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1	Tuesday, 19 December 2023	1	all participants in the Inquiry are cooperating
	(10.08 am)	2	at all levels, Mr Beer.
	MR BEER: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear	3	MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
4	us?	4	RICHARD DUNCAN ATKINSON (continued)
	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I can, thank you.	5	Questioned by MR BEER (continued)
	MR BEER: Before we start, two things. I understand	6	MR BEER: Good morning, Mr Atkinson.
7	the live link for those with log-in details is	7	A. Good morning.
8	working, hence we can see and hear you, and	8	Q. Can we pick up topic 8, please, which is the
9	other people who have those log-in details will	9	topic we were about to move to which is
10	be able to access this live feed, but the	10	cross-disclosure of Horizon issues.
11	YouTube link is not working at the present time.	11	Can we turn please to page 239 of your
12	It's been your practice in the past,	12	second report. I'll just wait for that to come
13	I think, to continue to sit because either the	13	up on the screen. At paragraph 668, you say:
14	YouTube link will be restored and a recording of	14	"As time passed, the number of cases where
15	now will be available, or people can read the	15	Horizon issues were being raised proliferated
16	transcript.	16	and the need for cross-disclosure between them
	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yeah.	17	should have become all too obvious. It is far
	MR BEER: Then, secondly, can I say thank you to	18	from obvious that this was carried out,
19	David Enright, who gave me a lift to the station	19	however."
20	this morning. As you know, he's a partner at	20	Then further down the page, at
21	Howe+Co and represents many subpostmasters here	21	paragraph 670, you conclude that
22	and happens to catch the same train as me and he	22	cross-disclosure between cases where Horizon had
23	has enabled us to start nearly on time this	23	arisen was not being undertaken and that there
24	morning.	24	is "no evidence of routine cross disclosure
25	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, I'm very glad to hear that 1	25	where Horizon evidence was relied on"; is that 2
1	right?	1	"The relevance of such cross-case issues was
	A. Yes.	2	highlighted in Mr Wilson's case by a letter from
	Q. Back in paragraph 19 of your report, no need to	3	his then MP, the Right Honourable Jacqui Smith
4	turn it up, you'd noted that you had seen	4	MP. In her letter to the [Chief Executive
5	discussions of the need to disclose in one case,	5	Officer] of the Post Office in December 2009,
6	in others where similar issues had arisen.	6	she referred to issues with the operation of
7	Beyond the form of words that we discussed	7	Horizon that had arisen in the case of
8	yesterday, was any such cross-disclosure in fact	8	Mr Wilson, and similar issues that had arisen in
9	provided in any of the cases that you reviewed?	9	the cases of Hughie Thomas, Seema Misra and als
	A. Not that I saw. No.	10	referring to the Falkirk post office"
	Q. In your Volume 2A report, if we can just turn	11	You say:
12	that up, please, EXPG0000005, at page 25, at	12	"It is pertinent to observe that if such
13	paragraphs 71 and 72, you're dealing here with	13	cross-case issues were obvious to Mr Wilson's
14	the case of Mr Julian Wilson. You say:	14	MP, they should have been all the more obvious
15	"Despite this issue having been raised	15	to those concerned in the cases who played
16	before and at the time of Mr Wilson's plea"	16	a role in that of Mr Wilson.
17	That's looking at Horizon issues in other	17	" there is no evidence that cross-case
18	cases, being this:	18	disclosure was considered."
19	" and at the time of Mr Wilson's plea,	19	So are you there making the point that
20	there is no evidence of cross-disclosure of	20	cross-disclosure was considered to be obvious to
21	other cases where complaints about Horizon, even	21	a layperson, in that case Mr Wilson's MP?
	though the reviewing lawyers had personal	22	A. To someone who had knowledge of that of the
22		00	
22 23	knowledge of a number", at least by reference to	23	fact that such issues had arisen in more than
22	knowledge of a number", at least by reference to the cases you've considered above. Then you say:	23 24 25	fact that such issues had arisen in more than one case, yes. Q. Overall, how serious a failure did you regard

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(1) Pages 1 - 4

1		the absence of cross-disclosure in the Horizon
2		cases that you looked at?
3	Α.	Well, the case of Mr Wilson highlights it, in my
4		view, but in that case, counsel instructed for
5		the Post Office to prosecute the case, both the
6		person originally instructed when the case was
7		charged and then the person who prosecuted it
8		once it had reached court, both raised the
9		question of whether the kind of issues that
10		Mr Wilson was describing with Horizon had come
11		up before because it's clear that neither of
12		them were aware that they had, but that they
13		recognised, if they had, that was potentially
14		disclosable.
15		And so the position appears, therefore, to
16		be that the those being instructed in these
17		cases recognised that the fact that an issue
18		with Horizon had come up before was potentially
19		disclosable, and yet those who were responsible
20		for the superintendence of disclosure in those
21		cases, the in-house lawyers in the Criminal Law
22		Division, who knew that they had come up before
23		because they were dealing with these cases again
24		and again, had not identified that this was
25		an issue even to be investigated for disclosure
		5
1		Horizon, in the same way that the cases of
2		Blakey and Mahmood had raised issues. And yet
3		I didn't see in their correspondence with the
4		Investigators anywhere them saying "It's
5		interesting that this person is saying they'd
6		had a problem with Horizon because we had this,
7		didn't we, last time and should we have
8		a conversation about that?" That would have
9		been a step forward.
10	Q.	That document can come down, thank you.
11		Does the point that you made in 667 of your
12		second report remain, that this was a small pool
13		of lawyers?
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	What was the point that you were making on the
16		back of it being a small pool of lawyers?
17	Α.	The fact that it was a small pool of lawyers
18		meant that issues that were coming up in one
19		case would resonate if they had come up before
20		because there was only a few of them dealing
21		with those cases, and so the in one sense,
22		they didn't need to be told by anyone that this
22		was severably a that was deal to be leaded at

23	was something that needed to be looked at

- 24 because they knew from their earlier experience
- 25 in cases that it was an issue to be dealt with.

1		beyond the very limited discussions that I saw.
2		And I consider that to be a serious issue
3		because they should have been considering
4		whether there was disclosure to be made in
5		relation to the operation of Horizon anyway, but
6		for them still not to be addressing it when they
7		knew that these issues were coming up and had
8		come up before, is a serious concern.
9	Q.	Did you see any evidence of consideration of the
10		issue and a reasoned decision to not give
11		disclosure?
12	Α.	No, and so, for example and I spotted
13		an error in my report, for which I must
14		apologise, in paragraph 667 I suggested that the
15		same lawyer had dealt with the cases of David
16		Blakey and Tahir Mahmood at the charge stage.
17		I was wrong about that: it was Mr Singh in the
18		case of Mr Blakey and Ms McFarlane in the case
19		of Mr Mahmood. But each of them then went on to
20		deal, in rapid succession, with a series of
21		further cases.
22		For example Mr Singh dealt with the cases of
23		Ms Palmer, Mrs Rudkin and Mrs Misra,
24		Ms McFarlane dealt with the cases of Ms Thomas
25		and Ms Hall, each of which raised issues with
		6
1		To give a parallel, one of the virtues of
2		the Treasury Counsel system is that, because
3		there is a small team who deal with these
4		difficult cases, where one person has an issue
5		in a case, someone else will have dealt with

that issue before and that and where there's
an issue that does arise in one case, they can
alert the others to watch out for it in other
cases.
This was a small team in much the same way

10		This was a small team in much the same way
11		and the need for inevitability, perhaps, of
12		sharing of experiences ought to have alerted
13		them to the fact that this was a problem that
14		went beyond one case.
15	Q.	Thank you. Can we move to topic 9, which is the
16		acceptance of pleas and, to start with, look at
17		something that you say in relation to Mr Singh,
18		and it's a point that arises in a number of
19		cases. The point is whether the acceptance of
20		a plea to false accounting is a concession or
21		arguably a concession of the absence of
22		sufficient evidence to theft. You address this
23		on page 127 of your report. It's paragraphs 351
24		and 352. At the end of 351, you say that:
25		"Mr Singh observed that 'if Mrs Misra

1		pleaded guilty to the false accounting [charges]
2		then it is recommended that the prosecution in
3		respect of theft is not proceeded with'."
4		Then 352:
5		"This was arguably a concession to the
6		absence of actual evidence of theft and
7		consistent with an approach whereby theft was
8		charged to encourage pleas to false accounting."
9		Now, I think on the last occasion you
10		confirmed that the judgment of the Court of
11		Appeal in <i>Eden</i> made it clear that it could be
12		appropriate to charge both theft and false
13		accounting where they are either put as
14		alternatives to each other or where they are
15 16		both advanced to cover different forms or
10	•	species of criminality? Yes.
18		Would you agree that that means that the mere
10	ω.	fact that theft and false accounting are charged
20		in the same indictment is not, of itself,
20		improper, so long as there's sufficient evidence
22		and a public interest to charge both of the
23		counts
24	Α.	Yes.
25	Q.	and the two charges are either put as
		9
1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	and the wishes and interests of the victim?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	In a private prosecution, where there isn't
5		an obligation to prosecute, even if the
6		evidential and public interest tests are
7		satisfied, is a prosecutor entitled to consider
8		whether, in the light of a plea or a proposed
9		plea, pursuit of the remaining count or counts
10		on the indictment is a proportionate use of the
11		private prosecutor's resources?
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	
14		that Mr Singh's observation must necessarily
15		in fact, I don't think you say "necessarily",
16		you say "arguably" arguably amounts to
17		a concession that there was insufficient
18		
		evidence of theft?
19	Α.	Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was
19 20	Α.	Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was does reflect Mr Singh's position but, taking it
19 20 21	Α.	Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was does reflect Mr Singh's position but, taking it as a starting point, Mr Singh had reached
19 20 21 22	Α.	Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was does reflect Mr Singh's position but, taking it as a starting point, Mr Singh had reached a charging decision without setting out in any
19 20 21 22 23	А.	Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was does reflect Mr Singh's position but, taking it as a starting point, Mr Singh had reached a charging decision without setting out in any way the evidential basis for his conclusions,
19 20 21 22 23 24	Α.	Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was does reflect Mr Singh's position but, taking it as a starting point, Mr Singh had reached a charging decision without setting out in any way the evidential basis for his conclusions, which means it is not clear to me where there
19 20 21 22 23	Α.	Yes, and I don't say necessarily that was does reflect Mr Singh's position but, taking it as a starting point, Mr Singh had reached a charging decision without setting out in any way the evidential basis for his conclusions,

	alternatives to each other or are referring to or addressing different species of criminality?
Α.	Yes.
Q.	You have also, I think, given evidence on the
	last occasion that evidential sufficiency and
	public interest must be kept under review
	throughout the life of a case?
Α.	Yes.
Q.	Does it follow from that that a change in
	circumstances may affect whether continuing
	a prosecution is in the public interest?
Α.	Very much so.
Q.	In a prosecution pursued by the CPS, for
	example, if a defendant was willing to plead
	guilty to one count but not another, would the
	CPS have to consider whether it remains in the
	public interest to go to trial on the
	outstanding count?
Α.	Yes.
Q.	I think the at least the 2010 edition of the
	Code, dealing with pleas and the acceptance of
	pleas includes, amongst the factors to be
	considered, the following: whether the court
	will have sufficient sentencing powers to match
	the seriousness of the offending behaviour
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	benefit to Mrs Misra, that he had concluded that
	there was a realistic prospect of a conviction
	for theft of £74,609.84 when there was no
	evidence that Mrs Misra had received £74,609.84.
	So he had charged that, and false
	accounting, with no reference to the case of
	<i>Eden</i> , no reference to why both charges were
	there, how one was an alternative to the other or how one reflected different criminality to
	,
	the other, but had then said that he considered
	there was a realistic prospect of a conviction
	for theft but, if she pleaded guilty to false
	accounting, then that would be sufficient.
	And where there was no explanation as to how
	he had reached a conclusion as to theft and
	where on the face of the investigation report
	there was a limit to the evidence that there had
	been theft, it struck me in those circumstances
	that it was arguable, rather than necessarily
	the case, that there was a recognition in his
	mind that the case for theft was not strong and
	therefore false accounting was sufficient and,
	if that was his mindset, given the lack of
	evidence, I queried why he was charging theft in

the first place.

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5 **A**.

6 **Q**.

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12 13 **A**.

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25 **Q**.

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exercise?

a prosecutor when considering whether to accept

a guilty plea to some counts but not others, or

the impact on the court's confiscation powers?

to a lesser or a different offence, to consider

It would be reasonable to consider that, yes.

So, in Mrs Misra's case, when the Post Office

was considering whether to accept a plea to false accounting or whether to proceed with the

theft count, would the impact on confiscation

have been a legitimate factor for the Post

Office to consider as part of the balancing

In the sense that, if the theft count reflected

could lead then to confiscation, if she were

a conviction for theft, on the one hand, and

"evil day", to use the words in Eden, to avoid

identification that there were errors that had

not involved her taking money on the other

Was there any evidence that that was the kind of 14

of theft was selected without any explanation as

appropriation and/or dishonesty. And then there

to the evidential basis for it, particularly in

was a willingness to accept a plea to false

accounting which carried with it a recognition

that there was not sufficient evidence of those

elements of theft. It did raise the question as

And also because the charging decisions were

"However, the greater concern in a number of

to whether theft was being charged without

sufficient consideration of those elements.

such models of brevity, it was very difficult to

see how the thought process had been gone

through as to why theft was there as well as

Q. Thank you. Can we turn to page 229, please and

the cases [that] I have considered was that

evidence that the theft charge was used as

guilty to false accounting, with conditions

attached to the acceptance of that plea ..."

Thomas, between paragraphs 645 and 647;

a means to pressure a defendant into pleading

I think you give three examples: Hughie

16

false accounting, in these cases.

paragraph 644. You say:

relation to an evidential basis for

through false accounting, the latter route

arguably not leading to confiscation.

false accounting reflecting putting off the

convicted of taking the money, through

the actual benefit to Mrs Misra of the money and an appropriation by her of the money, which

1	Q.	Thank you very much. So it might be that, even
2		if there was sufficient evidence of theft, and
3		there was a public interest in prosecuting
4		theft, it may not have been in the public
5		interest or the Post Office's private interests
6		to proceed to trial with the theft account, if
7		there was a plea to false accounting, but you
8		saw no reasoning to that effect
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	on the face of the papers?
11	Α.	Yes, and I'll be corrected if I'm wrong but
12		I think Mrs Misra did then plead to false
13		accounting and was still prosecuted for theft.
14	Q.	Yes. That's exactly right.
15	Α.	And I saw no analysis to explain that either.
16	Q.	Thank you. That can come down.
17		Can we turn to considerations of
18		confiscation. I think it's right that the 2010
19		iteration of the Code did not state that the
20		availability of the court's powers to make
21		confiscation orders was a consideration that had
22		to be taken into account as part of the public
23		interest test. I think that came in a later
24		edition of the Code. That notwithstanding,
25		would it have been a proper consideration for 13
1		reasoning, that we've just explored, ever
2		brought into account in Mrs Misra's case?
3	Α.	No.
4	Q.	G F
5		accepting pleas to false accounting instead of
6		theft, and you address this on page 227 of your
7		report. If that can be shown, please. 227, at
8		paragraph 640. In 640 you say:
9		"The approach to charging as between theft
10 11		on the one hand and factoring on the other
12		lacked consistency In a number of cases there was also a lack of [consistency] in the
12		
13 14		charging decision exhibited by the willingness
14		to accept a plea to false accounting instead [of theft]."
16		Are those comments limited to the particular
17		facts of one or more of the cases that you
18		examined or are they a general point?
19	Α.	I think more of a general point.
20	Q.	Can you help us then: why would a willingness to
20	<u>~</u> .	accept a plea to false accounting necessarily
22		imply a lack of confidence in the evidential
23		merits of the theft charge?
24	Α.	
25		where, in case after case after case, a charge
		, ,

(4)	Pag	es 1	13 -	16

shown to have been taken, and to an undertaking

This appears, from the material you'd seen,

"... followed from a discussion between the principal Post Office lawyer, [Juliet] McFarlane and the Post Office agents in the prosecution in which [Juliet McFarlane] said, '... we would proceed with false accounting providing the Defendant accepts that the Horizon system was working perfectly ... Further instructions are

"Mr Thomas ... reported to the Second Sight Review that the approach taken was 'aggressive

"Theft by an employee in breach of trust, in the period with which the Inquiry is concerned,

You cite two cases, Barrick and Clark, from

18

On a scale of concern about the conduct of prosecutions, where does what you identified

[you] have seen ... are the recovery of money and the protection of the reputation of the

I recognise that it is always open to the

prosecution to consider whether, on a review of the evidence and a review of the public interest, in fact a plea to an alternative count meets the justice of the case. I also recognise that it is always open to the prosecution to consider a proffered basis of plea and identify whether that basis of plea is acceptable and, if it is not acceptable, to make that clear to those acting on behalf of a defendant.

What concerned me here was that the discussions that I saw in the communication involving Mrs McFarlane were investigating internally their view as to whether a plea to false accounting would be acceptable in a case where she had identified, at the charging stage, there was a medium prospect of success and identifying, in that context, the concerns being

You say that, from the perspective of a defendant, it should not be forgotten that there is a very significant difference between theft and false accounting as outcome:

not to criticise the Horizon system."

that the money should be repaid'."

You say that:

and inappropriate'."

was recognised ..."

Horizon system."

there sit?

the 1980s, establishing that:

to have:

1		Josephine Hamilton, 648; and then Alison Hall,	1
2		649 to 651.	2
3	A.	Yes.	3
4	Q.	Three examples.	4
5 6	Α.	Yes, and one if one wanted a fourth, Mrs Henderson would be in the same category.	5 6
7	0	Allison Henderson too, thank you. If we can	7
8	Q.	just look at those, the three you've given in	8
9		the report, starting with Hughie Thomas, Noel	9
10		Thomas. If we look at what you say at	10
11		paragraph 645 onwards, he pleaded guilty to	11
12		false accounting in September 2006, the theft	12
13		charge not pursued.	13
14		The memorandum of the hearing noted:	14
15		"This was pursuant to a basis of plea which	15
16		makes it clear that no blame was attributed to	16
17		the Horizon system. The defendant accepted	17
18		that there was a shortage but he could not	18
19		explain how it came about. He accepted that as	19
20		a subpostmaster he is contractually obliged to	20
21		make good the shortage."	21
22		You say:	22
23		"In other words, the acceptance of this plea	23
24		was made conditional on the repayment of monies	24
25		which, consistent with the plea, had not been	25
		17	
1		" as an offence usually attracting	1
2		an immediate custodial sentence even in a case	2
3		with strong personal mitigation a defendant,	3
4		confronted by the evidence of loss deriving from	4
5		the Horizon system and a lack of possible	5
6		questions as to its reliability, would	6
7		understand that a plea to an alternative offence	7 A
8		would increase the chances of them retaining	8
9		their liberty, and it is reasonable to	9
10		anticipate that they would receive legal advice	10
11		to that effect."	11
12		Does that include, for example,	12
13		an anticipation or at least a hope of	13
14		a suspended sentence?	14
15	A.	Yes.	15
16	Q.	At 647:	16
17		"The Post Office submitted in the context of	17
18 19		the Second Sight Review that the decision to accept the plea was reached in accordance with	18 19
20		the Code However, as was acknowledged, there	20
20 21		is no evidence of such a review which in the	20
21		first instance did not follow the Code test.	21
23		Rather than a review of the evidence, the	22
24		prospects of conviction or the public interest,	23
25		the only matters raised in the material that	25
-		19	-

recovery of the money and no criticism of 20

(5) Pages 17 - 20

1		Horizon.
2		It's putting those factors together, it
3		seemed to me a reasonable reading of what
4		occurred was that those involved from the Post
5		Office side were identifying their conditions
6		for a plea being accepted, which were conditions
7		of the recovery of money, where there was no
8		acceptance by the plea that money had been
9		taken, and a lack of any criticism of the
10		system, which was something that Mr Thomas had
11		identified from interview on as being a concern
12		on his part and would have been mitigation for
13		him.
14		And so that's a very long way of answering
15		your question, though I think it's a very real
16		concern that, on the face of those facts, this
17		was a plea that was being tailored to address
18		concerns that the Post Office had, in terms of
19		getting the money and protecting their
20		reputation of their computer system, rather than
21		an assessment of the factors in the Code by
22		reference to evidential sufficiency or the
23		public interest.
24	Q.	Thank you. Cutting it shortly, do the same
25		issues arise in paragraph 648, concerning the
		21
1		not 'making any explicit criticism of Horizon'."
2		You say that it was improper of the Post
3		Office but who within the Post Office had
4		engaged in that improper conduct?
5	Α.	Well, in each of those cases there were
6		documents that I saw that involved discussions
7		between those in-house so the lawyers and
8		Investigators about, effectively again, the
9		preconditions or the necessary conditions for
10		there to be a plea accepted by reference to
11		money and by reference to the reputation of
12		Horizon.
13	Q.	Thank you. So it's the lawyers on each
14		occasion?
15	Α.	Those are the persons whose emails I saw or
16		memos I saw that identified those being the
17		factors.
18	Q.	Thank you. Then the last sentence of that
19		paragraph, I think this is something that you've
20		mentioned a moment ago:
21		"It would have been a relevant, and
22		likely a strong mitigating factor that the
23		falsification of records was to cover
24		a shortfall for which the defendant was not
24 25		a shortfall for which the defendant was not responsible and may [instead] have been

1		case of Josephine Hamilton, and 649 and
2		following, in the case of Alison Hall?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	Thank you.
5	Α.	I should just add, in relation to that, those
6		cases, those of Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Hall, were
7		considered by the Court of Appeal and the Court
8		of Appeal took a very clear view of what they
9		considered had occurred there, and the material
10		that I saw did not, in any way, lead me to take
11		a different view from Lord Justice Holroyde and
12		others.
13	Q.	That's paragraph 650 of your report, you're
14		referring to there
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	if we can turn to that on page 231. If we
17		scroll down thank you you say:
18		"Adopting the language"
19		That's you adopting the language of the
20		Court of Appeal?
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	" when it considered these cases, it was
23		'improper' of the Post Office to have made their
24		acceptance of a plea to a lesser alternative
25		offence to theft conditional on the defendant
		22
1		a computer error. To deny the defendant that
2		mitigation was 'wrong'."
3		Can you just say what you mean there,
4		please?
5	Α.	It's, on the one hand, someone who has
6		dishonestly and deliberately manipulated the
7		system and, on the other hand, someone who has
8		been confronted by an error in the system that
9		they cannot understand but which they do
10		understand they will be held accountable for and
11		made to pay for and, in panic, has adjusted the
12		system to stave off the day when they know that
13		will be found out, on the other.
14		It is a significant potential difference as
15		to how a judge will view their offending if they
16		are if it is a one-off result of panic
17		through something beyond their control. A judge
18		is much more likely to view that sympathetically
19		and much more likely to consider that
20		a custodial sentence is not required and, if
21		they are prevented from advancing that
22		mitigation, then they are being prevented from
23		putting forwarded a strong argument for them not
24		going to prison.

25 **Q.** Thank you. Lastly, over the page at 24

1		paragraph 651, the Court of Appeal, in
2		Hamilton it's their paragraphs 113 and 147
3		said that it was 'irrational and unjust' for the
4		Post Office to have required that they 'had the
5		money short of theft' and the Court of Appeal
6		observed that:
7		"[The Post Office's] conduct gives a firm
8		impression that the condition of repayment in
9		return for [the Post Office] dropping the charge
10		of theft placed undue pressure on Mrs Hamilton.
11		It gives the impression that [the Post Office]
12		was using the prosecution to enforce repayment."
13		Did you find any material that undermined
14		the impression that the Court of Appeal formed?
15	Α.	No, and the words that her plea would be
16		accepted on her recognition that she had the
17		money short of theft were words from the lawyer
18		in the Criminal Law Department at the Post
19		Office and, again and that was a discussion
20		in advance of Mrs Hamilton pleading to false
21		accounting.
22		And so, on the one hand, you have
23		an acceptance of a plea to adjusting records
24		that revealed a loss, rather than causing the
25		loss, in the sense of taking the money, through
		25
1		or email or terms of reference to provide the
2		expert with instructions upon what it is that
3		his or her opinion is sought, setting out the
4		issues or questions that the expert is expected
5		to address or to answer; to provide explicit
6		guidance as to what it is the expert is being
7		asked to do and the material they are being
8		asked to consider in order to do it; to set out
9		the material upon which reliance has been placed
10		in the prosecution and which may be relevant to
11		the questions that the expert is expected to
12 13		answer; to inform the expert of their duties under the common law and the Criminal Procedure
13 14		Rules; to make sure that the expert not only
14		understands their duties, but that they had
16		complied with the duties in order to ensure that
17		the expert's evidence was admissible; and,
18		lastly, to satisfy themselves that any material
19		or any literature of which the prosecutor was
20		aware, and which might undermine the expert's
20		opinion, was reviewed by the prosecution and
22		disclosed to both the expert and to the defence.
23	Α.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
23		well established before the Inquiry's period
25		started, the responsibility of the person
_•		27

1		the acceptance of false accounting, rather than
2		theft, and yet it being a condition of that that
3		the individual in the criminal proceedings be
4		made liable for paying back money that you are
5		accepting they have not taken.
6		There may be a separate, civil discussion as
7		to whether, under the postmaster's contract they
8		were required to make good a loss that they had
9		not caused but this is in the criminal
10		proceedings, making it a condition or pursuing
11		criminal mechanisms in order to get money that
12		you are accepting they have not taken.
13	Q.	Thank you. Can we turn to topic 10 that can
14		come down, thank you. The last topic is expert
15		evidence.
16		Can we start by way of a recap of your
17		previous evidence to the Inquiry. You said that
18		a prosecutor intending to rely on expert
19		evidence in criminal proceedings was, during the
20		relevant period, subject to the following
21		obligations and this is just by way of brief
22		recap to the questions I am going to ask to
23		satisfy themselves that the expert had been
24		appropriately instructed, including by the
25		provision of a detailed letter of instructions
		26
		26
1		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing
2		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the
2 3		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them
2 3 4		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from
2 3 4 5		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear
2 3 4 5 6		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them.
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	А.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	А.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, later, those acting on their behalf from
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	А.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, later, those acting on their behalf from Cartwright King, informed or instructed
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, later, those acting on their behalf from Cartwright King, informed or instructed Mr Jenkins about the duties of an expert? No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, later, those acting on their behalf from Cartwright King, informed or instructed Mr Jenkins about the duties of an expert? No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, later, those acting on their behalf from Cartwright King, informed or instructed Mr Jenkins about the duties of an expert? No. Did you see any evidence that such prosecutors were themselves cognisant of the existence of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, later, those acting on their behalf from Cartwright King, informed or instructed Mr Jenkins about the duties of an expert? No. Did you see any evidence that such prosecutors were themselves cognisant of the existence of any of these duties?
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.	instructing an expert, the lawyers instructing an expert, to communicate those duties to the expert to make sure the expert understood them evolved over the period of the Inquiry but, from quite early in the period, it was again clear that that was what was required of them. Yes. In the five case studies in which the Post Office obtained evidence from Mr Gareth Jenkins that's Thomas, Misra, Allen, Sefton and Nield and Ishaq Yes. forgive the use of the surnames did you identify any document or evidence that demonstrates that Post Office prosecutors or, later, those acting on their behalf from Cartwright King, informed or instructed Mr Jenkins about the duties of an expert? No. Did you see any evidence that such prosecutors were themselves cognisant of the existence of any of these duties? No.
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25 Mr Jenkins?

4		Ne
1	A.	
2 3	Q.	Did you see any instructions to Mr Jenkins which
4		might conform in any way with a written form of
4 5		instruction that a prosecutor ought to provide
6		to a person whom it is proposed to give expert witness evidence?
7	Α.	No.
8	д. Q.	
9	ω.	himself gave, you told us previously about
9 10		a case in 2006, and then the Criminal Procedure
11		Rules Rule 33, which came into force in November
12		2006, that there were a number of necessary
13		inclusions in a report?
14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	
16	-	we're now turning to duties on an expert
17		themselves. Did they include I'm going to
18		summarise them all detail of the expert's
19		academic and professional qualifications,
20		experience and accreditation insofar as they are
21		relevant to the opinions expressed?
22	Α.	Yes.
23	Q.	A statement setting out the substance of all the
24		instructions received, the questions upon which
25		an opinion is sought, the materials that have
		29
1		those matters that I've mentioned, that are
2		necessary inclusions for an expert report or
3		an expert statement?
4	Α.	In most of his statements he did set out his
5		qualifications, in some instances, or at least
6		in one instance, those who were receiving the
7		statement from him, the lawyers at the Post
8		Office, did ask him to do that. To an extent,
9		he set out the questions that he'd been asked,
10		in that he would identify what he was making the
11		statement about, but he would not set out the
12		details of what had been asked of him.
13		He did not, I think, usually set out what
14		materials he had been provided with or what
15		sources of information he was relying upon.
16		Insofar as that was the work of others beyond
17		himself, that was not identified by him.
18		Insofar as there was a range of opinions and/or
19		contrary views or material that was capable of
20		undermining his opinions, that was not set out
21		at all.
22		In terms of literature, which would include
23		expert reports that he had seen in earlier cases
24 25		in relation to Horizon and which would include
25		his own expert reports in earlier proceedings, 31
		-

	inq	ury 19 Decembe
1		been provided and considered, assumptions which
2		are material to the opinions expressed?
3		Information relating to who carried out any
4		examinations or the methodology used and, if
5		they weren't carried out by the expert
6		themselves, the extent to which there was
7		supervision?
8		Whether there was a range of opinion in the
9		matters dealt with in the report, a summary of
10		that range of opinion and reasons for the
11		opinion given?
12		Relevant extracts of any literature or other
13		material that might assist the court?
14		Then, finally, a statement from the expert
15		that they had understood and complied with their
16		duty to the court to provide independent
17		assistance by way of an objective and unbiased
18		opinion.
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	Were they the necessary inclusions in the report
21		itself?
22	Α.	Yes.
23	Q.	In the five case studies that you have
24		considered, did you find that the witness
25		statements served by Mr Jenkins set out any of
		30
4		
1		those were not normally set out and there was
2		never a statement identifying that he recognised
3	~	the duties that were imposed upon him.
4	Q.	Thank you. Did you see any evidence that the
5		Post Office informed Mr Jenkins that the printed
6		statements should contain those necessary
7		matters?
8	A.	No.
9 10	Q.	Did you see any evidence that the Post Office and, later, lawyers at Cartwright King, were
10		· · · · · ·
12		aware that an expert report or an expert
12		statement should contain those necessary
13 14	•	inclusions?
	Α.	I never saw any material that I can think of that involved the discussion of that to tell me
15		
16		whether they appreciated that or not. They
17 10	~	certainly didn't say they did.
18	Q.	When you gave evidence on the last occasion, you
19		told us that, even with those experts who were
20		trained, accustomed and made their living, or at
21		least in part made their living, from giving
22		expert evidence, ie even if you were preaching
23		to the choir, a prosecutor had to make sure that

- the expert understood what their duties and
- obligations were; is that right?

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

- 24 he had knowledge because he worked with the
 - people whose software it was.

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J	ć

1 and demonstrating independence?

- 2 Α. They understood the -- how it might look, in the
- 3 sense that in the conversations that we looked
- 4 at in emails leading up to the generic statement
- 5 in 2012, there was discussion about whether it
- 6 was -- it might be better to have someone
- 7 independent of Fujitsu, rather than working for 8 Fujitsu, delivering that statement. That was as 9 far as it went.
- So recognising the lack of independence but then 10 Q. not taking the next step: what do we do to 11
- address it? 12

25

- 13 Α. Yes.
- 14 Before we look at any of the communications Q.
- 15 lawyers had with Mr Jenkins, did you observe
- 16 that some of them -- and this is communications
- between lawyers and Investigators, on the one 17
- 18 hand, and Mr Jenkins, on the other -- were
- 19 inconsistent with how a prosecutor ought to address and to communicate with an expert? 20
- 21 Yes, I should say that I have seen a lot more in Α.
- 22 terms of communications between those at the
- 23 Post Office, on the one hand, and Mr Jenkins, on
- 24 the other, within the last week than I had
- 25 before.

- Q. So his day-to-day work was as a software 1
 - engineer or a computer engineer, rather than
 - a professional witness?
- 4 A Yes

2

3

- Q. He wasn't, I think you know, a member of any 6 expert witness institute or similar?
- 7 A. I certainly don't recall him listing any such
- 8 membership.
- 9 Q. Would you agree that the heightened duty applied 10 in particular because he was not independent of
- 11 the subject matter of his evidence --
- Absolutely. 12 Α.
- Q. -- he was, in part, speaking about his own work? 13
- A. Yes. His own work and the work of his employer. 14
- Q. He wasn't, would you agree, functionally 15
- 16 independent of the prosecutor?
- 17 Α. No, because of the interrelation between the
- 18 product that he was talking about and the
- 19 application of that product by the prosecutor.
- 20 Q. Have you seen anything in the material to
- 21 suggest that the Post Office or, later,
- 22 Cartwright King lawyers understood the
- 23 heightened need to ensure that Mr Jenkins
- 24 understood his duties as an expert, in
- 25 particular the especial need for independence 34
- 1 Q. Yes.
- 2 Δ That which I had seen before was a cause for 3 concern. That which I have seen since
- 4 heightened those concerns considerably.
- 5 Q. Can I summarise them: did you find that there 6 was a lack of formality in the communications?
- 7 Α. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did you find the guidance given to him to be 9 adequate or inadequate?
- 10 Α. Inadequate.
- 11 Q. Did you find some of the language used to be appropriate or inappropriate? 12
- 13 Α. Inappropriate.
- 14 Q. Did you find that, whether any of the
- 15 instructions given had, as their intent, the
- 16 service of the Post Office's interests, rather
- 17 than the provision of an independent opinion?
- 18 Α. Yes.
- **Q.** As well as some of the communications being 19
- 20 inconsistent with the way a prosecutor ought to
- 21 approach an expert, did you find any of them to
- 22 be the opposite of that, ie the antithesis to
- 23 it?
- 24 Α. Yes.
- 25 Q. If it's right that the Post Office or its 36

1		agents, Cartwright King, later, did not provide
2		Mr Jenkins with written instructions that
3		conform to the requirements that we've
4		mentioned, didn't provide Mr Jenkins with
5		instructions as to his duties as an expert and
6		none of the statements included the necessary
7		elements that we've identified, would you be
8		able to draw an overall conclusion that there
9		was a fundamental failure by the Post Office
10		properly to instruct Mr Jenkins as an expert?
11	Α.	Clearly, that's ultimately a conclusion for
12		others than me but, certainly, it is not
13	_	a conclusion from which I would dissent at all.
14	Q.	With the limitation you've just included, was
15		that a persistent failure?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
18		paragraph 67, no need to turn it up that
19		there was "no prosecution document that I have
20		seen that gave guidance as to what an expert
21		being instructed needed to address".
22	A.	No, Post Office document.
23	Q.	Yes, no Post Office document.
24 25	A.	Yes. Was that absence of a framework within
20	Q.	37
4		
1		Mr Jenkins was being advanced to perform and,
2		whilst it is entirely right and proper for
2 3		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with
2 3 4		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that
2 3 4 5		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you
2 3 4 5 6		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or
2 3 4 5 6 7		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	0	whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Q. A. Q. A.	 whilst it is entirely right and proper for an Investigator or a prosecutor dealing with an expert to say, "I don't understand that paragraph, can you elucidate it?" or "Can you think about this section in the light of this or that that you haven't seen, or this or that that you say further down", that is different from saying, "That bit is going to give rise to disclosure issues" or "That bit is going to cause us problems, can you take it out", or just deleting it, in the way they did, from the drafts. Yes, sometimes they wrote "Can you do X", "Can you delete", "Can you add", "Can you rephrase", and sometimes they simply cut it out? Yes. The issues that you identified where the evidence was amended, deleted or tailored in that way, did they go to Horizon integrity issues? Absolutely. How serious, in your view, was this conduct?

1		prosecution policy reflected in the Post
2		Office's practice, as you saw it, in the case of
3		Mr Jenkins?
4	A.	Yes.
5	Q.	The things we've spoken about, so far, were
6		failures of omission, things that the Post
7		Office didn't do or its lawyers did not do. Did
8		you identify any material in the five case
9		studies, that prosecutors and Investigators
10		communicated with Mr Jenkins, that were
11		inconsistent with the approach that a prosecutor
12	_	ought to take: so worse than mere failure?
13	Α.	Some of the emails that we considered yesterday,
14		where, on the face of them, they were telling
15		the expert what to say and telling him what not
16		to say, that, I think, goes beyond an omission.
17		In material that I've seen, again, since the
18		end of last week, there are examples of
19		Mr Jenkins' statements being rewritten by
20		Investigators and lawyers at the Post Office, in
21		the sense of them saying, "Can you take that bit
22		out, please?" or "That bit doesn't sound good;
23		can you say something else?"
24		This is in relation to the evidence of
25		an independent expert, that is the role that 38
1		far go to the admissibility of Mr Jenkins'
2		evidence?
2 3	A.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his
2 3 4	Α.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his
2 3 4 5	A.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his
2 3 4 5 6	A.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Α.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects,
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q.	evidence? They by, for example, removing aspects of his statements, which were parts that qualified his opinion or identified contrary views to his opinion, they resulted in those the final versions of the statements, no longer complying with the requirements for an admissible expert statement. And they also, in various respects, removed the independence of its contents and so, yes, it clearly affected its admissibility, had any of that been appreciated by anyone who that the opportunity to question its admissibility. In order to put that person in a position to do so, disclosure of the communications would have been necessary? Yes. Did you see any evidence at all that such communications between Investigator and lawyer, on the one hand, and Mr Jenkins, on the other, were disclosed in any of the five cases? No. Did you see any evidence of any formal request

1		referring to? So, to take an example, the
2		locking issue, which caused transactions to be
3		lost, or the record of system errors, the Known
4		Error Log: did you see any communications at
5		that level?
6	Α.	No.
7	Q.	Did you see anything to suggest that the Post
8		Office pursued such issues with the Fujitsu Head
9		of Legal, despite, on occasions, that channel of
10		communication being used?
11	Α.	I can't think of any, no.
12	Q.	Thank you. Can I turn, then that's the ten
13		topics over to the case studies.
14		Your reports address 22 case studies and
15		your evidence speaks for itself. It's been
16		disclosed to all Core Participants and is
17		available on the Inquiry's website. I'm not
18		going to go through each of the 22 case studies
19 20		and, instead, only cover those where one of the
20 21		Core Participants has asked me to ask questions of you by way of challenge to what you say
21	Α.	Yes.
23	Q.	or where one of the Core Participants has
23	ч.	asked for additional context to be given to what
25		you do say in either of your reports.
20		41
1		bank account that would be quite good evidence
1 2	0	bank account, that would be quite good evidence.
2	Q.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor
2 3		Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case?
2	Q. A. Q.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely.
2 3 4	Α.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case?
2 3 4 5	Α.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry
2 3 4 5 6	Α.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. Q.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry because it might assist the defendant too?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q. A.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry because it might assist the defendant too? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry because it might assist the defendant too? Yes. Because an active and healthy financial
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry because it might assist the defendant too? Yes. Because an active and healthy financial investigation which produced nil returns, it might be powerful evidence for a defendant to be able to deploy? Yes, especially if they have, in interview, said in terms "I didn't take the money", that raises the reasonable line of inquiry of, well, did they? And the obvious place to look as to see whether they've got it and whether that be a new speed boat or the money in the bank, you have a look. Was it usual in that period, 2000 to 2013, for charging decisions to be made in cases prosecuted by the CPS, whilst financial inquiries were outstanding, if it was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Q. A. Q.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry because it might assist the defendant too? Yes. Because an active and healthy financial investigation which produced nil returns, it might be powerful evidence for a defendant to be able to deploy? Yes, especially if they have, in interview, said in terms "I didn't take the money", that raises the reasonable line of inquiry of, well, did they? And the obvious place to look as to see whether they've got it and whether that be a new speed boat or the money in the bank, you have a look. Was it usual in that period, 2000 to 2013, for charging decisions to be made in cases prosecuted by the CPS, whilst financial inquiries were outstanding, if it was nonetheless the case that there was sufficient
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.	Yes, so you'd want to do it as a prosecutor trying to prove your case? Absolutely. But you ought to do it, I think you told us yesterday, as a reasonable line of inquiry because it might assist the defendant too? Yes. Because an active and healthy financial investigation which produced nil returns, it might be powerful evidence for a defendant to be able to deploy? Yes, especially if they have, in interview, said in terms "I didn't take the money", that raises the reasonable line of inquiry of, well, did they? And the obvious place to look as to see whether they've got it and whether that be a new speed boat or the money in the bank, you have a look. Was it usual in that period, 2000 to 2013, for charging decisions to be made in cases prosecuted by the CPS, whilst financial inquiries were outstanding, if it was

1		Can I start, then, with Lisa Brennan. This
2		is paragraph 46 of your Volume 2 report, which
3		is on page 24. There is no need to turn it up
4		for the moment.
5		In general terms, you there are critical of
6		the failure to conduct a fuller financial
7		investigation as to any financial benefit to
8		Ms Brennan of the conduct that was alleged
9 10	Α.	against her, yes? Yes
11	д. Q.	As you said yesterday, investigating a suspect's
12	α.	financial records was a reasonable line of
13		inquiry?
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	During the period 2000 to 2013 would ordinary
16	ч.	theft and fraud cases be prosecuted in the
17		public sector, eg by the police and the CPS,
18		without any enquiry of this sort having taken
19		place?
20	A.	I'm sure there well have been some but,
21		certainly, my experience is that "follow the
22		money" is a mantra for those dealing with any
23		form of financial crime and so they would
24		normally look because, if they found evidence of
25		the money, for example, going into someone's
		42
1		conviction?
1 2	А.	conviction? That would be a fact-specific assessment in
-	А.	
2	A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in
2 3	A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and
2 3 4	А.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the
2 3 4 5	A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Α.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Α.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Α.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went? Yes. Was your experience in looking at these papers
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went? Yes. Was your experience in looking at these papers that such financial enquiries that were made had
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went? Yes. Was your experience in looking at these papers that such financial enquiries that were made had as their focus not proving or disproving theft
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went? Yes. Was your experience in looking at these papers that such financial enquiries that were made had as their focus not proving or disproving theft but recovery of proceeds for the benefit of the
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.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went? Yes. Was your experience in looking at these papers that such financial enquiries that were made had as their focus not proving or disproving theft but recovery of proceeds for the benefit of the Post Office?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	That would be a fact-specific assessment in terms of where the financial inquiry was and what material had thus far been generated by it. But, clearly, if there was if a prosecutor was satisfied, despite the fact that the financial inquiry was ongoing, that there was a realistic prospect of conviction, then they would be entitled to reach an assessment, providing they were also satisfied that what was outstanding didn't have a bearing in the public interest assessment. I think you would agree that, in a charge of theft, it's sufficient to prove the fact of the theft, whether by direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, without also, in fact, being able to show where the money went? Yes. Was your experience in looking at these papers that such financial enquiries that were made had as their focus not proving or disproving theft but recovery of proceeds for the benefit of the

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1		did make for, because there would be a reference
2		in an investigation report to the fact that
3		they'd asked the postmaster for consent to
4		access their bank account, they'd obtained that
5		consent, they may have obtained some bank
6		statements and then there'd be no further
7		reference to them, and so it wasn't quite clear
8		what they'd done with them.
9		But where there was more intensive
10		examination of the finances, it did appear to be
11		by Financial Investigators preparing for
12		confiscation, rather than Investigators
13		preparing for prosecution.
14	Q.	Would you agree that, in the context of a fraud
15		involving the alleged theft of cash of the type
16		alleged in Lisa Brennan's case, that the absence
17		of evidence of her having the missing money
18		could not exclude the possibility that she did,
19		in fact, take the cash?
20	Α.	It couldn't exclude it, no.
21	Q.	Given that the case was left to the jury on the
22		basis that there was no evidence of her having
23		the money, how, in your view, could
24		an investigation of her finances by the Post
25		Office have placed her in a more advantageous
		45
1		prosecution had changed its case between the
1 2		prosecution had changed its case between the first and second trial.
	А.	first and second trial. Yes.
2	A. Q.	first and second trial.
2 3		first and second trial. Yes.
2 3 4		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the
2 3 4 5		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford,
2 3 4 5 6		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the
2 3 4 5 6 7		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon. Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon. Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at the first trial, jury unable to reach a verdict
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon. Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at the first trial, jury unable to reach a verdict on Count 1 at the first trial, therefore there
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon. Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at the first trial, jury unable to reach a verdict on Count 1 at the first trial, therefore there was a retrial on Count 2 alone against Mr Page.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon. Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at the first trial, jury unable to reach a verdict on Count 1 at the first trial, therefore there was a retrial on Count 2 alone against Mr Page. Yes.
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.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon. Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at the first trial, jury unable to reach a verdict on Count 1 at the first trial, therefore there was a retrial on Count 2 alone against Mr Page. Yes. As such, the second trial was a retrial and did
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	first and second trial. Yes. The Inquiry has heard some evidence since the Court of Appeal's decision from Warwick Tatford, the prosecution junior to Mr Stephen John at the first trial and sole prosecuting counsel at the second trial. He has told the Inquiry that there were two counts in trial 1, the first count was an alleged conspiracy to defraud between Mr Page and Mr Whitehouse in relation to foreign currency, involving the use of a Forde Moneychanger and not Horizon Yes. and a second count of theft of £282,000, alleged against Mr Page alone, based on an audit shortfall and, therefore, based on Horizon. Both defendants were acquitted on Count 1 at the first trial, jury unable to reach a verdict on Count 1 at the first trial, therefore there was a retrial on Count 2 alone against Mr Page. Yes.

1		position than she was, either at the point of
2		the charging decision or before the jury?
3	Α.	Only if it could have confirmed that they had
4		looked and not found any evidence that she had
5		benefited financially and/or confirmed that she,
6		if this were the case, had made, attempted to
7		make, repayments at an earlier stage of losses,
8		and/or if it confirmed that she was not in
9		a position where she needed to steal the money,
10		those things would have further supported her
11		case, not least because they were coming from
12		the prosecution, rather than, for example, just
13	-	from her.
14	Q.	Thank you. That's all I ask in relation to Lisa
15		Brennan's case.
16 17		I am going to move over the cases of David Yates, David Blakey and Tahir Mahmood and turn
17		to the case of Carl Page and, in particular,
19		your consideration of his case at page 58.
20		paragraph 146 to 148 of your report.
20		Page 58, please, paragraph 146.
22		Between paragraphs 146 and 148, you raise
23		some criticisms based on your understanding,
24		I think, from the Court of Appeal Criminal
25		Division's judgment in <i>Hamilton</i> , that the
		46
		10
1		based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal
1 2		
	А.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal
2	A.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ?
2 3	A.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the
2 3 4	A. Q.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same
2 3 4 5		based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect.
2 3 4 5 6		based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had been a material change of case between the two
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had been a material change of case between the two trials?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had been a material change of case between the two trials? I saw a transcript of the evidence or, more
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had been a material change of case between the two trials? I saw a transcript of the evidence or, more particularly, cross-examination of Mr Page at
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had been a material change of case between the two trials? I saw a transcript of the evidence or, more particularly, cross-examination of Mr Page at the first trial, which was very much to the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	based on what the Court of Appeal Criminal Division had said in <i>Hamilton</i> ? In part, also based on the assessment in the Second Sight review, which was to the same effect. That's paragraph 147 that you're referring to there? It is, yes. Other than those tertiary sources or secondary sources did you see anything in the contemporaneous papers to suggest that there had been a material change of case between the two trials? I saw a transcript of the evidence or, more particularly, cross-examination of Mr Page at the first trial, which was very much to the effect that he had stolen foreign currency and that that was the basis upon which the theft charge appeared to be presented there, which was how Second Sight characterised it in their review.

25 first trial, which was not its case at the

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

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- revised report, included the CCRC referral
- document?
- A. Yes.
- 4 Q. The reference to which -- we needn't display it
- 5 -- is POL00121224. Did your view remain that
 - the case was poorly investigated?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did your view remain that, in particular,
- 9 Mrs Adedayo's account was not explored or
- 10 examined by the Investigators or the
- 11 prosecutors?
- 12 A. Yes, and, in that regard, I focus on the account
- 13 that she gave at the time. I've seen what she
- 14 has said about that since, but I focus purely on
- 15 what she gave as an explanation to the
- 16 Investigators at the time, which was an account17 that required investigating.
- 18 Q. Was it incumbent upon the Investigator,
- 19 Ms Bernard, to have investigated that account to
- 20 see, for example, whether there had been any
 - payments to third parties by Ms Adedayo?
- 22 **A.** Yes.

- 23 **Q.** Would that have been a relatively
- 24 straightforward exercise?
- 25 A. I would have thought so. I'm not a Financial 50
- 1 suggested, yes.
- 2 **Q.** When she gave evidence to us, the Investigator,
- 3 Natasha Bernard, said that she viewed it as
- 4 inconsistent and confusing, and she said that
- 5 it's quite clear from her report that she didn't
- 6 believe what Mrs Adedayo was telling her.
- 7 **A.** In certain respects, yes, I agree with that.
- 8 Q. Given the equivocal nature of what was being
 9 said, would you agree that that added an impetus
 10 for the case to be properly investigated?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 **Q.** There wasn't any clear evidence of a theft and
- 13 a contradictory or internally inconsistent, in
- 14 some respects, baffling confession.
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- 16 Q. Would that have been a questionable basis to17 prosecute?
- 18 A. Without that being resolved, yes.
- 19 Q. If we look at paragraph 181 of your report,
- 20 please, which is on page 70. Last sentence, in
- 21 the light of what you said earlier in
- 22 paragraph 181:
- 23 "In Mrs Adedayo's case, that reliability was
- 24 not an issue, and non-disclosure relating to the
- 25 operation of Horizon potentially less of

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correct?

her appeal.

A. We have a transcript of the hearing at which it was indicated by counsel acting for the Post

Office that, although they didn't accept the

reasons that had been advanced on Mrs Adedayo's

behalf for why her conviction should be quashed

uphold her conviction and so they didn't oppose

There was no judgment given, and I'll be corrected if I'm wrong about it, no judgment

given by the Recorder of Westminster who

presided over that hearing, separate from that,

they nevertheless considered that it would be

contrary to the public interest to seek to

1		an issue as a result."
2		Are you there essentially adopting the same
3		approach as the Court of Appeal Criminal
4		Division.
5		Yes, I hope so.
6	Q.	Thank you very much. Can we turn to Mr Thomas'
7		case next, please.
8	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Before you do, Mr Beer, can
9 10		I just understand what went on in Mrs Adedayo's
10		case. Her conviction was quashed by Southwark Crown Court; that's correct, isn't it?
12	Α.	
13		WYN WILLIAMS: So this is purely technical but
14	0.11	where you write that she pleaded guilty at the
15		Crown Court, I don't think can be right, can it?
16		Presumably what happened, she pleaded guilty at
17		the Magistrates Court but was then committed for
18		sentence?
19	Α.	That must be right, yes, sir.
20		WYN WILLIAMS: That's just a mere technicality.
21		But what's of more interest in her case is
22		that there's no real rationale, is there, in how
23		her conviction was quashed or why it was
24		quashed, because we haven't got a formal
25		judgment of the Southwark Crown Court; is that
		53
1		described to me and the judge didn't determine
2		the issue between them?
3	Α.	No, that's right, sir.
4	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: So am I right in thinking that
5		the only objective by which I mean
6		independent of Mrs Adedayo or the Post Office
7		assessment is that which we currently have, is
8		that which is contained in the reference by the
9		Criminal Review Commission?
10	Α.	Yes.
11	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, fine. Thank you.
12		Sorry, Mr Beer, I wanted to be clear in my
13		mind about this case.
14	MR	BEER: Yes, thank you.
15		I think the document that you saw was
16		a transcript of the hearing at Southwark Crown
17 10	^	Court in front of Her Honour Judge Taylor
18 10	A.	
19 20	Q.	of 14 May 2021. That ends the hearing
20 21		starts at 10.47. Do you want to just have a look at it? I'm not sure we're going to be
21		able to display this.
22		I think it's Volume 1 of the Rule 10
23 24		material at tab D32.
24 25	Α.	Thank you very much. Yes, thank you.
20	<i>n</i> .	

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14		presided over that heating, separate norm that,
15		but and so the transcript is less than
16		helpful as to exactly why it came about that
17		Mrs Adedayo's conviction was quashed.
18		Certainly the Post Office made clear they
19		didn't accept a good deal of what Mrs Adedayo's
20		case, as considered by the Criminal Cases Review
21		Commission, had been.
22	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: So, in effect, at court, there
23		was an issue which was unresolved by the judge.
24		Mrs Adedayo's case was presented in a particular
25		way, the Post Office said what you've just
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1	Q.	Is that the relevant transcript?
2	<u>.</u>	It is, yes.
3	Q.	The hearing starts, we can see on page 2, at
4		10.47. Ms Carey, I think that's Jacqueline
5		Carey, appears on behalf of the prosecution, and
6		speaks over pages 2, 3 and 4, and then
7		Mr Moloney, who appeared for both appellants,
8		says a few words, ten words or so.
9	Α.	Yes, he was largely inaudible, apparently.
10	Q.	Yes, which is no doubt due to the recording,
11		rather than Mr Moloney.
12	Α.	Sure.
13	Q.	There's then a discussion or something that Her
14		Honour Judge Taylor said, which concerns
15		jurisdiction.
16	Α.	Yes, because Mrs Adedayo had pleaded guilty in
17		the and so you're entirely right, she pleaded
18		guilty in the Medway Magistrates Court to the
19		offences and was then sent to the Crown Court,
20		to Maidstone Crown Court for sentence. So,
21		procedurally, her guilty pleas had to be set
22		aside before her conviction could be quashed and
23		so that's the discussion at the end.
24	Q.	Then the hearing concludes with this, Judge
25		Taylor saying:
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(14) Pages 53 - 56

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18 Α. Yes,

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8 Α. Yes.

9 Q.

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SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, yes.

MR BEER: Can we turn on to Mr Thomas' case then, please. This is paragraph 198 and following of

your report on page 76. In fact, we needn't

1		"Thank you. In these appeals of Mr Kalia
2		and Ms Adedayo, the Court finds that the effect
3		of Section 11.2.4 of the Criminal Appeal Act
4		1985 are such that they do not have to apply to
5		set aside their guilty pleas. We adopt the
6		background (inaudible) to these cases, which is
7		set out in Hamilton v Post Office [and the
8		citation given]. Whilst it is not conceded by
9		the performance that these are (inaudible)
10		cases, in terms of judgment the appeals are not
11		opposed (inaudible), will not be contested and,
12		in the public interest (inaudible). Their
13		sentences have been served and we hope that
14		(inaudible) they can put this behind them and
15		continue with their lives without the shadow of
16		a conviction. Any other applications"
17		It says "Mr Carey".
18	A.	Yes.
19	Q.	It should be Ms Carey.
20	A.	Yes.
21	Q.	She says, "No thank you".
22		Is that the extent of a judgment determining
23 24	•	the appeal?
24 25	A. MP	Yes, it is. BEER: Sir, I hope that helps.
25	IVIT	
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		57
1		10 March 2006. This appears to be the original
2		10 March 2006. This appears to be the original or originating form of instruction from Mr Ward
2 3		10 March 2006. This appears to be the original or originating form of instruction from Mr Ward of the Post Office to Fujitsu. If we just
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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.	10 March 2006. This appears to be the original or originating form of instruction from Mr Ward of the Post Office to Fujitsu. If we just scroll down, please, and go on to page 7, he says: "On a separate matter, I also require a witness statement in respect of the following ARQs all of which relate to the Gaerwen SPSO." That's Mr Thomas' branch on Anglesey. Yes, that's right. "We need the usual (leave out paragraphs H(b) and J, but we do need paragraph K (call logs) covering an analysis over the period 01/11/04 to 30/11/05. Penny you may recall this one which relates to nil transactions Can you had an extra paragraph in your statement explaining how online banking transactions are processed and the data downloaded and how nil transactions can occur." If we go forwards, so that's 10 May (<i>sic</i>), Post Office, Ward, to Fujitsu.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	10 March 2006. This appears to be the original or originating form of instruction from Mr Ward of the Post Office to Fujitsu. If we just scroll down, please, and go on to page 7, he says: "On a separate matter, I also require a witness statement in respect of the following ARQs all of which relate to the Gaerwen SPSO." That's Mr Thomas' branch on Anglesey. Yes, that's right. "We need the usual (leave out paragraphs H(b) and J, but we do need paragraph K (call logs) covering an analysis over the period 01/11/04 to 30/11/05. Penny you may recall this one which relates to nil transactions Can you had an extra paragraph in your statement explaining how online banking transactions are processed and the data downloaded and how nil transactions can occur." If we go forwards, so that's 10 May (<i>sic</i>), Post Office, Ward, to Fujitsu. Yes.

	turn this up, I can deal with this without
	looking at this material. In paragraphs 193,
	198 and 213 of your report, in the context of
	Mr Thomas' case, you examine the preparation of
	a witness statement by Gareth Jenkins.
Α.	Yes, I think the first witness statement he
	made.
Q.	Exactly. You say at paragraph 198 that
	consideration of the reference material,
	ie material that was referenced in the "Gareth
	Jenkins Chronology", is necessary. We mentioned
	the nature and status of that document
	yesterday.
Α.	Yes, that's right.
Q.	So can we look at the reference material and,
	indeed, some other underlying material in
	chronological order. Can we start, please, with
	FUJ00122203. Can we look at page 6, please. If
	we scroll down, please, we should see
	an email we can from Graham Ward and
	it's a generic email account to Fujitsu of
	58
	aarall dawra thaak yeu wa ahauld aaa
	scroll down thank you we should see an email from Mr Pinder to Mr Jenkins, with
	a heading "Fujitsu Statements Gaerwen":
	"As discussed please see extract from
	a recent email below in italics from Graham Ward
	We've just looked at that email.
A.	Yes.
Q.	" regarding provision of a statement about
	nil transactions and online banking. If you are
	able to put something together for us I would be
	very grateful. If you send it back I will
	arrange for Neneh or Penny to write into
	a statement for your signature."
	Then you will see the relevant part of
	Mr Ward's email cut in to this email and the
	part in italics:
	"Can you add an extra paragraph in your
	statement explaining how online banking
	transactions are processed and the data
	downloaded and how nil transactions can occur."
	Having looked at this material, do you agree
	that it was the Post Office, via Mr Ward, routed
	through Mr Pinder, who had asked Mr Jenkins to
	focus on the issue of nil transactions in the 60
	(15) Pages 57 - 60
	(13) Fayes 37 - 00

1		witness statement
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	rather than a request to consider any broader
4		issues affecting the operation and reliability
5		of Horizon?
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	Would you agree you'll see the reference to
8		the three ARQs in the first line of the cut-in
9		email, I'm not going to read the numbers out
10		that it was the Post Office which had selected
11		the three specific time periods for the
12		examination of nil transactions, and that it had
13		done so by enclosing ARQs for time periods that
14		it had selected?
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	Would you agree that this instruction to
17		Mr Jenkins didn't constitute or indeed come
18		close to being a proper instruction to
19		an expert?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	Instead, it's a request coming from the Post
22		Office to the Fujitsu Litigation Support Team
23		asking them to add a paragraph to their standard
24		statement, which was then rerouted to
25		Mr Jenkins?
		61

1	MR	BEER: Thank you.
2	(11.	32 am)
3		(A short break)
4	(11.	45 am)
5	MR	BEER: Sir, good morning. Can you continue to
6		see and hear us?
7	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
8	MR	BEER: Before I continue with the chronology in
9		Mr Thomas' case, can we just return to
10		Ms Adedayo's case and just clarify couple of
11		points, in the light of the questions you asked
12		and the evidence that Mr Atkinson gave.
13		Can we start, please, Mr Atkinson, just by
14		explaining the different nature of appeals from
15		the Crown Court to the Court of Appeal Criminal
16		Division and from a Magistrates Court to a Crown
17		Court in CCRC reference cases.
18		Is it right that an appeal from the Crown
19		Court to the CCAD (sic) is, essentially,
20		a review of the safety of the conviction?
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	Whereas, if a person has pleaded guilty in the
23		Magistrates Court, there is no power to appeal,
24		unless the CCRC make a reference?
25	Α.	Yes.
		60

- That was how I read it, yes. Α.
- **Q.** Quite aside from the format of the instruction, 2
- is it right that you saw no material in which 3
- the Post Office provided to Mr Jenkins detail as 4
- 5 to what the prosecution case was against
- 6 Mr Thomas?
- 7 A. That's right.
- Q. No material setting out what Mr Thomas had said, 8
- for example, in interview --9
- 10 Correct. Α.
- Q. -- or in the audit, and in the audit report? 11
- Yes. 12 Α.
- 13 Q. There was no analysis for him of the competing
- 14 issues between the parties?
- A. No, that's right. 15
- 16 Q. Would you agree, on these materials, that
- 17 Mr Jenkins wasn't, in fact, instructed to
 - undertake an examination of the scheme --
- 19 Yes, I agree. Α.
- 20 Q. -- of the system?
- 21 A. Yes.

18

23

- 22 Q. Thank you very much.
 - Sir, it's just gone 11.30 now, I wonder if
- 24 we could break until 11.45.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly, yes. 25
 - 62
- 1 Q. If the CCRC make a reference, the test that the
- 2 CCRC apply is not whether the conviction is
- 3 unsafe but whether it's arguable that it might
- be? 4 5
 - A. Yes.
- Q. If the CCRC do make a reference to the Crown 6
 - Court on a case involving a plea in the
- 8 a Magistrates Court, that results in a hearing de novo? 9
- A. Yes, so a rehearing of the case. 10
- Yes, so, essentially, a retrial? 11 Q.
- 12 Α. Yes.
- 13 Q. A rehearing of the case?
- 14 Α. Yes.
- 15 Q. Upon such rehearing of the case, the prosecutor
- must, or ought to, consider both limbs of the 16
- 17 Code test at that point in time?
- 18 A. Yes.
- Q. What happened in Ms Adedayo's case was that the 19
- 20 Post Office made a concession on the public
- 21 interest limb of the test, as complained by
- 22 Ms Carey in the transcript, that that limb was
- 23 not at that point satisfied?
- 24 A. That's right.
- 25 Q. That approach by the Post Office meant that 64

1		Mrs Adedayo did not have the opportunity to
2		argue by reference to the evidence and to make
3		submissions whether the evidential threshold was
4		met that wouldn't be for the court anyway
5		but to argue in court, by reference to evidence,
6		as to whether her case was an Horizon case or
7		not?
8	Α.	, 5
9	Q.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
10		Honour Judge Taylor resolving whether
11		Mrs Adedayo's case was or was not an Horizon
12		case because, essentially, the Post Office
13		offered no evidence against her and there was
14		nothing for her then to do?
15 16	Α.	
17		Taylor on that issue which would have allowed her to come to a view.
18	0	
10	Q.	the transcript, it's agreed between the Post
20		
20		Office and Mr Moloney that what was said was that the Post Office analysis that this was not
21		a Horizon case was not accepted, and he was
23		essentially preserving his position and her
23		position for the future?
24	Α.	Yes.
20	ς.	65
4		Then the mean channel along means 4
1 2		Then the page above, please, page 4.
2		A reply from Mr Ward later that day, the 22nd. In the third paragraph, second line:
4		" I'm concerned at the words 'system
4 5		failure' which is also in an earlier line
6		'There has been some sort of system failure'
7		What does this mean exactly and is there any
, 8		indication of a system failure at this office
8 9		during the period in question?"
10		Can we go forwards, please, to FUJ00122203.
11		and page 3, please. On that day, 22 March,
12		Ms Lowther forwards Graham Ward's email to
13		Mr Jenkins:
14		"Hi Gareth.
15		"Please see reply from Graham below
16		regarding your statement.
17		" ignore the first bit"
18		Then:
19		"Could you please look at his second
20		[paragraph] and advise with your comments again.
21		"I have attached a copy of your draft
22		statement"
23		If we go up to page 1, please. Reply later
24		the next day, the 23rd. Mr Jenkins sending
25		a revised witness statement saying:
-		67

1	Q.	Thank you. Can we go back to Mr Thomas' case,
2		please.
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	Can we look in the next step of the chronology,
5		at FUJ00152587, and page 5, please. We'd
6		previously been looking at 10 March and
7		21 March. We're now looking at 22 March.
8		If we scroll down a little bit, please, we
9 10		see Mr Ward emailing the Fujitsu employees that we see set out, confirming, in the second
10		paragraph, that the Post Office required
12		a witness statement producing ARQ extracts in
12		spreadsheet form, relating to Mr Thomas' post
14		office, and a statement explaining the headings
15		and under what circumstances nil transactions
16		can occur. Can you see that in the second
17		paragraph?
18	A.	Yes.
19	Q.	Then, if we scroll up, please, to the top of
20		page 5., we see Ms Lowther providing Mr Ward
21		with a draft witness statement later that day on
22		22 March:
23		"Please see the draft [witness statement]
24		for the above re 'Nil Transactions'.
25		"[Does this meet] your requirements."
		66
1		"In particular, I don't feel I can include
2		the last two [paragraphs], which may make the
3		statement useless."
4		Can we look at what that attachment was.
5		FUJ00122204. 23 March, draft statement. Scroll
6		down, please. You'll see the introduction and
7		then the part of the text in single line
8		spacing:
9		"There are three main reasons why a zero
10		transaction may be generated as part of the
11		banking system"
12		1 and 2, and then 3:
13		"There has been some sort of System Failure.
14		Such failures are normal occurrences."
15		So the point remains in Mr Jenkins'
16		statement in this draft, despite Mr Ward's
17		questions expressed to Ms Lowther and passed on
18		to Mr Jenkins: why is that there, what does it
19	_	mean?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	So he's maintaining that the reasons why a zero
22		transaction may be generated include some sort
23		of system failure and that they are normal
24		occurrences.

25 Can we go to FUJ00122203 --68

(17) Pages 65 - 68

1		I'm so sorry. If we can go to the third
2		page of the witness statement, please. If we
3		scroll down, just a little bit, you'll remember
4		that in his covering email, Mr Jenkins said
5		that: I don't think I can say the part in the
6		last two paragraphs, and these are the last two
7		paragraphs in the statement.
8		" no reason to believe that the
9		information in the statement is inaccurate
10		To the best of my knowledge and belief at all
11		times the computer was operating properly
12		"
13		Then a records declaration.
14		Then Mr Jenkins said, as well as in his
15		email, at the foot of the page:
16		"I'm not sure that the yellow bit is true.
17		Can this be deleted? All I've done is interpret
18		the data in spreadsheets that you have emailed
19		to me."
20		Just pausing here for the moment, in
21		relation to the page 1 point, system failures
22		being a reason for nil transactions and being
23		normal occurrences in the system, would you
24		agree that it wasn't appropriate for the Post
25		Office as an Investigator or as a prosecutor to
		69
1	Q.	Do you agree that Mr Jenkins' request that the
2		last paragraphs, the two that we're looking at,
3		be removed from the draft witness statement
4		ought to have been disclosed in this
5		prosecution?
6	Α.	If the two paragraphs remained in the statement
7		as ultimately served, then the fact that he
8		didn't agree with them clearly needed to be made
9		clear.
10	Q.	That's what happened. Despite his request for
11		their removal, we'll see that eventually, in the
12		statement of 6 April 2006, those paragraphs
13		remained.
14	Α.	Without qualification.
15	Q.	Yes.
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	Therefore, his unhappiness at including those
18		two paragraphs in a witness statement ought
19		properly to have been disclosed in this
20		prosecution?
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	And in other prosecutions?
23	Α.	In any prosecution where this statement was
24		served and/or disclosed or those paragraphs were
25		included in any further statements that were
		71

	insist upon the removal of any references to
	system failures from Mr Jenkins' witness
	statements?
Α.	Yes. The emails that we've just seen, I don't
А.	
	think there was anything inappropriate about
	them asking what he meant by that or asking him
	to explain that further, but asking him to
	remove it is a different matter.
Q.	To the extent that it was removed subsequently,
	do you agree that Mr Jenkins' recognition in
	this draft of his witness statement, that system
	failures are normal occurrences in the system,
	ought properly to have been disclosed in this
	prosecution
A.	Yes.
Q.	and in others?
Α.	Yes, with more information as to what he meant
	by that.
Q.	No matter what went on subsequently, in terms of
	the deletion of that line from his witness
	statement, should that have been material
	disclosed by Mr Jenkins himself?
Α.	It should, if it was his view. If it was part
	of his expert assessment, it should have stayed
	there and formed a part of what he produced.
	70
	served or disclosed, then his disagreement with
	served or disclosed, then his disagreement with them needed to be disclosed as well.
Q.	
Q.	them needed to be disclosed as well.
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1		(where is he based?).
2		"Whilst there is some urgency with this, it
3		is more important to get it right and ensure
4		that we are not embarrassed at court, which we
5		certainly could be if we produced a statement
6		accepting 'system failures are normal
7		occurrences'
8		"Let me know what you think of the draft."
9		Then if we see at the top of that page there
10		later in the day, that's passed, that email,
11		directly by Ms Lowther to Gareth Jenkins:
12		"[Please] see the mail below and the new
13		draft statement."
14		So let's look at Mr Ward's drafting efforts.
15		POL00047895. If we scroll down, please, so this
16		is the relevant paragraph at the top of the page
17		here:
18		"There are three [then Mr Ward has inserted]
19		(if these are the main reasons what are the
20		rest?) reasons why a zero value transaction may
21		be generated as part of the banking system"
22		Then I think 1 and 2 remain the same. The
23		third reason, system failure, has been
24		deleted can you see that
25	Α.	Yes.
		73

1	Q.	and replaced by Mr Ward typing:
2		"(This is a really poor choice of words
3		which seems to accept that failures in the
4		system are normal and therefore may well support
5		the postmaster's claim that the system is to
6		blame for the losses!!!!)"
7		Do you consider this type of intervention in
8		relation to the content of Mr Jenkins' evidence
9		to be appropriate conduct by a member of
10		a prosecuting authority?
11	Α.	No.
12	Q.	Do you consider the degree of input into the
13		drafting of Mr Jenkins' witness statement to be
14		appropriate, if it was the case that Mr Jenkins
15		was being treated as an expert witness?
16	Α.	No. As I said before, there was no issue with
17		Mr Ward, as he had in earlier emails, asking
18		what system failures meant and having a better
19		understanding of that, but to take it out
20		because it was embarrassing or damaging, or
21		would help the postmaster
22	Q.	The defendant.
23	Α.	help the defendant is very much the opposite
24		of what they should have been doing.
25	Q.	Do you agree that, to the extent that
		74
1		But it should have generated discussion as
2		to why they were wrong or what the issue was
3		and, if the issue was, as I read Mr Jenkins'
4		email to suggest that, for him to attest as to
5		the operation of the system, he needed more
6		material than he had been given, then the
7		discussion needs to be about that, rather than
8		just deleting the paragraphs and moving on as if
9		nothing had happened.
10	Q.	Thank you.
11		Can we move on, please, to POL00122217
12		FUJ00122217. My mistake, I said POL rather than
13		FUJ.
14		FUJ00122217. Can we start with page 2,
15		please. We can see that Mr Ward's amendments to
16		the second draft of the statement are sent back
17		to Mr Jenkins. Then, if we go up, please,
18		Mr Jenkins emails Mr Ward directly, copying
19		Ms Lowther in, an updated draft statement,
20		saying:
<u> </u>		
21		"I've added some further annotations to your
22		annotations. Does this move us forward?"
22 23		annotations. Does this move us forward?" So shall we see what the attachment said?
22 23 24		annotations. Does this move us forward?" So shall we see what the attachment said? FUJ00122218. This is the attachment to that
22 23		annotations. Does this move us forward?" So shall we see what the attachment said?

1		the statement remained dated 24 March. If we
2		scroll down, please, you'll see the third
3		reason, system failures, remains deleted.
4		You will see Mr Ward's annotations on
5		"really poor choice of words", and you'll see
6		Mr Jenkins reply:
7		"Please can you suggest something better
8		then? What we have here are genuine failures of
9		the end-to-end system which are not part of
10		normal operation, but are anticipated and the
11		system is designed to cope with them. Some such
12		failures could be engineered as part of
13		a malicious attack (but that doesn't apply to
14		those failures that appear in the evidence
15		presented). In all cases the system is designed
16		to identify such failures and handle them in
17		such a way that the Customer, the Postmaster,
18		Post Office and [Financial Investigators] are
19		all clear as to the status of the transaction
20		and any necessary financial reconciliation takes
21		place. I guess one option is to delete the
22		paragraph since it is purely an introduction to
23		the following more detailed description."
24		So Mr Jenkins has asked Mr Ward to suggest
25		something better and raised the possibility of
		77
	•	One was as forward to EULIO24E0E07 Ma Ward
1	Q.	- 5
2	Q.	emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and
2 3	Q.	emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins in, saying:
2 3 4	Q.	emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins in, saying: "I do not understand why this statement
2 3 4 5	Q.	emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins in, saying: "I do not understand why this statement is taking so long to be put together.
2 3 4 5 6	Q.	emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins in, saying: "I do not understand why this statement is taking so long to be put together. I appreciate it is slightly unusual, but I do
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins in, saying: "I do not understand why this statement is taking so long to be put together. I appreciate it is slightly unusual, but I do not understand the confusion as I thought I'd
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q.	emails Mr Pinder, copying Ms Lowther and Mr Jenkins in, saying: "I do not understand why this statement is taking so long to be put together. I appreciate it is slightly unusual, but I do not understand the confusion as I thought I'd made our requirements clear." Remember the word "requirements", if you may: "Unfortunately, Gareth's annotations do not take us forward at all (and I'm sure this is not Gareth's fault). Gareth has indicated in the attachment below that the 3 spreadsheets produced by your team were not produced by him, therefore as he quite rightly points out, he is not in a position to produce them in his statement." That's a side point. Then scroll down, please: "As already stated, we urgently need a statement producing these 3 additional spreadsheets, explaining in general terms, under

1		deleting the paragraph.
2		In the light of the fact that Mr Jenkins
3		recognised, in this further draft or the
4		response to the proposed amendment, that system
5		failures were anticipated, was it appropriate
6		for the Post Office, as an Investigator or
7		prosecutor, to insist upon the removal of the
8		reference to "system failures" from the witness
9		statement?
10	Α.	No. What was necessary was for them to provide
11		a proper explanation of what that meant.
12	Q.	The recognition in the text that he added that
13		such system failures were anticipated, do you
14		agree ought properly to have been disclosed in
15		the prosecution?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	If we go over the page, please. Scroll down.
18		You'll see that the system operation paragraphs,
19		those two paragraphs at the end that were in the
20		original coloured yellow, remain removed.
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	Do you agree that this draft of the witness
23		statement ought properly to have been disclosed
24		in the prosecution?
25	Α.	Yes.
		78
1		Gaerwen occurred The same statement needs to
2		include a paragraph which states that there is
3		no evidence of a system error at Gaerwen
4		(assuming this is the case) in relation to 'Nil'
5		transactions at the office. We do not need to
6		mention 'system failures being normal
7		occurrences' if there is no evidence of such
8		a problem at this office.
9		" it may now be best if the Investigator
10		arranges to meet with Gareth to take the
11		statement in person"
12		Do you consider this intervention by Mr Ward
13		to be appropriate conduct by a member of
14		a prosecuting authority?
15	Α.	No.
16	Q.	Do you consider the degree of input into the
17		drafting of this witness statement to be
18		appropriate?
19	Α.	No.
20	Q.	Ought this exchange to have been disclosed in
21		the prosecution?
22	Α.	Yes, especially if the statement was being
23	~	relied upon.
24	Q.	No need to turn them up but some evidence the

24 **Q.** No need to turn them up but some evidence the

25 Inquiry has got, FUJ00155721 and FUJ00152592, 80

suggests that Mr Pinder of Fujitsu then spoke with Ms Matthews, the Investigator, and arranged for her to meet Mr Jenkins in person on the 6 April 2006 to "record the statement". It appears, as a result of that meeting, an updated draft witness statement was prepared, dated 6 April 2006, if we can look at that, please, FUJ00122237. If we scroll down, please and again, and again you'll see, I think, that the three main reasons for nil transactions occurring, including system generated occurrences, do not appear in this final witness statement nor any reference to system failures at all. That's right. But in the last draft, the final draft, the signed version, the two paragraphs about the operation of the computer system reappear. Can you see that? There's one on the page there. Then, if we scroll to the next page, yes: " no reason to believe the information in this statement is inaccurate because of the improper use of the computer." I think they have had been combined into They have. 81
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the Unused Schedule, if they differed materially
what the final version?
Yes, and because applying the disclosure test,
for reasons that Mr Ward had identified, this
was material that undermined the prosecution
case and fell to be disclosed anyway.
So the failure to reveal, by recording on the
schedule the existence of these drafts, may he
a breach of Section 7 of the CPIA, in that the
reference to "system failure" in the drafts
meant that they might reasonably be considered
to be capable of undermining the prosecution or
assisting the defence?
Yes.
had the Post Office adhered to the law in
relation to disclosure here, then the fact that
the witness statement had evolved over time and
at whose insistence it had evolved over time
would have been revealed to the defence?
Yes.

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1	Q.	a compressed version of both statements.
2	A.	Yes.
3	Q.	So standing back, at the moment, from this run
4		of correspondence, would you agree that
5		Mr Jenkins openly referred to system failure in
6 7	Α.	his original draft of the statement? Yes.
7 0	A. Q.	res. It was Mr Ward who objected, on behalf of the
8 9	Q.	Post Office, to the reference to system
9 10		failures?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Mr Ward inserted his criticisms of the inclusion
13	ч.	of those words into a text of the statement
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	"This is a really poor choice of words"
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	and it appears to be Mr Ward who was pressing
18		for the amendment of the statement, because
19		Mr Ward was worried about how "system failure"
20		might be interpreted and that it might actually
21		help a defendant?
22	Α.	Yes.
23	Q.	Putting aside whether that approach was
24		acceptable, I think you said that each of the
25		versions of the statement ought to have been
		82
1		paragraph 213 of your report, which is on
2		page 82, that the snapshot of data that
3		Mr Jenkins examined in his witness statement was
4		a very restricted one
5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	and that the examination which was undertaken
7		does not appear to have been disclosed, so it's
8		limitations were unlikely to have been
9		appreciated by the defence.
10		Having seen now the underlying material, and
11		putting aside the fact that the work done
12		reflected, I think, what Mr Jenkins had been
13		asked to do, do you agree that Mr Jenkins sought
14		guidance as to whether what he was doing was the
15		correct approach?
16	Α.	I'm not sure I entirely follow that.
17	Q.	Let's look at some other material, then.
18		FUJ00122230. If we scroll down, please, I think
19		this is an email of 30 March between Mr Jenkins
20		and Mr Pinder saying:
21		"I've taken the data from the PEAK"
22		Do you recall what PEAKs were?
23	A.	No.
24	Q.	You don't, okay:
25		" and carried out my own analysis of it

(21) Pages 81 - 84

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

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5 6 **Q**.

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20 A. Yes.

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22 A. Yes.

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intention was.

you not tell?

times --

A. Yes.

not altogether clear.

stored and from which it was obtained or could

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

So I think you read this paragraph, the abridged

version of what is a standard paragraph in other witness statements, as equating to an opinion

that Horizon was working properly, insofar as it

affected the Gaerwen branch at all relevant

Q. -- rather than that the information in the

the PEAK system, yes.

at least open to interpretation?

Q. That can come down. Thank you.

witness statement refers to information extracted from the PEAK system?

A. Rather than that that paragraph related just to

Q. Thank you. Can you see that this statement is

Before repeal, would you agree that

evidence of a statement contained within

important because it was that underlying

material that would help someone, particularly

someone acting on behalf of the defendant, to

approach what he meant by this and what his

we've seen the material suggest, took a witness

words such as this at the end of their witness

statement, it was important that it was made

reasons as to why its relation to the operation of the Horizon system would not be something

Q. Because the witness was saying, "I've looked at

one computer system, the PEAK system, I've

identified from that some data that I need to

Q. -- "I've extracted three lots of ARQ data from

Horizon, the computer system was working", I'm

92

look at, three lots of ARQ data" --

clear to the witness what the words were

A. Yes. Particularly where they had expressed

supposed to indicate?

they would sign up to.

summarising it?

statement from Mr Jenkins, would you agree that, if the witness was asked to include a form of

Q. So, in circumstances where an Investigator, as

Section 69 of PACE permitted the admission into

a document where that document had been produced 90

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

1		"Fujitsu have a fault management system
2		called the PEAK system, which is used for
3		passing faults around the team and tracking
4		faults raised regarding the Post Office
5		Account."
6		Then, subsequently, Mr Jenkins records that
7		he extracted data from the PEAK system:
8		"I extracted data from this system regarding
9		the Gaerwen Post Office."
10		Then he says:
11		"From this data, I then extracted all the
12		banking transactions which showed a zero value."
13		That's ARQ data.
14 15	A.	
15 16	Q.	existence of or the reasons for the zero values.
17		The statement at the end, if we go to it at
18		the foot of the next page, please, page 3 at the
10		bottom:
20		"There is no reason to believe that the
21		information in this statement is inaccurate
22		because of improper use of the computer."
23		Was your understanding that the computer
24		that was being referred to was the PEAK system
25		or the Horizon system on which the ARQ data was
		89
1		by a computer?
1 2	Α.	by a computer? Yes.
	A. Q.	Yes.
2		Yes.
2 3		Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern
2 3 4		Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the
2 3 4 5		Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been
2 3 4 5 6		Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i>
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. A.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. A.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A. Q.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. Q.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more generally?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A. Q. A.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more generally? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. Q.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more generally? Yes. You can't assist us as to what Mr Jenkins',
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. A.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more generally? Yes. You can't assist us as to what Mr Jenkins', obviously, intention was on the basis of the
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.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more generally? Yes. You can't assist us as to what Mr Jenkins', obviously, intention was on the basis of the materials that you've seen?
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.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more generally? Yes. You can't assist us as to what Mr Jenkins', obviously, intention was on the basis of the materials that you've seen? No, although that perhaps underlines why the
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.	Yes. There was, I think you will remember, concern that the ambit and effect of Section 69 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act had been fundamentally misunderstood? Do you remember a case of <i>Miners</i> Yes. which you cite in your second report. Was Section 69, in fact, only concerned with admission of facts into evidence rather than whether the facts were true? Yes, it was to do with the operation of the system, rather than the truth of the content. I don't suppose you can assist us on whether you've explained how you understood that statement as referring to Horizon more generally? Yes. You can't assist us as to what Mr Jenkins', obviously, intention was on the basis of the materials that you've seen?

1	Α.	Yes, and what I'm not saying is that the Horizon	1
2		system was operating correctly. That's so	2
3		that it was clear what this assertion as to	3
4		correct operation related and to what it,	4
5	~	equally importantly, didn't relate to.	5
6	Q.	, , , , , , , , , ,	6
7		important that it should be made clear to the	7
8		witness what the words were supposed to mean,	8
9 10		and to which system they were intended to relate?	9 10
10	Α.	Yes.	10
12	Q.		11
13	પ્ય.	Can we look at page 3 to start with, please.	12
14		We've moved on from March and April into the	10
15		summer. If we scroll down, please. Yes, this	15
16		is an email to Diane Matthews, the Investigator	16
17		of this case, from Mr Jenkins. At the bottom of	17
18		the next page, you will see it is dated 12 July,	18
19		and Mr Jenkins says:	19
20		"I understand also that this trial is at	20
21		Caernarfon. Do you have any idea as to how much	21
22		time will be involved and exactly what is	22
23		required? I've never been to court in any	23
24		capacity and my knowledge of such things is	24
25		based on films and TV (which I'm sure are	25
		93	
1		already in their witness statement, and I don't	1
2		know where that comes from, even in America.	2
2	Q.	Would you agree that that part is positively	3
4	પ્ય.	misleading?	4
5	Α.	Yes.	5
6	Q.	Because it's wrong?	6
7	Α.	Yes.	7
8	Q.	Would it carry any special relevance in	8
9		circumstances where a witness had already been	9
10		asked to delete aspects of their witness	10
11		statement and was now being told by the	11
12		prosecutor "You can't be asked questions about	12
13		things outside your witness statement, you'll	13
14		only be asked questions specifically about your	14
15		statement"?	15
16	Α.	Yes, I suppose it might have a different message	16
17		to someone if they understood that the various	17
18		drafts of their statement had also been	18
19		disclosed and, therefore, questions about their	19
20		statement might include that but, subject to	20
21		that, it would tell them that the final draft is	21
22		all that you're going to be asked about.	22
23	Q.	Thank you. That can come down.	23
24		Having reviewed the emails, correspondence,	24
25		and draft statements that we've seen, would you 95	25
		55	

on IT Inquiry 19 Decen		
1		inaccurate!)"
2		Then if we go to page 2, please, and scroll
3		up, we can see the reply from Ms Matthews. Just
4		scroll down to her second paragraph her third
5		paragraph, rather, which is a reply to the
6		request for help from Mr Jenkins:
7		"All witnesses will have to be present on
8		the 1st day unless the defence has agreed
9		[their] statement and don't wish to ask any
10		questions about that evidence."
11		Then this:
12		"It is pretty much as you see on the TV
13		really but remember that you will have sight of
14		your statement prior to taking the stand and can
15		only be asked questions specifically about your
16		statement."
17		Was that guidance appropriate?
18	Α.	I'm not altogether sure what it means but,
19	Π.	insofar as I understand it, no.
20	Q.	,
20	Q. A.	Well, I understand it to be saying that the
22		criminal process is like a TV programme,
23		presumably an American TV programme, by
24		reference to "the stand" and that the witness
25		can only be asked questions about what is
20		94
1		agree with the suggestion that, overall, the
2		Post Office appeared to seek to harden up
3		Mr Jenkins' witness statement?
4	Α.	Yes
5	Q.	Looking at that series of communications and
6	-	drafts, do you agree that it succeeded in that
7		objective?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	Do you agree that Mr Jenkins participated in
10		that enterprise?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	I think you've agreed that all of the drafts
13		that we've seen, including observations within
14		the drafts and the communications themselves,
15		ought to have been disclosed?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	Thank you. Can we turn to the case of
18		Suzanne Palmer, please. You address this in
19		paragraph 229 of your report. In fact, you
20		start at 220 but the bit I want to ask about is
21		229, which is on page 87.
22		In paragraph 229 on page 87, you comment
23		that prosecuting counsel, Stephen John, provided
24		an advice on evidence, which identified a number
~-		

of lines of inquiry or investigation that he

1		thought should be pursued but that, other than
2		commenting on the particulars of the indictment,
3		he didn't advise on the sufficiency of evidence
4		and say this was another opportunity to review
5		whether there was a proper evidential basis to
6		assert dishonesty was lost.
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	Would you agree that dishonesty, as an element
9		of many offences, is one which, more often than
10		not, is proved by inference from the
11		circumstances, rather than by direct evidence?
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	Would you agree that, if Mr John, as prosecuting
14		counsel, had taken the view that there was not
15		sufficient evidence to satisfy the first limb of
16		the Full Code Test, he could not have properly
17		continued to prosecute the case?
18	Α.	I'm not sure I altogether follow that. Clearly,
19		if he identified that the there was
20		insufficient evidence to prove dishonesty for
21		the purposes of theft, he should have said so.
22		Whether he would have been professionally
23		embarrassed so he would have to have withdrawn
24		from the case if that advice was not acted on,
25		is a separate question, I think, not a very
		97
1		be circumstances where a prosecutor would not
2		understand that's what they're being asked,
3		although I have to say I think they would still
4		be duty bound to do so but it may also be that
4 5		those who instruct them were not expecting them
6		to do that and, therefore, their failure to do
0 7		it wouldn't necessarily tell them very much one
7 8		way or the other.
8 9	Q.	In fact, we've heard from the lawyers so far
5	ω.	11 1aol, we ve heald holli the lawyers so lai

9 **Q.** In fact, we've heard from the lawyers so far

- 10 that the request to advise on evidence was meant
- 11 to encompass, was intended to encompass
- 12 a request to advise on evidential sufficiency,
- 13 not just further lines of inquiry, and the
- 14 counsel that we've heard from, the only one,
- 15 Mr Tatford, has said that he understood the
- 16 request to advise on evidence to include
- 17 a requirement to advise on evidential
- 18 sufficiency but the vagaries of life at the
- criminal bar was such that there was often nottime to do so.
- 21 A. Certainly, my experience would be that, if you
- 22 were instructed to prosecute a case, you would
- 23 not just be looking at whether there was
- 24 a statement from the plan drawer, you would be
- 25 looking to see whether the case was sustainable

1		clear-cut one.
2	Q.	Put it another way, then: given he advised on
3		further lines of inquiry, is it implicit or can
4		we draw an inference reasonably that he had read
5		all of the papers, he'd considered the evidence
6		in the case and decided that there was
7		a reasonable prospect of conviction, even if he
8		never said so?
9	Α.	That would be one interpretation and that might
10		be the right interpretation. It would perhaps,
11		to an extent, depend on what his instructions
12		asked him to do. Certainly, the standard
13		instructions, such as I have seen them in
14		across these 22 cases, do ask counsel instructed
15		to draft the indictment and to advise on
16		evidence. And where I've seen them, I have seen
17		advices from counsel that firstly say, "I attach
18		the indictment", and why it does or does not
19		include what it does or doesn't include and
20		a list of further things that are required.
21		The instructions to counsel didn't
22		specifically ask them to advise as to the
23		sufficiency of evidence and whether they agreed
24		that this was a proper case to prosecute or not,
25		so I could see that there would be there may 98

1		or not.
2	Q.	Thank you.
3		Can we turn to the case of Susan Rudkin,
4		please. I've skipped over Josephine Hamilton.
5		If we can look, please, at paragraph 306 of
6		your report, which is on page 113. In this
7		paragraph and it's an observation that you
8		make elsewhere in your report too you say
9		that, although the Post Office may have had
10		evidence of theft or fraud by way of admissions,
11		it did not have sufficient evidence or at least
12		there had been insufficient consideration of the
13		adequacy of the evidence to prove the level of
14		the loss. This is a point that you make
15		a number of times in the report.
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	Would you agree that the amount of
18		particularised loss in a charge can be relevant
19		to an assessment of whether a prosecution is in
20		the public interest
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	any sentencing exercise
23	Α.	Absolutely.
24	Q.	and confiscation or other ancillary orders?
25	Α.	Yes, both as to whether it's appropriate to do

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

1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	Can you just explain why, please?
3	Α.	Well, if the position was that there was no
4		material that and that material had been
5		reviewed that there was no material following
6		a review that identified any Horizon issues in
7		relation to Mrs Rudkin's case, then there would
8		be no material that needed to be disclosed and
9		no concession that there were Horizon issues
10		needed to be made and that would be on a proper
11		assessment of the material.
12		If the reason not to make such a concession
13		was that it might allow a proper appeal against
14		conviction or it might show that the figure of
15		loss was not as had been contended, such that
16		the sentence that was imposed was excessive,
17		then that would not be a proper reason to
18		disclose. Indeed, if a concession properly
19		would allow for an appeal to be advanced, then
20		that would be a reason to disclose it, rather
21 22		than not. If the reason for not making
22		a concession in one case was its impact on
23 24		others, where that was a concession that was rightly to be made, then that's right not
24		a reason not to make it.
20		105
1		the jury would have been entitled to accept what
2		she said and acquit her; or to reject the
3		account and convict her. Thus the opportunity
4		was there to seek an acquittal."
5		Over the page. There's a discussion about
6		<i>Eden</i> in paragraphs 11 and 12; 13 addresses the
7		defence statement; and then 14 addresses
8		conviction. Mr Clarke says:
9		"It is not the purpose of this review, nor
10		of the review process overall, to determine
11		whether or not any particular conviction is
12		unsafe: that decision is reserved to the Court
13		of Appeal only. The purpose of this process is
14		to identify those cases where the material
15		contained in the Second Sight Interim Report
16		would have met the test for disclosure as
17		provided by the [CPIA], the Code of Practice
18		enacted thereunder and the [AG's] Guidelines on
19		Disclosure, had that material been known to Post
20		Office Limited during the currency of the
21		prosecution and accordingly would or ought to
22		have been disclosed to the defence."
23		Then over the page:
24		"In this case I advise that, given the
25		chronology and circumstances of the guilty plea,
		107

		O a mar a sum and a backing at this damaged
1		So my concern was, looking at this document
2 3		overall, it was not clear to me, as the final
3 4		assessment, whether it was being assessed here
4 5		that there was nothing that needed to be
		conceded or that there were reasons of impact
6 7	~	why they didn't want to concede it.
	Q.	Can we look, please, at another example this involves Lynette Hutchings whilst we're
8		, ,
9 10		looking at post-conviction disclosure. POL00060715. This is addressed at 435 to 436 in
10		your report, Mr Atkinson.
12	A.	Thank you.
13	Q.	So POL00060715. This is an advice written by
14	α.	Simon Clarke of Cartwright King. If we just
15		scroll through it, please. The offence is set
16		out, the case history is described. If we carry
17		on through the case history, and over the page,
18		it sets out the prosecution case. If we
19		continue, please. Then "Discussion":
20		"The defendant has unequivocally admitted
21		making false entries into Horizon in the belief
22		that the balances would be corrected in the
23		fullness of time she stated in her prepared
24		statement that she did not do so dishonestly.
25		Had she chosen to advance that account at trial
		106
1		and the reference in the Basis of Plea to the
1 2		and the reference in the Basis of Plea to the leading case on the topic the Second Sight
-		
2		leading case on the topic the Second Sight
2 3		leading case on the topic the Second Sight Report and the Helen Rose report would not
2 3 4		leading case on the topic the Second Sight Report and the Helen Rose report would not have been disclosable during the currency of the
2 3 4 5		leading case on the topic the Second Sight Report and the Helen Rose report would not have been disclosable during the currency of the prosecution and accordingly do not now fall to
2 3 4 5 6		leading case on the topic the Second Sight Report and the Helen Rose report would not have been disclosable during the currency of the prosecution and accordingly do not now fall to be disclosed.
2 3 4 5 6 7		leading case on the topic the Second Sight Report and the Helen Rose report would not have been disclosable during the currency of the prosecution and accordingly do not now fall to be disclosed. " had we [possessed] the material at the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		leading case on the topic the Second Sight Report and the Helen Rose report would not have been disclosable during the currency of the prosecution and accordingly do not now fall to be disclosed. " had we [possessed] the material at the relevant time, we would not have disclosed [it]
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	 leading case on the topic the Second Sight Report and the Helen Rose report would not have been disclosable during the currency of the prosecution and accordingly do not now fall to be disclosed. " had we [possessed] the material at the relevant time, we would not have disclosed [it] to the defence" Why do you say that this misunderstands the disclosure test?
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1	
1	Horizon and material relating to the operation
2	of Horizon had been properly appreciated and/or
3	disclosed.
4	And to say "We don't need to worry about
5	this because she pleaded", is to ignore the fact
6	that there should have been disclosure before
7	she had the opportunity to. To say "There's
8	a reference in her basis of plea to <i>Eden</i> ,
9	therefore, she was clearly advised by counsel",
10	ignores the fact that counsel had not had this
11	material disclosed to them either and a failure
12	to recognise that it was at least possible that
13	counsel, told that the basis for the prosecution
14	case was susceptible to challenge, may have
15	given different advice to his client to one who
16	was not told that.
17	And also, that in relation to any appeal
18	against sentence that was potentially available,
19	and/or to submissions that could be made to
20	a judge before sentence, issues as to the
21 22	operation of the system and confirmation of
22	those issues by the prosecution, would have been of assistance to the defendant. It is
23 24	a different thing for a judge to consider a case
24 25	where the explanation is given that this was
20	109
1	disclosure as being, in the one case, concerning
2	and, in the other case, involving a fundamental
3	misunderstanding of the test to apply, are you
4	saying that the approach that was being taken
5	
	was inconsistent with the law?
6	A. Yes.
6 7	A. Yes.MR BEER: Thank you.
6 7 8	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case
6 7 8 9	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might
6 7 8 9 10	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might we break until 2.00, please.
6 7 8 9 10 11	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might we break until 2.00, please. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course.
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might we break until 2.00, please. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course. (1.00 pm)
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might we break until 2.00, please. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course. (1.00 pm) (The Short Adjournment)
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might we break until 2.00, please. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course. (1.00 pm) (The Short Adjournment) (1.59 pm)
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might we break until 2.00, please. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course. (1.00 pm) (The Short Adjournment) (1.59 pm) MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and hear us? SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. MR BEER: Good afternoon, Mr Atkinson. Can we turn to Peter Holmes please? A. Yes. Q. In paragraphs 309 to 333 of your report no need to display them, but they're on page 114
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	 A. Yes. MR BEER: Thank you. Sir, we're about to move to another case study, that of Peter Holmes. It's 1.00, might we break until 2.00, please. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course. (1.00 pm) (The Short Adjournment) (1.59 pm) MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir. Can you see and hear us? SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. MR BEER: Good afternoon, Mr Atkinson. Can we turn to Peter Holmes please? A. Yes. Q. In paragraphs 309 to 333 of your report no need to display them, but they're on page 114 and following you deal with the prosecution

1		inadvertent rather than anything deliberately by
2		the defendant, on the one hand, and to be to
3		have had confirmed by the prosecution, on the
4		other.
5	Q.	At that time and indeed today, the leading
6		decision in fact the operative decision on
7		post-conviction disclosure obligations was that
8		of the Supreme Court in Nunn?
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	The decision was reflected in the then Attorney
11		General's Guidelines on Disclosure at
12		paragraphs 59 and 60, the acid test being
13		whether there presently existed information
14		which might cast doubt upon the safety of the
15		conviction?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	That test is to be applied, have I got this
18		right, irrespective of whether there was a plea
19		or not, it's material that might cast doubt on
20		the safety of the conviction
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	however the conviction was obtained?
23	A.	Yes.
24	Q.	Overall, then, in these two cases, when you
25		describe the approach to post-conviction 110
1		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down".
2	Α.	"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (The witness nodded)
2 3	A. Q.	"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September
2 3 4		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving
2 3 4 5		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme
2 3 4 5 6		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon
2 3 4 5 6 7		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with the integrity of the Horizon system.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with the integrity of the Horizon system. Was there, to your understanding, any
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q.	"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with the integrity of the Horizon system. Was there, to your understanding, any investigation of Horizon integrity or the figures produced by Horizon? No.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q.	"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with the integrity of the Horizon system. Was there, to your understanding, any investigation of Horizon integrity or the figures produced by Horizon? No. The investigation report recorded that Mr Holmes had spent many years in the police service, and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q.	"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with the integrity of the Horizon system. Was there, to your understanding, any investigation of Horizon integrity or the figures produced by Horizon? No. The investigation report recorded that Mr Holmes had spent many years in the police service, and that he had been a subpostmaster at the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q.	"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with the integrity of the Horizon system. Was there, to your understanding, any investigation of Horizon integrity or the figures produced by Horizon? No. The investigation report recorded that Mr Holmes had spent many years in the police service, and that he had been a subpostmaster at the Monkseaton branch office for six or seven years.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q.	"It's the Horizon system that has let us down". (<i>The witness nodded</i>) That was an interview taking place in September 2008. That was after a civil claim involving the Cleveleys branch and Mrs Julie Wolstenholme had been settled, after she raised Horizon integrity issues, after the formation in December 2005 of a group to examine Horizon integrity issues, after the trial involving Lee Castleton in 2007, in which he had directly challenged the Horizon system, and after a jury had acquitted Suzanne Palmer in less than ten minutes in 2007, her having raised issues with the integrity of the Horizon system. Was there, to your understanding, any investigation of Horizon integrity or the figures produced by Horizon? No. The investigation report recorded that Mr Holmes had spent many years in the police service, and that he had been a subpostmaster at the

25 considering the investigation of an offence or

1		the merits of prosecution?
2	Α.	It should certainly have been a factor in the
3		public interest test. It would not have been
4		the only factor or necessarily the decisive
5		factor but it was a factor. I'm afraid I can't
6		speak to as whether it was taken into account in
7		the charging decision because the public
8		interest didn't get a mention.
9		It was a factor relevant to the assessment
10		of Mr Holmes' credibility. He as with any
11		person of good character, their good character
12		is a factor in their favour in the assessment of
13		their credibility, again not decisively so, but
14	_	a relevant factor in that regard as well.
15	Q.	In fact, it was used against him in the
16		investigation report
17	A.	Yes.
18	Q.	because he said that he hadn't reported the
19		accruing shortfalls showing on Horizon for some
20		11 months and the Investigator said that it was
21		incredulous that he should not have done so,
22		having spent many years in the police service
23		and having been the subpostmaster for six or
24 25		seven years at Monkseaton, so it was used
25		against him. 113
1	Α.	Yes.
2	A. Q.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649,
2 3	Q.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier
2 3 4	Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes.
2 3 4 5	Q.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points.
2 3 4 5 6	Q. A.	 That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. A.	 That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A. Q.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q. A.	 That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q.	 That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q. A.	 That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the defendant may be willing to [plead] to false
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the defendant may be willing to [plead] to false accounting and pay money back. Taken
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the defendant may be willing to [plead] to false accounting and pay money back. Taken instructions from Chris [a reference to
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the defendant may be willing to [plead] to false accounting and pay money back. Taken instructions from Chris [a reference to Christopher Knight, the Investigator, we think] who has confirmed that he would be happy to
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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.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the defendant may be willing to [plead] to false accounting and pay money back. Taken instructions from Chris [a reference to Christopher Knight, the Investigator, we think] who has confirmed that he would be happy to proceed on that basis.'." You say that:
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.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the defendant may be willing to [plead] to false accounting and pay money back. Taken instructions from Chris [a reference to Christopher Knight, the Investigator, we think] who has confirmed that he would be happy to proceed on that basis.'." You say that: "[Mr Bowyer's] 2014 review also recorded
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.	That's a theme that you returned to in 649, which we looked at earlier Yes. when you're making your general points. Would you accept that there is a difference between acceptance of a plea, on the one hand, and acceptance of a basis of plea, on the other? Yes. You cite in 506, that's page 179, if we just go to that, you say: "On 16 November, the day on which it appears the second defence statement was served, Dianne Chan, prosecution counsel, reported 'have spoken to a defence solicitor who indicated the defendant may be willing to [plead] to false accounting and pay money back. Taken instructions from Chris [a reference to Christopher Knight, the Investigator, we think] who has confirmed that he would be happy to proceed on that basis.'." You say that:

1	1	5	

1		Ought his previous position and the
2		longevity of his service to be a factor in
3		deciding whether to take seriously concerns
4		raised by him in interview about the reliability
5		of the Horizon system?
6	Α.	Certainly not as a reason not to take those
7		matters seriously.
8	Q.	Yes. In reality, does it matter who you are if
9		you raise issues such as this in an interview,
10		whether you've got good character or not, as to
11		the pursuit of a reasonable line of inquiry?
12	Α.	No, but, as I said, the fact that you are of
13		good character may support your credibility in
14		raising an issue and perhaps give an extra
15		underlining to why it needs to be investigated.
16	Q.	Thank you very much. I'm going to move over the
17		cases of Seema Misra, Lynette Hutchings, Joan
18		Bailey and Alison Hall, and turn to Allison
19		Henderson. That's paragraph 515 of your report
20		to 519 I'm so sorry.
21		Yes, in paragraph 515 of your report, when
22		you're dealing with Mrs Henderson's case, you
23		say that her case was one where acceptance of
24		her plea was dependent upon repayment and a lack
25		of criticism of Horizon?
		114
1		false accounting."
2		Then Mr Wilson's response to Dianne Chan's
2		email said:
4		"Clearly if there were to be a plea to false
4 5		accounting but on the basis that the Horizon
		system was at fault then that would not be
6 7		,
7		an acceptable basis of plea with the
8		prosecution."
9 10		Do you agree that what was being said by
10		Mr Wilson was not about acceptability of plea
11		but rather acceptability of a potential basis of
12	•	plea?
13 14	Α.	That's certainly an interpretation of that.
14 15		It's not, I have to say, the interpretation the
15		Court of Appeal reached but it is
16 17	~	an interpretation of it.
17	Q.	Was the potential for a guilty plea to false
18		accounting accompanied by repayment of shortfall

- accounting accompanied by repayment of shortfallan issue first raised by the defence?
- 20 A. That's not altogether clear because it's not
- 21 clear who, in the conversation between Dianne
- 22 Chan, who was prosecuting counsel, and defence
- 23 counsel, who it was who first raised repayment.
- 24 Certainly, it was part of what was communicated
- by her to those who instructed her.

1	0	So it's not clear who was tethering repayment to	1	procedution of Mr All
1 2	Q.	the plea?	2	prosecution of Mr All If we scroll dowr
2	Α.	No.	3	Rachael Panter if
4	Q.	What's the basis for your view that the Post	4	that it's on 16 Novem
5	ч.	Office made acceptance of the plea to false	5	Panter, she is a lawy
6		accounting conditional upon repayment?	6	Gareth Jenkins:
7	Α.	In part, I confess I was influenced by that	7	"As you may alre
8	Λ.	being the finding of the Court of Appeal in that	8	report detailing the re
9		case, and I quote that at paragraph 511, and the	9	system has been ser
10		fact that the I was influenced, I suspect,	10	of cases"
11		also, by the time I dealt with the case of	11	We've seen a si
12		Mrs Henderson, I had already dealt with other	12	twice, yesterday.
13		cases where there had been that connection,		A. Yes.
14		those, for example, of Mrs Hall.		2. " to date, most, if n
15	Q.	Thank you. Can we move to the case of Grant	15	Horizon system as a
16		Allen, please, which you address from your	16	willing to particularise
17		paragraph 516 onwards on page 182. Can we look	17	they may have with t
18		at some of the underlying material here, please.	18	shapes the nature of
19		Can we start please with POL00097138.	19	" I would like to
20		Again, this principally involves a series of	20	each case listed belo
21		questions about liaison between Post Office,	21	We can see that
22		Fujitsu and Mr Jenkins	22	number 6, at Cheste
23	Α.	Yes.	23 J	A. Yes.
24	Q.	in the preparation of evidence, whether	24 0	2. If we scroll down, ple
25		witness statements or reports, for the	25	"Grant Allen" highligh
		117		
1		"I would like to serve your report in the	1	" there is no co
2		remaining cases and have attached a case summary	2	Then up the page
3		of each listed above so you may familiarise	3	the approach taken",
4		yourself with the facts of each case."	4	Then up the page, a
5		Then, if we go over the page sorry, it	5	Ms Panter's email. S
6		was at the foot of the previous page, actually:	6	"As I provided a
7		"In order for me to serve your report in	7	approach each indivi
8		time, please could you either send copies of	8	case, to then [re-pos
9		your report via Special Delivery and/or as	9	I thought it would say
10		an email attachment."	10	
11		The paragraph above, the request was:	11	"In response to
12		" to read the case summaries send 5	12	intend to use the rep
13		original signed and dated copies of your report	13	provided. It doesn't
14		to [her]."	14	mentioned a specific
15	Α.	Yes.	15	there has not been a
16	Q.	Can we see what happened next, please,	16	raised by any of the
17		FUJ00153856. Then scroll down, please.	17	defendants in my list
18		Mr Jenkins replies by saying:	18	Reading on:
19		"Can't you use the report I have already	19	"What I propose
20		sent you? There is no mention of the case on	20	statement on each d
21		the report", ie no mention of any of the cases	21	issue of Horizon is th
22		that you have listed.	22	then place the onus
23		"You should really be addressing such	23	what if anything, they
24		requests through Post Office Limited rather than	24	Horizon system
25		directly to myself. 119	25	"That is why it is
		113		

	prosecution of Mr Allen.
	If we scroll down, please, an email from
	Rachael Panter if we just scroll up we'll see
	that it's on 16 November, thank you. Rachael
	Panter, she is a lawyer at Cartwright King, to
	Gareth Jenkins:
	"As you may already be aware, your expert
	report detailing the reliability of the Horizon
	system has been served as evidence in a number
	of cases"
	We've seen a similar email to this, I think,
	twice, yesterday.
Α.	Yes.
Q.	" to date, most, if not all cases raising the
	Horizon system as an issue have been unable/not
	willing to particularise what specific issues
	they may have with the system and how that
	shapes the nature of their defence.
	" I would like to serve [your report] in
	each case listed below."
	We can see that one of them is Mr Allen,
	number 6, at Chester Crown Court.
Α.	Yes.
Q.	If we scroll down, please. Just under the
	"Grant Allen" highlighted yellow part it says:
	118
	" there is no commercial cover"
	Then up the page, please, "concerned about
	the approach taken", we saw that yesterday.
	Then up the page, again. Keep going to
	Ms Panter's email. She says:
	"As I provided a list of cases rather than
	approach each individual Investigator for each
	case, to then [re-pose] the same question
	I thought it would save time and duplication
	"In response to your email Gareth, I do
	intend to use the report that you have already
	provided. It doesn't matter that you have not
	mentioned a specific case in your report, as
	there has not been any specific criticisms
	raised by any of the defendants provided by the
	defendants in my list of cases."
	Reading on:
	"What I propose to do is serve your
	statement on each defence solicitor so that the
	issue of Horizon is then addressed. That will
	then place the onus on the Defence to specify
	what if anything, they say is wrong with the

"That is why it is important for you to 120

1		consider the case summaries that I have provided
2		so that you are familiar with each case."
3		Looking at that exchange, as it stands at
4		that point in time, were there problems with the
5		approach that was being taken?
6	Α.	
7		potentially with the generic statement and what
8		it did or did not do, and here we have further
9		communication in relation to that generic
10		statement and the decision that was taken to
11		rely on, effectively, bald assertion that there
12		was "nothing to see here" in relation to the
13		operation of the Horizon system, rather than to
14		look at the data on a case-by-case basis, on
15		a branch-by-branch basis, to identify whether
16		there was something to see or not and, if so,
17	~	what.
18	Q.	5
19		each case on its merits and was not instructing
20		Mr Jenkins as an expert in each case?
21 22	Α.	No, that's right. It was effectively a one-size-fits-all answer to any suggestion
22		from any postmaster that there may be an issue
23 24		with Horizon, without actually looking to see
24		whether there was, in their case.
20		121
4		
1		matter that he had not referred to a specific
2		case in his report and yet it was telling him to
2 3	•	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary
2 3 4	A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes.
2 3 4 5	Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case?
2 3 4 5 6	Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A. Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A. Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A. Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A. Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	Q. A. Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A. Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from. And the genesis of it?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from. And the genesis of it? Absolutely.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A. Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from. And the genesis of it? Absolutely.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	 case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from. And the genesis of it? Absolutely. And, if it's right that it contained limitations, what those limitations were?
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. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from. And the genesis of it? Absolutely. And, if it's right that it contained limitations, what those limitations were? No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from. And the genesis of it? Absolutely. And, if it's right that it contained limitations, what those limitations were? No. Can we go forwards to FUJ00153865. We've moved
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.	case in his report and yet it was telling him to read the case summary Yes. for each case? Yes. Was that approach made better or worse by the fact that the statement, on its face, did not explain that it was itself responsive to the four questions that we saw earlier? It made it worse, in the sense that no one coming to a particular case from the defence perspective, for example, or a court's perspective, would know would properly understand what this statement was or where it had come from. And the genesis of it? Absolutely. And, if it's right that it contained limitations, what those limitations were? No. Can we go forwards to FUJ00153865. We've moved forward now to the end of November and an email

1	Q.	It, the Post Office, was not providing
2		Mr Jenkins with any instructions specific to the
3		case in question?
4	Α.	Or data, no.
5	Q.	It was proposing to give or did give Mr Jenkins
6		nothing more than a bare case summary in each
7		case?
8	Α.	Quite.
9	Q.	That's aside from the limitations of the
10		statement, the generic statement, itself?
11	A.	Yes.
12 13	Q.	What did you understand the provision of a case
13 14	Α.	summary to be for; what was its purpose? Again, it wasn't altogether clear to me what its
14	A.	intended purpose was, other than so that
16		Mr Jenkins would know perhaps which post office
17		it was, the name of the defendant, the amount of
18		the shortfall. It perhaps would have given him
19		some indication as to what the postmaster had
20		said in interview about it but it wasn't asking
21		him to do anything with that information
22	Q.	Because
23	Α.	other than to know it.
24	Q.	I'm sorry. As we see here, the Post Office was,
25		via its agent, telling Mr Jenkins it didn't
		122
1		
		Sefton and Nield, Andrew Bolc, copied to
2		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins:
2 3		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two
2 3 4		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me.
2 3 4 5		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more
2 3 4 5 6		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The
2 3 4 5 6 7		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible "
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible "
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	А.	Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q.	Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny Thomas to the chain, saying to Mr Bolc:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny Thomas to the chain, saying to Mr Bolc: "Thanks for the info you have supplied me
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny Thomas to the chain, saying to Mr Bolc: "Thanks for the info you have supplied me with on these two cases. I thought I should try
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny Thomas to the chain, saying to Mr Bolc: "Thanks for the info you have supplied me with on these two cases. I thought I should try and clarify exactly what you want from me. "My understanding from Rachael was that all that is required is a signed version of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny Thomas to the chain, saying to Mr Bolc: "Thanks for the info you have supplied me with on these two cases. I thought I should try and clarify exactly what you want from me. "My understanding from Rachael was that all that is required is a signed version of a standard report I produced a couple of months
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		Ms Panter, to Mr Jenkins: "Please find enclosed outlines of the two cases which involve me. "Of the two Sefton and Nield is the more urgent concentrate on that one first. The Allen case is only for plea and case management on 10 December. In an ideal world I would like to serve a report before the 10th if possible " That doesn't improve the extent of the instructions that Mr Jenkins is being given, does it? No. If we look, please, at FUJ00124105, Mr Jenkins replies on 3 December, adding, I think, Penny Thomas to the chain, saying to Mr Bolc: "Thanks for the info you have supplied me with on these two cases. I thought I should try and clarify exactly what you want from me. "My understanding from Rachael was that all that is required is a signed version of

25 produced, scanned and emailed to you in a couple 124

1		of days.	
2		"However having read through the info you've	:
3		given me, perhaps you want me to cover some	:
4		further things. Some observations"	
5		Then Mr Jenkins sets out some further lines	:
6		of inquiry	
7	Α.	Yes.	
8	Q.	number 1, in the Sefton and Nield case and,	
9		number 2, contrasting the Allen case to the	
10 11		Sefton and Nield case. Would you agree that at	1
12		this point Mr Jenkins appears to be seeking clarification as to exactly what it was that	1
12		lawyers wanted him to do, given that they wanted	1
14		a standard statement because these cases, they	1
15		said, didn't give rise to specific Horizon	1
16		systems?	1
17	Α.	It's a combination of seeking clarification,	1
18		because he does say that he's trying to clarify,	1
19		but also an offer of the further help that he	1
20		could give on particular issues that he's	2
21		spotted from the case summaries, I presume, that	2
22		he had seen.	2
23	Q.	Can we move forward to FUJ00153881. If we	2
24		scroll down, please, and again, if we just	2
25		scroll up to catch the date it should be	2
		125	
1		here, the tenor of the message is rather	
2		different, and the use of the word "we",	
3		"Ultimately we would need to discredit this as	:
4		an explanation that holds any water", and the	
5		approach being to discredit this as	
6		an explanation that holds any water, neither of	
7		those things really fit well, not "really	
8		fit" neither of those things fit with the	;
9		instruction of an independent expert by someone	:
10		acting as a minister of justice.	1
11	Q.	So rather than doing what it should do, which	1
12		was, if it hadn't been done before, to state the	1
13		expert's duties of independence, it actively	1
14		sought to suggest the outcome?	1
15	Α.	Yes, and that they were working as a team to get	1
16	-	there.	1
17	Q.	Can we look, please, at FUJ00153881 that's in	1
18		fact this document and the reply further up the	1
19		page, please. If we carry on to see Mr Jenkins'	1
20 21		reply, if we keep going. So it's the next day 5 December:	2
21 22		5 December: "I've had a look at the statement here and	2
22		I think it might be helpful to have a dig as to	2
23		exactly what went on in the Branch at the time	2
25		of the loss. I think I understand what he is	2
		127	_

1		4 December from Mr Bolc to Mr Jenkins, in the
2		case of Allen:
3		"I have just spoken to the solicitor for
4		Grant Allen."
5		Then skipping a paragraph:
6		"I attach an extract from Mr Allen's
7		interview. As in the case summary I sent you he
8		is trying to suggest that an initial loss of
9		£3,000 is attributable to lost data which has
10		not reached Head Office because of installation
11		problems. Are you able to comment on this
12		scenario at all? Ultimately we would need to
13		discredit this as an explanation that holds any
14		water. He denies stealing the subsequent losses
15		and therefore by implication may be seeking to
16		blame the system for these losses as well."
17		Is the email from Mr Bolc, the lawyer,
18		consistent or inconsistent with the proper
19		instruction of an expert, in that it appears
20		informally to ask Mr Jenkins if he can comment
21		at all on a defence explanation?
22	Α.	It's inconsistent but not just for that reason.
23		There's potentially no issue, depending on how
24		it is done, with putting a scenario to an expert
25		and asking for their assessment of it. But
		126
1		claiming. However, where there are comms
2		problems it is normal to recover any missing
2 3		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it
2 3 4		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be
2 3 4 5		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes
2 3 4 5 6		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where
2 3 4 5 6 7		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]." Skip the next paragraph. We should note:
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]." Skip the next paragraph. We should note: "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting together a specific statement or is a simple generic one sufficient?" Then some cost issues.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]." Skip the next paragraph. We should note: "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting together a specific statement or is a simple generic one sufficient?" Then some cost issues. So Mr Jenkins highlighting no requests for audit data or Helpdesk call records and that there are two ways of going about this, and asking for instruction as to which the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		problems it is normal to recover any missing data once the comms are sorted out (provided it is within 35 days), so this shouldn't be a reason for a loss. Also there are processes in place to retrieve outstanding data where there are extended comms issues lasting more than 7 days, so as to meet contractual obligations regarding "I could just make a general statement relating to that or if we retrieve data from the time I could check out exactly what [is happening]." Skip the next paragraph. We should note: "[Post Office] have not requested any audit data nor been asked about Helpdesk calls "Is it worth asking Post Office to request such data for me to examine before putting together a specific statement or is a simple generic one sufficient?" Then some cost issues. So Mr Jenkins highlighting no requests for audit data or Helpdesk call records and that there are two ways of going about this, and

1		prosecutor required.	1
2	Α.		2
3	Q.	If we go further up the page, please. Second	3
4		line, Mr Bolc's reply:	4
5		"I would appreciate if you could add your	5
6		general comments at this stage regarding the	6
7		safeguards in place for comms problems to your	7
8		statement, and send this to me as before and	8
9		I will refer back to the Post Office to consider	9
10		whether we go on to request the retrieval of	1(1 ⁻
11 12		data for your further analysis."	12
13		So this exchange, I think you'll agree, shows that Mr Jenkins informed the Post Office	13
14		lawyers that he could examine the data to work	14
14		out "exactly what had happened at the branch"?	15
16	Α.	Yes.	16
17	Q.	The Post Office said that they didn't want this	17
18	ч.	to occur in response	18
19	Α.	Yes.	19
20	Q.	in the first instance. If we look, please,	20
20	ч.	at POL00089380, we should be able to see	2
22		an email between Mr Bolc and the Investigator:	22
23		"Please see [Mr Jenkins' report]. I had	23
24		asked him to look at non-polling issue raised in	24
25		[the] interview and I believe that he had dealt	25
		129	
4			4
1 2		scroll up a moment, he says: "I have been asked to provide a statement in	1
2		the case of Grant Allen. I understand the	3
4		integrity of the system has been questioned and	4
5		this report provides some general information	5
6		regarding the integrity of Horizon."	6
7		Then if we scroll down. There is then, in	7
8		the paragraph underneath, the explanation of	8
9		Mr Jenkins' evidence on the non-polling issue.	9
10		Then over the page, at the end of that paragraph	1(
11		that's at the top of the page, Mr Jenkins says:	1
12		"I have not had an opportunity to examine	12
13		the detailed logs from this period to see	13
14		whether there were any issues, and any	14
15		justification in the claim that this resulted in	15
16		apparent system losses of £3,000 as claimed."	16
17	Α.	Yes.	17
18	Q.	So he has provided the generic explanation	18
19	щ.	beforehand?	19
20	Α.	Yes.	20
20	Q.	But made it clear, is this right, that he's not	2
22	щ.	actually looked at the data?	22
23	Α.	Yes.	23
24	Q.	You tell us in your report that this was	24
25	-	an unfortunate failure in the evidence, given	25
		131	

1		with it adequately Gareth tells me that it
2		is in fact possible for him to retrieve the
3		actual data from this time to see what actually
4		occurred at this branch, and that the retrieval
5		of the data is free to POL it will take
6		approximately two and a half days for him to
7		look at it and analyse what it means and this
8		will be chargeable to POL at £2,500. I have
9		told him at present that we do not wish to
0		pursue this option unless it becomes
1		unavoidable."
12		Then some instructions.
3		Mr Jenkins then signed a witness statement
4		in Mr Allen's case on 17 December. This was
15		identical to the general statement, the generic
6		statement that had been signed back earlier in
17		the year, except for the additional paragraph
8		that had been included addressing the
9		non-polling data. Can we look, please, at that,
20		POL00089077. Thank you.
21		This is the statement dated 17 December,
22		it's quite hard to read. I'm not going to go
23		through it because we're familiar with it as the
24		generic statement but just look at the addition
25		which is on page 2, if we scroll down. Just 130
4		
1 2		that he, Mr Jenkins, was aware of the specific
2 3		issue raised by Mr Allen and didn't follow through in the investigation of it, but this
3 4		appears, however, to have been a Post Office
5		decision?
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	Looking at that underlying material that we've
8		examined, rather than it appears to have been
9		a Post Office decision not to obtain this data,
10		the evidence suggests that it was a Post Office
11		decision not to obtain the data?
12	A.	Yes, the material that you've just gone through
13		is more than I had seen when I wrote my report.
4	Q.	So would you agree that it's clear that, in the
15		face of Mr Jenkins saying that the obtaining of
16		that data would resolve the question of what had
17		happened in branch, the Post Office took the
8		decision not to obtain the data?
9	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	Was that consistent or inconsistent with its
21		duty to pursue reasonable lines of inquiry?
22	Α.	Inconsistent.
23	Q.	And consistent or inconsistent with its duties
24		of disclosure more generally?
25	Α.	Inconsistent.
		132

1	Q.	In paragraph 545 of your report, which is on
2		page 192, you say:
3		"The greatest concern in this case is the
4		instruction of and reliance on expert evidence
5		from Mr Jenkins to rebut any question as to the
6		integrity and reliability of Horizon. First
7		this is because his offer to examine the data
8		relating to Mr Allen's branch and his complaints
9		was rejected in favour of a generic statement."
10		We've seen that in the underlying material.
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	"This was clearly a missed opportunity for which
13		little justification was advanced."
14		Do you stand by that comment in the light of
15		the underlying material?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	"Secondly, given that his generic statement was
18		relied on, it is of note that Mr Jenkins was in
19		possession of material directly relevant to that
20		question, which is nowhere referred to. His
21		duty of disclosure ought to have at least
22		required consideration of this, and I have seen
23		no communication to suggest this."
24		Again, do you stand by that comment in the
25		light of the material we've looked at? 133
1		statement, was flawed in relation to the
2		limitations of the analysis of the actual data
3		that would have confirmed whether or not Horizon
4		was operating correctly. Given that Mr Jenkins
5		had indicated to Mr Bolc that the data would
6		show what had happened at the branch, given that
7		Mr Bolc, in conjunction with the Investigator
8		Mr Bradshaw, had decided that Mr Jenkins
9 10		shouldn't review the data and, given that
10 11		Mr Jenkins stated in his witness statement, in
12		that paragraph I showed you, that he hadn't
12		examined the data, would you agree that it was the Post Office that was responsible for that
13		flawed approach?
14	A.	Ultimately, yes.
16	Q.	
17	α.	sentences of that passage I've just read you
18		there, who was responsible for the very real
10		disclosure failings that you identify?
20	Α.	Well, the answer is both the Post Office as the
20	д.	prosecutor and Mr Jenkins as the expert, because
21		both had disclosure responsibilities, and it was
23		for the expert to comply with his
24		responsibilities as an expert as to disclosure
25		and it was certainly for the Post Office as the
_0		135

1	Α.	Yes, and I also have in mind there the material
2		I'd seen in context of the case of Mrs Misra and
3		the discussions back, in memory, from 2010 about
4		bugs in the system, and it is for others, not
5		me, to opine as to whether those bugs had any
6		potential relevance to the issues of Mr Allen's
7		case. The generic statement didn't leave any
8		room for there being any apparent bugs at all in
9		the system and that, I think, was the concern
10	_	I was also addressing there.
11	Q.	You continue:
12		"A generic report was served, which was
13		flawed both in relation to the issue and also in
14		relation to the limitations of the analysis of
15		actual data that would have confirmed whether
16		the Horizon system was operating correctly or
17		not. Whilst there was discussion of this with
18		Mr Jenkins, there does not appear to have been
19 20		any disclosure of these important limitations.
20 21		These represented very real disclosure failings in relation to expert evidence that the
21 22		prosecution was relying on."
22		Dealing with the two things that you address
23 24		there, content of the report first, then
24		disclosure second, you say the report, the
20		134
1		prosecutor to comply with theirs.
2	Q.	Thank you. Back in paragraph 528 of your report
3		which is on page 186, you refer to Mr Jenkins'
4		September 2010 witness statement or report,
5		rather concerning the receipts and payments
6		mismatch bug
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	and state that he did not disclose those
9		issues in Mr Allen's case?
10	Α.	No.
11	Q.	I think that's one of the things you were
12		cross-referring back to there
13	Α.	Yes, yes.
14	Q.	the cross-reference back to the Misra case.
15		Then forward to paragraph 540 you say that
16		omission is of particular concern.
17	Α.	Yes, insofar as I understood Mr Jenkins' report
18		from September 2010 and put that against
19		questions of the integrity and reliability of
20		the system that his generic statement sought to
21		address, it seemed to me that there was
22		a disjunct between what was known by him and
00		
23		what was set out by him.
23 24	Q.	what was set out by him. As we've seen in paragraph 545, you said that

25 Mr Jenkins' own duty of disclosure ought to have 136

1	at least required consideration of disclosure of
1	

- 2 that issue and you have seen no communication to
- 3 suggest that occurred?
- 4 A. That's right and because, again -- and I may
- 5 just have completely misunderstood the technical
- 6 nature of all of this -- but, on the face of it,
- 7 the September 2010 report represented material
- 8 that was inconsistent with or potentially
- 9 inconsistent with conclusions that he was
- 10 asserting in the generic statement and, as such,
- 11 he had a duty to draw attention to that,
- 12 irrespective of the prosecution's own
- 13 unquestionable obligation to do so.
- 14 Q. Do you agree, however, that in the material that15 you have seen, there's nothing to suggest that
- 16 the Post Office informed Mr Jenkins of any
- 17 disclosure duties that he owed personally and,
- 18 in particular, at the time of the provision of
- 19 the generic statement as an expert?
- 20 A. No, that's right.
- 21 **Q.** I think it's right that your knowledge of the
- 22 *Misra* case would indicate to you that the Post
- 23 Office lawyer in that case, Jarnail Singh, was
- 24 aware of the Callendar Square bug, the locking
- 25 issue that had caused transactions to be lost,

1 been asked to address four questions and whether 2 he had understood that he was being asked to 3 answer only those questions and nothing else? 4 A. Yes. 5 **Q.** Have you seen any evidence that in Mr Allen's 6 case the Post Office gave any formalised or 7 reasoned consideration to obtaining, recording 8 and then disclosing information about Horizon 9 hardware or software faults held by other 10 departments within the Post Office? A. No. 11 12 Q. A duty of disclosure doesn't start with the 13 prosecutor going to third parties; is that 14 right? It must look at which material it itself 15 possesses? A. Yes, I mean, it can think about both things at 16 17 the same time but it has to think about what 18 it's got itself, absolutely. 19 What would you have expected for a prosecutor of Q. 20 this nature, ie a repeat player of many year's 21 vintage -- it had been in the business of 22 prosecuting people for hundreds of years -- to 23 have had by way of systems for retaining, then 24 obtaining by a prosecution division, analysing, 25 recording and then disclosing? 139

1		Mr Jenkins' email to him saying that there had
2		been 200,000 faults recorded on the system, and
3		the provision of the receipts and payments
4		mismatch bug report to Jarnail Singh?
5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	Is there anything in the papers to suggest that,
7		in the Allen case, Mr Singh considered that
8		these needed to be explained or disclosed when
9		the generic statement was being sought?
10	Α.	I'm afraid not.
11	Q.	More generally, is there anything to suggest
12		that Mr Singh gave consideration to whether any
13		of those issues needed to be referred to or
14		explained when the generic statement was being
15		sought, ie not just in the context of the Grant
16		Allen case?
17	Α.	Not that I've seen.
18	Q.	Ought the drafts of Mr Jenkins' original witness
19		statements, in this case Grant Allen, to have
20		been recorded on the schedule of unused
21		material?
22	Α.	As in drafts of the generic statements as it
23		evolved in this case? Yes, they should.
24	Q.	In particular, would you agree that that may
25		have revealed the extent to which Mr Jenkins had
		138
1	Α.	Gosh. As a prosecutor, they should have
2	А.	recognised that they had duties under statute to
2		complete the three Rs in relation to material.
4		They needed to recognise that they were relying
5		on the operation of a computer system as the
6		basis for a whole series of prosecutions and
7		that the reliability of that system was
8		a potential issue in those cases, and that
9		material that was relevant to the question or
10		potentially relevant to the question of
11		reliability had to be retained, had to be
12		reviewed and had, ultimately, to be disclosed.
13		And they had to recognise that, if they were
14		in the Criminal Law Department and that the
15		material as to the operation of the Horizon
16		system was kept in a department down the
17		corridor, they needed to go down the corridor.
18		They couldn't just look at what was in their own
19		office.
20	Q.	Did you see any appreciation by either the
21		Investigators or the lawyers that there were
22		lots of other departments down the corridor,
23		including departments that had, as a function
24		liaising with the manufacturer and operator of
25		the system, Fujitsu, over faults with it?
		140

3

1	Α.	No, I think the only departments that would get
2		mentioned in, for example, investigators'
3		reports, other than the Criminal Law Department
4		that they would be sending their report to, were
5		the Contract Managers and the Auditors. And
6		that's because it was the Auditors that were
7		identifying the shortfall on the system in the
8		first place and the Contract Manager who would
9		be making a decision about whether to sack the
10		postmaster or not. I think that was it.
11	Q.	So no recognition that, down the corridor, as
12		you put it, elsewhere within the business, there
13		were whole teams of people, most of whom were
14		called managers, whose job it was to liaise on
15		a daily basis with the Post Office or between
16		the Post Office and Fujitsu, over Horizon
17		faults?
18	Α.	Whether they appreciated that or not, the
19		material l've seen doesn't say, because it
20		doesn't mention them.
21	Q.	No. Instead, was the vista that was looked at
22	<u> </u>	by Investigators and prosecutors, what is within
23		the Investigation Team and what is within the
24		prosecution team, sometimes extending to what
25		happened at audit?
20		141
1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	He makes the point in the email that he hadn't
3		been presented with any audit data relating to
4		any of these cases, including Sefton and Nield
5		to examine
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	and he makes suggestions about what might be
8		done?
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	If we go to POL00089394, and go down to
11		3 December, reply from Mr Bolc:
12		"The only clarification I think I need at
13		the moment relates to the timeline, 2005 removal
14		of cash Could you clarify what this means
15		and discount it as a possible explanation for
16		the losses beginning to occur at that time in

16		the losses beginning to occur at that time in
17		the Sefton and Nield case.
18		"The audit reports will simply show the
19		money missing so will not take things further."
20		Again, does that contain the loaded language
21		about which you were critical before?
22	Α.	Yes.

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

- 24 discount something as a possible explanation?
- 25 **A.** Yes.

- A. Yes, and so by way of example of that, they might, because they had it from the audit, look at transaction logs which are derived from -- as
- 4 I understand it, from the Horizon system, but
- 5 were things they had because the auditor had got
- 6 to them. They wouldn't look at anything that
- 7 they hadn't got, as a result of that process or
- 8 ask for it.
- 9 Q. Thank you. Can we turn to the case of Angela10 Sefton and Anne Nield.
- 11 A. Yes.

23

25

case."

- 12 Q. I think you've noted that these cases were being 13 dealt with in an overlapping way, including, in 14 an overlapping way, with Allen; is that right? A. Yes, and the email from Ms Panter we looked at 15 earlier had a little list of cases, including 16 17 that of Mr Allen, including that of these two, and Mr Ishaq, as well. 18 19 Q. Therefore similarly, if we turn up FUJ00124105, 20 in the case of Sefton and Nield too on 21 3 December 2012, Mr Jenkins is making the point 22 back to Mr Bolc:
 - "Please tell me exactly what you want from
- 24 me, also in relation to the Sefton and Nield

1	Q.	Would you say that Mr Bolc's rejection of
2		obtaining the ARQ records in these cases was
3		consistent or inconsistent with the approach of
4		an open minded prosecutor?
5	Α.	Inconsistent. It was a reasonable line of
6		inquiry, it was allied almost inevitably to
7		duties of disclosure.
8	Q.	Mr Jenkins signed a witness statement in this
9		case on 5 December 2012, that's POL00059424.
10		I think this is 5 December, maybe 6 December
11		2012, identical to the generic statement that
12		had been signed back in October 2012, except for
13		an additional paragraph addressing an aspect of
14		Ms Sefton and Ms Nield's case. If we scroll
15		down, we can see that. It begins, in substance:
16		"I have been asked to provide a statement in
17		the case of Angela Sefton I understand that
18		the integrity of the system has been questioned
19		and this report provides some general
20		information regarding the integrity of Horizon."
21		Then if we go over the page, please,
22		a generic statement that we're all familiar
23		with. If we carry on, please. If we scroll
24		through, just to see that this is the generic
25		statement that we're familiar with 144

1	•	Yes
2	Q.	and keep going. Then just over the page,
2	Q.	please, we can see the line at the conclusion,
4		where Mr Jenkins says:
5		" I would conclude by saying I fully
6		believe [the Horizon system] will accurately
7		record all data that is submitted to it and
8		correctly account for it it cannot
9		compensate for any data that is incorrectly
10		input into it as a result of human error, lack
11		of training or fraud (and nor can any other
12		system)."
13		I think I skipped over I think it was
14		page 2, if we can just go back to page 2.
15	Α.	Yes, there's a reference to the defence
16		statements on page 2.
17	Q.	Yes. If we scroll down, please. Yes, there:
18		Losses started in 2005, and that Horizon was
19		installed at that time. Horizon was rolled out
20		in 1999 and 2002, so I am surprised at the
21		reference to 2005. There was a change
22		implemented in late 2005, the removal of the
23		weekly cash report. They were thoroughly tested
24		at the time. There's been no indication of
25		there being any issues regarding this change and
		145
1	Q.	
2		instructions, proper instructions, as an expert
3		in these cases?
4	A.	No.
5	Q.	Less still instructions that were specific to
6		the issues that arose in any of these cases?
7	A.	Quite.
8 9	Q.	In paragraph 566 of your report, which is on page 199, you say that Mr Jenkins' statement in
9 10		the Sefton and Nield case is generic in its
11		content. It mirrors that served in the case of
12		Allen, in which Mr Jenkins' statement reviewed
13		data specific to that defendant and said he had
14		also run through hypothetical issues with
15		integrity, and concluded there was no evidence
16		of any issues?
17	Α.	Yes, in fact, it's clearer to me now from the
18		material I've further seen that he hadn't
19		reviewed data specific to that defendant in the
20		way that I thought he had.
21	Q.	Thank you very much. You tell us in
22		paragraph 565, which is on page 198, that
23		there's no reference by Mr Jenkins in his
24		statement to his own 2010 report addressing
		a five face are interstitional laws
25		a fix for an identified bug. 147

1	the change has no impact on the overall
2	integrity of the system as outlined in the
3	statement.
4	You've seen now how the generic statement
5	came about and the emails involving Ms Panter
6	and Mr Bolc, on the one hand, and Mr Jenkins, on
7	the other, in November 2012, insofar as that
8	statement was adapted to deal with the Sefton
9	and Nield case.
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Would you agree that those underlying
12	communications demonstrate that it was the Post
13	Office's idea and intention that the statement
14	should be a generic one?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. That it was represented to Mr Jenkins, secondly,
17	that the cases in which his generic statement
18	was being provided were not cases which raised
19	specific Horizon issues?
20	A. Specific issues, no.
21	Q. That when he sought clarity on what that meant
22	and what could be done, the Post Office, through
23	its lawyers, declined suggestions that further
24	investigations be carried out?
25	A. Yes.
	146
1	A. Yes, the same point I made in relation to
2	Mr Allen and that case.
3	Q. We should read that across?
4	A. Yes.
5	MR BEER: Thank you very much.
6	Sir, it's 2.55 now. I wonder if we could
7	take the afternoon break now and return at 3.10.
8 9	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Can you just give me a clue about how much longer you will be and whether or not
9 10	there are likely to be questions from Core
10	Participants' representatives?
12	MR BEER: Sir, yes, I'm intending to pick up at 3.10
12	and finish by 4.00. I think there will be some
14	questions from two or three CP representatives,
15	each of which is five minutes, or so.
16	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Fine. Thank you.
17	(2.56 pm)
18	(A short break)
19	(3.10 pm)
20	MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear
21	us?
22	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
23	MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
24	Can we turn to the case study, Mr Atkinson,
25	lastly, of Khayyam Ishaq. Can we dive straight
	148

1		in with the material, please, by looking at
2		POL00059481. Again, this about the genesis of
3		Mr Gareth Jenkins' statements.
4		If we scroll down, please, email from
5		Mr Jenkins to Ms Panter of 8 January. Copied to
6		Penny Thomas:
7		"Rachael,
8		"I've taken my previous statement and
9		amended it to refer to the Ishaq case."
10		That's the generic statement that he's
11		saying he's taken.
12	Α.	Yes.
13	Q.	"Reading through the Prosecution and Defence
14		Summaries, I don't think there is anything for
15		me to comment on specifically.
16		"Please can you confirm this is all you need
17		in this case, and if so I'll get a signed copy
18		together with the related exhibits to you."
19		Then if we scroll up, please.
20		"Morning Gareth
21		"Thank you for your statement which I have
22		had an opportunity to read. There is nothing
23		that you need to add, it covers everything."
24		Then forwarded by Ms Panter to Martin Smith,
25		if we scroll up: 149
1		and indicating what, in some instances, she is
2	~	sending him.
3		If we scroll down a little further. Point number 5, in relation to the case of
4	Α.	Point number 5 in relation to the case of
E	Λ.	
5	Λ.	Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of
6	Λ.	Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked
6 7	Α.	Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and
6 7 8	Α.	Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was
6 7 8 9		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what
6 7 8 9 10	A.	Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to
6 7 8 9 10 11		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face
6 7 9 10 11		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly
6 7 9 10 11 12 13		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq.
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6 7 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq. I can understand, given the context and the
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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq. I can understand, given the context and the history that we have gone through, why he may have considered she was just asking him to sign a copy of his generic statement for Mr Ishaq's use but, equally, it was open to him to have, as
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq. I can understand, given the context and the history that we have gone through, why he may have considered she was just asking him to sign a copy of his generic statement for Mr Ishaq's use but, equally, it was open to him to have, as he did in other cases that we've looked at
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q.	Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq. I can understand, given the context and the history that we have gone through, why he may have considered she was just asking him to sign a copy of his generic statement for Mr Ishaq's use but, equally, it was open to him to have, as he did in other cases that we've looked at earlier, flag up things that had occurred to
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq. I can understand, given the context and the history that we have gone through, why he may have considered she was just asking him to sign a copy of his generic statement for Mr Ishaq's use but, equally, it was open to him to have, as he did in other cases that we've looked at earlier, flag up things that had occurred to him, having looked at those materials.
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq. I can understand, given the context and the history that we have gone through, why he may have considered she was just asking him to sign a copy of his generic statement for Mr Ishaq's use but, equally, it was open to him to have, as he did in other cases that we've looked at earlier, flag up things that had occurred to him, having looked at those materials. Indeed, when he did provide a generic statement,
6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		Mr Ishaq, she provided him with a number of documents for his consideration, having asked him to prepare a report in that case and essentially setting out what Mr Ishaq was saying. And so it is not absolutely clear what it is she was asking him to do, other than to prepare a report, but she was not, on the face of that paragraph, telling him not to properly examine the issues in relation to Mr Ishaq. I can understand, given the context and the history that we have gone through, why he may have considered she was just asking him to sign a copy of his generic statement for Mr Ishaq's use but, equally, it was open to him to have, as he did in other cases that we've looked at earlier, flag up things that had occurred to him, having looked at those materials. Indeed, when he did provide a generic statement, strictly generic statement, she, Ms Panter,

1		"Please see below. I have read the expert's
2		report and it is perfect."
3		In your report, it's paragraph 611, on
4		page 215 no need to display it at the
5		moment you characterise generally Mr Jenkins'
6		statement of 15 January 2013, which is the one
7		being referred to in these emails, as a generic
8		one.
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	In the light of the emails that we've just
11		looked at, would you agree that this was a case
12		in which the Post Office sought a generic
13		statement from Mr Jenkins?
14	Α.	In the main, yes, although the email chain that
15		we're looking at here, the email that we started
16		at was a response from Mr Jenkins to an email
17		from Ms Panter on
18	Q.	Yes, if we scroll down in this chain. Sorry to
19		speak over you, Mr Atkinson.
20	Α.	No, not at all. The email header is at the
21		bottom of page 3 but the content is on page 4.
22		So the bottom of that page.
23	Q.	100
24	Α.	And so Ms Panter is sending Mr Jenkins and
25		copying a cast of thousands into a list of cases 150
		100
1	Q.	Here
2	α. Α.	I don't share her view as to its perfection.
3	Q.	Here she's providing him with a copy of the
4	ч.	indictment, the summary of facts, and the
5		defence case statement
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	and identifying a claim by Mr Ishag that he
8		was not dishonest, he had to make reversals in
9		order to balance and that there had been
10		a malfunction with the Horizon system?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Can we go forwards, then, a couple of weeks,
13		until after this statement had been signed off.
14		to the 31 January 2013, POL00089427. If we
15		scroll down, please, to 31 January. There we
16		are, thank you. Rachael Panter to Gareth
17		Jenkins and lots of other people:
18		"The week of 11th will be fine"
19		Sorry, if we can scroll down a little
20		further, and again:
21		"Ishaq Having served your report, the
22		defence have queried it and are claiming that
23		Ishaq had to make false entries in order for the

figures to reconcile, as the Horizon system kept

malfunctioning."

1		That is something that he'd originally said?
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	"Please could you make a note in your diary as
4		you will be needed to clarify our position with
5		Horizon."
6		Then can I just check there's nothing
7		underneath this email. Yes, if we just scroll
8		up, please:
9		"Our barrister has asked if you could read
10		the Defence case statement attached and make
11		a list of your initial thoughts on the
12		assertions he is making. We may need you to add
13		a few of these comments into your report so that
14		each issue is addressed."
15		Do you consider it an appropriate or
16		inappropriate approach to send a defence
17		statement to a prosecution witness, whether
18		an expert or not, for generalised thoughts or
19		comments?
20	Α.	It's unusual, certainly, in relation to
21		an expert, and I can't imagine it happening in
22		relation to a non-expert witness.
23	Q.	In particular, was it appropriate, given the
24		context, that the Post Office had not given
25		Mr Jenkins the kind of instructions which ought
		153
1		caco was risku?
1	Δ	case was risky?
2	A.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned
2 3	Α.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but,
2 3 4	A.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply
2 3 4 5		I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was.
2 3 4 5 6	A. Q.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been
2 3 4 5 6 7		I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been "Don't look at the specifics of any case, your
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been "Don't look at the specifics of any case, your generalised generic statement will do". They were now saying, "We've got a defence statement
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been "Don't look at the specifics of any case, your generalised generic statement will do". They were now saying, "We've got a defence statement here, can you provide comments on it?" and you're saying that the risk that arose or the caution that needed to be applied was dependent on what was intended to be done with the reply?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	Q.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been "Don't look at the specifics of any case, your generalised generic statement will do". They were now saying, "We've got a defence statement here, can you provide comments on it?" and you're saying that the risk that arose or the caution that needed to be applied was dependent on what was intended to be done with the reply? Yes, and I suppose the issues might arise if
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been "Don't look at the specifics of any case, your generalised generic statement will do". They were now saying, "We've got a defence statement here, can you provide comments on it?" and you're saying that the risk that arose or the caution that needed to be applied was dependent on what was intended to be done with the reply? Yes, and I suppose the issues might arise if Mr Jenkins identified something in an aspect of the defence statement that was nothing actually to do with him, and expressed his view, for
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been "Don't look at the specifics of any case, your generalised generic statement will do". They were now saying, "We've got a defence statement here, can you provide comments on it?" and you're saying that the risk that arose or the caution that needed to be applied was dependent on what was intended to be done with the reply? Yes, and I suppose the issues might arise if Mr Jenkins identified something in an aspect of the defence statement that was nothing actually to do with him, and expressed his view, for example, on the honesty or dishonesty of someone. That would give rise to issues in and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q.	I suppose it would depend on what they planned to do with what he came back with but, certainly, if they were then going to comply with their obligations properly, yes, it was. I mean, previously, the instructions had been "Don't look at the specifics of any case, your generalised generic statement will do". They were now saying, "We've got a defence statement here, can you provide comments on it?" and you're saying that the risk that arose or the caution that needed to be applied was dependent on what was intended to be done with the reply? Yes, and I suppose the issues might arise if Mr Jenkins identified something in an aspect of the defence statement that was nothing actually to do with him, and expressed his view, for example, on the honesty or dishonesty of someone. That would give rise to issues in and of itself. But, assuming that he focused on
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1		to have been provided to an expert, nor provided
2		him with all of the material relevant to the
3		issues in the case, nor giving him instructions
4		as to what material himself to obtain?
5	Α.	No, quite.
6	Q.	Looking at what should have been done, would
7		this be right: the lawyers and the Investigator
8		should have looked at the defence statement and
9		seen what disclosure obligations it gave rise
10		to?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Looked for what issues that it raised and which
13		questions, therefore, required to be answered,
14		and whether they were to be answered by expert
15		or lay evidence?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	If expert evidence, properly to have instructed
18		an expert with written instructions complying
19		with the obligations I mentioned earlier?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	Do you agree that, in addition to being provided
22		with relatively scant information
23		an indictment, a case summary and a defence
24		statement asking Mr Jenkins to comment on the
25		defence case or provide comments on a defence 154
		104
1		disclosure issues because his answers were
2		rather unprepared by anything they'd given him.
2 3	Q.	rather unprepared by anything they'd given him. This shift in approach from "the generic will
2 3 4	Q.	rather unprepared by anything they'd given him. This shift in approach from "the generic will do", to now "We're delving into the specifics of
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1	-	I think you've seen this document.
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	Mr Jenkins, in addition to suggesting that
4		further data may be required for analysis and
5		that help may be needed in order to understand
6		it, indicates, in relation to Horizon
7		malfunctions, that: "If the defence can specify some examples of
8 9		this, I'm happy to investigate. However,
9 10		I would contend that the system doesn't
11		malfunction with leaving some trail to indicate
12		what has happened. Without examining the logs
13		it is difficult to be more specific."
14		In the light of that, do you agree that, at
15		the very least, there ought to have been
16		a discussion or a formal follow-up to the
17		comments made about the need for further data
18		analysis
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	in order for Mr Jenkins to be able to look at
21		the system malfunctions that Mr Ishaq had
22		complained about?
23	Α.	Yes, well, it's again a two-stage matter. So
24		far as the prosecution's obligations are
25		concerned, Mr Ishaq had raised concerns from
		157
1		did not, in fact, ask Mr Jenkins to do so?
2	Α.	No, that's right.
3		The further observation I'd make about that,
4		though, is that Mr Jenkins was being told that
5		he was in the earlier emails we'd looked at
6		from Ms Panter, was being told that he was going
7		to be called at trial to give evidence as to the
8		integrity of the Horizon system. In his mind,
9		to do so needed in that case, and given what
10		was being said by the defendant in that case, he
11		needed to look at the underlying data. So it
12		wasn't just a matter for the Post Office, it was
13		a matter for the expert, exercising independent
14		judgment, to make clear to them that to do that
15		he would need to look at the data, rather than
16	~	it was just an option.
17 19	Q.	Are you saying that that should have been done
18		by him because he knew that he was going to be
19 20		called and there would therefore come a moment at which it would be crunch time?
20 21	A.	Yes.
21 22	A. Q.	res. He would be asked or he might be asked about
22	હ.	specifics?
23 24	Α.	So, at the least, he could have said in the
25		course of these exchanges in clear or more
		159

1		experience with the operation of Horizon. They
2		were being told by their expert that an analysis
3		of the data would assist in relation to that,
4		and that they didn't need to wait for Mr Ishaq
5		to give them further and better particulars to
6		know that that's what clearly needed to happen
7		next.
8		If there were further and better particulars
9		from Mr Ishaq, clearly that would further aid
10		the process but they weren't an essential
11	_	prerequisite to anything being done at all.
12	Q.	In paragraph 611 of your report, that's
13		page 215, you say:
14		" the default statement and exhibits of
15		Gareth Jenkins were served in this case. As has
16		been discussed before its service, the statement
17		is a generic one."
18		Do you agree that the provision and then
19 20		service of a generic statement reflected the Post Office's intention that the statement be
20 21		a generic one?
21 22	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	Although Mr Jenkins explained his ability
23	ч.	further to investigate the specific malfunctions
25		of which Mr Ishaq had raised, the Post Office
20		158
1		emphatic terms than he did here "If I'm asked
1		emphatic terms than he did here "If I'm asked
2		uestions about the operation of the Horizon
2 3		questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post
2 3 4	0.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that".
2 3 4 5	Q.	questions about the operation of the Horizon system in relation to this particular post office, I need to look at the data to do that". What about the suggestion that that was
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1		a forensic accountant. The cross-reference to
2		that we needn't look at it is POL00119433.
3		Then four or five months later, Mr Jenkins was
4		told about that.
5		If we look, please, at POL00059808, if we
6		scroll down to 14 February, please, thank you.
7		"An update for you [Gareth]", from Ms Panter:
8		"Our counsel Mark Ford would like you to
9		attend court on the Monday before the start
10		of the trial to allow you to discuss the case
11 12		with the defence 'expert'."
12		This seems to be the first, I should say, that Mr Jenkins knows that there is an expert.
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	"I think the rationale behind this is to narrow
16	·	any issues we may have with the defence from the
17		outset so as to reduce the amount of time you
18		are required to attend.
19		"Our counsel is still waiting to hear from
20		defence counsel and will update us if any issues
21		arise. However your presence on the first day
22		will still be required so you can make your
23		travel arrangements."
24		Would you agree that suggesting to
25		Mr Jenkins that he should attend on the first
		161
1		the outcome.
2	Q.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have
2 3	Q.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence
2 3 4		So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert?
2 3 4 5	Q. A.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would
2 3 4 5 6		So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that
2 3 4 5 6 7		So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Α.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well. Yes, ie the defence expert report?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well. Yes, ie the defence expert report? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well. Yes, ie the defence expert report? Yes. You don't just walk into the room with your
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q. A.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well. Yes, ie the defence expert report? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well. Yes, ie the defence expert report? Yes. You don't just walk into the room with your hands in your pockets and say, "What have you
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well. Yes, ie the defence expert report? Yes. You don't just walk into the room with your hands in your pockets and say, "What have you got to say?" No, quite: "Who are you and what are you doing here?"
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. Q. A. Q. A. Q. A.	So, before this time, Mr Jenkins ought to have been told at least that there existed a defence expert? Yes, and if it was contemplated that he would need at any point to respond to anything in that report, which was perhaps inevitable, then he needed to see the document from the expert, as well. Yes, ie the defence expert report? Yes. You don't just walk into the room with your hands in your pockets and say, "What have you got to say?" No, quite: "Who are you and what are you doing here?" Yes. Yes. Yes. Moreover, Mr Jenkins would not have known what material the defence expert had himself or herself examined? Quite. It would also, would this be right, mean that it

1		day of trial to respond to, or discuss matters
2		with, a defence expert was alarming, given that
3		Mr Jenkins had not been told about any expert
4		before then?
5	Α.	That counsel had asked that there be a meeting
6		between the experts to narrow the issues, in and
7		of itself, was a reasonable thing for them to
8		have done. The rules now very much envisaged
9		that there will be a meeting between experts in
10		advance of the trial, in order to narrow the
11		issues but that is in advance of the trial
12		rather than on the day it starts, in the normal
13		course of events.
14		The experts would not come upon each other
15		by chance at that meeting. They would know in
16		advance what the other one was saying, so that
17		they could have assessed the contents of those
18		reports. So it isn't a matter just of
19		Mr Jenkins' travel arrangements that needed to
20		be planned in advance; he also needed to see the
21		material in advance and arrangements needed to
22		be put in place for how the experts were to
23		meet, what they were going to address and how
24		what they discussed was going to be recorded, so
25		that others outside that meeting thereafter knew
		162
1		a meeting, to either decide whether to agree or
2		to disagree with suggestions made in the defence
2 3		to disagree with suggestions made in the defence expert report?
2 3 4	А.	to disagree with suggestions made in the defence expert report? Yes. Clearly, that would be a more realistic
2 3 4 5	A.	to disagree with suggestions made in the defence expert report? Yes. Clearly, that would be a more realistic possibility if he had reviewed the underlying
2 3 4 5 6	A.	to disagree with suggestions made in the defence expert report? Yes. Clearly, that would be a more realistic possibility if he had reviewed the underlying data himself before producing his original
2 3 4 5 6 7	A.	to disagree with suggestions made in the defence expert report? Yes. Clearly, that would be a more realistic possibility if he had reviewed the underlying data himself before producing his original reports that Ms Ibbotson's report was a response
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. A.	to disagree with suggestions made in the defence expert report? Yes. Clearly, that would be a more realistic possibility if he had reviewed the underlying data himself before producing his original reports that Ms Ibbotson's report was a response to. But yes, one of the reasons why an expert should see any other expert's report in advance is so that they can check it. Can we look, please, at FUJ00153977. We're now on the Monday, Monday, the 18th, and we can see that Mr Jenkins has a conversation with Penny Thomas. Can you make out the conversation? Yes. "Next week I'm going to Bradford for the Ishaq case. I see you had some ARQs on this", and he gives the string of them. "Do you still have the info you can pass to me easily?" Then he gives the branch code. "I can copy all you quote above out for you. "That would be good, so at least I have the info, even if I don't have time to analyse it!"

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1		to obtain material that might help him to answer	
2		questions and liaise with the defence expert,	
3		even though he had not at that stage been	
4		provided with a copy of the report or known	
5		which issues to address?	
6	Α.	Yes, it's not clear to me where he had seen that	
7		they had some ARQs, whether that was because	
8		they were referred to in Ms Ibbotson's report or	
9		they were referred to in something else but,	
10		clearly, something had told him that there was	1
11		ARQ material available and he had rightly	1
12		recognised that he ought to see it.	1
13	Q.	How concerning was it, as the prosecutor, that	1
14		the Post Office was asking Mr Jenkins to go to	1
15		court to respond to expert evidence without him	1
16		having seen it?	1
17	Α.	Well, it's moderately remarkable. To expect any	1
18		witness, but certainly an expert witness, to	1
19		deal with complex issues and to try and narrow	1
20		those complex issues with another expert, not	2
21		knowing what that expert said, not knowing what	2
22		material they had seen, not being able to check,	2
23		either, anything that they had said or that they	2
24		have seen; I can't quite think how anyone	2
25		thought that was a good idea.	2
		165	
1		statement] is last minute."	
2		So at this point, there hasn't been, it	
3		seems, an attempt on the lawyer's part,	
4		Ms Panter's part, to analyse the defence	
5		statement herself and isolate from it issues	
6		that Mr Jenkins would in writing be asked to	
7		deal with?	
8	Α.	No.	
9	Q.	It's just a forwarding and saying, "Please deal	1
10		with this", essentially?	1
11	Α.	Yes.	1
12	Q.	Mr Jenkins' response to that, please,	1
13		FUJ00153997. If we see this reply at 1.10 the	1
14		same day, the Friday:	1
15		"I've added my comments to the [amended	1
16		defence case statement].	1
17		"I have now had confirmation that Fujitsu	1
18		have not supplied any details of any Helpdesk	1
19		calls to Post Office Ltd regarding this Branch.	1
20		There is nothing I can easily do to address any	2
21		specifics."	2
22		If we scroll down, please. That was the	2
23		response to the last-minute request.	2
24		Again, Mr Jenkins was pointing out to the	2
25		Post Office's lawyers that he hadn't been	2
		167	

1	Q.	Moving on closer to the trial, then, to
2		22 February 2013, which I think is the Friday
3		before the Monday, can we look, please, at
4		FUJ00153990. If we scroll down, please, we can
5		see some travel arrangements being referred to
6		on the 18th. Then, if we go up, please. We can
7		see Ms Panter's reply, if we keep going.
8		On the 22nd at 11.15 in the morning, there's
9		some material about the Wylie case and then
10		"Urgent". We can see there's an attachment
11		"Addendum [defence case statement]":
12		" Please see attached.
13		"The defence solicitors in the case of Ishaq
14		have served an addendum defence case statement
15		on us this morning, which attempts to
16		particularise the problem with the Horizon
17		system.
18		"Please could you have a look at the
19		comments that they have made and try to address
20 21		as many of the points as you can, in order that we can email that to our counsel Mark Ford ahead
21		of Monday's trial.
22		" apologies for such a last minute
24		request, I think there is no coincidence that
25		the service of this addendum [defence case
		166
1		provided with information that could be obtained
2		by the Post Office, in order to consider the
3		very points raised by Mr Ishaq.
4	Α.	Yes.
5	Q.	Can we go forward to FUJ00156747. If we see,
6		we're on the 25th now, the first day of trial,
7		at 9.37 in the morning. Martin Smith is sending
8		to Mr Jenkins the expert report
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	with a blank email.
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	So just an attachment?
13	Α.	Yes.
14	Q.	This is Beverley Ibbotson's report and, later
15		that day, if we look, please, at FUJ00154006,
16		Ms Ibbotson herself sent Mr Jenkins, just after
17		2.00, the appendices and there are lots of
18 10		them to her report, which Martin Smith the
19 20		solicitor had not done. I think we can follow
20 21		that up by looking at the attachment to Martin
21 22	A.	Smith's email earlier in the day. Yes.
22	д. Q.	You will see it was just the bald report
23	Q. A.	Yes.
25	Q.	rather than the attachments.
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1		So was the result of that, to your
2		understanding, that Mr Jenkins had to deal
3		overnight with this rather detailed forensic
4		accountancy report, which he had seen for the
5		first time on the first day of trial?
6	Α.	Yes, that would appear to be the position.
7	Q.	He wasn't, unlike Ms Ibbotson, a forensic
8		accountant?
9	Α.	No.
10	Q.	He hadn't been provided with any formal written
11		instructions to be an expert in the case nor had
12		he been provided with any broader background to
13		the case?
14	Α.	Beyond as we've seen
15	Q.	Indictment case summary, defence case statement?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	He had not been asked to obtain the data,
18		albeit, off his own bat, had obtained some ARQ
19		data
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	from Penny Thomas. Would you agree with my
22		characterisation of this episode of this part of
23		the prosecution being run chaotically, and with
24		little or no grasp as to the significance of the
25		need properly to instruct an expert? 169
	_	
1	Q.	In this case, as in others, is it right that
2		disclosure was not made in relation to the
3		earlier bugs, errors and defects in particular,
4		which had emerged in the Seema Misra case?
5	A.	That's right.
6	WR	BEER: Thank you. Those are the questions that
7		I ask you. There may be some additional
8		questions from other Core Participants, I think
9 10		starting with Mr Stein. Thank you. Questioned by MR STEIN
11	мр	STEIN: Mr Atkinson, you're aware that
12	WIR	I represent a large number of subpostmasters and
13		mistresses.
14	Α.	Yes.
15	Q.	You answered questions from Mr Beer earlier on
16	ч.	as to whether there was a system in place that
17		allowed those investigating or lawyers dealing
18		with the prosecution of subpostmasters the
19		ability to access material down the corridor?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	Can we just take that one stage further. You're
22		aware, I believe, that there were two helplines
23		set up for subpostmasters and mistresses, one
24		set up by the Post Office itself, and the other,
25		if I can call it loosely, a Fujitsu helpline?
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1	Α.	Yes. The focus in this case appeared, from the
2		investigative and prosecutorial point of view,
3		to be that Mr Ishaq had made allegations against
4		an employee or a colleague. There was a lot of
5		focus on him and not a lot of focus on anything
6		else.
7	Q.	If we turn up paragraph 619 of your report,
8		which is on page 218, you say, at 218, and then
9		paragraph 619:
10		"Although Mr Jenkins was engaged, he was not
11		asked to analyse the underlying data, and there
12		were serious shortcomings to the disclosure of
13		material within his knowledge relevant to the
14		operation and reliability of the system, and as
15		to cross-disclosure from other cases. This
16		continued to be the position even after focused
17		defence requests and the instruction of
18		a defence expert who, like other experts before
19		her, relied on the material and information
20		provided by Mr Jenkins to reach her
21		conclusions."
22		That last part, is that, in fact, in error,
23		that she wasn't reliant on what Mr Jenkins
24		provided her?
25	Α.	Yes, I think that must be right. 170
1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	Regarding the Fujitsu helpline, you're further

2	Q.	Regarding the Fujitsu helpline, you're further
3		aware that that had four layers to it: a simple,
4		if you like, answer the telephone and, we
5		believe, driven by scripts; those answering the
6		telephone, our clients say, would basically tell
7		our clients to pay up if there was a shortfall.
8		But there were also other layers to the
9		helpline run by Fujitsu, which were resolving
10		issues if there were issues concerned with the
11		Fujitsu Horizon system; is that correct? You're
12		aware of that?
13	Α.	Not to any great extent and not least because
14		there wasn't very much discussion of the
15		different layers of the Fujitsu helpline in any
16		of the material that I saw.
17	Q.	But outline, you're aware that there was such
18		a helpline
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	and you're aware that there were individuals
21		involved in the process of and fixing issues,
22		bugs, errors, defects, within the Horizon
23		system, insofar as they could?
24	Α.	Certainly I was aware that there were people who
25		could be called at Fujitsu when there was 172

1		a problem, whether it was identifying bugs or
2	_	not is a separate question.
3	Q.	.
4		you're investigating a particular branch,
5		an inability to access a library of faults and
6		problems with the system, but also, have you
7		seen any way that Investigators and lawyers
8		would have access to the results of the
9		telephone line complaints system?
10	Α.	
11		and the contents of contact with the Post
12		Office's own helpline, because there are
13		references to that. They were clearly able to
14		obtain records of and the content of contacts
15		with the Fujitsu line because there were
16		occasions when I think it was a gentleman
17		called Mr Dunks made statements in particular
18 19	~	cases about selections from that.
19 20	Q.	Did you see anything to suggest that there was a joined-up type of thinking, that when one
20 21		subpostmaster was saving that the system won't
21		work, can't find out what it is, there are these
22		problems, and tried to explain it, that that was
23 24		then linked to other individuals that were
25		making similar complaints?
20		173
1		Magistrates Court and the Crown Court, yes?
2	Α.	Yes.
2 3	A. Q.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure
2 3 4		Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we
2 3 4 5		Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual
2 3 4 5 6		Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further
2 3 4 5 6 7		Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Q.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture that relates to disclosure is, in theory, how it should operate is that the prosecution should
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A. Q.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture that relates to disclosure is, in theory, how it should operate is that the prosecution should identify relevant material that might or may assist the defence case?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A. Q.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture that relates to disclosure is, in theory, how it should operate is that the prosecution should identify relevant material that might or may assist the defence case? Yes.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture that relates to disclosure is, in theory, how it should operate is that the prosecution should identify relevant material that might or may assist the defence case? Yes. Okay. Now, there then is a system that relates to the provision of a defence statement by
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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.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture that relates to disclosure is, in theory, how it should operate is that the prosecution should identify relevant material that might or may assist the defence case? Yes. Okay. Now, there then is a system that relates to the provision of a defence statement by an individual, where the defence statement, it's not mandatory but, essentially, it is what happens in the courts. The individual will then set out what their case is? Yes.
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.	Yes. You've been giving evidence about the disclosure system that is used by prosecutors. Can we reverse the coin. So where an individual defendant is seeking to make further applications for disclosure, there's a system for that, as well, isn't there? Yes. Right. So what we have, in fact, as a picture that relates to disclosure is, in theory, how it should operate is that the prosecution should identify relevant material that might or may assist the defence case? Yes. Okay. Now, there then is a system that relates to the provision of a defence statement by an individual, where the defence statement, it's not mandatory but, essentially, it is what happens in the courts. The individual will then set out what their case is? Yes. Okay. Now, that system has been in operation

on IT Inquiry 19 Dec			
1	Α.	No. On the contrary, they would when they	
2		did it at all, would look just at calls from the	
3		person they were investigating to the helpline,	
4		rather than, on some occasions, even other	
5		people at the same branch.	
6	Q.	So we've got a lack of access to, overall, the	
7		picture of what's going on and the faults within	
8		the system, we've got a lack of overall access	
9 10		to the complaints and the difficulties that are	
10		being encountered by subpostmasters, mistresses; do you agree?	
12	Α.	Do you mean access by a defendant?	
13	Q.	Access, first of all, by Investigators and the	
14	.	lawyers?	
15	Α.	In the sense that they didn't access it, rather	
16		than they couldn't access it?	
17	Q.	Yes.	
18	Α.	Yes, I agree.	
19	Q.	Let's move on to the other way round. Now,	
20		you've been giving evidence in relation to the	
21		system of disclosure that is operated through	
22		the criminal justice system in the criminal	
23		courts?	
24	Α.	Yes.	
25	Q.	That's a system that operates in both the 174	
1	Q.	Okay. Clearly, until there is disclosure by the	
2	-	Post Office of the bugs, errors and defects	
3		within the system and the problems that the	
4		system can cause, in other words create	
5		shortfalls, create hidden losses, it is very	
6		difficult for the defence to make applications	
7		based upon that material?	
8	Α.	Yes.	
9	Q.	The applications that can be made through the	
10		process, Section 8 applications is that	
11		correct	
12	A.	Yes.	
13 14	Q.	and that would be essentially saying that "We wish to have material that relates to	
14		a particular aspect of a defence case"?	
16	Α.	Well, it's asserting we have reason to believe	
17		that you have material that will help us in	
18		relation to this.	
19	Q.	Yes. The way that that can work and you've	
20		prosecuted many cases and you well know that	
21		I have defended in many cases the situation	
22		is that a defence, once on notice of such	
23		material, can then make an application for it.	
24		If you're prosecuting the case, you can respond	
25		with the release of material that you believe is 176	

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1		relevant to that request; is that correct?
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	That process can continue. In fact, it can be
4		guite a continuation of a process as more and
5		more material is targeted and found for
6		disclosure purposes?
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	Eventually, a judge is brought in to sometimes
9	-	resolve any issues that lay between the parties?
10	A.	Yes, and the stage that can intervene between
11		those is particularly after the service of
12		a defence statement, and as was the case in most
13		of these cases, there are letters from defence
14		solicitors asking for further disclosure without
15		got in the extent of waving Section 8 at the
16		prosecution, because the prosecution have
17		a continuing duty of disclosure, and so the
18		defence ask, and it is often if the prosecution
19		either responds saying no, or don't respond,
20		that a Section 8 application may follow.
21	Q.	Yes. Where we're talking about the starting
22		point, the inability or the failure to look into
23		the questions of errors and defects within the
24		system that you've been discussing with Mr Beer,
25		when we're looking at that as a starting point,
25		when we're looking at that as a starting point, 177
25		
25 1	Α.	
	A. Q.	177
1		177 Yes.
1 2		177 Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in
1 2 3		177 Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that
1 2 3 4		177 Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable
1 2 3 4 5		177 Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for
1 2 3 4 5 6		177 Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in
1 2 3 4 5 6 7		177 Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8		Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree?
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these cases that I considered, and what was said in
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these cases that I considered, and what was said in a lot of other cases as well that were dealt
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these cases that I considered, and what was said in a lot of other cases as well that were dealt with under the blanket of the <i>Hamilton</i> decision.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these cases that I considered, and what was said in a lot of other cases as well that were dealt with under the blanket of the <i>Hamilton</i> decision. The burden on criminal solicitors and defending
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these cases that I considered, and what was said in a lot of other cases as well that were dealt with under the blanket of the <i>Hamilton</i> decision. The burden on criminal solicitors and defending solicitors and defending counsel was therefore
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q.	Yes. So, essentially, people were placed in an invidious position, do you agree, that sometimes faced with what was an unaccountable loss, they would then have to try to account for it, and those sorts of cases were dealt with in the Criminal Court of Appeal in the case the combined case of <i>Hamilton</i> , so that individual pleas of guilty, even to false accounting, were overturned; do you agree? I'm not sure it's for me to express a view on the nature of their position. I can confirm that that is what was said in a lot of these cases that I considered, and what was said in a lot of other cases as well that were dealt with under the blanket of the <i>Hamilton</i> decision. The burden on criminal solicitors and defending solicitors and defending counsel was therefore made rather I was about to say more

- 23 ability for subpostmasters to make good what was
- 24 going on at the Post Office branch; do you
- 25 agree?

1		we don't, in fact, find that there's much of
2		an ability for the criminal justice system to
3		bite on these disclosure provides as you go
4		through, unless you get that starting point
5		right?
6	Α.	All that can happen is that, against a blanket
7		of silence in relation to a particular topic, is
8		the defence can ask for disclosure of material
9		that might touch on the reliability of the
10		system, as in most of these cases they did. But
11		there is a limit to how far that can go,
12		certainly in terms of any particularity, without
13		something to bite on, you're right.
14	Q.	Now, other aspects that you've been discussing
15		with Mr Beer relate to individual subpostmasters
16		that have Mr Holmes is an example of this
17		that have complained about the system, said that
18		the machine wouldn't work, essentially, is what
19		he's saying
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	and that he rolled over, essentially, didn't
22		account for those losses in the way that
23		arguably the Post Office required because,
24		otherwise, he couldn't be the Post Office open.
25		You're aware of that?
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1	Α.	I think, slightly disentangling that, I think
2		from the position of those acting for
3		a defendant, where they were their
4		instructions were, if they were in accordance
5		with the interview, "I don't know why this
6		happened but it must be the system because
7		I can't explain it otherwise", that they would
8		be up against, particularly once generic
9		statements started floating about, a positive
10		assertion that there isn't something wrong with
11		the system

- ۶ ç 1 11 the system. 12 So you have, on the one hand, a defendant 13 saying "It must be the system", you have the 14 prosecution's evidence saying "It is not the 15 system", and you then have to decide whether you 16 allow your client to proceed to trial against that wall or whether you discuss with your 17 18 client the possibility that a plea to something less than theft will keep them out of prison. 19 20 And that's a decision I wouldn't -- or 21 a conversation I wouldn't envy anybody. 22 Q. You've been referred by Mr Beer to a document --23 I'll take you back to it, please -- POL00059424, 24 the statement of Mr Jenkins. 25 A. I've seen a few of those.
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1	Q.	My screen is not working, so I'm just going to
2		use Mr Jacobs', so I can see it from afar.
3		Now, you'll see there that, in relation to
4		Mr Jenkins' statement, that, if you look at the
5		first page, and if you take your eyes down to
6		the first part of the page, you'll see
7		a sentence that says:
8		"However I understand that my role is to
9		assist the court rather than represent the views
10		of my employers or Post Office Limited."
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Now, in your statement, as an example at
13		page 241, paragraph 674, you discuss there your
14		issues that have been brought to your attention,
15		regarding the instruction of Mr Jenkins?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	Have you found anything within the material that
18		you've examined that explains why it is in
19		Mr Jenkins' statement he also refers to his
20		own statement as a report, within the body of
21		that document have you found anything that
22		explains why it is Mr Jenkins' report/statement
23		says, "However I understand that my role is to
24		assist the court, rather than represent the
25		views of my employers or POL"? 181
1		boxes of the Criminal Procedure Rules in
2		relation to what a statement from an expert
3		should say about their role as an expert, then
4	~	it doesn't do it.
5	Q.	But it's a curious sentence to have within such
6		a statement, because what it appears to do, at
7		least in part, is provide a direction of travel
8 9	A.	going towards an expert report; do you agree?
9 10	А.	It perhaps shows an awareness that he was providing evidence as an expert without really
10		understanding what or at least setting out
12		what that meant.
13	Q.	
14	પ્ય.	discussions, oral discussions, between
15		Mr Jenkins and solicitors or advisers on behalf
16		of the Post Office.
17	Α.	No, or indeed of Fujitsu.
18		STEIN: Thank you, Mr Atkinson.
19		BEER: I think Mr Moloney has some questions, as
20		well, sir.
21		Questioned by MR MOLONEY
22	MR	MOLONEY: Thank you, Mr Beer.
23		Mr Atkinson, I represent a large number of
24		postmasters, all of whom were prosecuted and
25		convicted and all of whom have since had their
		183

201111	mq	
1	Α.	No, I mean, it's not because they didn't
2		discuss with Mr Jenkins or provide for
3		Mr Jenkins instructions as to his role as
4		an expert at all. There's nothing in the Post
5		Office communications with him that told him at
6		that time.
7	Q.	Is that a normal sentence or paragraph to find
8		within a statement, an ordinary witness
9		statement?
10	Α.	It's part of a normal sentence
11	Q.	Normal for who? Normal for what type of
12		sentence?
13	Α.	Well, you would normally expect to see a much
14	7.1	more detailed explanation of an expert's
15		understanding as to what their role was and who
16		they were there for. You might find a sentence
17		rather more like that in the statement of
18		
10		a witness who is making clear that they're
		speaking for themselves, rather than for their
20		employer, for example if they were giving not
21		expert evidence but factual evidence about
22		a situation that occurred at work, they might
23		make clear they were speaking for themselves
24		rather than for anybody else.
25		But, if this was seeking to be ticking the 182
1		convictions overturned.
2	Α.	
_		·, ····· , - ···
3	Q.	I wish to just ask you about the case of Khayyam
4		Ishaq and if at any time you can't hear me,
5		please say so.
6	Α.	You're very kind!
7	Q.	I want to ask you about disclosure around what
8		happened in Birkenshaw Post Office after
9		Mr Ishaq was suspended. Now, Mr Ishaq was very
10		clear from very early in the proceedings that
11		the Horizon system was the cause of the apparent
12		shortfalls he'd suffered?
13	Α.	Yes. I think he also made reference to someone
14		else who worked there but Horizon was part of
15		his account from the outset.
16	Q.	Right. He was essentially saying that one of
17		the people who had worked there had also done
18		the balances
19	Α.	Yes.
20	Q.	and so that needed to be looked at?
21	Α.	Yes.

- 22 Q. Absolutely.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 **Q.** Indeed, you referred to that gentleman,
- 25 Mr Liaquat Ali during your evidence when being 184

1		asked questions by Mr Beer.
2	Α.	Yes.
3	Q.	I want to show you a few documents, if I may,
4		around this issue I've raised about disclosure
5		after Mr Ishaq was suspended and get your views
6		on the disclosure process around this issue,
7	_	yes?
8	Α.	
9	Q.	
10		if you would, is POL00119445. Here we are.
11		This is an email from Martin Smith on 28 January
12		2013, and it's to Steve Bradshaw who was the
13		Investigator in this case?
14	A.	
15	Q.	The lead investigator, copying in Mark Ford, now
16 17		Mark Ford King's Counsel, who was prosecuting counsel in the case?
17	A.	
10	A. Q.	
20	Q.	like to take you to, it's down towards the
20		bottom of the page, and we can probably read it
22		without having to focus in on it, but it says:
23		"Given the stance which the defendant is
24		still taking with regard to the malfunctioning
25		of the Horizon system, is it possible to
20		185
1	Δ	Yes
1 2	A. Q.	
1 2 3	A. Q.	We see that:
2		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when
2 3		We see that:
2 3 4		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the
2 3 4 5		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered.
2 3 4 5 6		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to
2 3 4 5 6 7		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to assist in demonstrating that there were no problems with the system? Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to assist in demonstrating that there were no problems with the system? Yes. That's pursuant to that suggestion in the email
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to assist in demonstrating that there were no problems with the system? Yes. That's pursuant to that suggestion in the email from Mr Smith to Mr Bradshaw on 28 January?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q. A. Q. A. Q.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to assist in demonstrating that there were no problems with the system? Yes. That's pursuant to that suggestion in the email from Mr Smith to Mr Bradshaw on 28 January? Yes, so it would appear.
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.	We see that: "The next audit was in February 2011 when Mr Ishaq was suspended and a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered. "The cash and stock was then transferred to an interim subpostmaster in February 2011 and accepted as being correct. "The cash and stock was again transferred to a new interim subpostmaster in September 2012. During the subsequent transfer of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in February 2011 no problems or discrepancies had been reported." We see there? Yes. So that statement was, as we see, served in the prosecution case. It wasn't unused material, it was part of the prosecution case, designed to assist in demonstrating that there were no problems with the system? Yes. That's pursuant to that suggestion in the email from Mr Smith to Mr Bradshaw on 28 January?

1		actablish whather the subacquart subactive star
		establish whether the subsequent subpostmaster
2		had any problems with the Horizon system after
3		all the kit in the branch would have presumably
4		remained the same.
5		"Many thanks.
6		"Martin."
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	So what we see there is that, by 28 January,
9		Mr Smith thought it a good idea to prove that
10		any discrepancies could not be due to the
11		Horizon system or its associated kit by
12		reference to what had happened to the
13		subpostmasters after Mr Ishaq had been
14		suspended?
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	By 31 January, that email being 28 January, so
17		some three days later, Mr Bradshaw had completed
18		and signed the statement, which was served as
19		part of a note of additional evidence. That
20		statement is POL00059592. So this is three days
21		after that email, Mr Smith, the solicitor, the
22		reviewing lawyer, suggesting that this issue be
23		addressed. It's over to the second page of this
24		statement, do you see that's dated 31 January
25		2013.
20		186

Ishaq in early February 2013. If we could put
up the document POL00059652, we see this again.
It's an email from Martin Smith, it's dated
6 February and it shows that Mr Smith had been
to Bradford Crown Court on the morning of
6 February for the Mention, and the defence were
unable to persuade the judge to order any
further disclosure.
It's to Steve Bradshaw again, with Mark Ford
copied in again. The important paragraph is the
second one:
"The [defendant's] solicitor told me that
the [defendant] still operated the store in
which the Post Office is situated. The
[defendant] had instructed them that both
subsequent [subpostmasters] had told him that
they had experienced problems with the [Horizon]
system. Although you have said in your final
statement that 'During the subsequent transfer
of cash and stock after Mr Ishaq's suspension in
February 2011, no problems or discrepancies have
been reported', the defence may well suggest
that this does not necessarily mean that no
problems were encountered by the subsequent SPM.
I think it would be sensible to obtain
188

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1		statements from both subsequent SPMs confirming
2		that they had experienced no problems with the
3		[Horizon] system etc."
4		Yes?
5		So first of all, Mr Smith has got the
6		statement of 31 January. Now he's looking for
7		essentially corroboration of what Mr Bradshaw
8		says in that statement of the 31 January by
9		seeking statements from the subsequent
10		subpostmasters
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	essentially saying, "We'd better get some
13		statements from those subpostmasters to support
14		your assertion".
15		There's then a letter dated 8 February 2013
16		from Mr Ishaq's solicitors to the Post Office.
17		That is POL00059675, please. Thank you very
18		much.
19		If we scroll down, please. So this is
20		8 February 2013. The Mention is being held on
21		6 February 2013. Two days later we see Musa
22		Patels, down at the bottom, as the solicitors
23		for Mr Ishaq, and the second paragraph reads:
23		"Further to the service of the additional
24		evidence at page 43 Stephen Bradshaw's
25		189
1		this time to trial counsel, Mark Ford, and this
1 2		this time to trial counsel, Mark Ford, and this is POL00059675.
2		is POL00059675.
2 3		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same
2 3 4		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and
2 3 4 5		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email.
2 3 4 5 6		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate
2 3 4 5 6 7		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark"
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today." So that shows that the email is 8 February
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	•	is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today." So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q.	is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today." So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels. Right. "Steve is in the process of taking statements
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today." So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels. Right. "Steve is in the process of taking statements from two subsequent subpostmasters who have not
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today." So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels. Right. "Steve is in the process of taking statements from two subsequent subpostmasters who have not experienced any problems with the Horizon system. They have not had any significant
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		is POL00059675. I'm sorry, I've just given you the same reference to the letter from Musa Patels and I'll just have to check the appropriate reference for the email. In fact, I can read the email, rather than going back to that. It's quite short. It reads as follows: "Hi Mark" So it's to Mr Ford from Mr Smith, copying in Mr Bradshaw: "Just to keep you in the loop please find attached a copy of a letter which we have received from Musa Patels today." So that shows that the email is 8 February or thereabouts and it references to a letter which you've seen from Musa Patels. Right. "Steve is in the process of taking statements from two subsequent subpostmasters who have not experienced any problems with the Horizon system. They have not had any significant

1		penultimate sentence states that no problems or
2		of discrepancies have been reported since the
3		transfer to a new interim subpostmaster since
4		the suspension of Mr Ishaq in February 2011,
5		with regards to this could you please clarify
6		whether further enquiries were made ie has
7		a full audit been undertaken since February 2011
8		and if so what was the outcome of that audit.
9		"If no discrepancy has been highlighted from
10		a subsequent audit then please be on notice that
11		we will require that data to commission our own
12		audit."
13		Then they look forward to the response.
14		So the defence is essentially saying, "We
15		know that you say [and this is on the basis of
16		Mr Bradshaw's statement] that there is no
17		reported discrepancy but have you done an audit?
18		And if there is no discrepancy, we want to carry
19		out our own audit and actually you know that
20		we've got an expert in place to be looking at
21		this in any event".
22	Α.	Yes.
23	Q.	Yes. So putting them on notice, as they say,
24		that they will carry out that audit, please.
25		There's then another email from Mr Smith,
		190
1		said to Mr Bradshaw about getting the
2		statements.
3		
	Α.	Yes.
4	A. Q.	Yes. Then referring to the request from Musa Patels,
4 5		
-		Then referring to the request from Musa Patels,
5		Then referring to the request from Musa Patels, he says: "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the
5 6		Then referring to the request from Musa Patels, he says:
5 6 7		Then referring to the request from Musa Patels, he says: "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal. Given that there were no problems with the
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Q.	Then referring to the request from Musa Patels, he says: "I do not propose to ask Steve to obtain the data for the period following Ishaq's removal. Given that there were no problems with the system and no significant shortages, it would not assist the defence or undermine the Crown's case." So he is essentially saying to Mr Ford they want the data, Mr Bradshaw is getting the statements I suggested, and he tells him that he's made a decision that they're not going to get the data on what is essentially the disclosure test. It won't assist or undermine because we have the statement from Mr Patel saying there were no significant shortages, and he's notifying Mr Ford of the line he's going to take. Yes. Now, we don't have Mr Ford's reply to that but

1		first paragraph of that and it's dated
2		15 February 2013, and it reads:
3		"Thank you for your letter of 8 February
4		2013. We enclose in duplicate copies of
5		a Notice of Additional Evidence, the statements
6		of Stephen Bradshaw of 11 February 2013 and
7		Abdullah Patel of 13 February 2013 and
8		an up-to-date page count. There is no further
9		disclosure to be made in this case."
10		Now, that's one subpostmaster, Mr Patel, and
11		essentially that statement simply says, "I've
12		had no significant shortages at there's been no
13		problems with the kit", and then simply says,
14		"and no further disclosure to be made".
15		Now, the purpose of these statements was to
16		make the point that because subsequent
17		subpostmasters had experienced no significant
18		shortages, then there can have been no problems
19		with Horizon in Mr Ishaq's office at the time he
20	_	was involved with it.
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	It was thus a point that the prosecution relied
23		on in respect of a material issue in the case
24		and it was therefore incumbent on the
25		prosecution to prove the point. 193
4	~	New on the province lawyon could Mr. Creith
1	Q.	Now, as the reviewing lawyer, could Mr Smith
2	Q.	forgive this, it may be a rhetorical question
2 3	Q.	forgive this, it may be a rhetorical question could he know that the data would not undermine
2 3 4	Q.	forgive this, it may be a rhetorical question could he know that the data would not undermine the prosecution case or assist the defence case
2 3 4 5	Q.	forgive this, it may be a rhetorical question could he know that the data would not undermine the prosecution case or assist the defence case without seeing the data or asking Mr Bradshaw to
2 3 4 5 6		forgive this, it may be a rhetorical question could he know that the data would not undermine the prosecution case or assist the defence case without seeing the data or asking Mr Bradshaw to even to get the data?
2 3 4 5 6 7	Q. A.	forgive this, it may be a rhetorical question could he know that the data would not undermine the prosecution case or assist the defence case without seeing the data or asking Mr Bradshaw to even to get the data? I suppose it's a two-stage thing. If he had
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1		I couldn't hear you, then, Mr Atkinson.
2	Α.	I'm so sorry: yes.
3	Q.	Having commenced on that strategy for proving
4		their case, it was an important part of proof of
5		the integrity of Horizon.
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	The defence, in saying that they wished to audit
8		the data for that period, was indicating that it
9		wished to put the prosecution to proof on that
10		point?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	Now, if the data for Birkenshaw Post Office,
13		after Mr Ishaq's suspension, had shown that
14		there had been shortages, that would obviously
15		undermine the prosecution case?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	It would mean that the prosecution couldn't
18		prove its point on that part of the case?
19	Α.	Yes, it would probably go beyond that, in terms
20		of calling the operation of the system into
21		question, as well as proving that their specific
22		point on it wasn't a valid one.
23	Q.	As a natural corollary of that, it would assist
24		the defence case?
25	Α.	Absolutely.
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1		made, were being made in the absence of
2		knowledge, which is never the right position to
3		be making disclosure decisions about.
4	Q.	And simply a bare assertion that there is no
5		further disclosure to be made without any
6		explanation of that?
7	Α.	Well, making the assertion there's no further
8		disclosure to be made when, on the face of it,
9		he didn't know whether there was any further
10		disclosure to be made.
11	MR	MOLONEY: Thank you very much. That's all I ask,
12		Mr Atkinson.
10	MD	REED, I think loothy Mr Honny oir

- MR BEER: I think, lastly, Mr Henry, sir.
 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Mr Henry, before you start,
- I unfortunately have to rise at 4.25 today. 15 16 I have no choice in the matter, so I'm sorry you 17 are confined to ten minutes, but you'll have to 18 blame your colleagues who told me they'd be five minutes and took about half an hour between 19 20 them. Questioned by MR HENRY 21 MR HENRY: Yes. Thank you, sir. 22 Mrs Adedayo's overturned conviction, you 23 24 will agree, is a shortfall case?
- 25 A. Yes.

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

5 **A.** Yes.

- 6 Q. I don't ask you, of course, to comment on the
- 7 merits of this but a shortfall which she had
- 8 a stark choice whether to submit to them -- the
- 9 figures, that is -- sign off on the figures, or
- 10 cease trading, whilst still remaining liable for11 the shortfall?
- 12 A. Yes, again, I'm not familiar with the details of
- the contract but that is my understanding fromwhat I've seen.
- 15 **Q.** Yes. Now, you are also now aware that before
- 16 Mrs Bernard, the Investigator, had arrived at17 the scene, there was the backdrop of
- an interview conducted by an auditor in breach
- 19 of PACE?

- 20 A. Well, I'm aware that there was -- that there had
- 21 been a conversation between Mrs Adedayo and the
- 22 Auditor. The material, I have to say, that I'd
- 23 seen, certainly before the end of last week, as
- 24 to the nature of that and the extent of that
 - conversation was very unclear. The
 - 197
- 1 Q. No. Yet no attempt was made by Mrs Bernard to 2 investigate Mrs Adedayo's bewildering account, 3 to probe or question the overall effect, in 4 other words, as to whether there was any truth 5 in the mysterious payments to third parties to 6 whom she claims she owed and had paid money? 7 Α. Certainly, I saw no evidence of such enquiries, 8 no. 9 Q. No. So, therefore, Mrs Bernard then 10 approached -- and I don't mean this pejoratively -- an interrogatory approach. In 11 12 other words, she elicited through close-ended 13 questions or leading questions an account which 14 she proffered to her superiors? 15 Α. Yes. 16 Q. Now, if there was a risk that Mrs Adedayo's 17 account was unreliable because of things said or
- 18
 done -- notwithstanding the paucity of the
- 19 information that exists now but of course the
- 20 circumstances were very different then -- if
- 21 there was a risk that Mrs Adedayo's account was
- 22 unreliable because of things said or done, it
- 23 would have been all the more important, would it
- 24 not, to have actually investigated independently
- 25 of what she was telling Mrs Bernard?
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- investigation report, for example, didn't really 1 2 fill in the gaps as to what had happened and 3 there was, I think, no statement from the 4 auditor. Q. That's correct, but it resulted in what I'm 5 6 going to describe in inverted commas as 7 a "confession", did it not, although of 8 an equivocal nature? 9 A. Certainly there was reference in the 10 investigation report to admissions having been made, which were then addressed in the sense 11 there were -- questions asked about them in the 12 13 interview. Mrs Adedayo's answers about them 14 rather less clear to follow. 15 Q. Exactly. Now, that interview that was actually 16 later conducted -- following what I'm going to 17 describe as the equivocal confession to the auditor at the scene -- but the formal interview 18 19 conducted by Mrs Bernard was -- well, it 20 elicited contradictory, confusing and internally 21 inconsistent answers, as you have accepted --22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. -- described by Counsel to the Inquiry as
- 24 "baffling", and you don't disagree with that?
- 25 A. No, I don't.
- 198

1	Α.	If the Investigator had concerns that it might
-	А.	0 0
2		be unreliable, then they needed to investigate
3		it to ascertain whether it was or not.
4	Q.	Yes. We know from evidence given to the Inquiry
5		what Mrs Bernard said was her state of mind at
6		the time, that she did not believe the account
7		she'd been given, but she made no attempt, as
8		she admitted to the Inquiry, no attempt, to
9		investigate whether it was true or not?
10	Α.	Yes, I haven't seen or heard Ms Bernard's
11		evidence but I understand that from what Mr Beer
12		said a little earlier.
13	Q.	Yes, but an examination of Mrs Adedayo's bank
14		accounts conducted by a competent Investigator
15		would have established that there were no
16		unexplained transfers of money in or out, no
17		evidence of misappropriation nor any payments
18		alleged to those mysterious third parties.
19		Sir, can I just, in conclusion, ask you if
20		you would agree with this: are we not left with
21		the impression that Mrs Adedayo's case was not
22		properly investigated?
23	Α.	l can't say what would have been found had
24		Mrs Adedayo's bank accounts been examined but
25		then, equally, neither could the Investigator, 200

1		because they didn't look.
2	Q.	Yes. So
3	Α.	And so, it seemed to me that that was
4		a reasonable line of inquiry, both to pursue
5		what had happened to the money, to assess
6		whether there'd been dishonesty and, as you
7		rightly say, to assess whether the account
8		Ms Adedayo had given was a reliable one or not.
9	Q.	So we're left with the impression that it was
10		not properly investigated?
11	Α.	And so, therefore, in those circumstances, it
12		was not properly investigated.
13	Q.	Therefore, that it was questionable to even
14		charge in such circumstances?
15	Α.	Well, it was a situation where to an extent
16		I suppose it would depend on the extent to which
17		the Investigator flagged up to the lawyer
18		that whether there were any concerns about
19		the account. If it was clear from and I just
20		don't remember, I'm afraid, whether it was clear
21		from the investigation report that Mrs Bernard
22		had those concerns about the reliability of the
23		accounts. If it was communicated in that way to
24		the lawyer, then the lawyer, in my view, ought

25

to have been asking questions, rather than 201

1	at I	believe.	at	10.00	am -
	aı. 1	Delleve.	aı	10.00	an -

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. 2

3	MR BEER:	which i	s the last witness for this
4	year.		
5	SIR WYN W	ILLIAMS:	Thank you for reminding me,

- 6 Mr Beer. 7 MR BEER: Sir.
- 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: See you tomorrow morning, 9 everyone. 10 (4.24 pm) (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am 11
- 12 on the following day) 13
- 14
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- 19 20
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- making charging decisions. 1
- 2 Q. Exactly, and to adopt the word you use with
- perhaps characteristic understatement earlier, 3 4
 - "questionable to proceed in such circumstances
- 5 without further investigation"?
- 6 A. Yes.

7

- Q. Because we're left, are we not, with the -- and
- 8 we've got one more minute left -- left with the
- potential, are we not, that this was a false 9
- 10 confession, a bewildering, baffling, and
- 11 internally inconsistent account and that the
- underlying allegations could have been merely 12
- 13 an artifact of system error?
- 14 A. Yes, I think that's right.
- MR HENRY: Thank you. 15
- 16 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I congratulate you, Mr Henry, on
- 17 the conciseness of your questions.
- And I thank you, Mr Atkinson, very, very 18
- 19 much for all the assistance you've given me over
- 20 a number of days at this Inquiry. I'm extremely
- 21 grateful to you.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
- 23 MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
- 24 Thank you, Mr Atkinson.
- 25 Sir, we reconvene tomorrow with Lisa Allen 202

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