 I also act for a group of subpostmasters, 9 including Mr Lee Castleton. 10 A. Right. 11 Q. Can I start, please, with the document which you've seen 12 some of but I'd like to take you to a different bit of, 13 which deals with the quality of the EPOSS code and the 14 question of whether it was going to be rewritten. If we 15 could look at WITN04600104. You were taken initially to 16 page 9 and you told us that, when it came to a debate 17 about whether the code should be rewritten, you were not 18 surprised that that wasn't communicated to you because 19 that was a matter for the Development team, yes? 20 21 Q. If we look at page 10, we can see what happened with 22 respect to the debate about whether it ought to be 23 rewritten and, in that column headed "Agreed Action 24 Commentary", we can see that, ultimately, on 10 May --25 and this is in the year 2000 -- that large block at 137 1 said, if the problems encountered were clearly issues 2 with code, then we would know the number of calls that 3 we had passed to Development requesting code fixes. 4 Q. So it would make sense, wouldn't it, for your team to 5 have been told about this so that you could do that job 6 of counting up how many calls you had had about EPOSS 7 code and doing that sort of collecting together 8 exercise? 9 A. That's -- with any release of any software, at some time 10 the decision is made "We're not going to keep rewriting 11 this, we will fix forward", and that is the point at 12 which the code is delivered to the system and the SSC 13 becomes responsible for supporting it. 14 Would I have liked to have known about this 15 decision? Yes, I think I probably would. Was it my 16 decision to make? No, and the people who made the 17 decision were the people empowered to make that 18 decision. 19 Q. It's not about blaming you, Mr Peach. I'm asking really 20 because the question is: would it have been sensible for 21 your team, as the front-line team dealing with the first 22 initial software code problems, to have been able to 23 know about this, so that you could have fed your team's 24 findings in to that ongoing decision about whether there 25 ought to be a rewrite? They were keeping it under

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bottom:

"Following response received from MJBC: as discussed, this should be closed. Effectively, as a management team we've accepted the ongoing cost of maintenance rather than the cost of a rewrite. Rewrites of the product will only be considered if we need to reopen the code to introduce significant changes in functionality. We will continue to monitor the code quality (based on product defects) as we progress through the final passes of testing and the introduction of the modified CI4 codeset into live usage in the network. PJ, can we make sure this is specifically covered in our reviews of the B&TC test cycles. Closed."

What I'd like to ask you about is the suggestion there that there needed to be a monitoring of the code quality based on product defects as the modified codeset is put into live usage. As the front-line team dealing with complaints about the quality of the code, you were the team to do the monitoring, were you not?

A. No. As I've explained, if there were multiple instances of an incident or if a particular issue was considered important, then problem management process would deal with it. SSC would deal with finding the technical solution to an individual incident. That having been

review, that question?

- A. Yes, and, as I said, I probably would have liked to have known. Would it have made any material difference to the way we handled incidents, no.
- Q. No, but it's about how they could have handled the question of whether they should have rewritten the code.
- A. At the point that this document is written, I don't believe that this code was in live. It's talking about a specific release and it's a discussion between development and testing and a management decision at that point. I would have liked to have known that there were those issues in testing but I don't think I would have added significantly to the discussion.
- Q. All right. Well, I'll leave it in that case because I'm actually trying to focus on not on whether you would have added to the discussion. But whether it would have been sensible for your team's feedback to go into that discussion.

Now, I mean, if you don't want to take that any further, I'll leave it there.

- **A.** My team would not have had any feedback to this code because this release had not been -- had not gone to live.
- Q. No but once it had gone into live?
  - **A.** Once it had gone into live, knowing that there was 140

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1 specific focus and there was supposed to be more 2 monitoring in place, yes, I would have appreciated 3 knowing that. From this document, I can't demonstrate that we were not asked to specifically monitor. I don't 4 5 remember that we were but I can't demonstrate that we 6 were not. 7 Q. You have no recollection of being asked to monitor. 8 That's as far as we can take that line, I suppose. 9

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Thank you. Let's just turn then to another issue, which you've already touched upon and which I'd like to just explore a little further with you. The document FUJ00088082 is one that you've seen a little of. If we could turn to page 15, please, if we scroll down a little from the bit that you've looked at and just a little further -- sorry, I may have got the wrong page. Could we just scroll on a bit further.

Sorry, I had the wrong page. So if we go down to 7.4. Oh, dear, I seem to have made a bit of a mess.

I don't know if this is a document that vou've already had sight of but there's a passage where it talks about the SSC having a form of access on a needs must basis. Is that something that you recall seeing?

- A. It is but I don't think it's this document. I think it was
- Q. You may well be right. In which case, it may be 141
- A. No, none of us were happy with it. The original access control policy, from my reading of it now and my vague memories of it at the time, assumed that the SSC would be providing detailed code support to the data centre boxes and I believe the assumption was that, in the majority of cases of any problem on the counter, then the counter would be replaced: a straight hardware swap.

So the SSC responsibilities with regard to counter were very limited in the beginning, according to the access control policy. My recollection is that there were one or two problems on counters which affected a number of counters and for which hardware swaps were clearly not going to be an option and, therefore, SSC were allowed access to the counters in order to fix those problems.

Immediately that that became obvious and that we were contravening the terms of the access control policy, the security architect, who was Glenn Stephens (now, sadly dead), started looking for a solution that would give the SSC the access they needed to fix the system but in a controlled and auditable way, and that's where SSC came from.

Q. What I'd guite like to understand -- and thank you for that -- is who -- where did this land at the most senior level? Who was the most senior person who knew about 143

FUJ00087994. But it probably doesn't matter actually. I won't ask for that to come up. If you've seen the document, we've all seen it as well.

- A. Right.
- Q. That is a document which sets out a sort of a form of access that had developed because it needed to be; is that a fair way of describing it?
  - A. Yes.
    - Q. When that was put to Alan d'Alvarez, he testified that it had gone entirely against what the access control policy says should happen.
- 13 Q. So this was in 2002. You were obviously aware of it. 14 Was your line manager aware of it, this needs must 15 access?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. Who would that have been in 2002?
- 18 A. I don't think that I was working direct to Stephen 19 Muchow at that point. It would probably have been Peter 20 Burden.
  - Q. Peter?
- 22 A. Burden.
  - Q. Burden. Presumably there were some less than ideal discussions around that issue. I mean, it can't have been something people were happy with? 142

this problem?

- A. I don't know.
- Q. Was it seen as sufficiently serious for this to have got to the board?
- A. I'm sorry, I don't know that either.
- Q. Your evidence about what then happened in terms of the secure shell system, the SSH, was that you understood that that meant that, from that point onwards, there was a full keystroke audit trail for everything that SSC 10 members did when accessing subpostmaster accounts?
  - A. When accessing any part of the live system.
  - Q. But certainly subpostmasters accounts?
  - A. Certainly access to counters. Indeed, SSC staff used their PCs to get into the SAS servers and, from that moment onwards, whenever they went into the live estate it is my understanding that all keystrokes were logged.
  - Q. That was your understanding. You told us, however, that, although that was your understanding, you hadn't actually seen evidence of that, as such, but that was your understanding. You never saw any printouts that showed full keystroke logging?
    - A. I did not but then, to be honest, I don't think I ever saw a message store. That was just too technical for me. I know from discussions with one or two SSC staff that the logging was there but only because they said it

1		was absolute torture to look at it, because if you typed	1	Q.	So some effort would go into that and, indeed, it would
2		"T-E-H" instead of "the" and then went back, you would	2		involve a doubling up of manpower?
3		actually see "T-E-H, backspace, backspace, delete,	3	A.	Yes, and it wasn't just for corrections being made in
4		delete, T-H-E". So to read it was very difficult.	4		the counters. Corrections made on the data centres with
5	Q.	That suggests that definitely somebody saw it at some	5		any financial impact would also be subject to four eyes.
6		stage?	6	Q.	If you believed there was a full keystroke audit trail,
7	Α.	Yes.	7		what was the point? Why did you bother with the four
8	Q.	If I told you that there was a document considerably	8		eyes process?
9		later which says that it wasn't happening, it certainly	9	Α.	That's a good question. Because it never occurred to me
10		wasn't happening by that stage, you're not aware, are	10		to remove the process.
11		you, of any decision that was taken to stop doing it?	11	Q.	Finally, if I may turn to the subject of Anne Chambers
12	Α.	No, I would question the date on that subsequent	12		and her evidence in the <i>Castleton</i> trial, it's your
13		document.	13		evidence, if I understand it correctly, that Ms Chambers
14	O.	It was after you left. It was into the next decade.	14		was put into a difficult position when she was asked to
15	Α.		15		give evidence in the <i>Castleton</i> trial; is that right?
16	Q.		16	Α.	Yes.
17	α.	stop doing keystroke logging?	17		According to her document after the event, she really
18	Δ	No.	18	Q.	identified various failings of others within Fujitsu who
19		We've also been told that there was a four-eyes process	19		had failed to take full investigative steps ahead of the
20	Q.	and it was important to record the fact that one person	20		trial, failed to do a proper investigation ahead of the
21		was going into the message store had another person was	21		trial, yes?
22		watching them do so, and that there was then a narrative	22	٨	Yes. Again, I would stress that the first time I can
23		account of what the insertion into the message store had	23	Λ.	recall seeing that document was early this morning.
24		-	23 24	0	-
25	^	been and what it was for put into the PEAK.	25	Q.	But the result of that really, according to those two
25	A.	Yes. 145	25		things put together, her being put in a difficult  146
1		position and her understanding that others should have	1		the decument that we just leaked at with Ma Patrick
1		position and her understanding that others should have	1		the document that we just looked at with Ms Patrick
2		done a better investigation, is that she was really	2		named her alongside Mr Pinder?
3		rather unfairly put into the firing line.	3	Α.	I don't know Naomi's background. What I can tell you is
4	_	I completely agree.	4		that she was very astute technically, so I would have
5	Q.	•	5		thought she would have come from an engineering
6	Α.	No, I couldn't say. I really	6	_	programming background, rather than Security.
7	Q.	0	7	Q.	Was Security under the same director as your team, in
8	_	somebody about this.	8	_	the sense that they were also under Customer Services?
9	_	Oh, yes.	9		Yes.
10	Q.	Who was that?	10	Q.	So we can take it, can we, that either the Head of
11	Α.	As I said this morning, I know that I had a stand-up	11		Security or the director who was in charge of Security
12		argument and I know it was one of three people but what	12		was ultimately responsible for putting Anne Chambers in
13		I can't recall is which one of those it was.	13		the firing line?
14	Q.	Were you angry with all three of them?	14		Ultimately responsible, yes.
15	A.	Very probably.	15	MS	<b>PAGE:</b> Thank you. I have no further questions.
16	Q.	So one of those people was the Head of Security,	16		Questioned by SIR WYN WILLIAMS
17		Mr Utting so sorry, not Mr Uttering, that was POL's	17	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: I'm sorry, just to revisit what Ms Page
18		Security Brian Pinder, Fujitsu's Security, and one of	18		has asked you but I wanted to be clear that I got your
19		them was a person who may or may not at that time have	19		earlier evidence correct.
20		been the Customer Services Director	20		At paragraph 154 of your witness statement it
21	A.	Yes.	21		doesn't have to come up, I can just read the relevant
22	Q.	her name being Naomi Elliot?	22		words you say:
23	A.	Yes.	23		"I was instructed by the Director of Customer
24	Q.	Did she come from a Security background before she	24		Services at the time, whose name I cannot recall, to
25		became Customer Services Director? I ask that because	25		detail someone from SSC."

1	A.	Yes.	1	happening some time in the autumn of 2006?
2	Q.	You actually recall it was the Director of Customer	2	A. I have deduced that from the same documents without
3		Services but you couldn't identify that person by name.	3	direct memory.
4		When Mr Beer was asking you questions, you appeared to	4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: So that if we were to ask Fujitsu who was
5		narrow it down from three to two, in that the relevant	5	the Director of Customer Services between, shall we say,
6		Director of Customer Services was either Mr Pinder or	6	August 2006 and December 2006, we'd probably deduce who
7		Ms Elliot, all right? Now, you have said something	7	that person was?
8		slightly different to Ms Page, so I just want to be	8	A. Indeed.
9		clear what it is that I'm left with on this topic, which	9	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. All right thank you very much.
10		is obviously of some importance.	10	I think that concludes the questioning, am I right
11		So am I correct to keep to my earlier note that it	11	in that, Mr Beer.
12		was the Director of Customer Services who instructed you	12	MR BEER: Yes, you are, sir.
13		and that, by a process of elimination, was either	13	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. So thank you very much,
14		Mr Pinder or Ms Elliot, or do you want me to amend that?	14	Mr Peach, for coming to give evidence to the Inquiry and
15	Α.	My recollection, sir, is that it was the Customer	15	for answering very many questions over the course of the
16		Services Director who instructed me. Brian Pinder was	16	day and also thank you too for a detailed witness
17		Head of Security reporting to the Customer Service	17	statement in advance.
18		Director. He was not Customer Service Director. At	18	So that I think, Mr Beer, just leaves tomorrow
19		some point, Naomi Elliot, I believe, was Customer	19	and, ordinarily, the assessors and I would appear
20		Service Director and at a different time. Dave Baldwin	20	tomorrow but, unfortunately, because of an appointment
21		was Customer Service Director, and I cannot recall which	21	which I can't change, which is early in the morning in
22		of those two was in that post at that time.	22	South Wales, we'll be appearing remotely. So that's the
23	SIE	R WYN WILLIAMS: I'm sorry I misread my own note. That	23	reason why I have asked for a 10.30 start tomorrow.
24	<b>.</b>	is, in fact, what you said to Mr Beer. I take it that	24	My understanding is that we've got two short
25		this conversation, this instruction, must have been	25	witnesses and then you may wish to say something about
20		149	20	150
1		the written evidence relating to this phase. Mr Deer	1	INDEX
1		the written evidence relating to this phase, Mr Beer,	1	
2		and then we're going to hear closing oral submissions.	2	MICHAEL EDWARD PRYOR PEACH (affirmed) 1 Questioned by MR BEER 1
3		Now, just for the avoidance of any doubt, there	3	Questioned by MR STEIN
4		will be this is not the complete closure of Phase 3	4	Questioned by MS PATRICK
5		tomorrow because we have Mrs Chambers to return and	5	Questioned by MS PAGE
6		Mr Gareth Jenkins to appear, and that's going to happen	6	Questioned by SIR WYN WILLIAMS 148
7		I believe, in July so that those who are making final	7	
8		submissions, whether orally or in writing, can rest	8	
9		assured that if either of those persons say anything	9	
10		when they appear which they wish to address me about	10	
11		they can do it when they are making submissions at the	11	
12		end of Phase 4.	12	
13		Does that sound reasonable?	13	
14	MR	R BEER: Sir, yes, that's all correct and it does sound	14	
15		reasonable. Thank you.	15	
16	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. Well, then I will see you remotely	16	
17		tomorrow.	17	
18	MF	R BEER: 10.30, sir, thank you.	18	
19	(3.	52 pm)	19	
20		(Adjourned until 10.30 am the following day)	20	
21			21	
22			22	
23			23	
24			24	
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