1	Friday, 3 May 2024	1	A.	I'm entirely in your hands. If you want to give it
2	(9.44 am)	2		I don't mind, or if you don't want to, that's fine as
3	MR BEER: Good morning, sir. Can you see and hear us?	3		well.
4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you very much.	4	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Well, I think out of
5	MR BEER: Can I recall Jarnail Singh, please.	5		an excess of caution I will repeat it, since it's some
6	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Two things, Mr Beer. Does Mr Singh need	6		months since you gave evidence.
7	to be resworn? I take it that he does.	7		As you probably know, Mr Singh, under our law,
8	MR BEER: Yes, I think so because I think last time you	8		a witness at public inquiry has the right to decline to
9	released him, essentially, from the prohibition and,	9		answer a question put to him by any of the lawyers, or,
10	therefore, it would be better that he be resworn.	10		for that matter me, who are asking questions. This
11	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, well, let's deal with that	11		legal principle is known in shorthand form as the
12	first then, please.	12		privilege against self-incrimination. I consider,
13	JARNAIL SINGH (resworn)	13		Mr Singh, that fairness demands that I remind you of
14	Questioned by MR BEER	14		that principle before you resume your evidence.
15	MR BEER: Please do take a seat, Mr Singh.	15		However, I should make it clear that it is for you to
16	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I take it there's one other matter that	16		tell me, in respect of any question put to you, if it is
17	I should deal with, Mr Beer.	17		your wish to rely upon the privilege.
18	Mr Singh, on the last occasion, I hope you will	18		If, therefore, any questions are put to you by any
19	remember that I gave you what's called the warning about	19		of the lawyers who ask you questions, or by me, which
20	self-incrimination.	20		you do not understand wish to answer on the grounds that
21	A. Yes, sir, yes.	21		to answer might incriminate you, you must tell me
22	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I fully expect that you understand the	22		immediately after such question is put. At that point,
23	legal significance of that. Would you like me to repeat	23		I will consider your objection to answering the question
24	that warning to you or are you content that the warning	24		and, thereafter, rule upon whether your objection should
25	I gave you last time gives you sufficient information?	25		be upheld.
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1	Am I right in thinking that you're represented here	1		It's 42 pages long. If you turn to the 42nd page,
2	either by counsel or a solicitor?	2		is that your signature?
3	A. Yes, sir.	3	A.	Oh, sorry, is oh, statement 2, sorry.
4	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Then, if the issue relating to	4	Q.	Yeah.
5	self-incrimination arises, they will assist you, if you	5		Yes, yes, it is.
6	wish and, if, at any stage, during the questioning you	6		Are the contents of that true to the best of your
7	wish to consult your lawyer about the privilege, you	7		knowledge and belief?
8	must tell me so that I can consider whether that is	8	A.	Yes.
9	appropriate.	9	Q.	Thank you. You can put that to one side, the witness
10	A. Thank you, sir.	10		statement can come down. There's one aspect of your
11	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Mr Singh.	11		professional background that I didn't address on the
12	Over to you, Mr Beer.	12		last occasion and I should now and it concerns your
13	MR BEER: Thank you, sir. Before I begin to ask questions	13		knowledge and experience of Scottish law. Can you
14	can I apologise for the state of my voice and if it	14		confirm that you're not qualified in Scots Law?
15	breaks at any stage. I've got the flu and so if	15	A.	No, I'm not, sir.
16	I become inaudible at any time or go into a sneezing	16	Q.	So far as you're aware, was anyone else in the Royal
17	fit, that's the reason.	17		Mail Group Legal Team or, when it became Post Office
18	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. Pay some attention to the state of	18		Legal team, Post Office Legal Team, qualified in Scots
19	your health as well, Mr Beer.	19		Law?
20	MR BEER: Will do, sir.	20	A.	I'm not sure.
21	Mr Singh, thank you very much for returning to give	21	Q.	Thank you very much. Can I turn, then, to the substance
22	evidence to the Inquiry today. You've kindly, in the	22		of the questions I want to ask you today. The first
23	interim, made an additional witness statement. Can we	23		concerns whether there was cover-up by the Post Office.
24	turn that up, please. It's WITN04750200 and you should	24		Were you, Mr Singh, involved, from July 2013
25	have the hard copy in front of you.	25		onwards, in a cover-up of your own prior knowledge and
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- 1 the Post Office's prior knowledge of the existence of 2 bugs, errors and defects in Horizon?
- 3 A. No, sir.
- 4 Q. Specifically, did you, in fact, have knowledge before
- 5 July 2013 of the existence of bugs, errors and defects
- 6 in Horizon?
- 7 A. Not to my knowledge, no.
- 8 Q. But you sought to cover up that knowledge because you
- 9 knew that it ought to have been disclosed in criminal
- 10 proceedings but had not been disclosed?
- 11 Α. No, sir.
- 12 Q. Specifically, did you know that others in the Post
- 13 Office knew about the existence of bugs, errors and
- 14 defects before July 2013 but sought to cover up that
- 15 knowledge because you knew that that knowledge ought to
- 16 have been disclosed into criminal proceedings but had
- 17 not?

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- 18 A. Not to my knowledge, sir.
- 19 Q. Did you specifically pretend that the first you and the
- 20 Post Office knew about such bugs, errors and defects was
- 21 when they were revealed by the Second Sight Report of
- 22 8 July 2013?
- 23 A. No, not to my knowledge, no.
- 24 Q. I'm going to begin this topic by looking at what you
- 25 have said over time about your knowledge of bugs, errors

- 1 until a year after its first occurrence in 2011. Then 2 6 10.
 - "POL has informed us that it has disclosed, in witness statements to English courts, information about one other subsequently-corrected defect or 'bug' in the Horizon software."
 - That's a reference to the Callendar Square or Falkirk bug.
 - Can we look at your witness statement, please, page 15, paragraph 37. It'll come up on the screen for you. Page 15, paragraph 37. You say:
 - "I do not recall exactly when I received the Second Sight Interim Report but upon reading it remember being concerned, both in relation to its findings around bugs but also the comments about training", et cetera.
 - So you remember receiving it, reading it and being concerned around it's findings around bugs, yes?
- 18 Α. Yes. I read it.
- 19 Q. Thank you. Can we turn to POL00006375. It'll come up 20 on the screen. This is Simon Clarke's Advice of
- 21 15 July, so it's a week later, seven days later, okay?
- 22 This is the one concerning Gareth Jenkins. Can we turn,

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- 23 please, to page 10 and look at paragraph 28. In this
- 24 part of his advice, Mr Clarke says, having set out the
- 25 law in relation to duties of disclosure and expert

- 1 and defects and then I'm going to turn to what I suggest
- 2 the documents show as to your real knowledge. Can we
- 3 start, please, with POL00029744. This the Second Sight
 - Interim Report of 8 July 2013 and you're familiar with
- 5 this, you tell us in your witness statement that you
- 6 received a copy of this report and you read it, yes?
- 7 A. Can you go right to the bottom of the page, please?
- 8 Q. Yes, of course. If we scroll down. You want to go to 9
 - the end of the document?
- 10 A. Yes, please. It's sometime ago since I've seen it.
- 11 Q. The end of the document is page 18.
- 12 I was hoping to take this quite quickly, Mr Singh.
- 13 You tell us in your witness statement that you received
- 14 a copy of this document, you read it, and you were
- 15 concerned by the contents of it.
- 16 A. Yes, yes.
- 17 Q. Right, good. Let's go back, then, to page 6. If we
- 18 look, please, in paragraph 6.5 down to 6.10, the Second
- 19 Sight Report reveals the existence of, or speaks to the
- 20 existence of, three defects as they're called. In
- 21 paragraph 6.5, the first defect referred to as the
 - 22 receipts and payments mismatch problem affecting 62
- 23 branches discovered in September 2010; in 6.6 the second
- 24 defect referred to the local suspense account problem
- 25 and affected 14 branches; 6.7, unaware of the defect

- 1 evidence, he then cites some paragraphs from the Second
- 2 Sight Report that we've just looked at; can you see
- 3
- 4 A. Yes.

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- 5 Q. He doesn't, in fact, cite the Callendar Square bug in
- 6 paragraph 6.10 but that doesn't matter for present
- 7 purposes. So he's saying, "I've now been told about,
- 8 I've now got the Second Sight Interim Report and these
- 9 are the bugs it's talking about".
 - If we go down, please, to paragraph 29, he says that as well as having got the Second Sight Report, there's
- 12 some other information, other sources of information: 13 "On ... 27 June Martin Smith of Cartwright King was
- 14 telephoned by [the Post Office]. There then ensued 15 a number of conferences between Martin Smith and senior
- 16 Post Office executives. The import of what Martin Smith
- 17 was being told may be summarised thus: he was informed
- 18 by [the Post Office] that a report commissioned from
- 19 Second Sight by Post Office Limited and as yet
- 20 unpublished, indicated that Horizon may not be 'bug'
- 21 free. There was much speculation as to the content of
- 22 the Second Sight Report. It appeared to [the Post
- 23 Office] that some within the organisation had been aware
- 24 of bugs affecting up to 30 offices, including some Crown

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25 Office branches."

1 Then this:

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"Jarnail Singh, Head of Criminal Litigation had been unaware and did not know how long [the Post Office] had known of the existence of the bugs nor indeed who at [Post Office] had known."

Two things. Firstly, is what is said there in that highlighted sentence accurate?

- 8 A. As far as I'm aware, sir, yes.
- 9 Q. Secondly, can you help us as to the context in which
 10 Simon Clarke would have been made aware of it, ie your
 11 state of knowledge and you saying that you had been
 12 unaware of the existence of bugs?
- 13 A. The only bugs that I was aware of, the ones that were
 14 mentioned in the case of *Misra*. I wasn't aware of any
 15 other bugs to my knowledge.
- 16 Q. That's a very different thing to say, Mr Singh. You
 17 just said that you were aware of a bug being raised in
 18 the case of *Misra*?
- A. Those two bugs that Mr Jenkins dealt with in his witness
 statement, that's the only ones I'm aware of. I wasn't
 aware of any other. My understanding was very limited
 in the sense that I -- but apart from those two,
- 23 I wasn't aware of any --
- 24 Q. Which two bugs are you talking about?
- 25 **A.** The one mentioned in the -- the Falkirk one.

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- 1 Q. -- that sentence there?
- 2 A. Well, yeah.
- Q. Thank you. Can we move forward, please, POL00040194.
 This is a document prepared by Cartwright King on
 5 December 2013 and it summarises the process that had
 then be undertaken by Cartwright King to review some
 previous convictions. Can we look, please, at
 - previous convictions. Can we look, please, at paragraph 4 on page 1, at the foot of the page, please.

9 It says:

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"The Second Sight Interim Report revealed that there had been two known defects in the Horizon system since the rolling out of the Horizon Online system from January 2010. These defects impacted on 76 branches and created both positive and negative discrepancies."

Then paragraph 5 on page 2:

"As a result of the Second Sight Interim Report it became apparent that some of the matters raised in the report might have been disclosable in criminal prosecutions mounted by the Royal Mail Group and Post Office, had these been known about by those considering disclosure in such cases."

So consistently with the Simon Clarke Advice of 15 July 2013, this is recording the fact that it was the Second Sight Interim Report that revealed the existence of the two bugs, and these had not been known about by

- Q. The Falkirk/Callendar Square one, yes?
- 2 A. And the -- is it Castleton?
- 3 Q. Sorry?
- 4 A. Castleton, the civil case?
- 5 Q. That's the same one that was mentioned --
- 6 A. I don't know, sir, but those are the only ones.
- Q. Okay, we'll call it for a single for the moment becauseCallendar Square/Falkirk was mentioned in Castleton.
- 9 A. Okay, yeah.
- Q. So the only one you knew about was the one that wasmentioned in the *Castleton* case and which was the
- 12 Callendar Square/Falkirk bug?
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 Q. So this is accurate here, then: you had been unaware ofbugs which were summarised above there in the
- 16 paragraphs 6.5 to 6.8?
- 17 A. Yes. Certainly in the *Misra* case, there was different
- 18 names, issues, all sorts of things. I mean, I first --
- 19 first experience I had of this was in the Misra case.
- 20 I'm not aware of something that happened before or21 after.
- 22 **Q.** Presumably, when you read this advice at the time, you
- thought, yes, that does accurately summarise my state of
- 24 knowledge --
- 25 A. Yes.

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- 1 those considering disclosure in criminal cases.
- 2 A. I don't recollect being made aware of them.
- 3 Q. This is all accurate, if what you're saying is correct,
- 4 that you didn't know about the two other bugs, the
- 5 receipts and payments mismatch bug --
- 6 **A**. No
- 7 Q. -- the local suspense account bug?
- 8 A. Not --
- 9 Q. They'd been --
- 10 A. I don't remember. I don't remember them at all.
- 11 Q. They'd been revealed by the Second Sight Report, yes?
- 12 A. These -- these matters, Second Sight Report or the
- dealings with them, was dealt with by the working
- 14 groups. It wasn't something I was involved in. But,
- 15 certainly, from the Royal Mail prosecutions, apart from
- the *Misra* case, there was no case that I dealt with or
- 17 I was made aware of by the Head of Criminal Law of any
- other. Certainly even the disclosure was dealt with by
 the Head of Criminal Law and I wasn't made aware of
- 20 that.
- Q. So this is accurate, the two bugs were not known aboutby you and you were a person considering disclosure in
- some of the previous cases; you had conduct of them?
- 24 A. Well, I think my evidence from last time was that the
- 25 disclosure was dealt with by the Head of Criminal Law at

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1 that time because I was away for September, September 2

- 3 Q. I'm not going to go over that particular old ground 4 again.
- 5 A. No, but that -- yes, okay. Fine.
- 6 Q. Can we move forwards, then, to POL00169386. This is 7 an email exchange of 8 January 2015 between you and 8 a number of senior individuals within Post Office about 9 a request for an interview for the purposes of the upcoming BBC Inside Out programme, okay? If we just 10 scroll down, please, we can see your email there. If we 11 12 just look at the foot of the page, we can see you sign 13 it off "Jarnail", yes?
- 14 A. Yes.

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15 Q. If we go back up to the top of this email, so the BBC 16 have asked for an interview for their Inside Out 17 programme and you say to Mr Davies:

> "I had a look at this and I am concerned that [the Post Office] is entering dangerous territory. This situation is not straightforward and cannot be easily simplified in a couple of lines.

"Whilst Post Office wish to say that there are no systemic faults, the Second Sight ... Report which has been disclosed to the defendants and their legal representatives does mention two defects/bugs which rise

of [the Post Office] and that information never reached

We can stop reading there.

Do you agree that, in this email, you were suggesting that you were not aware of the two bugs, errors and defects mentioned by Second Sight until the day or so before the publication of the Second Sight Interim Report?

Α. Once I was at Post Office Limited, my involvement was very limited, as I said to you before. A lot of these matters were dealt with by Head of Legal, General Counsel and working groups. A lot of this information is obtained from the advices and also discussions with the expert criminal agents, Cartwright King. This isn't something I formulated myself because I wouldn't have the experience or the knowledge of dealing with it. Even my experience at the Royal Mail Group Criminal Law Team was very, very limited.

The only case I dealt with, Misra, which dealt with these matters. I wasn't even sure as to what they were, bugs, defects, issues, and, apart from those two, I'm

to 76 branches being affected by incorrect balances or transactions. The fact that the bugs manifested in more than one location could be described as systemic but not system wide. Accordingly there are arguments over terminology used by Second Sight and it is important from [a] criminal law perspective that [the Post Office] does not misrepresent the content of the Second Sight

"Not only have Second Sight's use of terminology [given rise] to potential [arguments] in relation to terms used by Second Sight. It also raises questions as to whether [the Post Office] knew of the existence of those bugs. If so, to whom at [the Post Office] Fujitsu communicated them. These were certainly not known to me at [Post Office] Legal until day or so prior to the publication of the Second Sight Interim Report. The difficulty here is made worse by the fact that Gareth Jenkins, an employee of Fujitsu has been making statements for use in criminal proceedings which made no reference to the very bugs which he it is understood he told Second Sight about. People were prosecuted and pleaded guilty following the receipt of his statement which implied no bugs had been found. Of course it would be highly embarrassing for [the Post Office] were it to be suggested that Fujitsu had informed some part

not aware of anything else, and that's -- here I'm highlighting, of course, something that I found out

3 subsequently or relied on somebody else.

Q. I'll try again. Can we, in the second paragraph, highlight the second sentence "It also raises questions", and then, the third line:

"Those were certainly not known to me at [Post Office] Legal until a day or so prior to the publication of the Second Sight Interim Report."

My question was: you were saying to senior individuals, senior management within the Post Office, in this email, that you were not aware of the bugs, errors and defects identified by Second Sight in their Interim Report until a day or so before the publication of that report, weren't you?

- A. To the best of my knowledge, the only issues were those 16 17 ones mentioned in the case of Misra. Apart from that, 18 I wasn't aware of anything else. The only information 19 I have in this email is not from person involvement in 20 anything I dealt with; it was dealt with by Working 21 Group and Head of Legal and the General Counsel. 22 I mean, this --
- 23 Q. Mr Singh, sorry to speak over you but if you can please 24 focus on the question. I think the answer is yes, you 25 were saying in this email, because, according to you, it

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the Security Team. Equally it is embarrassing were it to be suggested [that the Post Office] were kept in the dark by such an important supplier such as Fujitsu. It follows [that] these are very difficult topics from a criminal law perspective."

- 1 was the truth, that you were not aware of the bugs,
- 2 errors and defects identified by Second Sight until
- a day or so before their publication of their report;
- 4 and so this is true.
- 5 A. If you put it that way, sir, to -- from memory, yes.
- 6 Q. Right. So what you're saying here to POL senior
- 7 management is that the two bugs, the receipts and
- 8 payments mismatch bug and the local suspense account
- 9 bug, were not known to you until a day or so before the
- 10 publication of the report?
- 11 A. Well, it's now such a time ago, I'm not really sure what
- the ins and out about is but I think certainly my
- 13 involvement or response to it was very late in the day
- because I think there's a long email, I came to at the
- 15 last minute, and I am just responding from the
- information that's highlighted to me.
- 17 Q. The second thing you're saying is that Mr Jenkins had
- 18 been making statements that contained no mention of the
- bugs and yet he had told Second Sight about the bugs.
- 20 You make that point, don't you?
- 21 A. Yes, in light of the Clarke Advice, yes.
- 22 Q. So you're pointing the spotlight here towards
- 23 Mr Jenkins, aren't you?
- 24 A. I'm summarising the position as it was in the year 2015.
- 25 Q. You say it would be embarrassing if it emerged that the
 - 17
- 1 I'm not sure what you're asking from me, but I can't
- 2 recollect --
- 3 Q. You said in an email that it would be highly
- 4 embarrassing for the Post Office if it was suggested
- 5 that Fujitsu had informed some bits of the Post Office
- 6 of the two bugs but that information had never reached
- 7 the Security Team, and I asked you why would it be
- 8 highly embarrassing?
- 9 **A.** Um --
- 10 Q. You said, "I can't recall what I was thinking now or
- 11 back then", and I said, "Well, tell us now".
- 12 A. So I wasn't part of any breaching, either at Royal Mail
- Group or even when I joined -- when I transferred to
- 14 Post Office Limited. I am going by what my Head of
- 15 Legal and General Counsel and the advice from Cartwright
- 16 King, who were the -- who the work was outsourced to.
- 17 I didn't keep any files, I wasn't part from any Working
- 18 Group. So I'm not sure what I am actually saying there.
- 19 $\,$ Q. Would it be even more embarrassing if it emerged that
- 20 Fujitsu had in fact passed on information about the bugs
- 21 to the Post Office's Legal Team?
- 22 A. I don't know. As I said to you, I wasn't part of any
- 23 breaching.
- 24 $\,$ Q. Just focus on the question. Do you agree it would be
- even more embarrassing if it emerged that Fujitsu had,

- 1 Post Office had been informed of bugs by Fujitsu but
- 2 that information had not reached the Security Team. Why
- 3 would it be embarrassing if it emerged that the Post
- 4 Office had passed on information about the bugs to the
- 5 Post Office but that information hadn't reached the
- 6 Security Team?

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- 7 A. I can't remember what I was thinking when I prepared
- 8 that but it certainly wasn't -- my discussions with Head
- 9 of Legal and the General Counsel, and also Cartwright
- 10 King, and then them discussing it with me as to the
- 11 facts, because I wouldn't have the firsthand knowledge
- 12 and certainly I wouldn't have the firsthand knowledge in
- 13 how to deal with these matters.
- 14 Q. Think about it now, Mr Singh. Wouldn't it be highly
 - embarrassing because it was the Security Team that were
- bound up in the prosecutions? They were the ones that
- 17 essentially investigated and then brought the
- 18 prosecutions, weren't they?
- 19 A. I don't know what I was saying at that time, so --
- 20 Q. Think about it now, then. That's why it would be highly
- 21 embarrassing, wouldn't it? The people who were bringing
- the prosecutions, if the information didn't reach them,
- but had been passed to someone within the Post Office,
- that would be embarrassing, wouldn't it?
- 25 **A.** I'm not really sure what you're asking of me, sir, but
- 1 in fact, passed on information about the two bugs to the
 - Post Office's Legal Team?
- 3 A. Sir, I can't answer that because I --
- 4 Q. Why can't you answer it?
- 5 A. Because I don't know. I mean, I wasn't privy to that
- 6 sort of information. I didn't have any contact within
- 7 the wider business, as the Head of Criminal Law Team
- 8 had

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- 9 Q. All of the things you're saying, Mr Singh, don't bear on
- 10 the question I'm asking. Do you agree it would have
- been highly embarrassing if it emerged that Fujitsu had,
- in fact, passed on information about the two bugs that
- were said to have been revealed by Second Sight, and
- that information had been passed to the Legal team, but
- the Legal team hadn't disclosed them?
- 16 **A.** Well, it shouldn't have been done that way. I mean,
- 17 I don't know about --
- 18 Q. Therefore it would have been embarrassing?
- 19 **A.** Well, it's embarrassing being here. But the -- all I'm
- saying to you, I wasn't privy to that sort of
- 21 information because at the Criminal Law Team -- you that
- the Head of Criminal Law Team who dealt with these
- 23 matters and there was -- they weren't passed down to my
- grade, which was a junior grade and, certainly, at Post
- 25 Office Limited it was likewise. I wasn't part of any

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(5) Pages 17 - 20

- 1 of -- the working group, or I -- the only information
- 2 I had is what was passed down to me by the General
- 3 Counsel or Head of Legal, who was my line manager.
- 4 Q. Do you agree it would be more than embarrassing, a lot
- 5 more serious than just embarrassing, if it emerged that
- 6 the Post Office's Legal Team had made decisions not to
- 7 give disclosure of bugs to the defence and to the
- 8
- 9 A. Well, I wasn't in a decision making capacity,
- 10 certainly --
- That's the answer to a different question, Mr Singh. 11 Q.
- 12 I'm asking you: do you agree if it would be a lot more
- 13 than just embarrassing if it emerged that Fujitsu had
- 14 given information to the Post Office, to the Legal team
- 15 in the Post Office, and the Post Office Legal team had
- 16 made decisions not to give disclosure of that
- 17 information to the defence and to the courts?
- 18 A. I wasn't in that position to make -- I wasn't aware of
- 19 it. It certainly didn't come to me.
- 20 Q. That's a separate question, I'm just asking you: do you
- 21 agree that it would be a lot more than embarrassing if
- 22 what I've described was to be the case?
- 23 A. Well, I would hope it didn't happen that way.
- 24 I certainly don't know anything about that.
- 25 Q. Mr Singh, please focus on my questions. Do you agree it
- 1 Q. Did you investigate whether the Post Office knew of the 2 existence of the two bugs before the Second Sight
- 3
- 4 A. The way it -- from memory -- I mean, from what I can
- 5 recall, and certainly the papers sent to me by the
- 6 Inquiry, the way these things came about, there were
- 7 Working Group who worked very closely with somebody like
- 8 Second Sight, the Mediation Scheme, which I wasn't part
- 9 of, they had meetings which I wasn't part of. I had
- 10 limited information. So I always used to get the
- 11 information from the Head of Legal and I think, on these
- 12 circumstances, it was a lot of work being done, a lot of
- 13 working group involved, and I was told that "Look, we've
- 14 got people on to it already". And I was told to task
- 15 with two things, one to keep Cartwright King updated by
- 16 means of the Company Secretary, who was heavily involved
- 17 in this, and also to help the Head of Legal to find the
- 18 information.

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- So I did that, and relayed it to him and, hopefully, it get into the system or the people who were dealing
- with it. Certainly, I got the information with regard
- 22 to the two bugs, which I was aware of, or issues with
- 23 the Misra case by supplying them with, you know, the cut
- 24 and paste of the legal advice by the barrister in the
- 25 case, Mr Tatford, and, also, I think I phoned Fujitsu to

- 1 would be a lot more than embarrassing --
- 2 A. Yes.
- Q. -- if that state of affairs emerged? 3
- A. Well, I hope it didn't happen but, certainly, I wasn't 4
- aware of any of that, no. But, certainly, yes, I mean, 5
- 6 I'm relaying what the information I'd been given.
- 7 Q. At the top of the email, you say you're concerned that 8 the Post Office is entering "dangerous territory". Why
- 9 was the Post Office entering dangerous territory?
- 10 A. Well, from what -- I mean, this is guite some time ago 11 since I considered it. Certainly, the information I've
- 12 been given from a legal point of view is to draft it in
- 13 such a way because this is -- if you're going public,
- 14 you've got to have your facts. It's got to be accurate
- 15 and, basically, what I'm saying to them is, "Look, I'm
- 16 not expert in this area, I have got limited knowledge.
- 17 You need to go to the criminal specialist", you know,
- 18 which is Cartwright King.
- 19 I think I refer them to it, right at the bottom,
- 20 because I'm concerned that that is a proper avenue.
- 21 It's not somebody like myself who can actually advise 22
- them. I relayed what information I had and I think
- 23 somewhere along the line or, subsequently, I say no,
- 24 I can't deal with it because you really need somebody
- 25 who was on the ball on this matter.

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- find out whether they knew anything else and relayed
- 2 that to the Head of Legal.

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- Apart from that, that's the only investigation
- 4 I had. That's the only thing I could do at that time.
- 5 Q. Did you not investigate too deeply the issue of whether
- 6 individuals within Post Office were aware of the
- 7 existence of bugs before the Second Sight Report because
- 8 you knew that issue didn't need investigating because
- 9 you knew that you were aware of bugs?
- A. Certainly not, sir, that's not the case, to my 10
- 11 knowledge. My involvement was basically liaison with
- 12 Cartwright King, keeping -- well, any input or specific
- 13 advice, which the -- my Head of Legal, who was my line
- 14 manager, or -- had requested or any information he
- 15 wanted or any specific advices he wanted, or the General
- 16 Counsel. That was the only role I had, and that is what
- 17 I was told, "Let's have a look, Jarnail, what you need
- 18 to do is we've got people who have got a lot of 19 information who are involved in it who are dealing with
- 20 it and, as and when we need you to do something, you
- 21 provide that", and that is to update Cartwright King via
- 22 the Company Secretary and also to provide information
- 23 with regard to the Misra case, which I did.
- 24 Q. Just while we are on this email, in the second paragraph, it says in the third line: 25

"The fact that the bugs manifested in more than one location could be described as systemic but not system wide. Accordingly there were arguments over terminology used by Second Sight".

Were you aware that the Post Office kept relying on the word "systemic" in its public pronouncements for many years after the Second Sight Report.

- 8 A. Sir, I'm not aware of that because I wasn't involved to
 9 that high level. I mean, I -- certainly a Criminal Law
 10 Team, it was the Head of Criminal Law in the Post Office
 11 as the working groups and you had General Counsel and
 12 the Head of Legal dealing with it.
- Q. You draw a distinction here between "systemic" and
 "system wide", which may be a fair distinction. Was
 anything done about your drawing of that distinction
 here, to your knowledge? Was it followed up at all with
 you?
- 18 A. That came up because that was the information I was 19 given by Cartwright King. A lot of this was in 20 discussion with Cartwright King because they had the 21 information. I wouldn't have that sort of information. 22 Or -- yeah, Cartwright King and probably the advices 23 I read. But it was that, the sort of information I had 24 from Cartwright King. It wasn't something I personally 25 had firsthand.

25

- 1 at all because I've read the Inquiry's papers over and 2 over again and I can't make head nor tail of what was 3 going on there.
- Q. Secondly, do you accept that no disclosure was made by
 you to the defence or to the court, in Seema Misra's
 case, of the existence of the receipts and payments
 mismatch bug?
- A. I went aware of that -- can you put it up what the
 receipts and payments information you're talking about
 please?
- 11 **Q.** Sorry?

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- 12 **A.** Can you put that up?
- Q. We're going to come to the detail in a moment. What
 happens when I show you a document is you tend to get
 distracted perhaps, in terms of looking at the document.
 So I'm just standing back at the moment and looking at
 some general questions, you having had lots of time to
 prepare today and have been given all the relevant
 documents in advance of today.
- 20 **A.** Yes.
- Q. I'm asking you: do you accept that the receipts and
 payments mismatch bug, the existence of it, was not
 disclosed to the defence or to the court in the course
 of or before Seema Misra's trial?

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25 A. I don't recall anything of that --

- Q. I'm asking a different question, which is not "Where did
 you get the knowledge from to write that sentence". The
- 3 question I'm asking is: after you wrote this, was
- 4 anything done about it?
- 5 $\,$ **A.** Well, as I said to you, that was highlighted to the Head
- 6 of Legal and everything I did was in line with what --
- 7 the input he'd requested or he wanted. I didn't have
- 8 any other task; I didn't have any -- anything more than
- 9 that because I was told that working groups --
- 10 Q. Mr Singh, I'm sorry to --
- 11 A. Sorry.
- 12 Q. -- be persistent. Would you kindly answer my question:13 was anything done, to your knowledge, about the
- 14 distinction that you drow boro?
- 14 distinction that you drew here?
- 15 A. I don't know, sir.
- 16 Q. Okay, I'll move on. Can I turn, then, to your truestate of knowledge in relation to the two bugs mentioned
- by Second Sight in the early parts of their report and,
- firstly, look at your prior knowledge of the receipts
- and payments mismatch bug. I'm going to ask you somesimple questions first before we go into the detail.
- 22 First, do you accept that, in fact, shortly before 23 Seema Misra's trial began in October 2010, you were made 24 aware of the receipts and payments mismatch bug?
- 25 **A.** I can't recall. I don't remember anything around that

Q. Surely, Mr Singh, you know about this. This case went

- 2 off to the Court of Appeal. You must have read the
- 3 Court of Appeal's judgment, which says it was an error
- 4 not to have disclosed it, but the Post Office conceded
- 5 that there should have been disclosure, and this is one
- 6 of your cases that you prosecuted.
- 7 **A.** Well --
- 8 Q. You must know --
- 9 **A.** The --

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- 10 **Q.** -- there was no disclosure.
- 11 A. Well, as I said to you, the -- my knowledge in this area
- 12 is very limited. Apart from the *Misra* case, I've not
- 13 come across any other case where I was -- I mean, even
- as to what they were, was the only time I came across
- it. And that's why, when I dealt with the *Misra* case,
- 16 I had experienced counsel and experienced Investigation
- 17 Officer working alongside me. I have -- the disclosure
- 18 was dealt with, in this case, by Head of Criminal Law,
- 19 like I told you on the last occasion.
- 20 **Q.** Let's just go back to the question: do you accept that
 21 there was no disclosure of the existence of the receipts
- 22 and payments mismatch bug in Seema Misra's case?
 - A. From what the Inquiry has paper sent me, I wasn't aware
 of that and I, obviously, couldn't deal with because
- 25 I wasn't aware of it, no.

- Q. Do you accept that your claims made in the 2013 1
- 2 documents that we've just looked at and the 2015 email
- 3 that we've just looked at, that the first you became
- 4 aware of the receipts and payments mismatch bug, upon
- 5 production of the Second Sight Report, were false?
- 6 A. No. That's not true.
- 7 Q. You'd known about the bug all along, hadn't you,
- 8 Mr Singh?
- 9 A. No, that's not true.
- 10 Q. You had known about the bug all along, Mr Singh.
- 11 Α.
- You were covering it up in 2013 and 2015, weren't you? 12 Q.
- 13 Α. No, I wasn't covering it up.
- Q. You were covering up your own guilty knowledge? 14
- 15 A. No, I wasn't.
- 16 Q. Did you not recognise in 2013, '14 and '15 that this
- 17 wasn't the time to dig in, to double down; it was, on
- 18 the contrary, time to open up your mind to the reality
- 19 that you had known about the receipts and payments
- 20 mismatch bug and you had failed to disclose it?
- A. I wasn't aware. If I had known, I would have disclosed 21
- 22 it. In the Misra case, any other case, I had limited --
- 23 I had no knowledge of those, at that time, or even when
- 24 I transferred over to the Post Office Limited and I, as
- 25 I said to you, as far as the Second Sight's inquiry --
- 1 Q. POL00028838. Page 6, please. This is a report entitled
- 2 "Correcting Accounts for 'lost' Discrepancies" written
- 3 by Gareth Jenkins, you understand?
- 4 A. Yes, yes.
- 5 Q. You can see the author there is Gareth Idris Jenkins.
- 6 Can you see the reference that's given, just above his
- 7 name there?
- A. Yes, yes. 8
- 9 Q. The character string notes "lost discrepancies", yes?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. If we just look at the introduction to see what it's 11
- 12 about, this is a note about the receipts and payments
- 13 mismatch bug. This note relates to some PEAKs and then,
- 14 moving under the box, one of the PEAKs describes
- 15 a problem with stock unit balancing that will result in
- 16 a receipts payments mismatch. A fix is available for
- 17 this PEAK which needs to be scheduled, however any
- 18 branch encountering the problem will have corrupt
- 19 accounts.
- 20 Then if we go to page 7, it sets out the
- 21 consequences of the bug:
- 22 "There will be [first bullet point] a receipts and 23 payments mismatch corresponding to the value of
- 24 discrepancies that were 'lost'.
- 25 "... if the user doesn't check their final balance

- the review is concerned, anything related to it, I was 1
- 2 not involved in it. We had working groups, so
- 3 everything you said is not true.
- 4 Q. You were part of a group of people that doubled down on
- 5 their position, not only having failed to give
- 6 disclosure of the receipts and payments mismatch bug in
- 7 2010 but then you sought to cover up that fact from 2013
- 8 onwards, and it would take another seven years, until
- 9 2020, for Mrs Misra, who'd been sent to prison whilst
- 10 pregnant --
- 11 Not true. That is absolutely not true. Α.
- 12 -- to have her conviction overturned?
- 13 Well, that's the Court of Appeal. I mean, I -- there
- 14 were problems with this cases but there is no way
- 15 I would have cover up anything of that magnitude.
- 16 I wasn't aware, I wasn't made aware, I don't recall any
- 17 of the information, and it was very difficult to put the
- 18 Inquiry papers together because they came in separate
- 19 bundles, or -- that's why it's not dealt with in the
- 20 witness statement because I think the -- quite a lot of
- 21 the -- a lot of it relating it to came subsequently, and
- 22 there certainly was no cover-up on my part.
- 23 Q. Can we look then at your actual knowledge of the
- 24 receipts and payments mismatch bug?
- 25 **A**.

- 1 report carefully they may be unaware of the issue since
- 2 there is no explicit message when a receipts and
- 3 payments mismatch is found ...
 - "Local suspense will have no knowledge of the discrepancy."
- 6 So it's saying that there is a bug that gives
- 7
- a misbalance between receipts and payments,
- 8 ie a mismatch, and that it will be unknown to the user;
- 9 okay?

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- 10 A. Okay.
- 11 Q. That is what I'm going to call Mr Jenkins' report. We
- 12 should have just looked at the date of it on the first
- 13 page, so back a page, please, 29 September 2020 (sic),
- 14 okay?
- 15 **A**. Yes.

25

- 16 Q. Can we look, please, at --
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: 2010, Mr Beer. 17
- MR BEER: Did I say '20? I'm so sorry. 18
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, let's get that accurately on the 19 20 record.
- 21 MR BEER: Thank you sir, I blame that on the flu.
- 22 Can we go forwards, please, to POL00055410. Can we
- 23 look down, thank you -- in fact, if we just look at the
- 24 top, first, so we can see who this is sent to. It's
 - from Mr Wilson to Juliet McFarlane and to you, yes?

1 A. Yes.

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Q. Then let's look down on the email. From Mr Simpson in
 Post Office Security Team, and we're now on 8 October,
 and he says to Mr Wilson first:

"I am forwarding you the attachments above in relation to a series of incidents identified by Fujitsu this week, whereby it appears that when posting discrepancies to the local suspense, these amounts simply disappear at branch level and a balance is shown.

The above includes Fujitsu's initial analysis and proposed solution/s, whilst the other documents the outputs from various meetings held this week. My concern is around the proposed solution/s, one or more of which may have repercussions in any future prosecution cases and on the integrity of the Horizon Online system.

"There is a further dial-in meeting ..."

- 18 Yes?
- 19 A. Yes, yes.
- Q. If we go up the page, please, Mr Wilson forwards this toyou at 4.29 pm on 8 October, yes?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Can you see that?
- 24 A. Yes. I can.
- 25 **Q.** Would you agree that, for someone who was prosecuting
- because he knew my knowledge about these things was very
 limited. I --
 - **Q.** Just go down the page, please. In the first paragraph:

"It appears that when posting discrepancies to the local suspense, these amounts simply disappear at branch level and a balance is shown."

Then rang on:

"Solutions may have repercussions in any future prosecution cases and on the integrity of the Horizon system."

11 That would ring alarm bells for you, wouldn't it?

- 12 A. It certainly would but I --
- 13 Q. Thank you. Because it mentions, on its face,
- 14 repercussions for prosecutions and on the integrity of
- 15 Horizon Online?
- 16 A. Yeah, but what my evidence is that I don't remember
- 17 receiving it, don't remember printing it and that is
- 18 not -- I didn't -- I don't know anything about this.
- 19 $\,$ Q. Okay. If we just go back up, please. You'll see that
- 20 the email that was sent to you had two attachments. Can
- you see that, under "Attachments"?
- 22 **A.** Yes.
- 23 Q. The first of which was called "ReceiptsPayments
- 24 notes[version 5.doc"?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 subpostmasters at the time, this email ought to ring
- 2 alarm bells?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Because it's showing, isn't it, Mr Singh, that money is
- 5 disappearing at branch level and balances are shown that
- 6 are incorrect?
- 7 A. I've looked at the Inquiry bundle, I don't recall
- 8 reading this email and I don't remember printing,
- 9 where -- printing anything -- you know, there's a bit
- 10 from my -- I don't know what you call it -- account, at
- 11 all
- 12 Q. Your drive, your system? Is that what you're talking
- 13 about?
- 14 A. Yeah, I --
- 15 **Q.** You're a couple of questions ahead, Mr Singh. You know
- 16 I'm going to turn next --
- 17 **A**. No --
- 18 Q. -- aren't you --
- 19 A. -- because I'm telling you that is why it's not in my
- 20 witness statement because I didn't understand it. If
- 21 I even received it, I wouldn't understand it, to be
- 22 honest, it would be something I would expect somebody
- 23 with knowledge and expertise, like Mr Wilson, who is the
- 24 contact within the business, to not send it the way he
- 25 has, "FYI", because it doesn't mean anything to me
 - 3
- 1 Q. The second was called "Lost Discrepancies 290910.doc",
- 2 yes?
- 3 **A.** Yes.
- 4 Q. Remember what Mr Jenkins document was called, "Lost
- 5 Discrepancies", yes?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Remember its date, 29 September 2010, yes?
- 8 A. Oh, yes, absolutely.
- 9 Q. Let's display POL00028838, please. Then scroll down,
- 10 please, to page 6, please. Thank you. You'll see that
- in the reference again this document was called
- 12 "Notes\lost discrepancies", and it's dated 29 September
- 13 2010, yes?
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 Q. If we look at the footer of the page, please, the
- 16 character string at the bottom C:\documents and
- 17 settings\jarnail.a.singh\local Settings\temporary
- 18 internet files", et cetera. This was saved in your
- 19 drive, wasn't it?
- 20 A. I don't know, sir. As I said to you, I don't recall
- seeing it, don't recall printing it.
- 22 Q. This was saved in your drive, wasn't it?
- 23 A. I don't even know what you're talking about. I don't
- 24 know how to do -- these things worked.
- 25 Q. You don't know how to save a document?

- 1 A. No, I didn't know at the time in year 2010.
- 2 Q. For the decades you worked in the Post Office you didn't
- 3 save a document?
- 4 A. Certainly not when I was at the Royal Mail Group.
- 5 Q. You never saved a document?
- 6 A. Not on -- no, because I didn't know how to do it.
- 7 Q. You know, don't you, that you got this email. You got
- 8 Mr Jenkins' documents and, not only was it saved in your
- 9 drive, you printed it, didn't you?
- 10 A. No, that's not the case.
- 11 Q. How can you recall whether you printed a document or
- 12 not?
- 13 A. I don't recall. That was the reason why it was
- 14 difficult to remember it, otherwise I would have --
- would certainly try to find out what this means, because
- the document in that -- at that time, the year 2010,
- 17 I didn't have the knowledge, certainly didn't have the
- 18 technical knowledge, or what it meant, I needed somebody
- 19 to explain it to me, and then deal with it accordingly.
- But I do not remember this document at all or the email.
- 21 Q. Can we display at the same time POL00055410. We can see
- 22 the email sending this document to you is timed at
- 4.29 pm; can you see that on the left-hand side?
- 24 A. Yes, I can, yes.
- 25 **Q.** We can see that it was printed nine minutes later at
 - 0
- 1 did you?
- 2 A. I didn't -- if -- I don't have any recollection of
- 3 receiving it or seeing it.
- 4 Q. You know now that the Post Office conceded before the
- 5 Court of Appeal that there ought to have been such
- 6 disclosure, don't you?
- 7 A. Well, this ought to have been dealt with by the Head of
- 8 Criminal Law Team. It doesn't make any sense to me.
- 9 He's an expert, he has a wider knowledge of these things
- 10 as to why he just sent it as "FYI". He's a man of
- 11 experience and knowledge and expertise. I've never
- 12 known anything received from him without any detailed
- 13 knowledge as to what to do with it. He gives very
- 14 detailed instructions, and he just sent it as "FYI".
- 15 I can't understand that at all and I can't recall
- receiving it, or reading it or printing it at that time,
- 17 and the only time I have read it is when the Inquiry
- 18 sent me the papers.
- 19 Q. You had a meeting with Mr Wilson about it, didn't you?
- 20 A. I don't recall that meeting.
- 21 **Q.** That's referred to in the second line of the email on
- the left.
- 23 A. That is -- I think must be a team meeting but I know
- 24 certainly me and the legal executive and my secretary

25 were dealing with the *Misra* trial with the exhibits,

- 1 4.38.
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Can you see that at the bottom?
- 4 A. No, it's there, yes.
- 5 Q. You printed this document out, didn't you?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. You did so because you'd read the email from
- 8 Messrs Simpson and Wilson and you printed the document
- 9 out, didn't you, the attachment out?
- 10 A. That's not true. I don't remember seeing the email from
- 11 Rob Wilson, the attachments to it, at all. From memory,
- 12 I don't recall the document.
- 13 **Q.** What you're engaged in now is closing your mind to the
- 14 possibility that you saw this, blind denial, because you
- 15 know that this is evidence of your own guilty knowledge?
- 16 A. That is not true and I don't feel guilty because
- 17 I haven't received it. If I did, I would have dealt
- 18 with it by understanding what it meant, and I --
- 19 Q. You just said, "If I had received it"?
- 20 A. If I had seen it. I don't recall receiving it, or
- 21 reading it, or printing it. That is my evidence on
- 22 oath.
- 23 Q. This is the Tuesday, the week before Seema Misra's trial
- started on the Monday -- Friday, I'm so sorry. You
- 25 didn't disclose the existence of this bug in the trial,
 - 3
- 1 from memory, exhibits, and the jury bundles. I don't
- 2 know --
- 3 **Q.** You were the solicitor with conduct of *Misra*, weren't
- 4 you?
- 5 A. Yes, I was, yes.
- 6 Q. It fell to you to give disclosure of this bug, didn't
- 7 it?
- 8 A. If I received it and understood it, but don't remember
- 9 receiving that email with those attachments.
- 10 Q. So what we've got is an email addressed to you attaching
- details of the bug, we've got a copy of the document
- 12 saved in your drive and we've got it printed nine
- minutes after the email was received by you; and you say
- 14 you didn't get any of this?
- 15 A. No, as I said to you, I do not recall this document at
- 16 all. The email and the attachments. I even -- when
- 17 I got the papers from the Inquiry, I didn't understand
- it at all what it meant because this is not an area
- where I was that comfortable with in understanding. So
- 20 I needed somebody who did and I don't firstly remember
- 21 receiving any of this --
- 22 Q. It follows, doesn't it, that when you were saying in
- 23 2013 and 2015 that the first you had heard about the
- 24 receipts and payments mismatch bug was when Second Sight
- 25 "revealed it", in inverted commas, in their report, that

		The Pos
1		was false, wasn't it?
2	Α.	No, that is not the case.
3	Q.	It was false in 2013 and it was false in 2015, wasn't
4		it?
5	Α.	No, that's not the case. That's not true.
6	Q.	You knew you'd been told about this bug looking 2010,
7		just before the trial
8	Α.	No.
9	Q.	and you were covering it up in 2013 and 2015, weren't
10		you?
11	A.	No, there has been no cover-up on my part and never wil
12		be and never can be.
13	Q.	Can we take that down, please, and you look at your
14		witness statement, please, page 68, paragraph 204.
15		Sorry, I think it was your first witness
16		statement
17	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: I was just about to ask you, Mr Beer.
18		It's the first one?
19	MR	BEER: which is WITN04750100, page 68, please.
20		So page 68, please. Thank you. Foot of the page,
21		paragraph 204, you say:
22		"I have considered the document entitled 'Correcting
23		Accounts for "lost" Discrepancies'"
24		That's the Gareth Jenkins document of 29 Septembe
25		2010. You say:
		41
1	Q.	You didn't know that we would get hold of the document,
2	Q.	the email, dated 8 October, showing that this had, in
3		fact, been sent to you.
4	Α.	No, that's not the case.
5	Q.	You didn't pay this much attention when you were writing
6		this witness statement by looking at the character
7		string at the bottom of the document, to see that it, in
8		fact, had been saved in your drive, did you?
9	Α.	That's not the case. That's not true.
10	Q.	You're not really a details man, are you?
11	A.	Well, I don't know what you mean, but
12	Q.	You weren't paying the attention that it deserved to the

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sent it to me.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.

(A short break)

MR BEER: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear us?

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please.

(10.50 am)

(11.00 am)

r details when you were writing this, were you? You didn't see that you'd printed the document, did you? A. I don't know what you mean, sir, but I can tell you, I did not see that document until -- before the Inquiry MR BEER: Sir, that might be an appropriate moment for the morning break. Can we break from now until 11.00,

1 "I do not recall having seen this document before 2 the Inquiry provided it to me. If I had known about 3 this document, I would have provided it to the 4 Investigation and Security Team to try and understand what it meant, the implications of it and whether the 5 6 problem was being resolved. Once it had been assessed, 7 I would have considered the disclosure test and disclosed it." 8 q In this witness statement, you're seeking to carry 10 on the pretence, aren't you, that you hadn't seen the 11 document in 2010, weren't you? No, sir, that's not the case. 12 13 Q. You're here running the same line as you had run in 2013 14 and 2015, aren't you --15 A. No. 16 Q. -- giving false evidence to the Inquiry? 17 A. No, I do not give false evidence. I'm here to assist and that's what I'm doing. 18 19 Q. When you wrote this, you didn't know that we would 20 discover an email sending the document to you of 21 5 October, did you? 22 A. No, that's not the case. I don't remember any of these 23 documents at all --24 Q. Sorry, 8 October --A. -- preceding to the Inquiry. 1 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you, yes. MR BEER: Mr Singh, did you maintain a hard copy file for 2 3 each case that you prosecuted? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Did you print documents and add them to the file? 6 A. I didn't personally. What used to happen, it was the --7 we had a desktop and my secretary did -- I did the 8 dictation, my secretary did the typing and she did the 9 Q. So would you say, "Please print a document and add it to 10 the file"? 11 A. I don't know how the system was set up but, certainly, 12 I dictated and she did the -- you know, for example, if 13 14 the letter came in, I would dictate it with the physical 15 file, and put -- and gave it to her and she would do 16 the --17 Q. I'm not talking about letters out at the moment; I'm 18 talking about documents in. If you received an email and you wanted it added to the file, you would say, 19 20 "Please print this email", "Please print this document"? She would -- yes, yes. 21 22 Q. How would she have access to your system? 23 I don't know, sir, to be honest. 24 Did she have access to your system? 25 She had access to the system, yes. 44

- 1 Q. You didn't have to forward her the email?
- 2 A. No, I don't think so.
- 3 Q. So if we were to find a copy of Mr Jenkins' report on
- 4 the Seema Misra hard copy file, that would mean that you
- 5 had given an instruction for it to be printed, would it?
- 6 A. I can't recall how it works out now but, certainly,
- 7 I wasn't very good at the IT side of things, the
- 8 printing, and all I did is dictated stuff and she did
- 9 the rest, and she made up the file and she printed, you
- 10 know, the emails. I very rarely -- I don't think
- 11 I remember printing very much at all because I didn't
- 12 know how to.
- 13 $\,$ **Q**. You knew the high importance of the Seema Misra case to
- 14 the Post Office, didn't you?
- 15 A. Yes, it's still very important to me now, sir.
- 16 Q. Back in the day --
- 17 A. Yes, yes.
- 18 Q. -- back in October 2010, you knew it was of critical
- 19 importance to the Post Office?
- 20 A. It was important to me because it's the very first one
- 21 I've been able to take it all the way with the
- documents. They were -- every single document in that
- 23 case was new to me and I was very careful and very
- 24 cautious. I had Mr Longman, Mr Tatford, even Mr Jenkins
- onto it, Mr Wilson, because I didn't feel comfortable.
 - 45
- 1 done with it -- would have done with it.
- 2 Q. All of this, "If I received it, if I read it", is a big
- 3 fat lie, isn't it?
- 4 A. No, sir --
- 5 Q. And you know it, Mr Singh.
- 6 A. Sir, I didn't come here to lie. I'm at an age where
- 7 I've come to assist the Inquiry and that's all. And if
- 8 I had seen it at that time, that is what I would have
- 9 done. I'm not one of those -- I -- the -- you've seen
- 10 it. You called me a letterbox. That's a compliment to
- 11 me because that's the way I work. If I don't understand
- 12 anything, I don't understand a thing, I will find
- somebody who does. Here Mr Tatford was my guy and so
- 14 was Mr Longman. So that's the way we worked.
- The first thing would have been, it would have beenforwarded to him, we would have discussed it and we
- 17 would have dealt with it.
- 18 Q. Can we look, please, at POL00055418. This is an email
- 19 half an hour earlier, on Friday, 8 October, to you from
- 20 Ms Talbot, copying in Mike Granville and Rod Ismay.
- 21 They were Senior Managers in the business, weren't they?
- 22 A. I know Mandy Talbot. I've never heard of Mike
- 23 Granville. I don't know who Rod Ismay was either. She
- 24 was a bit of a nuisance and I don't think I've actually
- 25 responded to her very much.
 - 47

- 1 I think there was a number of occasions when I said to
- 2 Mr Wilson, "Rob, you need to take this case on. I just
- 3 can't cope with it", because, you know, it was --
- 4 everything was so new and I was so careful and
- 5 methodical with it because I knew, you know, that
- 6 somebody's -- somebody's -- you know, I didn't want to
- 7 get anything wrong on it.
- 9 this email and read it carefully, wouldn't you?
- 10 A. As I said to you, if I'd received it, if I'd even seen
- 11 it, the first thing I would have done is probably send
- 12 it to Mr Tatford and Mr Longman because we were working
- very closely together on this and, certainly,
- 14 Mr Tatford -- and probably, because of the nature of it
- 15 I didn't understand it, and you've got the Misra case on
- Monday, we've been very close-knit team. He would have
- 17 received it and he would have probably rang me or
- 18 I would have rang him and said, "Look, Mr Tatford, what
- does it mean? What do we do, please?" That's how it
- 20 worked

- And the same as Mr Longman. Mr Longman was wonderful all the way through because he was very
- 23 helpful to me because he was an expert at dealing it
- 24 Fujitsu and all side of things so that's the first thing
- 25 I'd've done. If read it, that would have been what I've
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 - Q. Sorry, who was a nuisance?
- 2 A. Mandy Talbot because I think she kept on asking all sort
- 3 of weird and wonderful questions and I just referred her
- 4 to Mr Wilson because I just didn't understand what --
- 5 where -- you know, what information -- what inferences,
- 6 she was asking for. So everything I highlighted, and
- 7 I just referred her to Mr Wilson, and Mr Wilson being of
- 8 the same rank -- or they probably had a lot of
- 9 discussions but I had very little to do with her.
- 10 **Q.** Anyway, just before you received the email containing
- the details of the receipts and payments mismatch bug,
- 12 Ms Talbot is writing to you saying:
- 13 "Mike and Rod are also very interested in any
- 14 developments ..."
- 15 Did you think at the time, "I don't even know who
- 16 Mike and Rod are"?
- 17 A. Probably. I mean --
- 18 Q. "Dear Mandy, please explain who Mike and Rod are"?
- 19 A. I didn't do that. I didn't even respond to her, I don't
- 20 think because I was so focused on that particular case.
- I knew her from the old days when she was in the Civil
- 22 Litigation Department, when we were in the same
- building, but I didn't really speak to her very much.
- 24 All of a sudden, in this case, she appeared from nowhere
- and I think the only other involvement we had is when

Mrs Misra highlighted the computer magazines and the list of cases, and I think Warwick Tatford went to meet her to review those cases. But I don't think I've ever head very much to do with her. I don't think I've met her since our days when we were in the same building, Impact House in Croydon.

Q. Anyway, these two men that you don't know are:

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"... very interested in any developments at the trial next week which impact on Horizon. You promised to let me know if anything unfortunate occurred in respect of Horizon."

That's written as if Ms Talbot had had a conversation with you or a communication with you in which you had said, if something unfortunate happens you would let her know; is that right?

15 16 A. Don't -- I probably had a very glancing conversation. 17 There wasn't anything about "unfortunate". I don't know 18 what she was talking about there, as to what she 19 mentioned, but it was -- I don't even recall the 20 conversation. As I said, the only conversation she had 21 was with Rob Wilson, Head of Criminal Law Team, because 22 they probably meet the same people, they had the same 23 briefing, and they were, you know, a contact within the 24 business

> I had no contact within the business, the only 49

Minister this week and were accompanied by Issy Hogg [the defence solicitor] and the lady from Shoosmiths."

This email left you in no doubt as to how important the trial was to the business, didn't it?

- A. No, sir, that didn't even occur to me. Mrs Misra was the most important person because I was focused on dealing with her case, in the best -- best of my ability. Certainly, I don't think I replied to it, but if I did replied it, I would have left it to Rob Wilson to deal with her.
- 11 Q. You didn't reply to this because you understood that 12 this was conveying the message, "The Horizon system is 13 on trial next week, you need to tell us if anything goes 14 wrong"?
- 15 A. No, Mrs Misra was on trial, not Horizon. Horizon didn't 16 occur to me at all. I don't even understand the 17 Horizon. I was dealing with the trial, as the trial 18 would do. Horizon is something that Jon Longman and 19 Mr Jenkins dealt with.
- 20 Q. This would have put in your mind, wouldn't it, when you 21 received the receipts and payments mismatch 22 documentation, the high importance of it, wouldn't it?
- 23 A. No, no, that was -- I didn't receive that document, as 24 I said to you. If I did, my team, or Mr Tatford and 25 Mr Longman would have been the first people who were 51

1 people I knew was Rob Wilson and, probably, you know, 2 Juliet McFarlane, Mrs Debbie Stapel and the two legal 3 executives, who I worked with.

4 Q. "Please can you copy Rod and Mike into any messages." 5 You didn't reply and say, "Well, why should I do 6 that? I don't know who these men are".

7 A. I don't recall, to be honest.

8 Q. "Incidentally I assume you have briefed external 9 relations."

10 Had you briefed external relations?

A. I don't even know who external relations she was 11 12 referring to. At that time, I mean, certainly when 13 I moved to Post Office Limited, you know, they had a big 14 department, big, big room like this, with a lot of 15 cameras and videos and all sorts of things, but 16 certainly, at that time, I don't know what she was 17 talking about, communications.

Q. Did you reply and say, "I don't know what you mean by 18 19 external relations"?

20 A. No, I don't think I replied in those terms, I probably 21 could not --

22 Q. "Can you let us know who you have briefed because Mike 23 and Rod may wish to have input into any story relating 24 to Horizon. They may give you a call ... for an update.

25 Incidentally Postmasters for Justice met with the

1 copied in. Like we always did, you've seen how we went 2 through the Misra case, in a very methodical, careful 3 way, and I admit mistakes were made and I'm sorry that 4 Mrs Misra suffered, and I am ever so embarrassed to be 5 here that we made those mistakes and put somebody's 6 liberty at stake and the loss she suffered, and the 7 damage we caused, which is not what this was about.

This email doesn't mean anything to me. I don't even remember receiving --

10 Q. This tells you that there is a lot riding on the trial, 11 doesn't it?

12 No, sir, it did not.

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13 External relations need to be briefed, input needs to be 14 made in relation to a story relating to Horizon, JFSA 15 have met with a minister. It's all ramping it up for 16 you, isn't it, how important the trial is, because it's

17 really about Horizon, this trial, isn't it?

A. Absolutely not, and I don't know anything about the, you 18 19 know, the Masters for Justice (sic), ministers and 20 Shoosmiths. Issy Hogg, yes, because she was the defence 21 solicitor, but the others don't mean anything to me and,

22 certainly -- I don't know, you can read what you like

23 into that content, I didn't see it in that way. She 24 wrote, I ignored it, and it was something that Rob

25 Wilson dealt with. I did not deal with her in any shape

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or form before the case, after the case.

Q. Thank you. That can come down.

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Can I turn to your knowledge of the local suspense account bug, please, and have up on the screen POL00144919. If we can go to page 3, please, this is an email chain we're going to see later was forwarded to you. It's an email exchange between Lesley Sewell, who was the Chief Information Officer at the Post Office, to Paula Vennells and others, of the 28 June 2013. It's about the local suspense account bug, so it's an exchange amongst senior individuals within the organisation. If we look at the timeline, just a little bit further up, please:

"First raised to NBSC at 4.51 pm on 25 February ... "Problem diagnosed 28 February."

Then under "Root Cause":

"When calculating the office balances of gains and losses of stock units for a branch after pulled together into one place (this is called the Local Suspense). This is temporary data which is held in the system until the end of the Trading Period and the branch balances. After each trading period this should be cleared so the opening balance is zero at the start of the next trading period.

"For the 14 branches this temporary data was not

A. I, as far as local suspense accounts are concerned, I have no knowledge, I don't know what they mean. Secondly, these things was copied in by my line manager, Hugh Flemington. I spoke to him and he said we'd got a working group looking into it. I don't know whether he actually named who was involved in it and he said, "Look, I want to" -- he had some sort of plan of action. So there were various people doing various things and he asked me to do one or two things as part of it, and he said "Well, when I need you, when I want you to -- to just keep an eye on things, and when I need you, when I want you, to provide me with the information, do that".

And on -- here, you've got Working Group involved in it and you've got, I think, a few other people involved in it, you know, Bond Dickinson and maybe Cartwright King. But my role, as far as my line manager was concerned, was to keep an eye on things and, as and when he required any information, input or specific advice, he will come to me. So ...

20 21 Q. My question, Mr Singh, was: was there something of 22 a scrabbling around, in the weeks before in the Second 23 Sight Report, when it emerged they're going to talk 24 about these two bugs -- receipts and payments and local 25 suspense -- to find out when within the organisation we

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cleared which resulted in it reappearing in the same trading period the following year. This only affected two trading periods [9 and 10]. This would have affected the subpostmaster balance as his opening figure would have been incorrect for that period."

If we go to page 1, please. At the foot of the page, please. This is forwarded to you from Hugh Flemington on 28 June, so later that day, saying:

"Rob [Wilson] -- have we more detail from Rod Ismay as to when we spotted this?"

Then at the top of the page, please:

"The effects of the 14 bug on branch accounting were notified to [Post Office] by a few [subpostmasters] in around January 2012. However, [Post Office] did not identify Horizon as the root cause until January 2013."

So, at this time, in June 2013, you're being told that there's a separate bug called the local suspense account bug, the affects of which have been felt from January 2012, but Horizon had been identified as the root cause in January 2013, yes?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Was there a rush within the Post Office to find out, in 23 the weeks before the publication of the Second Sight 24 Report on 8 July 2013, when the Post Office was aware of

25 the bugs referred to in the report?

1 knew about them?

2 A. I wasn't involved in it. I wasn't aware of it. There 3 was probably a certain amount of work that was carried 4 on. As I say, there was working groups who deal with 5 it, there were specific people on to those working 6 groups, and they probably did. They probably had 7 meetings with the Second Sight. I had no meeting with 8 Second Sight. I don't think I ever met Second Sight. 9 I can't say to you --

10 Q. Mr Singh, you're answering questions that haven't been 11 asked. The things you've just said would be an answer 12 to a question "Did you ever meet Second Sight?" and 13 you'd say, "No, I didn't meet Second Sight". But I've 14 not asked that.

15 A. I apologise. I apologise. I'm trying to -- okay, ask 16 me again and then I'll give you a straight answer.

17 Was there something of an internal scrabbling around in Q. 18 the period before 8 July 2013 in the Post Office --

19 A. I don't recall, I don't --

20 Q. -- to find out "When did we know about these two bugs"?

21 A. I don't recall specifically that was happening in the 22 background but it was not to my knowledge.

23 Q. Do you agree that's what this email chain seems to be 24 about: a timeline of Post Office knowledge of the local 25 suspense account bug?

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- 1 A. I can't say to you one way or the other. I don't know
- but, certainly, there is some sort of activity going on,yes.
- 4 Q. Would this not prompt you to reveal "Hold on, I may not
- 5 know about this bug, the local suspense account bug, but
- 6 I did know about the receipts and payments mismatch
- 7 bug"?
- 8 A. No, sir, because I -- like I said to you before the
- 9 break, I wasn't aware of that.
- 10 Q. "I've known about that bug for three years and I didn't
- 11 disclose it in criminal proceedings"?
- 12 A. No, sir, that's not how it was. I told you I wasn't
- aware of it, and that is the way my evidence is. No,
- 14 I was not aware of that.
- 15 Q. Can we turn to your knowledge of the Callendar Square or
- 16 Falkirk bug, by looking at FUJ00122794. Start by
- 17 looking at page 2, please. Can we see an email dated
- 18 5 February at 2010, from you -- in fact, it's your
- 19 secretary, Marilyn Benjamin, yes --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- to David Jones, Gareth Jenkins and Penny Thomas, with
- 22 the heading, "West Byfleet issues -- Seema Misra --
- 23 Legally Privileged".
- 24 So David Jones, he was a lawyer, right?
- 25 A. Yeah, I believe at Fujitsu, yes.

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1 **A.** Yes.

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Q. Mr Jenkins' reply, which I think I can skip over, go topage 1, please. Bit further up, thank you.

Mr Jones' reply to you:

"This is an email that I received earlier from Gareth. You will see that he is clear that in order to answer counsel's questions [Warwick Tatford's questions] about any issues he needs to be able to check the underlying transaction logs to be able to say whether there were any issues. On the specific issues you raise Gareth's view is:

- "2. [This is about Falkirk] He needs if and time to research the background to this case before providing any response;
- "3. He is not currently in a position to make a clear statement. It is possible for there to be problems where transactions have been 'lost' in particular circumstances due to locking issues. When this happens then we have events in the underlying logs to indicate that there was an issue. Whenever we provide transaction logs to [the Post Office] we check for such events. In the case of West Byfleet, we have not been asked to provide any transaction logs and so have not made these checks."

So this is telling you about the Callendar Square

1 Q. A Fujitsu lawyer. You say:

"Dear David and Penny,

"On first glance, points 2-4 have not been answered which I reproduce below."

Then point 3:

"When Gareth Jenkins completes his statement ..."

Sorry, I should have read point 2:

"My barrister telephoned me yesterday evening and requested that I find out any information that Fujitsu may hold in relation to an office called Callendar Square in Falkirk. Apparently, Anne Chambers a systems specialist employed by Fujitsu was cross-examined and it is said that she had full knowledge of an error in the Horizon system at this Post Office. Our barrister would like Gareth to deal with this matter and expand upon whichever issue Anne Chambers raised at court within his statement.

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

Then, if we scroll up, please, we then see
Mr Jenkins' reply and so, looking at this generally,
this puts your knowledge of the Callendar Square bug at
February 2010, correct?

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problem. Whilst we're here, did it cause you concern that Mr Jenkins felt unable to make a statement as to -- if you read, "He is not currently in a position to make a clear statement" and, if we scroll down, please -- and again, and again, and again, thank you:

"He is not in a position to make a clear statement as to whether there are any known problems with the Horizon system."

9 Did that cause alarm bells to ring for you?
10 **A.** He's not able to deal with it because he can't examine
11 the logs. Secondly, I think here he's dealing directly
12 with the defence expert and I think it's in response to
13 that. So, in that sense, there's an issue but it's
14 being dealt with. It will be dealt with once he gets
15 the information he needs to examine it.

- Q. Are you saying it didn't ring any alarm bells that your
 expert witness felt unable to make a statement whether
 there were any known problems with Horizon?
- there were any known problems with Horizon?
 A. This man is a man of -- I think if you look at the documents, two things. Firstly, he -- it wasn't that
- 21 he's an expert, he's an experienced person who knows the
- 22 system. Secondly, I think we put the defence on notice
- even at the Crown Court on 1 February '10 that he --
- 24 we're not going to rely on an expert; we're relying on
- 25 a Fujitsu employee who has got the experience and the

knowledge to deal with it, and he's dealing with it. He's dealing with it in the sense that he needs

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information to be able to address it and, secondly, I think these dealing directly with the defence expert. He's assisting him. So, in that sense -- and, thirdly, I do not -- I didn't have the knowledge to understand what the locking issue was at that time.

Sorry, maybe that's a long answer but, just a comprehensive thing as to my understanding from the Inquiry papers when I read them and that's why I'm highlighting to you what I'm highlighting to you now, that I didn't understand what the locking meant. I probably need somebody like Mr Gareth Jenkins or Warwick or Mr Longman to explain that to me, and it he didn't have any alarm bells because he's dealing with it. He will deal with it when he's received the logs.

- 17 Q. I'm not going to pursue that further. That can come 18 down. Do you remember just before the publication of 19 the Second Sight Report in July 2013, you sought out 20 some of the papers concerning your knowledge of the 21 Callendar Square bug?
- 22 A. Yes, my line manager, Hugh Flemington, asked for them 23 because the Company Secretary wanted them.
- 24 Can we look, please, at FUJ00154228, and turn, please, Q. 25 to page 4. Can you see that there's an email here,

1 the best I could and provided that.

- 2 **Q.** Was this part of the scrabbling around within the Post 3 Office in the run-up to the publication of the Second 4 Sight Report, to find out what had and had not been 5 disclosed because you knew that Second Sight were going 6 to mention the existence of bugs in Horizon in their 7 report?
- 8 A. No, sir, you're further from the facts. Facts were, 9 there's a working group involved. My line manager asked 10 me, "As and when I needed input from you, or the 11 information I need and you need to be ready to provide 12 it". Company Secretary has asked him to forward certain 13 information, he has asked me to get it, and that's all 14 there is. That is my total involvement in obtaining 15 that. It was nothing untowards on my part. I don't 16 know what he was -- they were looking for, what they 17 wanted. I was asked for certain information, I found 18 it, provided it.
- 19 Q. If we go to the bottom of page 3, please. You reply to 20

21 "What 'Bugs' were referred to or considered in Misra 22 or Castleton or any other case. Are able to help." 23 Then further up the page, please. His reply:

24 "Jarnail,

25 "The bug that was discussed in both cases related to 63

1 seemingly out of nowhere from Mr Jenkins to you on 2 1 July 2013, attaching his witness statement for the 3 Misra case?

4 A. I don't think it came out from nowhere. I think 5 I emailed him and the Company Secretary, I think, also, 6 in the background, had been in touch with him to find 7 out whether there was any other problems apart from 8 the -- you know, the Falkirk issue.

9 Q. What was the context for you asking for a copy of his 10 witness statement for three years previously in July 11 '13?

12 A. Because my line manager, Hugh Flemington, asked for it 13 because he'd been asked by the Company Secretary to 14

15 Q. But Mrs Misra had been found guilty. She'd served her 16 sentence of imprisonment, the case had been concluded.

17 Why did you need to see the witness statement?

18 As I said to you, Working Group is working on it. I'd Α. 19 been told, when I request input from you or what 20 I request from you, you provide it, and I did. And he 21 asked and I think he said there's an email chain from 22 the information the Inquiry -- or the papers the Inquiry

23 supplied to me, that she wanted the Head of Legal, Hugh 24 Flemington, and he copied me in and said, "Jarnail can 25 you provide the Castleton issue or Falkirk", and I did

1 a problem found in Callendar Square, Falkirk around 2004 2 as covered in my witness statement in response to it 3 having been raised by the defence expert Professor

4 McLachlan. He was aware of it as it had also been 5 raised by Mr Castleton ... in 2006. I don't know how

6 Mr Castleton was aware of it."

> So that's all accurate. He rightly says that a single bug was disclosed in Misra, only the Callendar Square bug, correct?

10 **A.**

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11 Q. Here we're a week before the publication of the Interim 12 Report and a fortnight before the writing of the Simon 13 Clarke Advice. Then if we go up further, please, you 14 reply:

"Good afternoon and Thanks.

16 "Are they the two referred to presently. Are you 17 able to pinpoint it in your statement."

18 Then keep scrolling, please:

19 "Please see page 14 ..."

20 That will take you to the Callendar Square bug:

21 "Also attached is the summary from Castleton which 22 refers to the problem in point 23", which is also about 23 Callendar Square.

24 Then further up please, and you say: 25

"[Thank you].

1		"Gareth you said 'The Falkirk bug was first raised	1		"Gareth
2		in the Castleton civil case and was then picked up on	2		"You mention discussing the Falkirk bug in the <i>Misra</i>
3		for a number of subsequent criminal cases even [though]	3		case today, are there any other examples where bugs have
4		it was irrelevant to those environments'.	4		been discussed in court."
5		"Apart from the <i>Misra</i> case, can you give us the	5		I should say that the heading of that email is,
6		names for the other 'subsequent cases' he refers to	6		"Discuss of defect in Horizon in court", yes?
7		"	7	A.	Yes.
8		Why were you, at this stage, not revealing your	8	Q.	Then if we scroll up, please, Mr Jenkins replies:
9		knowledge of the receipts and payments mismatch bug when	9		"I'm not aware of any other specific bugs being
10		there's this detailed investigation into the revelation	10		discussed in court (either related to [Legacy] Horizon
11		of the Falkirk bug.	11		or [Horizon Online]).
12	A.	Because I didn't know about them. Like I told you	12		"The Falkirk bug was first raised in the Castleton
13		before, that was the only issue I knew about and that's	13		civil case and was then picked up on for a number of
14		what this is about. The person who would know would	14		subsequent criminal cases even though it was irrelevant
15		have been Fujitsu and the contact we had was Gareth	15		to those environments. Dense experts were using it as
16		Jenkins, and that's why we referred to him for	16		an example that Horizon has had bugs."
17		information, and that's what I'd been asked to do;	17		Then, further up, please. Alwen Lyons sorry,
18		that's what I've done.	18		just go back.
19	Q.	Can we go forwards to POL00031352 and turn to page 3 at	19		Alwen Lyons said:
20	٠.	the bottom, please. This starts off with an email chain	20		"The question was really about whether the defect
21		that ends up with you but, to start with, doesn't	21		had been spoken about in open court other than in the
22		include you.	22		Misra case as it helps that it was in the public domain
23	A.	No.	23		and not 'covered up' in any way."
24	Q.	Mr Baker to Gareth Jenkins, the Chief Information	24		Then scroll up, please. Mr Jenkins says:
25	٠.	Officer and the Company Secretary:	25		"I understand the bug was spoken about in the
		65			66
1		Castleton case (I wasn't personally involved). It was	1		scroll down to the foot of the page: Jarnail Singh,
2		definitely spoken about in the Misra case where it was	2		Criminal Lawyer, yes?
3		interrogated about at length. Other cases where it was	3	A.	Yes.
4		mentioned were settled out of court as far as I know."	4	Q.	Then go to the top of the page, please, and then keep
5		Then scroll up more, please, and stop there.	5		going, still dated 1 July 2013. You see you've changed
6		I think here Alwen Lyons says:	6		the heading to the email.
7		"Thanks Gareth can we get the witness statement for	7	A.	Because it's a post and paste, I think from
8		Castleton please Hugh Thanks Alwen."	8	Q.	Sorry?
9		Then Hugh Flemington says:	9	A.	It's post and paste. Post and paste from counsel's
10		" can you get the case details please as	10		advice pinning or write up on the Castleton and the, you
11		Alwen has asked for."	11		know, the issues in <i>Misra</i> , I think.
12		Is that what led to you sending that email or	12	Q.	You'd been asked to provide a copy of the witness
13		speaking to Mr Jenkins, asking for a copy of his witness	13		statement of Mr Jenkins, hadn't you?
14		statement?	14	A.	I don't know
15	A.	I think yeah	15	Q.	Sorry, the witness statement in the <i>Castleton</i> case.
16	Q.	So	16	A.	
17	A.	Yeah, I I'm trying to think. Yes. Yes.	17		with it because is it civil case? I don't know whether
18	Q.	Okay. So Ms Lyons is saying, "Can we get the witness	18		I had anything. The only thing I had in relation to
19		statement for Castleton please", yes?	19		Castleton was the him being mentioned and discussed
20	A.	Yes.	20		and dealt with.
21		You can see the heading of the email is still called,	21	Q.	
22	-4-	"Discuss [ie discussion] of defects in Horizon in	22	- 4-	"Thanks Gareth can we get the witness statement for
23		court", yes?	23		Castleton please Hugh"
24	A.	Yes.	24		Then to you:
25	Q.	Then go to page 1, please. This is your reply, if we	25		"Jarnail can you get Castleton case details
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please.'

2 Yes? This all about Castleton, isn't it?

3 A. Yes.

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- 4 Q. Then we go to page 1. Suddenly you're talking about 5 Seema Misra?
- A. Because the only case I know of where Castleton has been mentioned and discussed and dealt with is the Misra case. I don't know anything about it. I don't know anything about the Castleton case because I think it was a civil matter, from my recollection, and I think it's Mr Tatford I think who did the review because of the 12 whatever he was dealing -- we were dealing with at that 13 time.

But the only information I had is, as far as the Castleton is concerned, is here and I think I asked Bond Dickinson for statement to provide them, whether they did or not I don't know, but then that's the only thing I had and I provided it.

19 Q. So you were asked to provide the witness statement in 20 Lee Castleton's case, and you say:

> "In criminal trials both the prosecution and defence put their case to the jury. Who make a decision 'beyond reasonable doubt' on finding the defendant guilty, jury do not give reasons for their verdict and it is not possible to ask the jury the basis and details on which

"5. The most significant case reviewed was that of Lee Castleton (civil case only). He brought a civil action alleging deficiencies in the Horizon system. He, unlike any other subpostmaster, was prepared to be specific about some of the problems he claimed to have encountered. His claims were utterly refuted in the written judgment of the case. The judgment explains in detail why Mr Castleton's allegations were rejected. It provides a rigorous analysis that is woefully absent from the vague and illogical complaints about Horizon that are reported in some sections of the media. The judgment referred briefly to a real computer problem that emerged at Callendar Square office in Falkirk. Gareth Jenkins to investigate this problem. He provided a detailed summary of the problem in his witness statement [page 14, of 9 March 2010]. He also explained in that statement why he concluded it was irrelevant to Mrs Misra's case."

You took it upon yourself here to provide an explanation to a wide readership which sought to justify the jury's verdict in Misra, didn't you?

22 Α. No, that wasn't the case. I think I discussed it with Hugh Flemington, Head of Legal, and I explained to him: look, I don't know where to get the statement but the only thing I have got of any relevance is this", and

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they make their decision. On occasion particular point can be inferred.

"This is the only criminal trial where a jury has been required to consider in detail the integrity of the Horizon System.

- "1. Seema Misra was subpostmistress at West Byfleet. She was accused of stealing £74,000-odd between 2005 and 2008. On 21/10/10, after a 7 day trial, she was found guilty of the jury of the theft.
- "2. Mrs Misra claimed that, although she was guilty of false accounting, she had not stolen the money whose loss she had concealed. She suggested that one possible reason why the money appeared to be missing might be computer error. The jury heard from expert witnesses for the Crown and the defence. Their evidence was sufficiently detailed as to have lasted two full days. The jury's verdict showed that it was sure that computer error played no [part] in the case. There has been no appeal against conviction.
- "3. We instructed our own expert, Gareth Jenkins, from Fujitsu. This was a turning point in the case." Skipping to 4:

"In his evidence to the jury Professor McLachlan conceded that all of the theoretical problems he had raised were now irrelevant ...

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I showed it to him and I said, "Well, what do you want me to do?", and he said, "Well, send it to me and I'll get it sorted or I'll get" -- I don't know, somebody called Parsons at Bond Dickinson -- "to provide it if they -- they may have it". I said, "Well, look, I certainly haven't. I don't even know where to get it from".

And he said, "Well, just sent me that and see what I can -- maybe, you know, you can discuss it and forward it on". But there wasn't, there was nothing like what you're suggesting at all. There --

- 12 Q. You were seeking to justify --
- 13 A. No, no.
- 14 **Q.** -- why the jury's verdict was a vindication of Horizon, 15
- A. No, not at all. That's the only information I had with 16 17 regard to Castleton civil case. As I say, clearly, it's 18 a civil case only, and I've discussed it with him, and 19 said, "Hugh, look, that's all have. What did you want 20 me to do?", and he said, "Well look, send what you 21 have", and I have.
- 22 **Q**. You have been asked to provide a copy of a witness 23 statement in the Castleton case and you provided 24 a detailed narrative about the Misra case, didn't you?
- 25 A. No, because that's the only information I had and

1 I asked him "Was it relevant? Do you want me to send it 2 or what do you want me to do?" And he said "Just send 3 it as it is", and I did.

- 4 Q. You started to understand, didn't you, that the Misra 5 case was going to be a problem for you, didn't you?
- 6 A. It wasn't a problem for me because I wasn't dealing with 7 it. The problem was in the -- as I say, the way we find 8 ourselves where we are, obviously, you know, I'm grieved 9 that she had to suffer the pain that her and the family 10 had to suffer, and it was doubly -- I'm grieved, in the sense that there was mistakes being made and she had to 11

That is what I'm feeling today and I always felt when the Court of Appeal decided, rightly, what they did, the mistakes were made, I made the mistakes. We didn't have the systems and procedures and, certainly, on various stages, I wanted to drop the case and it was a decision made by Head of Criminal Law, Rob Wilson, to proceed with it. That is what it is. It is not what you are suggesting.

21 Q. You knew, Mr Singh --

go through it.

22 A.

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23 Q. -- didn't you, that your knowledge of the receipts and 24 payments mismatch bug was going to come under scrutiny 25 and what you were doing here, having been asked to

1 "Second Sight Review -- Bond Dickinson." 2 Then over the page: 3 "Fujitsu -- Bond Dickinson/Cartwright King 4

"[Cartwright King] has raised an issue concerning Horizon evidence presented by Fujitsu during the criminal trials."

So you knew, by this time, that Cartwright King had focused on and were centring upon the issue of the evidence provided by Fujitsu in the course of criminal trials, didn't you?

- A. No. 11
- Q. What did you understand that sentence to mean? 12
- 13 A. As I say, I don't remember coming across this, just --14 was that with my Inquiry's bundle papers? I don't
- 15
- Q. You agree that that's what it suggests on its face, that 16
- 17 Cartwright King are raising issues about the evidence
- presented by Fujitsu in the course of criminal trials? 18
- A. Well, that's what it says but, at that time, that didn't 19
- occur to me purely because whatever you're suggesting is 20
- 21 not true. I didn't know about that --
- 22 Q. I haven't suggested anything yet --
- 23 A. Well, suggesting --
- 24 Q. -- but it's nice to know that you think it would be not 25 true.

1 provide a copy of the witness statement in Castleton,

2 was to try to stand up to show why the result in the

3 Seema Misra case was a good one?

- 4 A. Absolutely not. Not true.
- 5 Q. Can we move on, please, to POL00297710. This is,
- 6 essentially, a state of play email sent to you on
- 7 13 July 2013. So this is between Second Sight Interim
- 8 Report and Simon Clarke Advice. If we scroll down,
- 9 please -- in fact, just read it to yourself as we scroll
- 10 down. So go back to the top, please. So it's
- 11 an overview of where we are, sent by Rob Wilson.
- 12 "Criminal Law", these are the people dealing with the 13
- criminal law; "Civil Law", these are the people dealing 14 with civil law; "Media Law", these are the people
- 15 dealing with the media law aspects of the case;
- 16 "Issues":
- 17 "Current and Historic Criminal Case Review --18 Cartwright King

19 "Review is now considering pre-separation cases."

20 "[Cartwright King] notifying [Post Office] of cases 21 where further disclosure is required as they are

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23 "Next conference call [on Wednesday, the 17th]

24 "Bond Dickinson to attend talk to facilitate 25 co-ordination ...

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- Well, you know, okay, fine.
- 2 Q. Is that your default position, when coming to give
- 3 evidence in answer to the questions from Counsel to the
- 4 Inquiry: if he suggests things, they're not true?
- 5 A. Well, no, I'm trying to listen to you, trying to
- 6 understand where you're going but I --
- 7 Q. So why did you say "What you're suggesting is not true", 8 when I hadn't made a suggestion?
- A. Well, okay, make the suggestion then. 9
- 10 Q. Thank you, Mr Singh. If we move on to the next 11
- paragraph, "New Horizon Expert":
- 12 "Hugh emailed new Fujitsu contact -- Torstein 13 Godeseth ...

14 "[Cartwright King] to arrange to meet [Torstein 15

16 "Andy Parsons, [Bond Dickinson] progressing new 17 independent expert."

18 You were aware, at least by the date of this email, 19 weren't you, of the key consequence arising from it, the 20 need to find a new expert witness?

21 A. I don't know what you're -- I don't understand what 22 you're telling me or asking me.

23 Q. On reading this email, you would have been aware of the 24 need to find a new Horizon expert, wouldn't you?

25 **A**. What's the -- I don't -- I don't know. I mean, I'm not

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1		involved in I'm not a decision maker. I don't make
2		the decisions as to what goes on. I don't know what
3		you're suggesting or what you want me to answer. What
4		is your question? I mean, I don't understand it.
5	Q.	By the time of this email, you would have been aware of

- By the time of this email, you would have been aware of the need to find a new expert on Horizon, wouldn't you?
- 6 7 A. What's the -- as I said to you, I don't -- wasn't
- 8 involved in this. The only time I think a new
- 9 independent expert had been suggested was subsequently 10 by counsel, legal counsel -- Post Office's counsel
- Susan, I think, some later stage, but I'm not aware of 11
- 12 the independency of the expert or anything of that
- 13 nature at that stage. I don't -- I wasn't involved in
- 14 it. No.

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15 Q. Can we move forward to Mr Clarke's Advice of 15 July, 16 please. POL00006357. This is Mr Clarke's Advice of 17 15 July and, if we can go forwards, please, to 18 paragraph 38 -- sorry, I haven't got a note of the page 19 number. Sorry, if we just stop there.

> This is where he sets out "Discussion", and if we just scroll slowly down, please. Then keep going, please. Stop there:

"By reason of the matters stated ... it may reasonably be suggested that the conclusions set out immediately below are established:

"Accordingly his credibility as an expert witness is fatally undermined. He shouldn't be asked to provide expert evidence in any current or future prosecution.

"Similarly, in those current and ongoing cases where Dr Jenkins has provided an expert witness statement, he should not be called upon to give that evidence ... we should seek a different independent expert to fulfil that role.

"Notwithstanding the failure is that of Dr Jennings and, arguably, of Fujitsu. This failure has a profound effect upon [Post Office and its prosecutions], not least by reason of Dr Jenkins' failure, material which should have been disclosed to defendants was not disclosed, thereby placing [the Post Office] in breach of their duty as a prosecutor.

"By reason of that failure to disclose, there are now a number of convicted defendants to whom the existence of bugs should have been disclosed and was not."

Then reading on:

"... there are also a number of current cases where there has been no disclosure where there ought to have been."

Just stopping there, in your witness statement to the Inquiry, you say that you read this advice and you 79

"Since September 2010 Horizon Online had suffered at least two defects, or bugs. One appears to have been resolved in early 2011; the other remained extant until at least January 2013 and, on one account, will not be remedied until October 2013.

"Dr Jenkins informed the Second Sight committee of the existence of the two bugs within the 12 months preceding publication of their Interim Report. Accordingly, Dr Jenkins knew of the bugs, their history and resolution during the period 5 October and 3 April."

If we scroll down -- in fact, no need to read this, just keep going, please, and over the page, and over the page:

"Conclusions

15 "What does all this mean? ... it means that 16 Dr Jennings has not complied with his duties to the 17 court, the prosecution or the defence."

Then 38:

"The reasons why Dr Jenkins failed to comply with this duty are beyond the scope of this review."

However this is the position:

"[1] Dr Jenkins failed to disclose material known to him but which undermines his expert opinion. This failure is in plain breach of his duty as an expert witness.

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1 agreed with it. You say:

"I believe I agreed with Simon Clarke's Advice on these matters."

4 A. Well, he -- he's a senior, knowledgeable, experienced 5 practitioner. He's the reviewed the papers, he's got 6 the papers, more information than anybody, he's advised 7 on it. Why would I disagree with it?

8 Q. But you say in your witness statement you agreed with the advice? 9

10 A. Agreed?

11 Q. Yes.

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12 A. Yes. Well, I've read it. I mean, agreed in the sense 13 that it's right. I mean, if he's a discredited witness 14 who's not given true evidence to the court, how can you 15 actually use him?

Q. So if we just go back up to paragraph 38, then: 16

17 "The reasons as to why [Gareth Jenkins] failed to 18 comply with his duty are beyond the scope of this 19 review."

Do you agree that you were one of the very people capable of addressing the reasons why Gareth Jenkins may not have discharged his duties of disclosure?

23 A. No. I -- no, that wasn't the case.

24 Q. Do you agree you were one of the very people capable of 25 addressing the reasons why Mr Jenkins may not have

- 1 discharged his duties of disclosure because you had not 2 told him about those duties?
- 3 A. That is true but, like I tried to explain to you in the
 - last time I gave evidence, he came in as an experienced
- 5 person who came to assist the defence expert. We'd
- 6 notified the court and the defence, who accepted that we
- 7 weren't going to rely on expert but a Fujitsu employee.
- 8 There was no person within the Post Office that we
- 9 had -- you know, as to how to instruct an expert. We
- 10 probably made mistakes and there was -- somewhere along
- 11 the line somebody should have realised, and probably me,
- 12 Rob Wilson and Mr Tatford, that he is an expert now, we
- 13 should have notified him of his obligations, and we
- 14 failed in that. I agree on that, yes.
- 15 Q. Before saying to yourself, "I agree with this man's
- advice", did you think you should explain to anyone that
- 17 you never gave Mr Jenkins any compliant written expert
- 18 instructions?

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- 19 A. It didn't come to light. Like I said to you, it was one
- 20 of those cases where nobody picked it up. I mean,
- 21 you've got somebody like Mr Tatford, who is --
- 22 Q. Mr Singh, sorry to speak over you. We've moved on now
- and somebody has picked it up, and I'm asking what was
- done in response to somebody picking it up?
- 25 A. I don't know. I mean, I don't recall. I mean, I don't
- 1 highlight it to the people that are dealing with it,
 - because these advices are now for the senior people,
- you've got Mr Flemington and Ms Crichton. This is forthem.
- 5 I mean, I think we just get it secondhand or they
- 6 pass it on, the advice. I don't know when I got it or
- 7 when I looked at it and, certainly --
- 8 Q. Mr Singh, this advice is criticising, in very strong
- 9 terms, Gareth Jenkins for not giving disclosure of,
- amongst other things, the receipts and payments mismatch
- 11 bug, yes?

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- 12 A. I don't know what -- well, certainly criticising in the
- sense that he wasn't told of his obligations because we
- 14 didn't understand the obligations ourselves.
- 15 Q. I'm not going to go over it again. What Mr Clarke does
- 16 is he highlights the passages from the Second Sight
- 17 Report, which disclose the two bugs, one of which is
- 18 receipts and payments mismatch.
- 19 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 20 $\,$ **Q.** He then says, "It's clear that Gareth Jenkins knew about
- 21 those and he failed to give disclosure of them", yes?
- 22 A. I don't --
- 23 Q. Then it comes to this part. It says:
- 24 "The reasons [why he] failed to comply with these
- 25 duties are beyond the scope", but the consequences are 83

- recall -- I know there was -- obviously Mr -- the
- 2 Cartwright King picked it up but it didn't occur to me.
- I don't know what happened because, at that time,
- 4 I think the reviews were taking place and I was told,
- 5 because of the matters I'd been involved in, previous
- 6 prosecution while part of the Criminal Law Team, they
- 7 want to keep an independency of it, I should keep away
- 8 from the reviews or anything that's happening
- 9 surrounding it, and I did.
- 10 Q. Before simply saying, "I agree with this advice", did
- 11 you think that you ought to say to somebody, whether
- 12 Cartwright King or otherwise, "I hadn't explained to
- 13 Mr Jenkins his duty as an expert to give disclosure"?
- 14 A. I mean, I probably didn't get the training, supervision
- or whatever you like to call it. Maybe I wasn't well
- 16 versed with what the expert witness obligations were or
- 17 how we were meant to deal with it. Certainly, it is
- a failing or mistake on my part, I accept, but we didn't
- 19 have the systems and procedures in place to deal with
- 20 it, and that's why we, as a team, fell on.
 - We should have been explained, maybe it's something that we should have dealt with appropriately right from
- 22 that we should have dealt with appropriately right fro
- the outset. Nobody picked it up and, certainly, here,
- 24 I would have thought that somebody at Cartwright King,
- 25 who are the criminal law specialist, would be able to

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- 1 as follows, yes?
- 2 A. Yes.

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- 3 Q. Did you not think, "Hold on, Mr Jenkins did tell us
- 4 about the receipts and payments mismatch bug. I got
- 5 sent an email containing his report about it on the
- 6 Friday before trial and I sat on it"?
- 7 A. I did not receive it, I didn't read it. I didn't print
- 8 it. Like I told you, that's my evidence, and it didn't
- 9 occur to me because it was the senior team dealing with
- 10 it and I was told to keep away from it, purely because
- 11 of the cases being reviewed were the old Royal Mail
- 12 Group cases.
- 13 Q. We see lots of investigation about what did we know
- 14 about Falkirk, we see lots of investigation about what
- did we know about the local suspense account, why is
- there not a similar inward-looking approach about "What
- did we, in particular, what did Jarnail Singh, know
- 18 about the receipts and payments mismatch bug"?
- A. I think that's a question for the senior Legal Team and
 Cartwright King because they're dealing with it.
- 21 Because, at that stage, my role was completely
- 22 different. My role was basically in between the Post
- 23 Office Limited and Cartwright King and, as and when my
- line manager, Hugh Flemington, needed input or specific
- 25 advice. That's --

- 1 Q. On the last occasion we addressed your refusal of 2 defence requests for information about system faults in 3
- the course of the Seema Misra prosecution, yes?
- 4 A. I don't know which specific bit --5 Q. They wrote to you, Issy Hogg wrote to you and said, "Can
- 6 we have details of known system faults?"
- 7 A. I don't recall.
- 8 Q. I'm not going to go back over the transcript of the last 9 occasion.
- 10 Α. No --
- Q. You'd refused disclosure of the Known Error Log, hadn't 11 12 vou?
- 13 A. I didn't refuse anything. I mean, the way it was dealt,
- 14 they came in, and it was looked at by Mr Tatford,
- 15 Mr Longman, Rob Wilson and it was just the logs, I think
- 16 we had problem with, because the relationship --
- 17 commercial relationship or the contractual relationship
- 18 between the Post Office and Fujitsu. I mean, that's
- 19 nothing within my control. If it was within my --
- 20 I first experience I've had of obtaining those logs were
- 21 in the Misra case, because I've not dealt with any other
- 22 cases. I didn't understand any of the other issues or
- 23 problems regarding the problems with dealing with here,
- 24 because I had no experience. That was the first time
- 25 I came in to a lot of these documents. So I don't
- 1 can see from the email from 5 February '10, from
- 2 Mr Jones, the Head of -- Fujitsu, and Issy Hogg.
- 3 I mean, she was only glad that you had somebody like
- 4 that to explain the unique Horizon system to their
- 5 expert. So --
- 6 Q. Mr Singh, did you adopt a strategy of lumping this all
- 7 on to Mr Jenkins?
- 8 A. No, absolutely not. I mean, I didn't lump anything on
- 9 anybody. I mean, my thought was that -- mistake was
- 10 that I did not pass this case on to somebody more
- experienced like Rob Wilson but Rob Wilson reassured me 11
- 12 "I'm there in the background as and when you need me,
- 13 I'm the decision maker, as and when you need something,
- 14 come to me and I will deal with it". And you had
- 15 somebody experienced like Mr Tatford, who was
- 16 an experienced independent barrister, who dealt with
- 17 these cases for the Post Office and Royal Mail Group, on
- 18 a number of years -- for a number of years.
- 19 You've got Mr Longman, who has dealt with Fujitsu as 20 to obtaining those information, but it's my, you know, 21 my -- I'm a lawyer in the case. I should have been able
- 22 to instruct him in a proper way at some stage when
- 23 I found out that it should have been done, but I -- it
- 24 was overlooked because nobody picked it up. And I think
- 25 even it went to court --

- really quite understand what you're asking of me or what 1
- 2 you want me to reply to you.
- 3 Q. You knew that Mr Jenkins wasn't a professional expert 4 witness, didn't you?
- 5 Α. Yes
- 6 Q. You knew --
- 7 A. Experienced person --
- Q. -- that he had very little experience of giving evidence 8
- 9 in court?
- 10 A. I didn't know that because he was actually dealing with
- 11 a lot of the interim reports from the defence expert,
- plus, I think, Rob Wilson, I think, had dealt with him 12
- 13 on a number of occasions, not in court but certainly as
- 14 far as obtaining information or witness statements,
- 15 because he was the one who actually somewhere said,
- 16 well, look, you know -- who suggested him, I think,
- 17 somewhere along the line. But I -- it was my first
- 18 experience of dealing with an expert and, as I say, the
- 19 first time I'd dealt with anything of that nature --
- 20 last time I dealt with anything of that nature was
- 21 probably about 20-odd years ago, in 1989/90, when I was
- 22 working in private practice.

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- But it obviously is a mistake on my part that
- 24 I should have been more aware as to what the expert
 - duties are. He came in as an experienced person, as you
 - Mr Singh, all I'm asking is: this is somebody picking it
- 2 up and what you didn't do was say, "Hold on, Post Office
- 3 is at fault here too. I'm at fault here too". What you
- 4 did is you covered up your own knowledge of the receipts
- 5 and payments mismatch bug and let the false narrative
- 6 continue that Mr Jenkins had not given disclosure of it,
- 7 didn't you?
- 8 A. No. No, no, that's further from the truth. That's
- 9 not -- that's not the case.
- MR BEER: Sir, can we take the second break until 12.15, 10
- 11 please?
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, we can. 12
- 13 MR BEER: Thank you, sir.
- 14 (12.04 pm)
- 15 (A short break)
- 16 (12.15 pm)
- 17 MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear us?
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you, yes. 18
- MR BEER: Thank you. 19
- 20 Mr Singh, can we start by looking at POL00155555.
- 21 These are notes of Rodric Williams, dated 2 September
- 22 2013, you can see the date on the right-hand side.
 - 23 A. Yes, I can.
 - 24 Q. Mr Williams has told us that these are his notes in
- 25 which he recorded a conversation with Martin Smith of

1 Cartwright King, of that date, okay?

2 A. Yes, yes.

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Q. Can we look at the bottom left-hand side, please, and
 keep going, please. On the left-hand side, it says

5 "M Smith", and then, under the first arrow:

"Don't think he's ever been advised of his duties."

Then, on the right-hand side, in the box, second
line in:

"What were we doing to instruct GJ", which Mr Williams told us meant Gareth Jenkins.

So on the left-hand side, Mr Williams told us that this was a reference to Gareth Jenkins, "Don't think he's ever been advised of his duties".

he's ever been advised of his duties".
 Did Mr Smith ever discuss with you whether
 Mr Jenkins had been properly advised of his duties?
 A. Sorry, can you repeat that again?

17 Q. Did Mr Smith ever discuss with you whether Mr Jenkinshad been properly advised of his duties?

19 A. I don't recollect him -- having that discussion.

20 I don't think he told me, no.

- 21 Q. Did Mr Williams raise the matter with you?
- 22 A. I don't think so. I don't recall but I don't think so.
- 23 Q. Did either of them suggest to you that Mr Jenkins had not been ever advised of his duties?
- OF A I doubt recell. No. I doubt think on but I do

25 **A.** I don't recall. No, I don't think so but I don't

- 1 "What were we doing to instruct Gareth Jenkins?"
- 2 A. Sorry, what's the date of this?
- 3 Q. 2 September, so a week before the conference. Was this
- 4 never raised with you? You're the solicitor in the
- 5 case --
- 6 A. I don't think so --
- 7 Q. -- in the *Misra* case, at which Mr Jenkins gave evidence8 in court?
- 9 A. Yeah, well, I mean, the only thing I heard was that was
 10 he was -- this is the only trial where he's actually
- 11 given evidence. I know Cartwright King --
- 12 Q. It was unique for that reason, wasn't it?
- 13 A. I know Cartwright King were using him but I had lost
- 14 contact then, because they, you know, they -- all the
- 15 work was outsourced to them and, certainly, Mr Williams
- 16 was busy doing his thing. I don't recall anybody coming
- 17 up to me and saying, "Look, you didn't instruct him
- 18 properly", or, "You didn't explain his obligations to
- 19 him". I don't recall that, no.
- 20 $\,$ Q. Was it the case that this was the truth that dare not be
- 21 spoken, that "We, the Post Office, are implicated in
- 22 this too"?
- 23 A. Maybe the Post Office is but -- I mean, I don't know
- 24 about the Post Office but certainly I wasn't thinking
- 25 like that. No.

1 recall. I mean --

- Q. Was it relayed back to you that Cartwright King appearedto have taken the view that Mr Jenkins had never been
- 4 advised of his expert duties?
- 5 A. I don't recall having that conversations with them.
- Q. Was that a matter not more widely discussed within thePost Office, to your knowledge?
- 8 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 9 Q. Was it a matter raised with or discussed with Mr Altman,
- 10 King's Counsel?
- 11 A. I don't recall. I mean, I don't remember it. I mean,
- 12 he may have done but I didn't brief Mr Altman. Bond
- 13 Dickinson always did, and they provided the papers.
- 14 Q. You were present at a conference with him, weren't you?
- 15 A. Yeah, in September, yeah.
- 16 Q. On 9 September, I think --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 **Q**. -- 2013?
- 19 **A.** Yes.

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- 20 Q. What we've seen so far is Mr Clarke saying that
- 21 Mr Jenkins is at fault for all of these things. We've
- got a note here on 2 September 2013, with Cartwright
- 23 King seemingly saying, "We don't think Gareth Jenkins
- 24 has ever been advised of his duties", and Mr Williams
- 25 writing an internal rhetorical question:

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- 1 Q. Why weren't you thinking like that?
- 2 A. Well, as I said to you, it is -- it was a strange sort
- 3 of set up. My role was basically, as you said,
- 4 a postbox. I relayed information from one place to
- 5 another. I wasn't really involved in this heavyweight
- 6 litigation: Cartwright King on the one side and you had
- 7 Bond Dickinson on the other, and you had the Post Office
- 8 in the middle instructing one or the other. So I --
- 9 nobody raised it with me. Nobody. Even my line manager
- 10 never mentioned it, to my knowledge, to -- but certainly
- 11 I don't recall anybody discussing it, no.
- 12 Q. Thank you. That can come down.

Can I move to my second topic, then, which is the shredding of documents. We've heard a significant amount of evidence in relation to the circumstances in which Mr Simon Clarke came to write his so-called

17 shredding advice on 2 August 2013, and so I'm going to

18 be targeted in my questions to you.

Can I start, please, with the conversation that began this and can we look at paragraph 55 of your second witness statement, please.

A. Sorry, Mr Beer, can I just have five minutes? My eyes
 are -- sir, can I -- I've got a problem with my eyes.

24 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: If you want a five-minute break,

25 Mr Singh, please have one.

25

1	THE	E WITNESS: Yeah, please.
2		Sorry about that, Mr Beer, sorry.
3	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: I think the best thing is if you leave
4		the hearing room, Mr Singh. Everybody else should wait
5		in the hearing room for five minutes and, if that
6		doesn't prove to be enough, then we'll take it from
7		there but, for the moment, you leave and have a short
8		break and then Mr Beer will reconnect with me in five
9		minutes and tell me what's
10	THE	E WITNESS: Thank you.
11	MR	BEER: Thank you, sir.
12	(12	.22 pm)
13		(A short break)
14	(12	28 pm)
15		BEER: Sir, can you see and hear us?
16	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
17	MR	BEER: Thank you very much.
18		Mr Singh, we were going to look at paragraph 55 of
19		your second witness statement, which is on page 20.
20		It's up on the screen for you. Just the context is
21		there had been the Wednesday weekly hub meetings set up.
22		I think you say earlier that you weren't involved in
23		setting them up, you weren't present on the first one,
24		on 19 July, you did attend on 24 July 2013 and,
25		paragraph 55, the third meeting, you say:
		93
1		the minutes should be shredded and, for the future, they
2		should be scrapped?
3	A.	I don't know, all I know is that he came, he was a bit
4		upset and said sort of, "Can I speak to you?" I said,
5		"Certainly, David, not a problem".
6		Then he said, "Look, we've been told by John Scott
7		to shred" sorry, "scrap and shred minutes".
8	Q.	Were both of those things mentioned? One, you'll
9		appreciate, is backwards looking, ie "shred what we've
10		got"
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	and the other is forward looking, that "We're going
13		to scrap", ie not do, "the minute taking in the future"?
14	Α.	I think so. I mean, I can't tell you, you know, I don't
15		know, 10 years on, but I certainly got Martin Smith
16		basically I quoted Mr Posnett to him, and said "Look,
17	_	Martin, do you want to speak"
18	Q.	I'm going to come in a moment to what happened later
19	Α.	Sorry, yeah.
20	Q.	when you spoke to Martin Smith.
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	I'm just trying to understand from this evidence whether
23		it's two things: one looking backwards and one looking
24	_	forwards?
25	Α.	Yeah, he mentioned both, ves.

"I recall after the weekly meeting on 31 July, which 1 2 [you] believe took place in the morning, Dave Posnett 3 came to see me. [He] was seeking my guidance because he said that John Scott had instructed him that typed 4 minutes of the weekly calls should be scrapped and/or 5 6 shredded. I immediately felt very uncomfortable and 7 I told Dave Posnett very clearly that he must not do that and he should tell John Scott the same. 8 q I recognised that this was a serious issue and I called 10 Martin Smith at [Cartwright King]. I think I might have 11 even have done this when Dave Posnett was print so that he could talk to Martin Smith if needed, but I am not 12 13 certain of this. In any event I relayed word for word 14 what Dave Posnett had told me and I believe Martin Smith's recorded is an accurate note. I believe I also 15 16 spoke with Hugh Flemington about this but this might not 17 have been on the same day." 18 So that's your recollection of the conversation with 19 Mr Posnett and what you did as a result, yes? 20 Α. 21 Q. So what Mr Posnett told you, we can see from the fourth 22 line, is that Mr Scott had instructed that: 23 "... minutes of the weekly calls should be scrapped 24 and/or shredded." 25 What was the context of that, that, for the past, 1 Thank you. Presumably that suggestion was deeply 2 concerning to you? 3 A. Yes, of course. I was really uncomfortable --4 Q. Probably more than uncomfortable because, I mean, if 5 I can help you, the context, would this be right, would 6 be the discussions concerned Horizon faults, and touched 7 upon possible non-disclosure of Horizon faults in past 8 criminal proceedings, and the instruction was being 9 given by the Head of Security, whose department had led 10 on prosecution of subpostmasters? A. Yes. Certainly, yes. 11 12 Q. You could add a third thing, another context, that this 13 time it was still the Head of Security, John Scott, 14 making decisions on prosecutions, wasn't it? A. From what I recall, yes. Yes, he was. 15 Q. So those three things -- we're looking at past 16 17 non-disclosure in criminal proceedings; the instructions being given by the Head of Security, who's responsible 18 for criminal proceedings; and he's the current decision 19 20 maker -- that would make this kind of instruction very 21 serious, wouldn't it? A. That's the reason why I told David, "You must not do 22 23 it." I don't know, I probably swore at him, to be

honest with you and said, "What are you doing and what

are you thinking?" But I didn't -- you know, I didn't

1	quote him on that.	But, yes, l	l mean it wa	as serious
2	I mean, there's all	sorts of thi	ngs come o	ff it, you

3 know, there could have been all sorts of consequences.

4 And that's probably why it prompted me to phone Martin

there and then, so he could speak to David straight -- you know, there and then.

7 Q. You say three to four lines from the end:

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"In any event I relayed word for word what Dave Posnett had told me and I believe Martin Smith's record is an accurate note."

I'm just going to see which record you're referring to there, where you say, "I believe Martin Smith's record is an accurate note". POL00139745.

This is his note of that call at 6.00pm on 31 July. Is this the note you were referring to as being an accurate record?

17 A. I think more of Simon Clarke's Advice, I think.

18 Q. It's just in your witness statement, you said that19 Martin Smith's record is an accurate one?

A. I think that's not really -- that just says scrapped,
 but I think the conversation is a little bit more than
 that, there was certainly shredding, and probably --

23 Q. You see this, under the detail, says:

"Discussing disclosure issues: J Scott has instructed that type minutes be scrapped."

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1 then it isn't?

- A. I think I said, "Where's that coming from?" or something
 like that and he said "Oh, Bond Dickinson are suggesting
 or advising on that".
- Q. That's slightly different. My question is exactly what
 you just asked of yourself there, where is this coming
 from? Is this coming from Mr Scott through Mr Posnett
 or, is it, as you just suggested, coming from Bond
 Dickinson?
- A. I think -- I said, well, look why is this -- why is this occurring? Why is -- is he asking to do that? And he said "It's -- Bond Dickinson are advising", and then
 I think he -- I can't 100 per cent be sure but he either had the minutes with him of the first Horizon weekly
 call or he subsequently forwarded it to me, or something

or other, and then I think there's mention of that in

17 there, about the, you know -- if it's -- you know, more

or less what it says here. If it's minuted, it's

19 disclosable, if it isn't, then it isn't. You know, that

20 type of thing. I can't remember 100 per cent what it

21 was but --

Q. So to be clear, Mr Singh, what you're asking Mr Clarke
 to advise on here is something that didn't emanate from
 John Scott, it instead, on your understanding, came from
 Bond Dickinson?

Bond Dickinson:

1 That only mentions what I've described as the 2 future, ie what's going to happen from hereon in. Are 3 you sure you were additionally told that past minutes 4 were to be shredded?

5 A. Certainly David Posnett mentioned shredding, yes.

Q. Thank you. Can we move on, please, to POL00325474.
 This is the following day, 1 August 2013, at 8.10 in the morning. It's your email to Martin Smith with the

9 subject "Disclosure in Criminal cases":

10 "Martin

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"I know Simon is advising on disclosure. As discussed can he look into the common myth that emails, written communications, etc, meetings. If it's produced its then available for disclosure. If it's not then technically it isn't? Possible true of civil case NOT CRIMINAL CASES?"

By this time, Mr Clarke had been coming to write an advice, yes?

19 A. Yes, I think he told me that he was and, if I wanted him
20 to deal with this, as well, he'll, you know, he'll place
21 it before him.

Q. Is this something else that was said in the conversation
 that you had with Dave Posnett, that had emanated from
 Mr Scott, namely if something is written down, then it's
 available for disclosure, if you don't write it down,

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A. The second bit is from Bond Dickinson. The first bit
 I think -- well, those matters are highlighted to me by

3 Mr Posnett, you know, the minutes and also the advice by

4 Bond Dickinson.

Q. Mr Singh, can I be very clear about this, what are
 regard as the first bit and the second bit. We've
 talked about the shredding and the scrapping --

8 **A.** Yes

9 Q. -- which you relayed, you say, in your conversation to10 Mr Smith.

11 **A.** Yes.

12 Q. Then this is an add-on. You're saying, the following13 morning, "Can Mr Clarke also address this, please?" I'm

14 asking: where did this come from? Did this come from

15 Mr Scott or did this, on your understanding, come from

16 Bond Dickinson?

A. No, Dave Posnett pointed it out to me and I said, "Well,
 where's that coming from?" and he said Bond Dickinson is
 advising, you know, in respect of disclosure.

20 **Q.** Did he say who within Bond Dickinson was saying this?

21 A. I think Mr Parsons.

22 Q. Andrew Parsons?

23 A. Yeah.

Q. Thank you. Can we move on, please, to POL00006799, and
 look at page 2. This Mr Clarke's advice of 2 August,

the so-called shredding advice. In paragraph 5, if we scroll down a little bit, he sets out, as is good practice, the information upon which he is acting in order properly to advise. He says:

"At some point following the conclusion of the third conference call ... it became unclear as to whether and to what extent material was either being retained centrally or disseminated. The following information has been relayed to me:

"The minutes of a previous conference call had been typed at emailed to a number of [people]. An instruction was then given that those emails and

minutes should be and have been, destroyed: the word

'shredded' was conveyed to me."

The second part of that would be accurate. You would have conveyed that to Martin Smith, wouldn't you?

17 A. I think, yes.

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- 18 Q. What about the part which says, "The minutes have been19 destroyed"? Had you conveyed that to Martin Smith?
- A. Certainly, I don't know about destroyed. I think
 shredded definitely, but I'm not sure about "destroyed".
- 22 Q. I'm asking a slightly different question, Mr Singh.
- 23 A. Sorry.
- Q. One is about an instruction having been given, whether
 using the language of "destroyed" or "shredded", and
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- That would tend to suggest that perhaps it was legal advice, which would be consistent with you saying that you had been told that this had come from Bond Dickinson, correct?
- 5 A. That's -- I think David Posnett pointed that out to me.
- 6 It was one of the -- you know, it was -- in one of the
- 7 minutes -- weekly calls, when I wasn't asked to attend.
- 8 **Q.** Okay:
- 9 "Advice had been given to Post Office ...
- "'If it's not minuted it's not in the public domainand therefore not disclosable.
- 12 "'If it's produced it's available for
- 13 disclosure -- if not minuted then technically it's
- 14 not'."
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. You agree you did pass that on --
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. -- in effect, via your email of 1 --
- 19 A. Yes, it's in there, yes.
- 20 Q. Then scroll down to iv, please:
- 21 "some at [the Post Office] do not wish to minute the 22 weekly conference calls."
- 23 Is that something that you passed on?
- 24 A. No, I don't think -- I don't know about -- I don't think
- 25 I passed that on but I certainly the first. The last 103

- 1 then the second issue is, in fact, whether that's been
- 2 carried into effect. Did you tell Mr Smith that the
- 3 instruction had been carried into effect?
- 4 A. I can't remember that. I mean, all I said was --
- 5 a memory, David was there and I think within minutes
- 6 of -- I phoned Martin Smith, I relayed it -- I mean,
- 7 I don't know, to be honest -- to be honest with you,
- 8 whether, you know -- the shredding or destroying has
- 9 been carried out or not but --
- 10 Q. Okay, move on to the second point, (ii). The11 information relayed to Mr Clarke was:
- "Handwritten minutes were not to be typed and shouldbe forwarded to [Post Office] Head of Security."
- 14 Was that something you told Mr Smith about?
- 15 A. Certainly, I think David Posnett did say, you know, that
- 16 Mr Scott wants them, or something like that but,
- 17 I mean -- but I -- he needs them or he wants them, or it
- 18 needs to be forwarded to him, but I don't know. But
- 19 certainly, if that's what I said, that's more or less --
- 20 David Posnett's there, and I just relayed it to him and
- 21 I said, "Look, do you want to speak to David yourself?"
- Q. So you think this is something that you would havepassed on to Martin Smith?
- 24 **A.** Probably, yes.
- 25 Q. "iii. Advice had been given to Post Office Limited ..."
- 1 bit I'm not sure about.
- 2 Q. In terms of the consequences of all of this, what was
- done to ask Mr Scott what he had said and why he was
- 4 saying it?
- 5 A. It was difficult for me because I think he was senior to
- 6 me and I think, also, I think he -- you know, he
- 7 reported to Susan. But my first concern was to document
- 8 it and put it, you know, put it out to independent
- 9 person to make a record and to enforce it on the --
- 10 within the Legal Team or the Post Office or -- you know,
- 11 how important disclosure is, to get it right. I don't
- 12 know whether I -- I spoke to Hugh or even Rodric,
- 13 I don't recall now. But that's all I done. I mean,
- 14 I didn't, you know, follow it up with anything more than15 that.
- 10 O T---
- 16 Q. To your knowledge, what was done to confront Mr Scott17 with these issues?
- 18 A. I don't know whether Mr Scott was confronted but,
- 19 certainly, I think I probably was more confronted than
- 20 he was because I was told "Why didn't you come to us
- 21 first?" I think Susan subsequently -- I don't know when
- 21 mist? I tillik Susaii subsequently -- I don't know whe
- that conversation took place.
- Q. Can you keep your head up and therefore your voice up,please?
- 25 A. Yeah, I don't know when it was. I think some time

- 1 after, I think, Susan spoke to me and said, "Well, look
- 2 why didn't you come to us first, rather than going to
- 3 Cartwright King"?
- 4 Q. What was the context of that, "Why didn't you come to us
- 5 first, rather than Cartwright King"?
- 6 A. I don't know. I don't know to be honest what that was
- 7 but, certainly, the way I saw it, that it had to be
- 8 dealt with, because saw it as a very serious, serious
- 9 matter
- 10 Q. What was done to treat it as a very serious matter,
- then? 11
- 12 A. Well, on my part --
- 13 Q. Other than passing the information to Simon Clarke and
- him saying it's a bad thing? 14
- A. Well, the thing is it's beyond my grade, in that sense, 15
- 16 but certainly I've highlighted it. I don't know who
- 17 else I could have gone to.
- 18 Q. Never mind you yourself. To your knowledge, was
- 19 anything done at all, as a result of this?
- 20 A. Not to my knowledge, no.
- 21 Q. This indicated that the Head of Security, responsible
- 22 for prosecutions, had a fundamental misunderstanding of
- 23 the rules of disclosure. He'd been the Prosecution
- 24 Authority and the Head of Security for years. Why was
- 25 nothing done?

105

- 1 know, involved in any discussions or conversations.
- 2 Q. So, to your knowledge, this issue was not raised with
- 3 the CCRC?
- 4 A. I -- not to my knowledge, no.
- 5 Q. You've told us that you sought advice from Martin Smith
- 6 and Simon Clarke of Cartwright King in relation to the
- 7 Post Office's criminal litigation disclosure
- 8 obligations, following the suggestion that Mr Scott had
- 9 instructed minutes be shredded and scrapped. Did you
- 10 seek any equivalent advice from the Procurator Fiscal's
- 11 office in Scotland?
- 12 A. Not -- no. I can categorically say, no, I did not, sir,
- 13
- 14 Q. Did you seek any equivalent advice from your Scottish
- agents, BTO? 15
- A. No, no, I didn't. 16
- 17 Q. Was Mr Clarke's advice, this advice of 2 August 2013,
- 18 disclosed to either the Procurator Fiscal or your agents
- in Scotland, BTO, to your knowledge? 19
- 20 A. I certainly didn't. I don't know whether Cartwright
- King did or not. 21
- 22 Q. To your knowledge, was there any discussion between the
- 23 Post Office and those in Scotland in relation to this
- 24
- 25 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

- A. Well, it was scary, really, because I think he was 1
 - an ex-police officer as well, I think. So I don't know,
- 3 to be honest, years go by, and -- but, certainly, at
- 4 that time, maybe I should have had done more. I --
- Q. This was a matter of post-conviction disclosure as well, 5 6 wasn't it?
- 7 A. Yes, it was very, very serious and certainly, on my
- 8 part, I think, after speaking to David and Martin,
- I went outside and walked around the block a few times 9
- 10 because it was just -- I just felt really, really, you
- 11 know, really annoyed with myself, and I think it was
- 12 that point I was thinking about leaving, it was that 13
 - serious.
- 14 I don't know, it was scary that anything like that 15 can happen and there's -- you know, especially when
- 16 you've been advised on it and we got all sorts of issues
- 17 and problems within.
- 18 Was it so scary that, to your knowledge, the CCRC were Q.
- 19 told about it?
- 20 A. I think they were involved in it. I don't know whether
- 21 they were told about it because it wasn't something that
- 22 I got involved in, certainly there was a lot of advices
- 23 being sought, whether about this matter or other issues
- 24 Post Office found themselves involved in at that stage.
- 25 But it wasn't something that I was copied into or, you 106
 - Thank you. Can I turn to my third topic, please, which
- 2 is the Post Office's prosecution strategy. Do you agree
- there came a time in mid-2012 when decisions were being 3
- made as to whether the Post Office should keep 4
- 5 prosecuting cases?
- 6 A. I don't know what -- can you say what you're
- 7 specifically referring to?
- 8 Q. Okay, I'll take you to a document, POL00180229. If we
- 9 look at the foot of the page, thank you, an email to you
- 10 of June 2012 from Susan Crichton, in the case of
- Yetminster: 11

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- 12 "Jarnail -- if we decide not to go ahead with
- 13 criminal prosecution are there any risks for [Post
- 14 Office]?"

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- 15 Yes? Your reply at the top:
- 16 "Susan ..."
- 17 I'm going to read this as it's written:
- 18 "As a prosecutor Post Office prosecution limited
- 19 must be seen to exercise its judgement in all cases
- 20 which give rise to potential criminal proceeding to
- 21 promote effective consistent and fair decision making. 22 If not a third party examination of our cases by say
- 23
- Director of Public Prosecution may result in withdrawal
- 24 of our ability to prosecute.

"Decision not to prosecute cannot be kept secret

108

'everybody will find out what we are doing' this may
open Post Office to criticism and undermine faith in
Horizon. This U-turn will be exploited by potential
third party subpostmasters' alliance. It may send
a green light for defendants to get hold of their Member
of Parliament and result in copulation.

We need to send a message that 'Post offices cannot be used as a bank'. We hold a robust stance, any wrongdoing will be investigated, prosecuted and money recovered."

Was it the Post Office's policy to bring prosecutions against subpostmasters to "maintain faith in Horizon"?

14 A. No, I don't think so, sir.

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- 15 Q. Why were you concerned that, if a decision not to16 prosecute was taken, it may undermine faith in Horizon?
- 17 A. I think Susan Crichton asked me for a general advice.
- 18 Q. Well, no, she didn't. She said "If we decide not to go19 ahead with criminal prosecution are there any risks"?
- 20 $\,$ A. Well, those are the two risks. I was asked "Look, as
- 21 far as the criminal aspect of the prosecution are
- 22 concerned, we're getting advice from Cartwright King.
- 23 But you need to have broadened your advice to look
- 24 through the business lens". So that's why I divided
- 25 into two bits. Firstly, you know, the legal risk that, 109
- Q. Okay, so looking at that second paragraph, then, you
 say:
 - "[A] Decision not to prosecute ... may open Post Office to criticism and undermine faith in Horizon."
- Did you see prosecutions as a way of maintaining faith in Horizon?
- 7 A. No, no, I --

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- 8 Q. Why did you write that?
- 9 A. I don't know, this is -- "cannot be kept secret".
- 10 I don't recall exactly what was -- I was thinking -- all
- 11 I was thinking about, you can't -- you've got to have
- 12 a consistent approach. You can't, you know, have one
- 13 case and decide not to prosecute -- not -- you know, and
- 14 not to go ahead and --
- 15 Q. You deal with consistency in your first paragraph?
- 16 **A.** Yeah.
- 17 Q. Here you're dealing with a separate issue, Mr Singh,
- 18 which is "If we don't prosecute it may undermine faith
- 19 in Horizon".
- 20 **A.** Um --
- 21 Q. I'm asking: did you see prosecutions as a way of22 maintaining faith in Horizon?
- 23 A. No. I think this case was one of those MP cases that's
- 24 referred to, you know, the Post Office and I don't know
- 25 what discussions I had with her. She mentioned that we

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- you know, when you're making a decision it's got to be a consistent, fair decision.
- 3 **Q.** I'm not asking you about that at the moment.
- 4 A. Oh, sorry.
- 5 Q. I'm asking you about the second paragraph, which says:
- 6 "Decision not to prosecute ... may open Post Office
- 7 to criticism and undermine faith in Horizon."
- 8 A. Um --
- 9 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry to interrupt, Mr Beer, but I just
- want to understand the context. My reading of the email
- 11 from Ms Crichton is that it is confined to a question as
- 12 to whether the prosecution relating to the Yetminster
- 13 branch should go ahead.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine.

- 14 A. Just one, yeah.
- 15 **SIR WYN WILLIAMS:** Am I right in thinking that because,
- obviously, that may impact upon Mr Singh's reply.
- 17 MR BEER: Sir, that's my understanding but Mr Singh should
- 18 give the evidence.
- 20 MR BEER: Was it your understanding that the question was
 - asked and, therefore, fell to be answered by reference
- 22 to not prosecuting the subpostmaster at the Yetminster
- 23 branch?

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- 24 A. I think so. I think she -- yes. I think it was just --
- yeah, Ms -- I can't remember the lady's name, yeah.

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- 1 need to, you know, draft a letter mentioning the Horizon
- 2 system. So I'm trying to give a comprehensive reply,
- 3 I suppose, dealing with each individual bit of what
- 4 questions she's posed to me.
- 5 Q. Did the Post Office regard it as important to maintain
- 6 faith in Horizon?
- 7 A. Well, if they're going to -- if they didn't have faith
- 8 in Horizon, they couldn't really prosecute, could they?
- 9 $\,$ **Q**. Did you regard it as important to maintain faith in
- 10 Horizon?
- 11 A. Well, it's critical, isn't it? I mean, the -- all our
- 12 Post Office prosecutions are aligned on Horizon but, as
- 13 to what I had or not had, wasn't relevant.
- 14 Q. Did you receive instructions from managers, including
- Senior Managers, about the importance of protecting the
- 16 Post Office brand or the reputation of Post Office or
- 17 the reputation of Horizon?
- 18 A. No, sir. I didn't have very much contact within the
- 19 senior management. I think the only --
- 20 Q. Or from any other person?
- 21 A. No, I think the only persons I dealt with in the Post
- Office Limited was Susan and Hugh. I didn't have any
- 23 wider contact within the business, no.
- 24 Q. Why was a decision whether to continue with the
- 25 prosecution being taken by reference to issues such as

- 1 the undermining of faith in Horizon, the potential
- 2 exploitation of it by JFSA and the sending of a green
- 3 light to defendants to get hold of their Member of
- 4 Parliament, rather than the evidential strength of
- 5 a case against the subpostmaster?
- 6 A. No, I think it always is the evidential test. I mean,
- 7 whereas a prosecutor has got to apply that, and the
- 8 two-tier test, as you know. But, here, I think we're
- 9 dealing with one case and I've been asked to address it.
- 10 It wasn't anything more than that.
- Why was it important to send a message to subpostmasters 11
- 12 that post offices cannot be used as a bank?
- 13 A. That is -- from my recollection, is -- I think is
- 14 a reference to speaking to somebody within the business,
- 15 or I've been referred to something within the business,
- 16 where, you know -- I don't know, it's some sort of
- 17 statement I think somebody referred me to, and I think
- 18 that's why, you know, it's put in quotes. You know,
- 19 because I'd been told --
- 20 Q. Who said the Post Office can't be used as a bank?
- 21 A. Sorry?
- 22 Q. Who said the Post Office can't be used as a bank?
- 23 A. I think it's either somebody referred me to some
- 24 literature, because I'm -- the thing is, I'd been asked,
- 25 "Look, your advices need to be a bit more broad. You've
- 1 hold of their Member of Parliament and result in
- 2 copulation."
- 3 Presumably you meant "capitulation"?
- 4 A. Yeah, sorry. Yes, probably yes. Of course.
- 5 Q. Why did you think that stopping one case might result in
- 6 capitulation?
- 7 A. I didn't -- I don't know why I thought that, but --
- 8 Q. Who would be capitulating?
- 9 A. I can't think. I can't explain it to you now but,
- certainly, at that time, I thought about the advice and 10
- 11 I think I even spoke to one or two people, maybe Hugh,
- 12 Hugh Flemington, I think I said, "Look, Hugh, you said
- 13 you wanted me to look at it from the business lens, what
- 14 do you think? Is it okay for me to send that on?" and 15 he said, "Well, yes. I mean that's the way you need to
- 16 sort of think of it, not just from the legal side of it
- 17 because that bit we can get from Cartwright King". So
- 18 there, it's more of a splitting it --
- Would it be the Post Office capitulating? 19 Q.
- 20 Α. I don't know, sir.
- Q. Who else could it be? 21
- 22 A. I can't --
- 23 Q. Try and help us, Mr Singh?
- 24 A. I can't help you on that yet.
- Q. Try again, please. Who else could it be capitulating? 25

- 1 got to look at it, the business, you know, from
- 2 a business lens", and I think it's -- what's the advice?
- 3 It's 7 June, so it's earlier on, and I've gone and
 - spoken to somebody and I think they referred to me some
- 5 literature where I've taken that out, and that's --
- 6 **Q.** This is somebody else speaking here, not you, then?
- 7 A. It's actually a literature somebody has referred me to.
- 8 That's why it's in quotes. It's probably I've taken it
- 9 out from some, you know --
- 10 Q. Was this a commonly held view within the Post Office at
- 11 this time --
- 12 No --A.

- 13 Q. -- that subpostmasters used the Post Office as a bank?
- 14 A. No. I mean, as I say, it was may be naive of me to put
- 15
- 16 Q. Why did you put it in? Why did you ally yourself to
- 17 this sentiment, which you say was in some literature?
- Because I wanted her to advise to me, is this is the 18
- 19 legal side of things and this is the business. It's
- 20 just at that time, I decided to split it in that way,
- 21 it's easier for me to explain it, and it was a way of
- 22 doing it. I mean, it was nothing more than -- neither
- 23 more -- it wasn't more than that.
- 24 **Q.** At the end of the sentence above:
- 25 "It may send a green light for defendants to get 114
- 1 It's advice earlier on in my, you know, transfer to the
- 2 Post Office Limited, maybe I was wrong. Maybe
- 3 I shouldn't have considered it and just left it at
- 4 the -- you know, the first bit saying, "Look, this is
- 5 from the legal point of view, if we're going to
- 6 prosecute that, you know, you've got to be open, you've
- 7 got to be fair and you've got to be consistent. You
- 8 can't just take one case and discontinue it. There has
- 9 got to be justification for it".
- 10 Q. You don't stop there, do you?
- A. 11 Sorry?
- 12 You don't stop there and say, "It's important that we
- 13 adopt a consistent approach, that there's uniformity of
- 14 decision making across our cases. We can't take into
- 15 account extraneous factors"? What you go on to do is
- 16 list a series of factors that you say would be in play,
- 17 if the prosecution in the Yetminster branch was
- 18
- discontinued, don't you?
- 19 Sir, are we looking at 7 June 2012?
- 20 Q. You were the only criminal lawyer in Post Office Limited 21 then, weren't you?
- 22 A. Well, we got Cartwright King on the sidelines as well.
- 23 In the Post Office, you were -- I think you'd been --
- 24 you were now called Head of Criminal Law, weren't you?
- 25 **A**. Well, everybody is now at the moment but they weren't at 116

		The Post Off	uiry 3 May 2024		
1		that time.	1	Q.	Can we look at POL00325434. Scroll down, please. Email
2	Q.	Sorry?	2		from Martin Smith to Rachael Panter, in the case of <i>Post</i>
3	A.	They are now but they weren't calling me Head of	3		Office v Dixon:
4		Criminal Law at that time. But, yeah, I mean, yes,	4		"Please see attached letter from [defence
5		I was the only criminal lawyer there, yes.	5		solicitors].
6	Q.	Is this how you felt about prosecution of	6		"Seems that case capable of resolution without
7		subpostmasters	7		trial?"
8	A.	No.	8		Scroll up, please, keep going. Rachael Panter sends
9	Q.	in June 2012?	9		that on to you:
10	A.	No, sir, no, that's not	10		"Please see attached letter
11	Q.	Is this a window into your mind in June 2012?	11		"Mr Dixon is currently facing a single count of
12	A.	That's not no. As I said to you, she's asked for me	12		fraud, a copy of the indictment is attached.
13		a very general advice, the risks to the Post Office, and	13		"Counsel Will Saunders from 3 Temple Garden Chambers
14		as I said to you, that I'd been asked by Head of Legal,	14		is instructed in this case which is listed for trial [in
15		Hugh Flemington, "Look, you know, you need to your	15		Exeter] on 12 August. Steve Bradshaw is the [Officer in
16		advices need to be a bit more broad, you've got to not	16		the Case].
17		only do the legal side of it but also to look at it from	17		"How would you like me to respond to the defence
18		a business lens", and that is the business lens, and as	18		solicitors' letter? Would false accounting be
19		I said to you, that is, you know what I've quoted is	19		acceptable on the condition that the [14,000] is repaid
20		from within the business.	20		in full? Please respond accordingly."
21	Q.	More generally, was it important to the Post Office, as	21		Then up, please, your reply:
22		you understood it, that there should be no public	22		"Rachael
23		blaming of the Horizon system?	23		"The guilty plea to false accounting offered by the
24	A.	No. No. That was a one-off advice. I mean, advice is	24		defence is acceptable to [the Post Office] provided
25		standalone, I mean, on what I'd been asked to do. 117	25		defendant accepts as part of his guilty plea in writing 118
1		that he does not challenge the integrity or blame or	1		way we've been dealing with it", but it's certainly,
2		criticise the Horizon system and all losses and costs	2		from the factual or evidential side of it, I think
3		are paid."	3		I have you know, in the future, I have said to them,
4		Why was it a necessary part of the guilty plea that	4		"look, you're the solicitors in the case. You've got
5		the defendant should accept, as part of that guilty	5		the papers, you review it, and you make a decision in
6		plea, in writing, that he doesn't challenge the	6		light of your instructions from the Investigation Team
7		integrity of Horizon or blame or criticise Horizon?	7		and the decision maker".
8	A.	That's been the established position of the Post Office,	8		I think that's within of the first ones that's come
9		or you know, the position from Royal Mail Group	9		to me and I've reiterated the position of the Post
10		Limited I think that position had been established by	10		Office Limited.
11		Rob Wilson as Head of Criminal Law, and that's	11	Q.	Who told you about the Royal Mail Group and then Post
12		a continuation of that and, also, as far as having it in	12		Office policy that a defendant must accept, as part of
13		writing, is the facts are agreed between the defendant	13		their guilty plea, that they do not challenge the
14		and the prosecution, so that you don't have a dispute on	14		integrity of or blame or criticise Horizon?
15		the facts. Then there'd be another hearing within the	15	A.	I think that's Rob Wilson. I think he's there's
16		hearing, a Newton hearing, I think it's called, so	16		emails

17 that's just to clarify both parties' position. It's

18 beneficial to the defence as well because --

19 How is ruling out the possibility of Horizon being to Q.

20 blame for false accounting beneficial to the defendant?

21 A. That -- I'm just recreating or emphasising the position

22 as it is. That's what -- the established position has

23 been for number of years and, here, it's been carried on 24

to the Post Office Limited. I mean, the position hasn't

119

changed. It's just all I'm doing is, "Look, this is the

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emails --16

17 Q. By this time, wasn't it the case that a number of 18 defendants had previously tried to make a plea on the basis of Horizon being at fault? 19

20 A. I'm not -- I don't -- I can't recall now, to be honest.

21 Q. If they had, would that not have caused you or anyone at Post Office to think, "Well, hold on, maybe the system 22

23 isn't as robust as we've been told"?

24 A. Well, certainly now, I didn't realise that, you know 25 from what the Inquiry's evidence is, and I've seen, that

- it is quite painful to hear that people have been forced
 into accepting false accounting offences as a lesser
 offence, yes. I mean, now, in hindsight, or looking
 back now, it was wrong, and maybe we shouldn't have, you
 know, that shouldn't have been the policy, we shouldn't
 of done it that way. But that is what it was at that
 time.
- 8 Q. Weren't you instrumental in deploying that wrongful9 conduct?
- A. I'm not the decision maker. I think I've emphasised to you before. I'm the only criminal lawyer there. They
 refer the matters to me -- but it's a matter, if there
 is something that needs a decision, I refer it to Hugh
 Flemington, who is my line manager, who --
- 15 **Q.** You don't do that here, do you?
- 16 A. Sorry?
- 17 Q. You are the decision maker here, aren't you?
- 18 **A.** No.
- 19 Q. You don't refer it on to anyone else; your agents cometo you for instructions and you give instructions?
- 21 **A.** They're not my agents; they're agents for the Post
- Office Limited. I don't know what their remit is but,
- certainly here, the young lady is not a solicitor.
- I think Martin Smith is the solicitor in the case and
 she would obviously refer it to me and I think, at so
- she would obviously refer it to me and I think, at some 121
- 1 A. Yes. But maybe it's one of the first ones that come 2 through the system or through the process, but there 3 is -- you know, over a period of time, I have said to 4 them, "You're the lawyers, you've got the papers. 5 I haven't got the papers. You need to make a decision 6 in discussing it with the Investigation Officer or the 7 decision maker". But, at that time, all I've done is 8 highlighted this is what we need to do if the plea is 9 acceptable, it's got to be in writing and that's what we 10 normally endorse. We have that in writing so the facts
- 12 MR BEER: Thank you, Mr Singh.
- 13 Sir, would that be an appropriate moment to break 14 until 2.00, please?

are clear, that both parties agree to.

- 15 **SIR WYN WILLIAMS:** Yes, certainly.
- 16 MR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
- 17 (1.10 pm)

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- 18 (The Short Adjournment)
- 19 **(2.00 pm)**
- 20 MR BEER: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear us?
- 21 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
- 22 MR BEER: Thank you, good afternoon, Mr Singh.
- Can we just finish off the topic which we were on, which was the purposes of prosecution and whether it included the protection of the Post Office brand. Can

- stage, I would have had discussion with Martin or he should have come back to me or even the -- Steve Bradshaw, and I would say, look --
- Q. Where's the record of any of that, as opposed to this
 email exchange, which really clearly and simply sets out
 your approach?
- 7 A. This is not a decision, this is the emphasis of what 8 what the stance or the established position is for the
 9 Post Office, since years and years.
- 10 Q. Why don't you say to Mr Bradshaw, "Steve, instructionson this, please, before I revert to Cartwright King"?
- 12 **A.** I think, if you look at another email, where I've
- actually said that, I've said to -- Andy Cash, I think,
 comes to me somewhere, I think, and, you know, you've
- enclosed with the Inquiry papers, on that, and he
- said -- and I've gone back and said, "What's your views on it?"
- 18 **Q.** There are definitely emails in which you do go back to your client and say, "Can I have instructions?" I'm asking you on this occasion why you didn't?
- asking you on this occasion why you didn't?
 A. I don't know. I mean, I don't recall, maybe it's
 earlier on, maybe we're embedding the -- you know,
- 23 the -- embedding a different sort of way of dealing with
- 24 things but, certainly, Andy Cash and I think --
- 25 Q. This is nearly a year after separation?

122

- 1 we look, please, at POL00148137.
- This is an email exchange between you and Gavin
 Matthews in the run-up to a conference to be held with
 Mr Altman KC on 25 April 2014, understand?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. At the foot of the page, Mr Matthews says "here is the
 draft agenda", and it's all about the Post Office's
 prosecution policy, okay?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. If we go up to the top of the page, please, you make11 a comment on it and you say:
- 12 "[Re the] Business Improvement Programme, 13 et cetera -- Whilst there's a suggestion that other 14 avenues should always be considered and rejected before 15 a criminal investigation is commenced, there will always 16 be cases where it is immediately apparent that 17 a criminal investigation should be commenced with a view 18 to prosecution to protect [the Post Office] brand and 19 reputation and in the interests of the business, etc."
- Was it the case that some prosecutions were to be commenced in order to protect the Post Office brand and reputation?
- A. I suppose, in that sense, it is a business. I don't
 recollect what this is but, certainly, it's
- a consideration in any business.

- 1 Q. Was it a message that you were keen to emphasise?
- 2 A. Not me personally, no.

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Q. Can we go on please to POL00148242. This is after the
 conference with Mr Altman on 25 April 2014, and it's
 an email from you to Ms van den Bogerd, and you say:

"During the [recent Altman meeting] when the attached was mentioned you indicated that there would be cases where immediate intervention and suspension would be justified."

Then, I think:

"[An obvious] starting point [for] example in case of shortage of [between £20,000 and £30,000]."

Then you say:

"There will be cases in which it will be clear from the outset that [the Post Office] will need to conduct a criminal investigation with a view to potential prosecution to protect [the Post Office] brand and reputation and for business purposes."

So you're making the same point again, aren't you?

A. Yes. It's discussion paper. I don't think it's any more than that. I think you've got various people around the table and I'm just highlighting various aspect of it, you know, that's all. I mean, I don't know -- I'm just -- there are people putting their side of the argument. I'm putting the other things to be

Lyons. You say:

"I need to address and to prepare counterarguments to issues which are being raised and will be raised by defence lawyers, after [the Post Office] announced that Second Sight ... will conduct a review of the Horizon system even though [the Post Office] says Horizon is robust. When challenged has always successfully defended the system in high profile criminal trials in crown courts. Defence lawyers will say 'Why appoint forensic auditor to examine the system'.

"Can you please help me with the following in order to put 'flesh on the bones'.

"Reasons for the appointment of forensic auditor to examine the system.

"What is Second Sight's remit.

"What they will look at or are asked to review. Or what is being undertaken or not.

"Are they reviewing, few, several or some isolated cases only.

"Are they [really] looking and examining the Horizon system or in reality looking or examining certain branch accounting procedures and processes.

"Anything you may consider useful.

"It may be considered useful at some stage to have a press release to reconfirm the integrity and

1 balanced with a view to coming to a solution, I suppose.

Q. Was it your aim to emphasise the prioritisation of thePost Office's reputational and business interests?

- 4 A. Possible -- no, maybe not.
- Q. Why do we see this appearing twice in very similar
 phrases, both before and after the meeting with
 Mr Altman?
- A. I think it's probably discussion with my line manager,
 or -- I mean, I'm just -- because I think I -- I'm not
 there just for myself. It's sort of emphasis on various
 aspects I've been advised on to do, to get advice on and
 relay back. I don't think it's a personal view.

13 Q. Okay, thank you. That can come down.

Can I turn to my fourth topic, please, which is Second Sight, their appointment, the announcement of their appointment, and the need to give an account, tell a story, about their appointment. Did you think it was important to create a message, a story, that could be told or broadcast in response to the appointment of Second Sight?

21 A. Not personally, no.

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Q. Can we look, please, at POL00143374. If we look at
 page 2, please. This is an email from you of 11 July
 2012 -- so when Second Sight's proposed appointment was

an issue -- to Susan Crichton, Hugh Flemington and Alwen

120

robustness of the system but in [addition] including the remit of the Second Sight?

"Sorry for the twenty questions ..."

So you know that defence lawyers may ask questions in extant criminal proceedings, along the lines that you set out, and you were seeking instructions, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. At this time, Second Sight, the forensic accountants,
 9 their appointment was contemplated and you were
 10 considering what affect there might be on ongoing
 11 proceedings, correct?

A. No, I wasn't personally. I didn't even know they were
 on board. I think it's something that Cartwright King,
 who are prosecuting, are getting letters from the

15 defence

Q. Whether you were dealing with this personally for cases
 in which you were a prosecutor or whether Cartwright
 King were prosecuting those cases, you were seeking

19 instructions, either on behalf of yourself or for

Cartwright King, in order to be able to meet any defence challenges, correct?

22 **A.** I don't think -- I wouldn't put it like that. Something

23 referred to me I think by Cartwright King saying, you

24 know, what -- "We've got to respond to the defence, we 25 need to know the reason why or remit, or why is Second

128

1		Sight engaged". They didn't a response, I think, to be	1		defence in criminal proceedings. It seems there's been
2		able to respond to whatever the defence you know,	2		a meeting, if you look at the top of the page:
3		respond to the request from the defence saying "Well,	3		"This is the story text which [Jarnail] put together
4		why Second Sight? What are they reviewing? What are	4		following our meeting last week."
5	_	they there to do?"	5	Α.	Yeah. Yes.
6	Q.	Yes, so you're asking a series of not unreasonable	6	Q.	So if we read it:
7		questions about "What's this all about?"	7		"After a number of meetings between Post Office
8	Α.	What's it all about, yes.	8		Management and [MPs] in relation to the court cases, it
9	Q.	Can we see what happened as a result. POL00058155. Go	9		was agreed that Post Office would undertake a review of
10		to page 3, please. Can you see in the middle of the	10		the cases which had been raised by the Members'
11		page we've got it up now the text of an email sent	11		constituents.
12		by you to Hugh Flemington?	12		"In order to provide assurance to the interested
13	A.	Yes.	13		parties, Post Office Management proposed the use of
14	Q.	Yes? The one beginning "After a number of meetings",	14		independent auditors, Second Sight. The review to be
15		yes?	15		undertaken will be specifically restricted to the cases
16	A.	Yes, yes.	16		raised by the MPs as well as reviewing the accounting
17	Q.	Is this the proposed draft of what is to be said?	17		procedures, processes and reconciliations Before
18	A.	I don't recall, to be honest. I can't remember where we	18		formal instructions are given to the independent
19		are. I know it took a long while.	19		auditors, agreements will be sought from all interested
20	Q.	We'd seen before that you'd been asking for some	20		parties, namely [MPs] and [JFSA]. The subpostmasters
21		instructions about what's this Second Sight review all	21		have requested a forensic accountant of their choice to
22		about?	22		be appointed to oversee the cases being reviewed by
23	A.	Yeah.	23		Second Sight.
24	Q.	What work is it undertaking? We need to put out	24		"All of the above is accepted based on the terms of
25		a message, essentially, when asked questions by the 129	25		the review being carried out, but it must be stressed 130
1		that this is not an acknowledgement by the Post Office	1		Sight review. We need to combat the assertion that the
2		that there is an issue with Horizon. The Horizon system	2		review is acknowledgement there's a problem with
3		is working properly, robust and is being used up and	3		Horizon.
4		down the country, when the system has been challenged in	4		"Jarnail has drafted some words below. Do they
5		criminal courts it has been successfully defended."	5		strike the right tone?"
6		So was this your attempt, your first attempt, at	6		Then up the page, please. Then Ronan Kelleher if
7		a draft of what to say in response to questions that	7		just scroll down, we can see who he is, the Head of PR
8		were raised as to why Second Sight had been appointed?	8		and Media; did you know Mr Kelleher?
9	Α.	I know there was it was difficult to formulate it,	9	A.	·
10	,	because I didn't really have much information on it.	10	Q.	But, anyway, up the page:
11		I know I had to go to Rob Wilson at the Head of Criminal	11	Œ.	"Simon
12		Law because I think he'd been dealing with this	12		"As this message will probably find its way into the
13	Q.	_	13		
14	Q.	Mr Singh, just putting to one side for the moment who you went to in order to draft it.	14		media, we do need to get the message across from the start that we continue to have full confidence in the
		•			
15		Yeah, that was the first draft, yes.	15		robustness of the Horizon system and then reinforce it
16		This is the first draft?	16		so I suggest the following tweaking to the proposed
17		Yeah.	17		wording from Jarnail"
18	Q.	Okay, thank you. Then if we go to page 2, please, and	18		Then it's set out. I'm not going to go through
19		scroll down. We can see that Alwen Lyons, the Company	19		a line-by-line comparison of the changes that have been
20		Secretary, passes this to Simon Baker and others:	20		made. Do you know why the Head of PR and Media at the
21		"Simon, can you go to Alana with this request for	21		Post Office was being involved in the creation of
22		the 'story ' as they are the experts."	22		a story that would be given to, or told to, defence

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solicitors?

A. No. I didn't know they were going to be involved

I think it was the Company Secretary, Alwen Lyons, said

132

Then up the page, please, and stop there. Simon

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"Please help us craft our message around the Second

Baker sends it on to Alana:

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they're the experts, referred it to them. I didn't ex	/en
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- 2 know -- all I wanted was to -- Hugh and Susan, you know,
- 3 the General Counsel and Head of Legal, to help me with
- 4 it, and give me instructions and make a decision. But
- 5 I didn't know she'd referred it because she said they
- 6 were the experts. That's the way they did things.
- 7 I mean, I --

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- 8 Q. Okay, if we scroll then, please, we'll see Simon Baker
- 9 says, "That works", and then it's forwarded to -- you're
- 10 included on that chain, the "That works" chain, and you
- reply to Hugh, Susan and Alwen: 11
 - "You have seen the final draft of 'our story' can this now be released to our agents and counsel for consistent approach and submissions where there is
- 15 challenges to the Horizon [system]." 16 So did you understand the message or "our story", as 17 you've called it, to be essentially the text that 18 solicitor agents and counsel should use in submissions 19 when an issue was raised as to the appointment of Second
- 20
- 21 A. I don't know the -- that. But I can certainly say it
- 22 was something that the -- Cartwright King wanted to know
- 23 the reasons why, and all I've done is copy that into
- 24 Susan and Hugh for a decision on assist me on doing it,
- 25 and I think that what I've done is I've managed to get 133
- 1 was -- I don't know. I don't recall what happened after
- 2 that. Was there not more than that? I thought --
- 3 I know it took a long time to get it --
- 4 Q. Let's go to what happened next, then. POL00120723, and
- 5 page 5, please. Can you see this is a witness statement
- 6 from Mr Bradshaw of 20 November 2012?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 **Q.** If we scroll down, can you see it says:
- 9 "After a number of meetings with Post Office
- 10 Management and Members of Parliament", et cetera.
- Yes? 11
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 **Q.** If we go over to the second page, it finishes off:
- 14 "When the system has been challenged in criminal 15 courts it has been successfully defended."
- 16 That's the same wording and your story, as amended 17 and improved by Head of PR and Media in the Post Office?
- A. I wouldn't go with my story; that's the Post Office 18
- story. That's what --19
- 20 Q. You called it "our story", and you were part of the Post 21 Office?
- 22 A. Well, that's what's it's added but, I mean, I think you
- 23 have got the decision makers confirming --
- 24 Q. Okay, I'll put it more neutrally then. It's based on
- 25 text that you wrote, which had been amended by the Head 135

- 1 a lot of information from Rob Wilson at Royal Mail
- 2 Group, who'd been -- know the system from the beginning,
- 3 and he assisted and helped me with it, and Hugh and
- 4 Susan took it forward.
- 5 Q. But you would agree that your understanding of the
- 6 purpose of this is for release to lawyers to ensure
- 7 a consistent approach to submissions they might make?
- 8 A. It was going to Cartwright King. I don't know to what
- 9 degree they would use it but, certainly, they wanted
- 10 a decision and I've managed to half pass it to Head of
- 11 Legal and Susan, to consider it in line with what they
- 12 normally do, put it through the process, whatever they
- 13 do, and they proved it, I think.
- 14 Q. So does it come to this: a story that was drafted
- 15 initially by you has been amended by the Head of PR and
- 16 Media in the Post Office and is to be sent out to agents
- 17 and counsel to ensure a consistent approach to the
- 18 submissions they make?
- 19 I don't know whether that was --
- 20 Q. I'm just reading various words on a email chain.
- 21 A. Yeah, I appreciate.
- 22 If you add them all together that seems to be what they
- 23 suggest.
- 24 A. I don't know, I don't recall exactly what happened after
- 25 that. But that's the start of it, I think, and maybe it 134
- 1 of Media and PR in the Post Office, isn't it?
- 2 Well, that's the process they followed and I --3 Q. And it's ended up as a witness statement?
- A. Well, it shouldn't have done. 4
- 5 Q. Sorry?
- 6 A. It shouldn't have done.
- 7 **Q.** Yes, well, I'm going to ask you how it has happened?
- 8 A. I don't know. I don't know how it's happened because
- 9 all I've done is prepared it in line with my
- 10 instructions from, you know, the decision makers.
- Q. If we go back to the previous page, please, this is word 12 for word the same as the draft of the Head of PR and
- 13 Media.

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- 14 A. Well, I can't answer that. It shouldn't have done.
- 15 I don't know who put it in because that's not the
- 16 purpose for it.
- 17 Q. Did you provide this to Mr Bradshaw to put in a witness
- 18 statement?
- 19 A. Absolutely not, no.
- Q. How did what started off as a message, a "story", for 20
- 21 agents and counsels to work to when, perhaps, resisting
- 22 application for a stay, resisting applications for
- 23 adjournments or disclosure arguments, get turned into
- 24 a witness statement which contains a statutory
- 25 declaration at the top?

- A. I don't know. I don't recall, and I certainly didn't
 have any part to play. I've done -- you know, in line
- 3 with instructions and -- from the decision makers.
- 5 before.

6 Q. If we go back to page 1, please, and we scroll down we

That's -- I don't think I've ever -- not seen that

- 7 can see that this example of Mr Bradshaw's witness
- 8 statement is disclosed as a notice of additional
- 9 evidence in the case against Kim Wylie at Newcastle
- 10 Crown Court. There are a number of others, I can point
- 11 to many other witness statements where Mr Bradshaw --
- 12 A. Yeah, sure.
- 13 Q. -- has made the same statement?
- 14 A. Yeah.

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- 15 Q. Can you help us with "our story" got turned into
- 16 an account with a statutory declaration on it?
- 17 A. I can't help you because I prepared it in -- as per
- 18 instructions and I got to Rob Wilson to look through it
- 19 to make sure everything was okay, and then I referred it
- 20 back to Hugh, Susan, and the Company Secretary. They
- 21 took it up with the media. I have never come across,
- you know -- that's what they were going to do but,
- 23 certainly, that's not my intentions. That wasn't me.
- 24 Doing it. I just did whatever I was instructed to do
- and it certainly shouldn't have finished up in a witness

was updated periodically, so you need to look at it as a whole, rather than, you know, as a standalone document, because it wasn't.

So I think it was something that I put forward because I was asked for a view but it was -- I wasn't the decision maker and it was just something that I provided for them to consider.

Q. Can we look at an email discussion of this topic.
 POL00346092. Look at the second page, pleas

POL00346092. Look at the second page, please. This is in the context of case M029, and you say:

"Andy [Andrew Parsons]

"I anticipate Chris [Chris Aujard] is the best person to make a decision on this point on behalf of [the Post Office].

"Our allegations [that Post Office] has NOT properly investigated being made generally or in specific cases? One of the dangers of investigation officers report being disclosed is that it will always be easy for the applicant to think of something not specifically referred to in the report and allege that [the Post Office] investigation has not been sufficiently [thorough] or adequate. Of course it is highly unlikely the investigation will have been deficient, but in the absence of a full set of papers it may become impossible for [the Post Office] to rebut such new allegations."

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1 statement.

Q. You said earlier words to the effect that "This was bad"
or "It was poor" or "It shouldn't have happened". Why
was it bad, poor or shouldn't have happened?

A. Well, it's the -- the witness statement is personal to
 whoever is making it. It should be factual, shouldn't
 it? It should be Stephen Bradshaw's recollection of his
 evidence.

9 Q. All of this went on without your knowledge; is that whatyou're telling us?

11 A. Yes, I -- I don't recall. I mean, I don't recall that's

where it ended up, no.Q. Okay, thank you. That can come down. Were you

14 concerned about the disclosure of Investigating
15 Officers' reports because they might contain in them
16 information that was of assistance to the defence?

A. No. I think what that was a view -- are you talking
 about mediation disclosure or are you talking about
 generally --

20 Q. Yes.

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replies:

A. Mediation? The -- I was not part of the mediation.
 I think it's an established group. They had their own remit, own way -- they had their own decision maker.
 I was asked for a view and I provided a view, saying

25 that the officer's report was a working document and it 138

Then up, please, at the foot of the page, Rod

"Having discussed [it], the protocol for the use of 'officer's reports' ... by Project Sparrow Investigators when responding to individual complaints is:

"The report is NOT to be exhibited OR expressly [referred to] in Post Office's formal response to a complaint.

"It can be used by the Investigator to help them understand what happened in a particular case ...

11 "If the report is the ONLY source document still 12 available, the Investigator can repeat material from the 13 report ...

"Any challenge received about the source of a [statement] must be referred to Chris."

So this is about what material Investigators constructing investigation reports can refer to in the context of the mediation, okay?

19 **A.** Yes

20 **Q.** If we go up to the top of the page, please. You reply to that:

"Having looked at the papers. I have no doubt this is the correct decision not to [disclose] 'Officer Reports'. If in the case of *Hamilton* [Jo Hamilton] officers reports had been disclosured ..."

I don't know what you're saying here but I think it means that, if in the case of Jo Hamilton, had officers' reports been disclosed, this would have been extremely dangerous or it would have been an extremely dangerous approach; is that right?

6 **A.** Yes.

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Q. "In the [Jo Hamilton] case, in the officer's report, the investigation officer said 'Having analysed the Horizon printout and accounting documentation, I was unable to find any evidence of theft or cash in hand figures being deliberately inflated'.

"In the absence of a file to demonstrate how the case developed, as it was further investigated, this would give the applicant and Second Sight every opportunity to ask why in fact [Jo] Hamilton was prosecuted. In the absence of paperwork to deal with this, this would in turn cause [the Post Office] difficulties."

So, by this time, you had read the investigation report into the investigations against Mrs Hamilton, hadn't you?

A. No, this was -- I think there was different views on to
 disclose it or not to close it. I'm just basically
 highlighting to Chris and Jessica, my line manager,
 Jessica Madron -- oh, Hugh Flemington has left and Chris

- 1 Q. Mr Singh, you're talking about different things now,
- 2 whether you're part of the mediation and other issues,
- 3 all I'm doing is showing you your email, which has
- 4 a sentence in it, which is accurately quoted from the
- 5 Investigating Officer's report, and all I'm saying is:
- 6 by this date, 9 May 2014, you knew that Investigating
- 7 Officer's report contained that sentence, didn't you?
- 8 A. I don't recall. I mean that's just basically
- 9 illustrating a point, as helping Chris or Jessica to
- 10 make a decision. No more than that.
- 11 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Mr Singh you couldn't have written that
- 12 unless you knew about it, could you?
- 13 A. Oh, no, I knew about it --
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I think that's all Mr Beer was asking you
 to confirm --
- 16 **A**. But I --
- 17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: -- that, in order to write that, you
- 18 either had to have read it yourself or been told
- 19 verbatim what was included in the officer's report.
- That's all he was asking you.
- 21 A. Sorry, sir. Yes. I've not read the report but, I mean,
- 22 I've -- it's there for a reason, yes.
- 23 MR BEER: You're giving that as a reason not to disclose
- 24 Investigating Officer's reports, aren't you? That's the
- 25 way you're deploying that.
 - nat. 143

- 1 has replaced Ms Crichton. All, I'm doing is
- 2 highlighting different points of view and this is
- an illustration as why, you know, you've got to weigh
- 4 these things up and ask them to make a decision, that's
- 5 al
- 6 Q. You'd read the report because you quote from it.
- 7 A. I don't know how that came about but I don't recall
- 8 exactly how that came about, but that wasn't the
- 9 intention.
- 10 Q. Okay, I'll put it different way: you knew that the
- 11 investigation report contained the sentence "Having
- 12 analysed the Horizon printout, and accounting
- 13 documentation, I was unable to find any evidence of
- 14 theft", didn't you?
- 15 A. No, that was not the case. This is basically --
- 16 Q. Mr Singh, it's in black and white, or blue and red?
- 17 **A.** Yes, maybe but I'm trying to illustrate the point that
- 18 sometimes illustrating by example. That's all.
- 19 **Q.** Yes, and you plucked that example by either reading the
- report or somebody telling you what was in the report?A. No, I think the intention is basically here to
- 22 illustrate, now, look, Chris, Jessica, you're the
- 23 decision maker. You've got to weigh these things up.
- One's saying to do it, one's saying not. I'm not part
- 25 of the mediation, I'm not the decision maker --
 - 142
- 1 A. I think what I'm saying is you've got to have the
- 2 paperwork to go with I. You can't just close it by
- 3 itself, and it's at the end of the day Chris and Jess to
- 4 make the decision.
- 5 Q. You're saying "We can't close these reports, if we did,
- 6 Jo Hamilton might ask, "Why was I prosecuted?""
- 7 A. Not at all. No, I disagree. That's not the case.
- 8 Q. What about the sentence "This would give the applicant
- 9 every opportunity to ask why, in fact, Hamilton was
- 10 prosecuted"?
- 11 A. No, I -- No. That wasn't the intention no.
- 12 Q. Why did you type those words?
- 13 A. I can't explain that now but, certainly, it was getting
- 14 a decision from Chris and Jessica to make, because there
- 15 was a counterargument put forward for civil and criminal
- 16 lawyers, I think.
- 17 $\,$ **Q.** That's a reason to give disclosure to Jo Hamilton, isn't
- it? Not a reason not to give disclosure to Jo Hamilton.
- 19 A. Well, the -- well, I -- I wasn't the decision maker.
- 20 I was not part of the scheme.
- 21 Q. If you just listen to the question: the fact that the
- 22 Investigating Officer's report recorded that they were
- 23 unable to find any evidence of theft is a reason to give
- 24 disclosure to Mrs Hamilton, not a reason not to give it
- 25 to her?

- 1 A. Okay, I accept, maybe my mistake, I shouldn't have gone
- 2 in there but that wasn't what this is about.
- 3 Q. This is part of a cover-up --
- 4 **A**. No.
- 5 Q. -- isn't it?
- 6 A. There is no cover-up. On this email, one of, this is
- 7 an email for them, decision maker, to weigh things up.
- 8 As far as the disclosure is concerned, I had no problem
- 9 with any of it, because --
- 10 **Q.** You say at the end, "In the absence of proper paperwork,
- 11 this report will cause Post Office difficulties."
- 12 A. No. That is a complete file. What I'm saying is you
- 13 need to have a complete file to have a true picture of
- 14 what's going on.
- 15 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, I'm sorry to join, so to speak, but
- 16 I had forgotten momentarily how you begin this email,
- 17 which is "Having looked at the papers". So does that
- not make clear (a) there was a file, and, (b) you had
- 19 read it?
- 20 A. It's not the full file. I think, as you see from the
- 21 bottom of the chain of emails, there's certain
- 22 paperwork. I wasn't privy to the whole file. There's
- 23 certain paperworks, and I've been asked -- I've been
- 24 brought in to refer it to the decision makers, Jessica
- and Chris, to make a decision.

- 1 You say that you note that the advice suggested that
- 2 the 1 January 2010 be the start date for the review
- 3 process, and you either agreed with it at the time or,
- 4 if you had read it, you would have agreed with it,
- 5 correct?
- 6 A. I don't ... ooh. It was what was suggested, yeah.
- 7 Q. We're looking here at the issue of how far back the
- 8 Cartwright King look should go. How far back in time
- 9 should it go --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 **Q.** -- and the start date of 1 January 2010 that was
- 12 selected; yes?
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 Q. You say that you either agreed with it at the time or
- 15 you would have agreed it was an appropriate starting
- point, based on what was known at that time around the
- 17 Horizon issues, yes?
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 $\,$ Q. So, by this time, there was the Second Sight Interim
- 20 Report of 8 July 2013, which made reference to the
- 21 receipts and payments mismatch bug, the suspense account
- bug and the Callendar Square or Falkirk bug, yes?
- 23 **A.** Yes.
- 24 Q. I've suggested to you that you had become aware of the
- 25 receipts and payments mismatch bug about two-and-a-half 147

- 1 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Carry on, Mr Beer.
- 2 MR BEER: I'm not sure I can carry on any further with
- 3 Mr Singh on this point.
- 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine.
- 5 MR BEER: Can we move forwards, please, to the Cartwright
- 6 King review process and can we start, please, with
 - paragraph 71 of your witness statement. It's on page 26
- 8 of your witness statement.
- 9 A. Yes.

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- 10 Q. You say:
- 11 "I am aware that at this time [that's mid-2013]
- 12 Simon Clarke at [Cartwright King] was advising [the Post
- 13 Office] on a number of matters, including disclosure and
- 14 expert evidence issues ... I agreed with Simon Clarke's
- 15 advice on these matters ... I can't recall whether
- 16 I received that advice but if I did, I ... would have
- 17 agreed it was an appropriate starting point based on
- what was known at the time around the Horizon issues.
- 19 I noted this was to be kept under review. I note that
- 20 Simon Clarke advised on 19 July 2013 in relation to ...
- 21 miscarriages of justice. Again, I do not recall whether
- 22 I received that advice but for the avoidance of doubt
- 23 I had no experience in relation to that issue and
- 24 wouldn't have been in a position to agree or disagree
- 25 with his advice."

146

- years earlier on 8 October 2010, and you've, I think,
- essentially denied that, yes?
- 3 A. Yes

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- 4 Q. We know that you were aware of the suspense account bug
- 5 by at least 27 July 2013 -- we looked at an email
- 6 exchange earlier and you agreed that -- and that you
- 7 were aware of the Callendar Square bug about two and
- 8 a half years earlier, at the time of the *Misra* trial in
- 9 October 2010, where it was actually raised in court,
- 10 yes?
- 11 **A.** Yes.
- 12 Q. So you were aware that one of the bugs affected branches
- 13 before 1 January 2010, correct; the Callendar Square
- 14 bug?
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- 16 Q. Do you agree that selecting the start date of 1 January
- 17 2010 would do nothing to address potentially unsafe
- 18 convictions that had occurred before that date?
- 19 A. I wasn't part of the review. I wasn't the decision
- 20 maker. It's something General Counsel and the Head of
- 21 Legal were getting advice from and progressing it.
- 22 I wasn't part of the review because of the independency
- 23 element of it. So I'm just an observer as to what date
- 24 they decided to do, and wasn't part of that.
- 25 **Q.** But do you agree, as a matter of fact, as a matter of 148

(37) Pages 145 - 148

- 1 logic, that selecting the start date of 1 January 2010
- 2 would do nothing to address any potentially unsafe
- 3 convictions --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- that had occurred before that date?
- 6 A. But I wasn't the decision maker. I didn't make the
- 7 decision that it's going to be 1 January 2010 because
- 8 I wasn't part of the review and it was for the decision
- 9 maker to make a decision in light of what advice they'd
- 10 been given.
- Q. Did you pipe up and say, "Hold on, I've got knowledge of 11
- 12 a bug that occurred and could have afflicted
- 13 subpostmasters before 1 January 2010"?
- A. I didn't have any knowledge of it. I said to you that 14
- whatever I knew, they knew. 15
- 16 Q. The Callendar Square, the Falkirk bug, from at least
- 17 2006?
- 18 A. I think everybody is aware of it because, I think by
- 19 then, that was common knowledge that that was coming up
- 20 over and over again, everywhere.
- 21 Q. What about this then: you had seen the advice which that
- 22 said that, in summary, Mr Jenkins was a witness upon
- 23 whom reliance could not be placed, he was a tainted
- 24 witness, yes?
- 25 Α. Yes.

- 1 like, the senior members of the Legal Team were dealing 2
 - with. I don't think I knew anything about any of this.
- 3 Q. Can we look, please, at POL00148714. Can we start by
- 4 looking at page 4, please. If we scroll down, please.
- 5 It's an email -- sorry, can we just look a bit below,
- 6 and again. Okay, just up to the email, please.
 - An email from Mr Parsons in July 2014 to you and others:
- 9 "My thoughts ..."
- 10 This is on the instruction of a new expert:
- 11 "A key question appears to be whether ICL ..."
- 12 In this context, that's Imperial College London,
- 13 yes?

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- 14 A. Yes
- 15 "... look at old Horizon as well as Horizon Online. My Q. 16 guess is that [the Post Office] won't be looking to 17 prosecute any old Horizon cases so we can focus on
- 18 [Horizon Online]. Martin/Jarnail?
 - "As to access to [Second Sight] material, I can't see in principle any issue with this. Material going to
- 21 [Second Sight] has been largely vetted already.
- 22 However, Martin/Jarnail -- could you confirm whether
- 23 an expert under criminal law has to disclose all
- 24 material instructions or source material in their
- 25 report. In the civil process the general rule is that

151

- Q. You knew that he had given witness statements in cases 1
- 2 before 1 January 2010, didn't you?
- 3 A. Yes. Yes, I did.
- 4 Q. Did you put these two pieces of knowledge together?
- A. I didn't consider it. I wasn't part of any of this. 5
- 6 That wasn't my role. As I said to you, I was not part 7 of the mediation, all this advice is taken --
- Q. This isn't about the mediation, this is about the 8
- 9 Cartwright King review --
- 10 A. No, I wasn't --
- 11 Q. -- of potentially unsafe convictions?
- A. Yes, but, as I said, this is a matter which the General 12
- 13 Counsel and the Head of Legal are seeking directly from
- 14 Cartwright King and taking their advice on. I don't
- 15 think I was privy to any of it and, as to what and what
- 16 not they were deciding. It was a matter for these
- 17 decision makers.
- 18 Q. Was there a belief in the Post Office, of which you were
- 19 aware, that very great difficulties might be caused for
- 20 the Post Office if there was an examination of the
- 21 existence of bugs before 1 January 2010 and that the
- 22 disclosure that the Post Office had given or not given
- 23 about such bugs?
- 24 A. I wasn't part of any of this. This is outside of my
- 25 role, outside my remit. It was something that, if you

- 1 the expert must disclose to the court and the other side 2 pretty much everything they have considered in forming 3 their opinion. If this applies equally to criminal
- 4 procedure, then [Cartwright King]/[the Post Office] may
- 5 wish to vet material before sending it to [Imperial
- 6
 - College London].

7 "We may want to explore what [Imperial College 8 London] intend to investigate under the 'fitness for

purpose' heading. This could be as simple as 'does 9

10 Horizon provide the necessary functionality?'. Or it

11 could go wider into 'does Horizon provide a good user

12 experience?'. From handling IT disputes in the past

13 I know that determining the quality of user experience

14 can be a very subjective question, that is difficult to

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16 If we scroll up, please. Mr Smith advises:

"I would not advise that the experts be instructed 17 18 to look at the old Horizon system."

19 You're in copy on this.

20 A. Yes.

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- 21 Q. "If the experts were to considered old system, depending 22 on their findings, disclosure issues could arise in
- 23 historic cases."

Just stopping there, were you concerned at this point, mid-2014, that, if the new experts, proposed

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- experts, were to look at old Horizon, disclosure issuesmight arise?
- A. No, all I was concerned with the independency of it,
 that they get full access from the Post Office and
- 5 Fujitsu to make sure that they carry out independent
- 6 review of it. I mean, that's the whole point of the
- 7 independency. I don't think I put my mind to whether
- 8 they looked at the old system or the new system.
- 9 Obviously, the new system because I think the Post
- 10 Office wanted to consider the investigation and
- 11 prosecution side of things. I don't think I set my mind
- on it. I think it's Martin mentioned it because they're
- reviewing the cases and they are prosecuting them.
- 14 I was completely hands off. I'm here to progress the,
- 15 you know, the report; nothing more than that.
- 16 Q. What do you think Mr Smith is referring to here,
- 17 "disclosure issues in relation to historic cases"?
- 18 A. I think you need to ask Mr Smith. I honestly don't19 know.
- Q. We had a go at that earlier in the week but I'm askingvou?
- 22 A. I don't know because I know my -- from Jessica and Chris
- was, "Look, Jarnail, you need to progress this".
- 24 I think Susan started it and it's just taken a long,
- long time to get here. So all I was concerned with was
- Q. Was there a nervousness that, if we get the experts to
 look back too far, they may discover bugs that will
 cause us disclosure problems?
- 4 A. Certainly not on my part, no.
- Q. Therefore, the Post Office shouldn't look too hard at
 that question now unless they needed to do so in order
 to prosecute new claims or prosecute in the criminal
- 8 courts new cases based on old Horizon?
- 9 **A.** No, no.

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10 Q. If we go up, please, and then keep going, to page 1.Sorry, it's the email at the foot of the page. You say:

"Let us not lose sight of the fact Cartwright King are specialist criminal lawyers. They are in a far better position to advise [the Post Office] with regards to expert instructions. They are acting in best interests of their clients ie [the Post Office] and the way in which the report is being commissioned preserves the independence and integrity of the experts.

"It is intended to instruct the expert to prepare the report in accordance with the scope but with the proviso that they immediately notify Cartwright King of anything which may cause [concern]."

Scrolling down, please, paragraph 8:

"Let us not lose sight of the fact it is in [the Post Office's] wider interest to get the report (and 155

getting ICL and getting the budgetary sorted out in line with the instructions from Chris and Jessica. I wasn't considering as to any more than that.

Q. He continues:

"In criminal law instructions and material provided to an expert must be listed", et cetera.

"[Cartwright King] would not wish to vet information prior to sending it to [Imperial College London]; it would be counterproductive to withhold information. The experts may well refer to such attempts and missing information in the report. This would devalue the report and make it easier for defendants to challenge."

Then scroll up, please. You reply:

"I agree with Martin. [The Post Office] cannot be seen to [I think you mean 'cherrypick'] to be [cherrypicking] the information provided to the experts or withholding the information. Experts are independent and [the Post Office] cannot be seen to be trying to influence the experts."

- 20 A. Yes, well, there you go. Mm.
- Q. Was there a nervousness that there were bugs that wereoperative in Horizon before 1 January 2010?
- A. Certainly not. It had just taken such a long time for
 them to make a decision to get an expert in or find an
 expert and it's just helping to progress it.

154

Fujitsu) which gives the Horizon a clean bill of health."

In paragraph 6, you said, if there are any concerns -- sorry, in paragraph -- scroll up a little bit further. Paragraph 2, you say:

"It is intended to instruct the expert to prepare the report in accordance with the scope ... with the proviso that they immediately notify [Cartwright King] of anything which will cause [the Post Office] concern. It will enable the process to be terminated without full costs being incurred."

Was it your intention that, if the expert discovered something of concern, about Horizon, their appointment would be terminated?

- 15 A. No, no, no. I think there was a concern about cost andscope, and --
- 17 Q. This isn't about scope.
- 18 A. Well, that's my understanding of it. I think there was
 19 some discussions and I'm trying to recap or summarise
 20 what's going on. No, that wasn't -- it was just,
- 21 basically, the independency of it, and that, you know,
- 22 the Post Office is kept away from it and it's a matter
- of Cartwright King dealing directly with the experts.
- Q. Paragraph 2 says that, if the expert finds anything
 which may cause the Post Office concern, they're to tell

1		the prosecution solicitors, which will enable the	1		words that you have described?
2		process to be terminated.	2	_	I wish I had.
3	Α.	Well, that's wrong. That's not what the intention was.	3	Q.	Yes, but high, didn't you?
4	_	Obviously	4	Α.	I don't know. I can't recall. It's a while ago.
5	Q.	Tell us in which way the words need to be rearranged in	5	Q.	Is the true answer to that because the words that you
6		order to give them a different meaning?	6		used disclosed your true approach at the time, namely
7	A.	I can't I don't know what it in that I'm trying	7		the Post Office does not wish to discover anything wrong
8		to get the independency of it POL away from it and	8		with Horizon?
9		you've got independency of a third party dealing with	9	A.	•
10		them directly rather than POL. That's all.	10	Q.	If anyone starts to find things wrong with Horizon we'll
11	Q.	Your concern was that, if the expert told the Post	11		terminate their appointment?
12		Office something uncomfortable, they'd either be told to	12	A.	No.
13		stop looking or their appointment would be terminated?	13	Q.	
14	A.	No, absolutely not. I don't think that was the	14		paragraphs 94 onwards, which is on page 34, whilst
15		intention	15		that's being turned up, sir, I should have told you at
16	Q.	What does that paragraph mean, then?	16		the outset that none of the Core Participants wish to
17	A.	I don't know what it means but it was that that	17		ask questions of Mr Singh.
18	Q.	Who wrote it?	18		Sorry, I've been given some new information.
19	A.	Well, certainly, I did. But that's the that's not	19		Update on that: one Core Participant has asked to
20		what it means is keep the independency of it, keep it	20		ask some questions, which I can't imagine will take that
21		away from the Post Office, and the integrity of the	21		long and, therefore, I propose to go straight through
22		report and the independency and, if there is something	22		and then we'll finish well before 3.30.
23		they need, they need to go to Cartwright King to	23	SIF	R WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Fine. Obviously, I will hold
24		progress it. No more than that.	24		everyone to that, not least in the interests of the
25	Q.	If that's what it meant, why didn't it just use the	25		transcriber.
		157			158
4	МВ	DEED. Von Hamburg sin	4		00.
1	WIK	BEER: Yes, thank you, sir.	1		98:
2		From paragraph 94 onwards, you deal with the issue	2		"My recollection was that the experts were being
3		of the appointment of an expert. In 94 you refer to the	3		instructed in respect of the integrity of the current
4		documents that you have considered. In 95, you say:	4		system."
5		"I recall that I had some involvement in seeking	5		Can we look, please, at POL00147068, page 2 to sta
6		a new expert to opine on the integrity of [Horizon]."	6		with, please, and an email from you to Mr Flemington, if
7		You didn't draft a document but you were asked by	7		we scroll up a little bit, so we can see the top bit.
8		Susan Crichton or Hugh Flemington to seek Board	8		From you to Mr Flemington, in December 2013:
9		approval. That was something you hadn't done before.	9		"We have identified two experts, as the ideal
10		Then a little further on, in 96, you say:	10		candidates for the role.
11		" I can see there is reference to arrangements	11		"[I think they will] Provide a validated opinion as
12		for a meeting", you can't recall attending.	12		to the present integrity of the system so as to lay to
13		It took a long time to get new experts:	13		rest the present concerns relating to the integrity of
14		"I can see that I was involved in seeking approval	14		Horizon Online"
15		from Chris Aujard, General Counsel"	15		Why did you say that the potential expert would
16		97:	16		speak to the present integrity of the system so as to
17		"I have been asked to what extent, if at all, did	17		lay to rest the present concerns?
18		I agree with [Martin Smith's] advice not to investigate	18	A.	I don't honestly
19		Horizon cases due to concerns that 'disclosures	19	Q.	In framing it that way, do you accept that you were
20		issues could arise in historic cases'."	20		effectively foreshadowing the opinion?
21		You say:	21		No, I don't
22		"I recall that I was primarily concerned that the	22	Q.	Setting out what you were looking for?
23		experts would have access to [all] the information they	23	A.	I wasn't looking at anything. I wish I knew to explain
24		felt they needed That was the reason for my email	24		that to you very clearly. Certainly, all I was

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159

concerned with is trying to get an expert, because it's

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page 2 to start

1 just taken a long time to get anything off the ground. 2 I mean, in the end of the day, I think we just basically 3 gave up because the Post Office didn't want -- they 4 wanted it, they didn't want it. So those are the 5 matters. You really need to have Mr Flemington, or 6 Susan Crichton, or Chris here, because I can't help you 7 with that. All I've done is they asked me to get the 8 expert -- independency expert as to the integrity of the 9 system, that's all I'm doing.

I'm not doing anything more than that. Maybe it is wrong here but that's not what it is. What you're suggesting is not true.

- Q. Did you disclose, to the putative new experts, the
 expert evidence that had been given by Mr Jenkins
 previously?
- A. It didn't even get that far. I mean, I -- I mean, it didn't even get very far. I mean, it used to -- it's stop/start, stop/start, sort of system. Post Office wanted it, they didn't want it, and I'm just going by whatever I've been told by Hugh Flemington to do or not to do. It's more -- nothing more than that.
- Q. Can I look at it from a different angle, then. Can we
 look at POL00139879. Do you see this is an attendance
 note of a meeting in Scotland, firstly, with BTO
 solicitors and then, secondly, with the Procurator

"[Simon Clarke] provided the meeting with a broad overview of the [Horizon Online] difficulties (absent any direct or indirect reference to the role of [Gareth Jenkins] or Fujitsu)."

Can you see that?

6 A. Yes, yes.

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7 Q. Then paragraph 13, over the page, please.

"[Simon Clarke] then outlined the proposed instruction of independent expert witnesses and the scope and depth of [these] experts' [reports]. PM ..."

I've forgotten who that is. If we scroll back.

Paul Miele, thank you, from the Procurator Fiscal. Back to 13, please:

"[Mr Miele] indicated surprise at the seriousness and depth to which [the Post Office] was prepared to go in dealing with the [Horizon Online] issues and was clearly appreciative of the approach being taken. He suggested that the matters outlined went a long way towards meeting the [Procurator Fiscal's] concerns as to both present and future prosecutions."

At this meeting, why did you not disclose to the Procurator Fiscal and to BTO that there had been a problem with Gareth Jenkins' evidence in past prosecutions?

25 **A.** I was asked by Susan to go along with it -- go along for 163

- 1 Fiscal in Edinburgh?
- 2 A. Yes, yes, I -- yes.
- 3 Q. Were you present at this?
- 4 A. I was present on the 5th not the 4th.
- 5 Q. You were present on the 5th but not the 4th?
- 6 A. Yeah, I don't think I was -- I think they had --
- 7 Cartwright King and BTO probably met the day before,
- 8 I think.
- 9 Q. Can we go, then, to page 3, please.
- 10 A. Yeah, there we go.
- 11 Q. This is the record of that meeting on the 5th --
- 12 A. Yes
- 13 Q. -- and we can see that you're present.
- 14 A. Yes
- 15 Q. We can see who else is present: two from Cartwright
- 16 King; two from BTO; one from Post Office, you; and two
- 17 from the Procurator Fiscal.
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 Q. Was this meeting, looking at it broadly, in response to
- 20 the Procurator Fiscal's initial view that all Post
- 21 Office cases should be terminated because they couldn't
- 22 prove Horizon was wholly reliable?
- 23 A. Yes, yes.
- 24 Q. Can we go forward to paragraph 12 of the meeting note,
- 25 please. Thank you. In the second sentence it says:

162

- 1 the meeting but I didn't know the ins and outs, as to
- 2 how the review was going or I had any -- I wasn't privy
- 3 to any information further than that. I mean, Simon
- 4 Clarke's, a senior barrister, and I went long and
- 5 I think -- I don't think I said very much. I just
- 6 introduced them to them, who they were, and just left
- 7 it -- him to explain everything.
- 8 Q. So if we go back to paragraph 12, please. You'll see in
- 9 the brackets there --
- 10 A. Yes, I can see that.
- 11 Q. -- a note is made that Horizon Online difficulties were
- 12 referred to absent any direct or indirect reference
- 13 Gareth Jenkins or Fujitsu. Was there a desire to keep
- 14 that secret?
- 15 A. Not on my part. I don't know anything about this. You
- 16 probably need to ask Simon when he comes to talk to you
- 17 but I don't --
- 18 Q. Did you tell the Procurator Fiscal why the Post Office
- 19 needed to instruct new experts, ie what was wrong with
- 20 the old one?
- 21 A. I -- as I said, I don't think I said very much here
- 22 apart from the introductions.
- 23 Q. Did anyone say what was wrong with the old expert and
- 24 why new experts needed to be instructed?
- 25 A. I can't recall, but it was basically Simon and Martin

- 1 I think, they were leading it.
- Q. Did anyone disclose the Simon Clarke Advices, the whole
 string of them?
- 4 A. I don't know. I'm not -- I don't recall but I mean I --
- 5 they might have done. They had a meeting prior to me
- 6 going there. I just went along because Susan asked me
- 7 to, you know, attend and, I mean, that's what
- 8 I basically did. I didn't take any part. I wasn't
- 9 privy to much information. I mean, if they asked any
- 10 point or Post Office view, I probably -- I don't know
- 11 what more I could have given but, certainly, I don't
- 12 even know what discussions Susan and Cartwright King
- had, or BTO had, and I was just an attendee, observer.
- 14 I mean, I don't know any more than that. I can't help
- 15 you with that any more.
- 16 Q. To your knowledge, did anyone draw to the Post Office
- 17 Board's attention the Simon Clarke Advice of 15 July
- 18 2013 concerning Mr Jenkins' reliability?
- 19 A. I had no dealings with the Board, very little dealing --
- 20 I don't think I had any dealing with the Board. I don't
- 21 think I even met any Board members. I mean, obviously
- 22 Chris used to report -- or, you know, the -- you know,
- the senior legal teams.
- 24 Q. Was there any discussion between you that --
- 25 **A.** No.

- 1 subpostmasters had been prosecuted?
- 2 A. I dealt with my cases but, as I said to you, the Head of
- 3 Criminal Law, Rob Wilson, wasn't very good at declaring
- 4 information and I think he was the contact within the
- 5 greater business and I -- as I said to you, apart from
- 6 him, I don't know any members of the Board, I don't know
- 7 any -- anybody within the business that much because
- 8 I didn't have that much contact --
- 9 Q. In all of your time was there no discussion, "Aren't the
- 10 Board interested in this?", or, "Why haven't I been
- 11 asked to contribute towards a Board paper which sets out
- 12 what's gone on here?"
- 13 A. What, do you mean in the Royal Mail Group?
- 14 Q. Yes.
- 15 A. No, there was Rob Wilson, I said he was the contact
- 16 within the business. I don't know who the Board members
- 17 were.
- 18 Q. I'm not asking you whether you knew who the Board
- 19 members were; I'm asking you, as a person --
- 20 A. Well, if I don't know them, I can't have a discussion
- 21 with them, can I? But no --
- 22 Q. I wasn't asking you whether you had a discussion. I was
- 23 asking you were you not querulous, were you not
- 24 wondering to yourself, "Hold on, some things have been
- 25 discovered here that have gone badly wrong? Does our 167

- 1 Q. -- "This is so serious" --
- 2 A. It is serious, I agree.
- 3 Q. -- "the Post Office board need to know about this"?
- 4 A. I'm -- as I said, I'm a criminal lawyer and my job is,
- 5 as you described it, is a postbox, which I agree with.
- 6 And, you know, that's all it is. But I wasn't privy to
- 7 any of it. These are high level discussions as to what
- 8 was disclosed and who it was disclosed to, who knew
- 9 what, when. I have no idea. I can honestly say that.
- 10 I'm on oath and I'm telling you that. I'm staggered as
- 11 to hear what you're telling me.
- 12 Q. Was it thought of as a dirty secret?
- 13 A. Not on my part. I didn't know any dirty secrets.
- 14 $\,$ Q. It shouldn't be revealed to the board nor should it be
- 15 revealed to the Scots?
- 16 A. Well, I think you've been talking to senior members of
- 17 the team. They're the ones that are privy to it,
- 18 I think you need to maybe call them in and discuss that
- 19 with them again because, certainly, I can't help you
- 20 with that
- 21 Q. Many of the prosecutions had occurred on your watch,
- 22 hadn't they?
- 23 A. How do you mean?
- 24 Q. Well, whilst you had been a criminal lawyer at Royal
- 25 Mail Group and then at the Post Office, a number of
- 1 Board know about this? Why haven't I been asked to
- 2 contribute to a Board paper or some briefing of some
- 3 very senior people who want to know what's gone on
- 4 here"?
- 5 A. I wasn't asked and I don't think I thought very much
- 6 about it because I didn't know much about any of it,
- 7 what was going on. I mean, I basically was a criminal
- 8 lawyer dealing with the cases, as and when they were
- 9 allocated to me, mostly with direction as to, you know,
- 10 what to do on them. No more than that.
- 11 **MR BEER:** Mr Singh, on that note, they're all the questions
- 12 I have to got to ask you. Thank you.
- 13 Sir, I think it's the Hudgells team and up to ten
- 14 minutes, sir.

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15 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Rightio.

Questioned by MS PATRICK

- 17 MS PATRICK: Good afternoon, Mr Singh. My name is Angela
- 18 Patrick and I represent, together with Tim Moloney KC,
- 19 a number of subpostmasters who were prosecuted and have
- 20 since had their convictions quashed, including
- 21 Mrs Hamilton, who I'm sure you can see sitting next to
- 22 me today.
- 23 A. Yes, I can. Yes.
- 24 Q. We only want to ask you about one issue and it's about
- 25 the handling of criminal prosecutions which were live at

- 1 the time of the publication of the Second Sight review,
- 2 the first Interim Report. Did you see the evidence of
- 3 Mr Martin Smith yesterday?
- 4 A. I heard, yes.
- 5 Q. You remember we were talking then yesterday, in
- 6 questions to him, about how, in July 2013, immediately
- 7 before the publication of the Second Sight Report and at
- 8 a time when it was known to the Post Office that it
- 9 would identify at least some bugs in Horizon, do you
- 10 remember then that there was a case of Samra that was
- 11 due to come on for a hearing?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Do you remember agreeing with Mr Smith and Mr Clarke
- 14 that they would contact Gareth Jenkins before that
- 15 hearing came on?
- 16 A. I don't think I -- no, no.
- 17 Q. If Mr Clarke had made a note of your agreement that they
- 18 should do that, a contemporaneous note, would you accept
- 19 it was likely to be correct?
- 20 A. All I can remember about that case was dealt with by the
- 21 Head of Legal, Hugh Flemington. I had very, very little
- 22 to do with it because I don't know the ins and outs of
- 23 it, as to the reason for it, but I can't really help you
- 24 or assist you more than that.
- 25 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I don't think Ms Patrick is asking you 169
- 1 to be correct?
- 2 A. Well, it's correct in the sense that I didn't make the
- 3 decision. He advised the Post Office. The decision
- 4 maker, the Head of Legal, Hugh Flemington, did that.
- 5 But, I mean, I wasn't privy to the advice.
- 6 Q. Can we just look at the note. It may be helpful.
- 7 A. Okay.

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- 8 **Q.** It's POL00172804. It may help your memory, Mr Singh.
- 9 We're looking at page 7, paragraph 16, please. This is
- 10 Mr Clarke writing.
 - "In this case I took the view that such an approach [an application for public interest immunity] to the problem might be appropriate. Accordingly Martin Smith
- 14 and I, in conjunction with Jarnail Singh, decided that
- 15 the best forward was to: 1) seek a ruling (ie the grant
- 16 of a PII [public interest immunity] certificate) from
- 17 the trial judge that we need not disclose to the defence
- 18 the fact that the Second Sight Report was to be
- 19 presented to Parliament today; and that the report
- 20 contained references to the existence of bugs in Horizon
- 21 both past and present; and 2) to adjourn the trial", and
- 22 so on
- 23 You see there that Mr Clarke has made a note that 24 the decision is made with him, Mr Smith, and "in
- 25 conjunction with Jarnail Singh"; do you see that there,

171

- 1 about the case. She's just using that as a point of
- 2 reference to ask you about a discussion you may have
- 3
- 4 A. I can't recall, to be honest. I don't know --
- 5 MS PATRICK: I'm very grateful to the Chair but I think it's
- 6 even simpler.
- 7 Α. Okay.
- Q. You knew Mr Clarke and you'd worked with him for a long 8
- 9 time?
- 10 A. Yes. I did. Yes.
- 11 Q. If he made an attendance note at the time that said you
- 12 agreed to something that he and Mr Smith had suggested,
- 13 would you expect that to be correct?
- 14 A. Of course, yes.
- 15 Q. Thank you. So 1 July, Samra is coming on for trial. Do
- 16 you recall agreeing that there would be an application
- 17 for a public interest immunity certificate to prevent
- 18 disclosure to the defence of the fact that the Second
- 19 Sight Report was to be presented to Parliament, and that
- 20 that report contained references to bugs in Horizon?
- 21 A. That was a matter for my line manager, Hugh Flemington,
- 22 who had made the decision. I didn't make any decisions.
- 23 Q. Again, if Mr Clarke had made a note of your agreement
- 24 that they, Mr Clarke and Mr Smith, should make just such
- 25 an application, would you accept that it would be likely
- 1 Mr Singh?

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- 2 Yes, I do. It's very clear, yes.
- 3 Q. There's no reference to Hugh Flemington, is there?
- 4 A. Well, I'm not the decision maker. I don't know how
 - I came about. Certainly, Hugh Flemington is the
- 6 decision maker. I don't know how that fits into it.
- 7 I don't even know what that certificate is because I'm
- 8 not that well knowledgeable about these things and,
- obviously, the Post Office and the decision maker have 9
- 10 decided to instruct Mr Clarke to make such
- 11 an application.
- 12 Q. You've accepted that you knew Mr Clarke. If he made
- a note at the time, it's likely that that would be done 13
- 14 correctly?
- 15 A. Yes, yeah. But it wasn't --
- Q. Just to explore your recollection, it might be able to 16
- 17 help your memory, but can you recall, looking at this,
- 18 what the basis for the application for public interest
- 19 immunity was to be?
- 20 A. I don't recall. I don't know.
- 21 Q. You, at this point, are a very experienced solicitor.
- 22 An application for public interest immunity in criminal
- 23 proceedings is a very serious step, isn't it?
- 24 A. It probably is but my understanding was limited. It's
- 25 something that senior counsel is leading on instructions

		175		176
25	MR	BEER: Yes, sir, it is.	25	
24		That's it, Mr Beer?	24	
23	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms Patrick.	23	
22		you, Mr Singh. Thank you very much.	22	
21	MS	PATRICK: Thank you. I don't have any more questions for	21	
20		a specialist with experts particularly.	20	
19	Α.	I'm a criminal lawyer but I wouldn't say I'm	19	
18	~.	at Post Office, aren't you?	18	
17	Q.	At this point, 2013, you're the sole criminal specialist	17	
16		Yeah.	16	
15	Q.	Mr Singh, can I stop you there for a moment.	15	
14		that, I'm not going to do this". So I	14	
13		to do. I mean, I couldn't say, "Look, I disagree with	13	ino nouring adjourned until 3.73 am on Tuesday, / May 2024)
11 12		Flemington or whoever it is, Jessica or Hugh Flemington to have an input in whatever they decide		5.17 pm) The hearing adjourned until 9.45 am on Tuesday, 7 May 2024)
10 11		Flemington or whoever it is, Jessica or Hugh		3.17 pm)
9 10		on whatever I've been asked by my line manager, Hugh		IR BEER: Thank you very much, sir.
9		senior Legal Team. I am purely there on instruction		IR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. All right, then.
8		a matter you need to discuss with Mr Clarke and the		IR BEER: Yes, that's right, sir.
7	۸.	ins and out of this and, in all seriousness, this is	7	9.45, Mr Beer?
6	Α.	I'm not seeking to cover up anything. I don't know the		IR WYN WILLIAMS: So we'll adjourn now until Tuesday at
5		if you could?		HE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. Thank you.
4		Was this is an example of you seeking to cover up things	4	grateful to you for your participation in the Inquiry.
3	٠.	recording it's a decision made in conjunction with you.	3	on two separate occasions to be questioned. I am
2	Q.	Mr Singh, we have this note. We have Mr Clarke	2	statements, Mr Singh, and for making yourself available
1	Α.	Yeah?	1 S	IR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you for making two witness
		173		174
25		behind my advice that we seek a PII [public interest	25 Q	
24		"Finally, it is worth commenting on the reasoning	24	something I advised on or dealt with.
23		reasons:	23	ins and outs of this particular case because it's not
22		Thank you very much. Here we see Mr Clarke records his	22	lawyer, I've been advised to assist but I don't know the
21		If we could look at page 9, at paragraph 24, please.	21	Post Office on advice, and I've been as a criminal
20		Mr Singh.	20	is on top of his game but that's a decision made by the
19		application, just to see if it prompts your memory,	19	like an article clerk sitting behind senior counsel who
18		with you. So can we just look at the reasons for the	18 A	
17	٠.	here records that the decision was made in conjunction	17	interest immunity, Mr Singh?
16	Q.	Well, we can talk to Mr Clarke about his note and he	16	that a proper basis for an application for public
15		because I don't know any details as to the application.	15	"Our objective was to avoid such consequences"; was
14		less I don't know what my involvement in it was	14	that objective we achieved."
13		Mr Clarke and Mr Smith are dealing with it. I'm more or	13	systems. Our objective was to avoid such consequences:
12		It's something the decision has been made and	12	confidence in both [Post Office] and [Post Office]
11	Δ.	the case. It's not one of my cases I'm dealing with.	11	Office] and would have greatly undermined public
10	Α.	Well, certainly, yes. But, I mean, I wasn't privy to	10	would have seriously damaged the reputation of [Post
9		interest immunity application might be about?	9	most probably in the national press. Such speculation
8		accept that's a rough explanation for what a public	8	virulent speculation as to the content of any report,
7		serious things such as national security, would you	7	have been to encourage extremely unhealthy and likely
5 6		serious matters of public interest, in order to withhold material from the defence and from the public eye,	5 6	Sight Report into Horizon. To permit this information to enter the public domain at such an early stage would
4		an application is very limited and it must engage very	4	the revelation of the existence of a (draft) Second
3	Q.	Now, if I suggest to you that the basis for such	3	publicity which would inevitably have been generated by
2	_	Flemington and, probably, you know, the General Counsel.	2	in my opinion, very concerned at the potential adverse
1		from the Post Office Senior Legal Team, like Hugh	1	immunity] certificate in this case. POL were, rightly

INDEX

JARNAIL SINGH (resworn)	1
Questioned by MR BEER	1
Questioned by MS PATRICK	168

148/13 148/17 149/1 4 Α 149/7 149/13 150/2 MR BEER: [33] 1/3 1 August [1] 98/7 **4.29 pm [2]** 33/21 ability [2] 51/8 150/21 154/22 1/5 1/8 1/15 3/13 3/20 **1 February [1]** 60/23 37/23 108/24 **2011 [2]** 7/1 78/3 **1 January [10]** 147/2 32/18 32/21 41/19 able [12] 45/21 59/8 **4.38 [1]** 38/1 **2012 [9]** 54/14 54/19 43/18 43/25 44/2 147/11 148/13 148/16 59/9 60/10 61/3 63/22 **4.51 pm [1]** 53/14 108/3 108/10 116/19 149/1 149/7 149/13 88/10 88/13 88/17 64/17 82/25 87/21 **42** pages [1] 4/1 117/9 117/11 126/24 88/19 93/11 93/15 150/2 150/21 154/22 128/20 129/2 172/16 **42nd [1]** 4/1 135/6 93/17 110/17 110/20 **1 July [3]** 62/2 68/5 **4th [2]** 162/4 162/5 about [165] 1/19 3/7 2013 [42] 4/24 5/5 123/12 123/16 123/20 170/15 5/13 5/20 5/25 7/4 5/14 5/22 6/4 11/5 123/22 143/23 146/2 **1.10 [1]** 123/17 7/15 8/7 8/9 9/24 11/23 29/1 29/12 146/5 159/1 168/11 **10 [3]** 7/23 54/3 70/8 **5 December [1]** 11/5 10/10 11/20 11/25 29/16 30/7 40/23 41/3 175/25 176/8 176/10 **10 years [1]** 95/15 **5 February [1]** 57/18 12/4 12/21 13/8 14/21 41/9 42/13 53/9 54/15 5 February '10 [1] 17/12 17/19 18/4 MS PATRICK: [3] 10.50 [1] 43/22 54/16 54/20 54/24 87/1 168/17 170/5 175/21 18/14 18/20 19/20 **100 [2]** 99/13 99/20 56/18 61/19 62/2 68/5 5 October [2] 42/21 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: 11 July [1] 126/23 20/1 20/12 20/17 74/7 78/4 78/5 88/22 78/10 **[37]** 1/4 1/6 1/11 **11.00 [2]** 43/19 43/24 21/24 23/6 25/15 26/4 90/18 90/22 92/17 **5.doc** [1] 35/24 1/16 1/22 2/4 3/4 3/11 **12 [2]** 162/24 164/8 26/13 27/9 28/1 29/7 93/24 98/7 107/17 **55 [3]** 92/20 93/18 3/18 32/17 32/19 **12 August [1]** 118/15 29/10 29/19 31/12 146/11 146/20 147/20 93/25 41/17 43/21 44/1 **12 months [1]** 78/7 31/12 34/13 35/1 148/5 160/8 165/18 5th [3] 162/4 162/5 88/12 88/18 92/24 **12.04 [1]** 88/14 35/18 36/23 39/19 169/6 175/17 162/11 40/23 41/6 41/17 42/2 93/3 93/16 110/9 **12.15 [2]** 88/10 88/16 **2014 [5]** 124/4 125/4 110/15 110/19 123/15 **12.22 [1]** 93/12 44/17 44/18 49/17 143/6 151/7 152/25 123/21 143/11 143/14 **12.28 [1]** 93/14 49/18 50/17 52/7 **2015 [8]** 13/7 17/24 **6.00pm [1]** 97/14 **13 [2]** 163/7 163/13 143/17 145/15 146/1 52/17 52/18 53/10 29/2 29/12 40/23 41/3 **6.10 [3]** 6/18 7/2 8/6 13 July [1] 74/7 146/4 158/23 168/15 55/24 56/1 56/20 41/9 42/14 **6.5 [3]** 6/18 6/21 **14 [5]** 6/25 53/25 169/25 175/23 176/1 56/24 57/5 57/6 57/10 2020 [2] 30/9 32/13 10/16 176/6 176/9 54/12 64/19 71/16 59/8 59/12 59/25 **2024 [2]** 1/1 176/12 **6.6 [1]** 6/23 THE WITNESS: [3] **14,000 [1]** 118/19 64/22 65/12 65/13 **204 [2]** 41/14 41/21 **6.7 [1]** 6/25 93/1 93/10 176/5 **15 [2]** 7/10 7/11 65/14 66/20 66/21 **21/10/10 [1]** 70/8 **6.8 [1]** 10/16 66/25 67/2 67/3 69/2 15 July [5] 7/21 **23 [1]** 64/22 **62 [1]** 6/22 69/4 69/8 69/9 71/5 11/23 77/15 77/17 **24 [1]** 173/21 **68 [3]** 41/14 41/19 '10 [2] 60/23 87/1 71/10 72/24 75/17 165/17 **24** July [1] 93/24 41/20 '13 [1] 62/11 75/21 81/2 83/20 84/4 **16 [1]** 171/9 25 April [2] 124/4 '14 [1] 29/16 84/5 84/13 84/14 **17th [1]** 74/23 125/4 **'15 [1]** 29/16 84/14 84/15 84/16 **18 [1]** 6/11 25 February [1] **7 June [2]** 114/3 '20 [1] 32/18 **19 July [2]** 93/24 84/18 85/2 86/21 53/14 116/19 'beyond [1] 69/22 146/20 91/24 93/2 94/16 **26 [1]** 146/7 **7 May [1]** 176/12 **'bug' [2]** 7/5 8/20 **1989/90 [1]** 86/21 99/17 100/5 100/7 **27 July [1]** 148/5 **71 [1]** 146/7 'Bugs' [1] 63/21 101/18 101/20 101/21 **27 June [1]** 8/13 **74,000-odd [1]** 70/7 'cherrypick' [1] 101/24 102/14 103/24 **28 [1]** 7/23 **76 [2]** 11/13 14/1 154/15 **2 August [2]** 92/17 104/1 106/12 106/19 28 February [1] 'Correcting [1] 41/22 107/17 106/21 106/23 110/3 8 53/15 'covered [1] 66/23 2 September [3] 110/5 111/11 112/15 **28 June [2]** 53/9 54/8 **8 January [1]** 13/7 'disclosures [1] 88/21 90/22 91/3 115/10 117/6 120/11 **8 July [5]** 5/22 6/4 **29 [1]** 8/10 159/19 **2-4 [1]** 58/3 124/7 126/17 129/7 29 September [4] 54/24 56/18 147/20 'does [2] 152/9 2.00 [2] 123/14 129/7 129/8 129/21 32/13 36/7 36/12 **8 October [5]** 33/3 123/19 152/11 129/22 138/14 138/18 41/24 33/21 43/2 47/19 'everybody [1] 109/1 | 20 [1] 93/19 138/18 140/14 140/16 **290910.doc [1]** 36/1 148/1 'fitness [1] 152/8 20 November [1] 142/7 142/8 143/1 **8.10 [1]** 98/7 'flesh [1] 127/12 143/12 143/13 144/8 135/6 **20,000 [1]** 125/12 'Having [1] 141/8 145/2 147/25 148/7 **3 April [1]** 78/10 **'If [2]** 103/10 103/12 **20-odd [1]** 86/21 149/21 150/8 150/8 **3.17 [1]** 176/11 **9 March [1]** 71/16 'lost' [3] 31/2 31/24 **2004 [1]** 64/1 150/23 151/2 156/13 **3.30 [1]** 158/22 **9 May [1]** 143/6 59/17 **2005 [1]** 70/8 156/15 156/17 164/15 **30 [1]** 8/24 **9.44 [1]** 1/2 2006 [2] 64/5 149/17 'Officer [1] 140/23 166/3 168/1 168/6 **30,000 [1]** 125/12 **9.45 [1]** 176/7 'officer's [1] 140/4 **2008 [1]** 70/8 168/6 168/24 168/24 **31 July [2]** 94/1 **9.45 am [1]** 176/12 **'our [1]** 133/12 **2010 [30]** 6/23 11/13 169/6 169/20 170/1 97/14 90 [1] 86/21 **'Post [1]** 109/7 13/2 26/23 30/7 32/17 170/2 172/5 172/8 **34 [1]** 158/14 **94 [3]** 158/14 159/2 'shredded' [1] 101/14 36/7 36/13 37/1 37/16 173/9 173/16 174/18 **37 [2]** 7/10 7/11 159/3 'story [1] 131/22 41/6 41/25 42/11 above [6] 10/15 31/6 **38 [3]** 77/18 78/18 **95 [1]** 159/4 45/18 57/18 58/25 'subsequent [1] 65/6 33/5 33/10 114/24 **96 [1]** 159/10 80/16 71/16 78/1 147/2 'The [1] 65/1 130/24

147/11 148/1 148/9

'Why [2] 127/9 144/6

(46) MR BEER: - absence

absence [4] 139/24

97 [1] 159/16

98 [1] 160/1

89/6 89/13 89/15 130/19 125/6 126/7 action [2] 55/7 71/3 activity [1] 57/2 89/18 89/24 90/4 **ahead [5]** 34/15 always [9] 23/10 52/1 absence... [3] 141/12 actual [1] 30/23 90/24 106/16 126/11 108/12 109/19 110/13 73/13 90/13 113/6 141/16 145/10 actually [11] 19/18 146/20 171/3 174/22 111/14 124/14 124/15 127/7 absent [3] 71/9 163/2 22/21 47/24 55/6 174/24 aim [1] 126/2 139/18 164/12 80/15 86/10 86/15 advises [1] 152/16 **Alana [2]** 131/21 Alwen [9] 66/17 absolutely [7] 30/11 advising [5] 98/11 91/10 114/7 122/13 131/24 66/19 67/6 67/8 67/11 36/8 52/18 74/4 87/8 148/9 99/4 99/12 100/19 alarm [5] 34/2 35/11 126/25 131/19 132/25 136/19 157/14 add [5] 44/5 44/10 146/12 60/9 60/16 61/15 133/11 accept [13] 26/22 96/12 100/12 134/22 am [16] 1/2 3/1 13/18 affairs [1] 22/3 aligned [1] 112/12 27/4 27/21 28/20 29/1 add-on [1] 100/12 affect [1] 128/10 all [94] 1/11 2/4 17/15 19/14 19/18 82/18 119/5 120/12 affected [5] 6/25 14/1 10/18 12/3 12/10 20/9 33/5 43/22 43/24 52/4 added [2] 44/19 145/1 160/19 169/18 135/22 54/2 54/4 148/12 20/19 25/16 27/1 94/12 110/15 146/11 170/25 173/8 affecting [2] 6/22 27/18 29/7 29/10 175/9 176/3 176/12 addition [1] 128/1 acceptable [3] additional [2] 3/23 8/24 34/11 37/20 38/11 amended [3] 134/15 118/19 118/24 123/9 137/8 affects [1] 54/18 39/15 40/16 40/18 135/16 135/25 accepted [3] 81/6 additionally [1] 98/3 42/23 45/8 45/11 afflicted [1] 149/12 amongst [2] 53/11 130/24 172/12 address [7] 4/11 61/3 after [22] 2/22 7/1 45/21 46/22 46/24 83/10 accepting [1] 121/2 100/13 113/9 127/2 10/21 25/7 26/3 40/13 47/2 47/7 48/2 48/24 amount [2] 56/3 accepts [1] 118/25 148/17 149/2 53/1 53/18 53/22 70/8 50/15 51/16 52/15 92/15 access [6] 44/22 94/1 105/1 106/8 63/13 64/7 69/2 70/24 amounts [2] 33/8 addressed [2] 40/10 44/24 44/25 151/19 85/1 122/25 125/3 126/6 72/11 72/16 72/19 35/5 153/4 159/23 addressing [2] 80/21 127/4 129/14 130/7 78/15 87/6 88/1 90/21 analysed [2] 141/8 accompanied [1] 134/24 135/1 135/9 91/14 95/3 97/2 97/3 142/12 80/25 51/1 adequate [1] 139/22 afternoon [5] 64/15 102/4 104/2 104/13 analysis [2] 33/10 accordance [2] 105/19 106/16 108/19 71/9 88/17 123/20 123/22 adjourn [2] 171/21 155/20 156/7 111/10 112/11 119/2 168/17 176/6 |**Andrew [2]** 100/22 according [1] 16/25 adjourned [1] 176/12 119/25 123/7 124/7 again [17] 13/4 16/4 139/11 accordingly [7] 14/4 27/2 36/11 56/16 60/5 125/23 129/7 129/8 Adjournment [1] **Andy [4]** 76/16 25/3 37/19 78/9 79/1 60/5 60/5 83/15 89/16 | 129/21 130/19 130/24 | 122/13 122/24 139/11 123/18 118/20 171/13 adjournments [1] 115/25 125/19 146/21 133/2 133/23 134/22 Angela [1] 168/17 account [16] 6/24 angle [1] 161/22 136/23 149/20 151/6 166/19 136/9 138/9 142/1 12/7 17/8 34/10 53/4 **Anne [2]** 58/11 58/16 142/5 142/18 143/3 admit [1] 52/3 170/23 53/10 54/18 56/25 announced [1] 127/4 adopt [2] 87/6 116/13 against [6] 2/12 143/5 143/14 143/20 57/5 78/4 84/15 advance [1] 27/19 70/19 109/12 113/5 144/7 150/7 151/23 announcement [1] 116/15 126/16 137/16 adverse [1] 174/2 137/9 141/20 153/3 153/25 157/10 126/15 147/21 148/4 advice [61] 7/20 7/24 age [1] 47/6 159/17 159/23 160/24 annoyed [1] 106/11 accountant [1] 10/22 11/22 17/21 161/7 161/9 162/20 another [5] 30/8 92/5 agenda [1] 124/7 130/21 19/15 23/24 24/13 agents [10] 15/18 166/6 167/9 168/11 96/12 119/15 122/12 accountants [1] 55/19 64/13 68/10 107/15 107/18 121/19 169/20 175/7 176/9 answer [17] 2/9 2/20 128/8 121/21 121/21 133/13 allegations [3] 71/8 74/8 77/15 77/16 2/21 16/24 20/3 20/4 accounting [10] 79/25 80/2 80/9 81/16 133/18 134/16 136/21 139/15 139/25 21/11 26/12 56/11 54/12 70/11 118/18 82/10 83/6 83/8 84/25 ago [5] 6/10 17/11 56/16 59/7 61/8 76/3 allege [1] 139/20 118/23 119/20 121/2 92/17 97/17 98/18 22/10 86/21 158/4 77/3 136/14 152/15 alleging [1] 71/3 127/22 130/16 141/9 100/3 100/25 101/1 agree [26] 15/8 19/24 alliance [1] 109/4 158/5 142/12 102/25 103/2 103/9 20/10 21/4 21/12 allocated [1] 168/9 answered [2] 58/3 accounts [4] 31/2 107/5 107/10 107/14 21/21 21/25 33/25 ally [1] 114/16 110/21 31/19 41/23 55/1 107/17 107/17 109/17 56/23 75/16 80/20 along [9] 22/23 29/7 answering [2] 2/23 accurate [12] 9/7 109/22 109/23 114/2 80/24 81/14 81/15 29/10 81/10 86/17 56/10 10/14 12/3 12/21 115/10 116/1 117/13 82/10 103/16 108/2 128/5 163/25 163/25 anticipate [1] 139/12 22/14 64/7 94/15 117/24 117/24 126/11 123/11 134/5 146/24 165/6 any [114] 2/9 2/16 97/10 97/13 97/16 148/16 148/25 154/14 alongside [1] 28/17 146/15 146/16 146/22 2/18 2/18 3/6 3/15 97/19 101/15 146/25 147/1 148/21 159/18 166/2 166/5 3/16 9/14 9/21 9/23 already [2] 23/14 accurately [3] 10/23 agreed [15] 80/1 80/2 151/21 149/9 149/21 150/7 12/17 19/12 19/17 32/19 143/4 150/14 159/18 165/17 80/8 80/10 80/12 also [22] 7/15 14/11 19/17 19/22 20/6 accused [1] 70/7 171/5 173/25 174/21 119/13 130/9 146/14 15/17 16/5 18/9 23/17 20/25 22/5 24/12 achieved [1] 174/14 146/17 147/3 147/4 23/25 24/22 48/13 24/14 24/15 26/8 26/8 advices [8] 15/17 acknowledgement 24/15 25/22 83/2 147/14 147/15 148/6 58/19 62/5 64/4 64/21 28/13 29/22 30/16 **[2]** 131/1 132/2 106/22 113/25 117/16 64/22 71/16 79/21 31/17 33/14 35/8 39/2 170/12 across [6] 28/13 165/2 94/15 100/3 100/13 39/8 39/12 40/14 agreeing [2] 169/13 28/14 75/13 116/14 advise [6] 22/21 104/6 117/17 119/12 40/21 42/22 48/13 170/16 132/13 137/21 99/23 101/4 114/18 agreement [2] although [1] 70/10 49/8 50/4 50/23 52/25 acting [2] 101/3 152/17 155/14 169/17 170/23 55/19 58/9 58/19 59/8 **Altman [6]** 90/9 155/15 advised [14] 80/6 agreements [1] 90/12 124/4 125/4 59/10 59/14 59/23

128/14 128/14 129/4 86/1 88/1 99/11 99/22 9/17 9/20 9/21 9/23 appearing [1] 126/5 appears [4] 33/7 35/4 129/4 129/19 130/18 100/14 101/22 110/3 10/20 12/2 12/17 any... [67] 60/7 60/16 78/2 151/11 131/22 137/10 138/17 110/5 111/21 122/20 12/19 15/9 16/1 16/12 60/18 61/15 62/7 applicant [3] 139/19 138/18 150/13 153/13 129/6 129/20 143/14 16/18 17/1 21/18 22/5 63/22 66/3 66/9 66/23 141/14 144/8 154/17 155/13 155/13 143/20 153/20 167/18 23/22 24/6 24/9 25/5 71/4 71/25 79/3 81/17 155/15 156/3 161/4 167/19 167/22 167/23 25/8 26/24 27/8 28/23 application [12] 85/21 85/22 94/13 136/22 170/16 170/25 166/7 166/17 172/21 169/25 28/25 29/4 29/21 97/8 107/1 107/10 171/12 172/11 172/18 30/16 30/16 54/24 173/13 aspect [3] 4/10 107/14 107/22 108/13 172/22 173/4 173/9 area [3] 22/16 28/11 109/21 125/23 56/2 57/9 57/13 57/14 109/8 109/19 112/20 173/15 173/19 174/16 40/18 58/20 64/4 64/6 66/9 **aspects [2]** 74/15 112/22 122/4 124/25 applications [1] aren't [9] 17/23 34/18 126/11 76/18 76/23 77/5 125/20 128/20 137/2 77/11 86/24 146/11 136/22 42/10 42/14 121/17 assertion [1] 132/1 140/14 141/10 142/13 **assessed [1]** 42/6 147/24 148/4 148/7 applies [1] 152/3 125/19 143/24 167/9 144/23 145/9 146/2 175/18 assist [7] 3/5 42/17 148/12 149/18 150/19 **apply [1]** 113/7 149/2 149/14 150/5 appoint [1] 127/9 arguably [1] 79/10 47/7 81/5 133/24 away [6] 13/1 82/7 150/15 150/24 151/2 argument [1] 125/25 appointed [2] 130/22 169/24 174/22 84/10 156/22 157/8 151/17 151/20 154/3 157/21 131/8 arguments [4] 14/4 assistance [1] 156/3 163/3 164/2 14/10 25/3 136/23 138/16 appointment [12] 164/3 164/12 165/8 В 126/15 126/16 126/17 arise [3] 152/22 assisted [1] 134/3 165/9 165/14 165/15 back [29] 6/17 13/15 126/19 126/24 127/13 153/2 159/20 **assisting [1]** 61/5 165/20 165/21 165/24 19/11 27/16 28/20 128/9 133/19 156/13 arises [1] 3/5 assume [1] 50/8 166/7 166/13 167/6 32/13 35/19 45/16 157/13 158/11 159/3 arising [1] 76/19 assurance [1] 130/12 167/7 168/6 170/22 45/18 66/18 68/21 appreciate [2] 95/9 around [15] 7/14 at [242] 173/15 174/8 175/21 74/10 80/16 85/8 90/2 134/21 7/17 7/17 26/25 33/13 attached [5] 64/21 anybody [5] 80/6 54/14 55/22 56/17 118/4 118/10 118/12 121/4 122/2 122/16 appreciative [1] 87/9 91/16 92/11 63/2 64/1 106/9 122/18 126/12 136/11 125/7 163/17 167/7 125/22 131/25 146/18 attaching [2] 40/10 137/6 137/20 147/7 approach [11] 84/16 anyone [8] 4/16 147/8 155/2 163/11 111/12 116/13 122/6 147/16 62/2 81/16 120/21 121/19 163/12 164/8 133/14 134/7 134/17 arrange [1] 76/14 attachment [1] 38/9 158/10 164/23 165/2 141/5 158/6 163/17 attachments [6] 33/5 background [5] 4/11 arrangements [1] 165/16 56/22 59/13 62/6 171/11 159/11 35/20 35/21 38/11 anything [50] 16/1 87/12 appropriate [6] 3/9 arrow [1] 89/5 40/9 40/16 16/18 16/20 21/24 43/18 123/13 146/17 article [1] 174/19 **backwards** [2] 95/9 attempt [2] 131/6 24/1 25/15 26/4 26/8 95/23 147/15 171/13 as [213] 131/6 26/13 26/25 27/25 bad [3] 105/14 138/2 ask [21] 2/19 3/13 attempts [1] 154/10 appropriately [1] 30/1 30/15 34/9 34/25 138/4 4/22 26/20 41/17 82/22 attend [4] 74/24 35/18 39/12 46/7 badly [1] 167/25 56/15 69/25 104/3 93/24 103/7 165/7 approval [2] 159/9 47/12 49/10 49/17 Baker [4] 65/24 128/4 136/7 141/15 attendance [2] 159/14 51/13 52/8 52/18 **April [3]** 78/10 124/4 131/20 131/24 133/8 142/4 144/6 144/9 161/23 170/11 52/21 68/18 69/8 69/9 153/18 158/17 158/20 attendee [1] 165/13 balance [5] 31/25 125/4 75/22 77/12 82/8 33/9 35/6 53/23 54/4 are [101] 1/24 2/10 164/16 168/12 168/24 attending [1] 159/12 85/13 86/19 86/20 2/18 4/6 8/9 9/24 10/6 170/2 attention [4] 3/18 **balanced** [1] 126/1 87/8 104/14 105/19 13/22 14/4 15/5 24/19 asked [49] 13/16 43/5 43/12 165/17 **balances [4]** 14/1 106/14 113/10 127/23 34/5 53/17 53/21 24/19 24/24 34/5 34/6 19/7 55/9 56/11 56/14 auditor [2] 127/10 151/2 155/22 156/9 **balancing** [1] 31/15 43/10 48/13 48/16 59/23 61/22 62/12 127/13 156/24 158/7 160/23 48/18 49/7 50/6 55/1 62/13 62/21 63/9 ball [1] 22/25 **auditors [2]** 130/14 161/1 161/10 164/15 bank [4] 113/12 58/19 58/20 60/7 63/12 63/13 63/17 130/19 175/6 113/20 113/22 114/13 60/16 63/22 64/16 65/17 67/11 68/12 August [5] 92/17 anyway [3] 48/10 bank' [1] 109/8 64/16 66/3 71/11 73/8 69/15 69/19 72/22 98/7 100/25 107/17 49/7 132/10 **barrister [5]** 23/24 73/20 74/11 74/12 73/1 73/25 79/2 99/6 118/15 apart [10] 9/22 12/15 58/8 58/14 87/16 74/13 74/14 74/21 103/7 109/17 109/20 **Aujard [2]** 139/12 15/25 16/17 24/3 164/4 75/17 77/25 78/20 110/21 113/9 113/24 159/15 28/12 62/7 65/5 79/16 79/21 80/18 117/12 117/14 117/25 author [1] 31/5 based [5] 130/24 164/22 167/5 135/24 146/17 147/16 82/25 83/1 83/2 83/25 127/16 129/25 138/24 Authority [1] 105/24 apologise [3] 3/14 155/8 83/25 86/25 88/21 139/5 145/23 158/19 available [6] 31/16 56/15 56/15 basically [14] 22/15 88/24 91/21 92/23 159/7 159/17 161/7 98/14 98/25 103/12 apparent [2] 11/17 96/24 96/25 98/2 99/3 163/25 165/6 165/9 24/11 84/22 92/3 140/12 176/2 124/16 95/16 141/23 142/15 99/12 100/2 100/5 167/11 168/1 168/5 avenue [1] 22/20 **Apparently [1]** 58/11 avenues [1] 124/14 142/21 143/8 156/21 108/13 109/1 109/19 175/10 appeal [5] 28/2 30/13 161/2 164/25 165/8 109/20 109/21 112/12 asking [35] 2/10 avoid [2] 174/13 39/5 70/19 73/14 168/7 116/19 117/3 119/3 18/25 19/1 20/10 174/15 Appeal's [1] 28/3 avoidance [1] 146/22 basis [5] 69/25 119/13 121/17 122/18 21/12 21/20 26/1 26/3 appeared [4] 8/22 aware [55] 4/16 8/23 120/19 172/18 173/3 123/11 125/24 127/3 27/21 48/2 48/6 62/9 48/24 70/13 90/2 174/16 127/16 127/18 127/20 67/13 76/22 81/23 9/8 9/10 9/13 9/14

В **BBC [2]** 13/10 13/15 be [199] bear [1] 20/9 became [4] 4/17 11/17 29/3 101/6 because [135] 1/8 5/8 5/15 10/7 13/1 15/19 16/25 17/14 18/11 18/15 20/3 20/5 20/21 22/13 22/20 22/24 24/7 24/8 25/8 25/18 25/20 26/9 27/1 28/24 30/18 30/20 34/4 34/19 34/20 34/25 35/1 35/13 37/6 37/15 38/7 38/14 38/16 40/18 45/11 45/20 45/25 46/3 46/5 46/12 46/14 46/22 46/23 47/11 48/2 48/4 48/20 49/21 50/22 51/6 51/11 52/16 52/20 57/8 60/10 61/15 61/23 62/12 62/13 63/5 65/12 68/7 68/17 69/6 69/9 69/11 72/25 73/6 75/20 81/1 82/3 82/5 83/2 83/13 84/9 84/10 84/20 84/21 85/16 85/21 85/24 86/10 86/15 87/24 91/14 94/3 96/4 104/5 104/20 105/8 106/1 106/10 106/21 110/15 113/19 113/24 114/18 115/17 119/18 126/9 131/10 131/12 133/5 136/8 136/15 137/17 138/15 139/3 139/5 142/6 144/14 145/9 148/22 149/7 149/18 153/9 153/12 153/22 158/5 160/25 161/3 161/6 162/21 165/6 166/19 167/7 168/6 169/22 172/7 173/15 174/23 become [3] 3/16 139/24 147/24 been [165] 5/9 5/10 5/16 8/7 8/23 9/2 9/10 9/11 10/14 11/11 11/18 11/20 11/25 12/9 12/11 13/24 14/18 14/23 17/18 18/1 18/23 20/11 20/13 20/14 20/16 20/18 22/6 22/12 27/18 28/5 30/9 39/5 39/7 41/6 41/11 42/6 43/3 43/8 45/21 46/16 46/25 47/15 47/15

51/25 54/5 54/18 54/19 56/10 58/3 59/17 59/23 62/6 62/13 62/15 62/16 62/19 63/4 64/3 64/4 65/15 65/17 66/4 66/21 68/12 69/6 70/4 behind [2] 173/25 70/18 72/22 73/25 76/23 77/5 77/9 78/2 79/13 79/18 79/22 79/23 82/5 82/21 86/24 87/21 87/23 89/6 89/13 89/15 89/18 89/24 90/3 90/24 93/21 94/17 95/6 97/3 98/17 101/9 101/10 101/13 101/18 101/24 102/1 102/3 102/9 102/25 103/3 103/9 105/23 106/16 113/9 113/15 113/19 113/24 116/23 117/14 117/25 119/8 119/10 119/23 119/23 120/1 120/23 121/1 121/5 126/11 129/20 130/1 130/10 131/4 131/5 131/8 131/12 132/19 134/2 134/15 135/14 135/15 135/25 139/21 139/23 140/25 141/3 141/3 141/4 143/18 145/23 145/23 146/24 best [9] 4/6 16/16 149/10 151/21 158/18 159/17 161/14 161/20 163/22 166/16 166/24 better [2] 1/10 167/1 167/10 167/24 168/1 173/12 174/3 174/7 174/21 174/22 175/10 Beer [16] 1/6 1/14 1/17 3/12 3/19 32/17 41/17 92/22 93/2 93/8 beyond [4] 78/20 110/9 143/14 146/1 175/24 176/7 177/4 **before [56]** 2/14 3/13 5/4 5/14 10/20 15/11 15/14 16/14 17/3 17/9 bit [22] 34/9 47/24 23/2 24/7 26/21 26/22 27/24 38/23 39/4 41/7 42/1 43/16 48/10 53/1 54/23 55/22 56/18 57/8 59/13 61/18 64/11 64/12 65/13 81/15 82/10 84/6 91/3 98/21 121/11 122/11 124/14 126/6 129/20 130/17 137/5 148/13 148/18 149/5 149/13 150/2 150/21 152/5 154/22 158/22 159/9 162/7 169/7 169/14

began [2] 26/23

92/20

begin [3] 3/13 5/24 145/16 beginning [2] 129/14 134/2 behalf [2] 128/19 139/13 174/19 being [40] 7/13 7/16 8/17 9/17 12/2 14/1 20/19 23/12 42/6 46/8 48/7 54/16 60/14 66/9 68/19 73/11 84/11 96/8 96/18 97/15 101/7 106/23 108/3 112/25 119/19 120/19 bones' [1] 127/12 127/3 127/17 130/22 130/25 131/3 132/21 139/16 139/18 141/10 95/25 119/17 123/11 155/17 156/11 158/15 160/2 163/17 **belief [2]** 4/7 150/18 believe [7] 57/25 80/2 94/2 94/14 94/15 97/9 97/12 bells [5] 34/2 35/11 60/9 60/16 61/15 below [4] 58/4 77/25 132/4 151/5 beneficial [2] 119/18 119/20 Benjamin [1] 57/19 51/7 51/7 63/1 93/3 139/12 155/15 171/15 155/14 between [15] 8/15 13/7 25/13 32/7 53/7 70/8 74/7 84/22 85/18 brand [5] 112/16 107/22 119/13 124/2 125/12 130/7 165/24 80/18 83/25 105/15 big [4] 47/2 50/13 50/14 50/14 **bill [1]** 156/1 53/13 59/3 85/4 95/3 97/21 100/1 100/1 100/6 100/6 101/2 104/1 112/3 113/25 115/17 116/4 117/16 151/5 156/5 160/7 160/7 bits [2] 19/5 109/25 black [1] 142/16 blame [5] 32/21 119/1 119/7 119/20 120/14 blaming [1] 117/23 blind [1] 38/14 block [1] 106/9 blue [1] 142/16

board [14] 128/13 159/8 165/19 165/20 165/21 166/3 166/14 167/6 167/10 167/11 167/16 167/18 168/1 168/2 **Board's [1]** 165/17 **Bogerd [1]** 125/5 Bond [20] 55/16 68/16 69/15 72/4 74/24 75/1 75/3 76/16 90/12 92/7 99/3 99/8 99/12 99/25 100/1 100/4 100/16 100/18 100/20 103/3 both [12] 7/14 11/14 63/25 69/21 95/8 126/6 163/20 171/21 174/12 **bottom [9]** 6/7 22/19 36/16 38/3 43/7 63/19 65/20 89/3 145/21 **bound [1]** 18/16 box [2] 31/14 89/7 brackets [1] 164/9 **Bradshaw [6]** 118/15 122/3 122/10 135/6 136/17 137/11 Bradshaw's [2] 137/7 138/7 branch [11] 31/18 33/9 34/5 35/5 53/18 53/21 54/12 110/13 110/23 116/17 127/21 branches [7] 6/23 6/25 8/25 11/13 14/1 53/25 148/12 123/25 124/18 124/21 125/17 breach [2] 78/24 79/14 **breaching [2]** 19/12 19/23 break [10] 43/19 43/19 43/23 57/9 88/10 88/15 92/24 93/8 93/13 123/13 breaks [1] 3/15 brief [1] 90/12 briefed [4] 50/8 50/10 50/22 52/13 briefing [2] 49/23 168/2 **briefly [1]** 71/12 bring [1] 109/11 **bringing [1]** 18/21 **broad [3]** 113/25 117/16 163/1 broadcast [1] 126/19 broadened [1] 109/23

broadly [1] 162/19 **brought [3]** 18/17 71/2 145/24 BTO [7] 107/15 107/19 161/24 162/7 162/16 163/22 165/13 budgetary [1] 154/1 bug [65] 7/8 8/5 9/17 10/12 12/5 12/7 17/8 17/9 26/20 26/24 27/7 27/22 28/22 29/4 29/7 29/10 29/20 30/6 30/24 31/13 31/21 32/6 38/25 40/6 40/11 40/24 41/6 48/11 53/4 53/10 54/12 54/17 54/18 56/25 57/5 57/5 57/7 57/10 57/16 58/24 61/21 63/25 64/8 64/9 64/20 65/1 65/9 65/11 66/2 66/12 66/25 73/24 83/11 84/4 84/18 88/5 147/21 147/22 147/22 147/25 148/4 148/7 148/14 149/12 149/16 bugs [64] 5/2 5/5 5/13 5/20 5/25 7/14 7/17 8/9 8/24 9/4 9/12 9/13 9/15 9/19 9/24 10/15 11/25 12/4 12/21 13/25 14/2 14/13 14/20 14/23 15/9 15/25 16/12 17/1 17/7 17/19 17/19 18/1 18/4 19/6 19/20 20/1 20/12 21/7 23/2 23/22 24/7 24/9 25/1 26/17 54/25 55/24 56/20 63/6 66/3 66/9 66/16 78/2 78/7 78/9 79/18 83/17 148/12 150/21 150/23 154/21 155/2 169/9 170/20 171/20 building [2] 48/23 49/5 bullet [1] 31/22 bundle [2] 34/7 75/14 bundles [2] 30/19 40/1 business [26] 20/7 34/24 47/21 49/24 49/25 51/4 109/24 112/23 113/14 113/15 114/1 114/2 114/19 115/13 117/18 117/18 117/20 124/12 124/19 124/23 124/25 125/18 126/3 167/5 167/7 167/16 **busy [1]** 91/16 |but [180] **Byfleet [3]** 57/22 59/22 70/7

104/23 106/15 107/12 55/16 74/18 74/20 128/18 130/8 130/10 166/19 172/5 173/10 C 108/1 108/6 115/17 75/3 75/4 75/7 75/17 130/15 130/22 139/16 certificate [4] 170/17 C:\documents [1] 118/1 122/19 123/20 76/14 82/2 82/12 150/1 151/17 152/23 171/16 172/7 174/1 36/16 123/23 123/25 125/3 82/24 84/20 84/23 153/13 153/17 155/8 cetera [5] 7/15 36/18 calculating [1] 53/17 126/13 126/14 126/22 89/1 90/2 90/22 91/11 159/19 162/21 167/2 124/13 135/10 154/6 call [11] 10/7 32/11 127/11 129/9 129/10 91/13 92/6 94/10 168/8 173/11 chain [8] 53/6 56/23 34/10 50/24 74/23 131/19 131/21 132/7 105/3 105/5 107/6 cases' [2] 65/6 62/21 65/20 133/10 82/15 97/14 99/15 133/12 133/21 135/5 107/20 109/22 115/17 159/20 133/10 134/20 145/21 101/6 101/10 166/18 135/8 137/7 137/10 116/22 122/11 128/13 cash [3] 122/13 Chair [1] 170/5 called [20] 1/19 6/20 137/15 138/13 139/8 128/17 128/20 128/23 122/24 141/10 **challenge** [5] 119/1 35/23 36/1 36/4 36/11 140/9 140/12 140/17 133/22 134/8 146/5 Castleton [28] 10/2 119/6 120/13 140/14 47/10 53/19 54/17 146/2 146/5 146/6 146/12 147/8 150/9 10/4 10/8 10/11 62/25 154/12 58/10 67/21 72/4 79/6 63/22 64/5 64/6 64/21 challenged [3] 127/7 151/3 151/3 151/5 150/14 152/4 154/7 92/16 94/9 101/1 151/17 152/14 159/11 155/12 155/21 156/8 65/2 66/12 67/1 67/8 131/4 135/14 116/24 119/16 133/17 159/14 160/5 160/7 156/23 157/23 162/7 67/19 68/10 68/15 challenges [2] 135/20 161/22 161/22 162/9 162/15 165/12 68/16 68/19 68/23 128/21 133/15 Callendar [19] 7/7 162/13 162/15 162/24 case [120] 9/14 9/18 68/25 69/2 69/6 69/9 **Chambers [3]** 58/11 8/5 10/1 10/8 10/12 163/5 164/10 166/9 10/4 10/11 10/17 69/15 71/2 72/17 58/16 118/13 57/15 58/10 58/24 167/21 168/21 168/23 10/19 12/16 12/16 72/23 74/1 **changed [2]** 68/5 59/25 61/21 64/1 64/8 169/20 171/6 172/17 15/23 16/17 21/22 Castleton's [2] 69/20 119/25 64/20 64/23 71/13 173/16 173/18 175/15 23/23 23/25 24/10 71/8 changes [1] 132/19 147/22 148/7 148/13 24/23 27/6 28/1 28/12 categorically [1] can't [50] 18/7 19/1 character [3] 31/9 149/16 19/10 20/3 20/4 22/24 28/13 28/15 28/18 107/12 36/16 43/6 calling [1] 117/3 26/25 27/2 39/15 28/22 29/22 29/22 cause [11] 53/16 check [3] 31/25 59/8 calls [4] 94/5 94/23 39/15 45/6 46/3 56/9 37/10 41/2 41/5 42/12 54/15 54/20 60/1 60/9 59/21 103/7 103/22 42/22 43/4 43/9 44/3 57/1 60/10 95/14 141/17 145/11 155/3 checks [1] 59/24 came [22] 17/14 23/6 99/13 99/20 102/4 45/13 45/23 46/2 155/22 156/9 156/25 cherrypicking [1] 25/18 28/14 30/18 110/25 111/11 111/12 46/15 48/20 48/24 caused [3] 52/7 154/16 30/21 44/14 62/4 81/4 113/20 113/22 115/9 51/7 52/2 53/1 53/1 120/21 150/19 Chief [2] 53/8 65/24 81/5 85/14 85/25 115/9 115/22 115/24 59/13 59/22 62/3 caution [1] 2/5 **choice [1]** 130/21 86/25 92/16 94/3 95/3 62/16 63/22 65/2 65/5 cautious [1] 45/24 116/8 116/14 120/20 Chris [15] 139/12 99/24 108/3 142/7 129/18 136/14 137/17 66/3 66/13 66/22 67/1 **CCRC [2]** 106/18 139/12 140/15 141/24 142/8 169/15 172/5 144/2 144/5 144/13 67/2 67/10 68/15 141/25 142/22 143/9 107/3 cameras [1] 50/15 146/15 151/19 157/7 68/17 68/25 69/6 69/8 cent [2] 99/13 99/20 144/3 144/14 145/25 can [168] 1/3 1/5 3/8 153/22 154/2 159/15 158/4 158/20 159/12 69/9 69/20 69/22 centrally [1] 101/8 3/14 3/23 4/9 4/10 70/18 70/21 71/1 71/2 centring [1] 75/8 161/6 164/25 165/14 161/6 165/22 4/13 4/21 6/2 6/7 7/9 166/19 167/20 169/23 certain [7] 56/3 63/12 circumstances [3] 71/7 71/18 71/22 7/19 7/22 8/2 9/9 11/3 170/4 72/17 72/18 72/23 63/17 94/13 127/21 23/12 59/18 92/15 11/7 13/6 13/11 13/12 72/24 73/5 73/17 74/3 145/21 145/23 candidates [1] cite [1] 8/5 15/7 16/4 16/23 22/21 160/10 74/15 74/17 80/23 certainly [80] 10/17 cites [1] 8/1 23/4 26/16 27/8 27/12 cannot [7] 13/20 85/21 87/10 87/21 12/15 12/18 14/14 civil [15] 10/4 48/21 30/23 31/5 31/6 32/16 108/25 109/7 111/9 88/9 91/5 91/7 91/20 16/7 17/12 18/8 18/12 65/2 66/13 68/17 32/22 32/22 32/24 113/12 154/14 154/18 98/15 108/10 111/13 20/24 21/10 21/19 69/10 71/2 71/2 72/17 33/23 33/24 35/20 21/24 22/4 22/5 22/11 72/18 74/13 74/14 capable [3] 80/21 111/23 113/5 113/9 37/11 37/21 37/21 80/24 118/6 115/5 116/8 118/2 23/5 23/21 24/10 25/9 98/15 144/15 151/25 37/23 37/24 37/25 118/6 118/14 118/16 claimed [2] 70/10 30/22 35/12 37/4 capacity [1] 21/9 38/3 41/12 41/13 120/4 120/17 121/24 37/15 37/17 39/24 capitulating [3] 71/5 43/15 43/19 43/25 115/8 115/19 115/25 124/20 125/11 137/9 44/12 45/6 46/13 claims [3] 29/1 71/6 47/18 50/4 50/22 capitulation [2] 139/10 140/10 140/24 50/12 50/16 51/8 155/7 52/22 53/2 53/3 53/5 115/3 115/6 141/2 141/7 141/13 52/22 57/2 72/6 73/16 **clarify [1]** 119/17 57/15 57/17 59/2 careful [4] 45/23 46/4 142/15 144/7 169/10 82/17 82/23 83/7 Clarke [35] 7/24 9/10 61/17 61/24 61/25 46/8 52/2 169/20 170/1 171/11 83/12 86/13 91/15 11/22 17/21 64/13 62/24 65/5 65/19 67/7 173/11 174/1 174/23 91/24 92/10 95/5 74/8 83/15 90/20 carefully [2] 32/1 67/10 67/18 67/21 95/15 96/11 97/22 92/16 98/17 99/22 46/9 cases [51] 11/21 68/22 68/25 70/2 72/9 carried [6] 56/3 12/1 12/23 28/6 30/14 98/5 101/20 102/15 100/13 102/11 105/13 72/9 74/5 77/15 77/17 102/2 102/3 102/9 33/15 35/9 49/2 49/3 102/19 103/25 104/19 107/6 146/12 146/20 80/14 85/5 87/1 88/10 119/23 130/25 63/25 65/3 66/14 67/3 105/7 105/16 106/3 163/1 163/8 165/2 88/12 88/17 88/20 carry [4] 42/9 146/1 74/19 74/20 79/4 106/7 106/22 107/20 165/17 169/13 169/17 88/22 88/23 89/3 79/21 81/20 84/11 115/10 120/1 120/24 170/8 170/23 170/24 146/2 153/5 89/16 92/12 92/13 Cartwright [63] 8/13 84/12 85/22 87/17 121/23 122/24 123/15 171/10 171/23 172/10 92/19 92/20 92/22 124/24 133/21 134/9 172/12 173/13 173/16 11/4 11/6 15/18 18/9 98/9 98/16 108/5 92/23 93/15 94/21 19/15 22/18 23/15 108/19 108/22 111/23 137/1 137/23 137/25 173/22 175/2 175/8 95/4 96/5 98/6 98/12 24/12 24/21 25/19 116/14 124/16 125/8 144/13 154/23 155/4 Clarke's [9] 7/20 100/5 100/13 100/24 25/20 25/22 25/24 125/14 127/19 128/16 157/19 160/24 165/11 77/15 77/16 80/2

(50) C:\documents - Clarke's

C 115/25 126/18 143/12 communicated [1] **conferences** [1] 8/15 contents [2] 4/6 6/15 14/14 confidence [2] context [11] 9/9 62/9 149/12 149/23 151/22 Clarke's... [5] 97/17 communication [1] 132/14 174/12 93/20 94/25 96/5 152/9 152/11 152/22 100/25 107/17 146/14 49/13 confined [1] 110/11 96/12 105/4 110/10 159/20 165/11 173/21 164/4 communications [2] confirm [3] 4/14 139/10 140/18 151/12 175/5 classed [1] 58/21 50/17 98/13 143/15 151/22 continuation [1] couldn't [5] 28/24 clean [1] 156/1 112/8 143/11 162/21 Company [10] 23/16 confirming [1] 119/12 clear [12] 2/15 59/6 24/22 61/23 62/5 135/23 continue [3] 88/6 175/13 59/16 60/4 60/6 83/20 62/13 63/12 65/25 confront [1] 104/16 112/24 132/14 counsel [25] 3/2 99/22 100/5 123/11 131/19 132/25 137/20 confronted [2] 15/16 16/21 18/9 **continues** [1] 154/4 125/14 145/18 172/2 comparison [1] 104/18 104/19 contractual [1] 85/17 19/15 21/3 24/16 cleared [2] 53/22 132/19 25/11 28/16 76/3 conjunction [4] contrary [1] 29/18 54/1 complaint [1] 140/8 171/14 171/25 173/17 contribute [2] 167/11 77/10 77/10 77/10 clearly [5] 72/17 94/7 complaints [2] 71/10 175/3 90/10 118/13 133/3 168/2 122/5 160/24 163/17 140/5 consequence [1] **control** [1] 85/19 133/13 133/18 134/17 **clerk [1]** 174/19 **complete [2]** 145/12 76/19 148/20 150/13 159/15 conversation [11] client [1] 122/19 49/13 49/16 49/20 172/25 173/2 174/19 145/13 consequences [6] clients [1] 155/16 completely [2] 84/21 31/21 83/25 97/3 49/20 88/25 92/19 counsel's [2] 59/7 close [4] 46/16 153/14 104/2 174/13 174/15 94/18 97/21 98/22 68/9 141/23 144/2 144/5 consider [9] 2/12 100/9 104/22 **completes** [2] 58/6 counsels [1] 136/21 close-knit [1] 46/16 2/23 3/8 70/4 127/23 58/18 conversations [2] count [1] 118/11 closely [2] 23/7 134/11 139/7 150/5 compliant [1] 81/17 90/5 107/1 counterargument [1] 46/13 complied [1] 78/16 153/10 conveyed [3] 101/14 144/15 **closing [1]** 38/13 consideration [1] 101/16 101/19 compliment [1] counterarguments **co [1]** 74/25 47/10 124/25 **conveying [1]** 51/12 **[1]** 127/2 co-ordination [1] considered [10] comply [3] 78/19 **convicted [1]** 79/17 counterproductive 74/25 80/18 83/24 22/11 41/22 42/7 conviction [3] 30/12 **[1]** 154/9 **College [4]** 151/12 comprehensive [2] 63/21 116/3 124/14 70/19 106/5 country [1] 131/4 152/6 152/7 154/8 61/9 112/2 127/24 152/2 152/21 convictions [5] 11/7 **couple [2]** 13/21 combat [1] 132/1 159/4 148/18 149/3 150/11 computer [4] 49/1 34/15 come [33] 4/10 7/10 70/14 70/17 71/12 considering [6] 168/20 course [11] 6/8 14/23 7/19 21/19 27/13 **concealed [1]** 70/12 11/20 12/1 12/22 cope [1] 46/3 16/2 27/23 75/9 75/18 28/13 47/6 47/7 53/2 **conceded** [3] 28/4 74/19 128/10 154/3 copied [4] 52/1 55/3 85/3 96/3 115/4 55/20 61/17 73/24 39/4 70/24 consistency [1] 62/24 106/25 139/22 170/14 81/19 87/14 92/12 concern [9] 33/13 111/15 copulation [2] 109/6 court [27] 27/5 27/23 95/18 97/2 100/14 60/1 104/7 155/22 **consistent** [9] 103/2 28/2 28/3 30/13 39/5 115/2 100/14 100/15 103/3 156/9 156/13 156/15 copy [16] 3/25 6/6 108/21 110/2 111/12 58/16 60/23 66/4 66/6 104/20 105/2 105/4 156/25 157/11 116/7 116/13 133/14 6/14 40/11 44/2 45/3 66/10 66/21 67/4 120/8 121/19 122/2 45/4 50/4 62/9 67/13 67/23 73/14 78/17 concerned [21] 6/15 134/7 134/17 123/1 126/13 134/14 7/14 7/17 13/18 22/7 68/12 72/22 74/1 80/14 81/6 86/9 86/13 consistently [1] 137/21 138/13 169/11 22/20 30/1 55/1 55/18 11/22 118/12 133/23 152/19 87/25 91/8 130/8 comes [3] 83/23 69/15 96/6 109/15 constituents [1] copying [1] 47/20 133/20 137/10 148/9 122/14 164/16 109/22 138/14 145/8 Core [2] 158/16 152/1 130/11 comfortable [2] 152/24 153/3 153/25 constructing [1] 158/19 courts [7] 7/4 21/8 40/19 45/25 140/17 159/22 160/25 174/2 correct [14] 12/3 21/17 127/9 131/5 coming [12] 75/13 concerning [5] 7/22 58/25 64/9 103/4 consult [1] 3/7 135/15 155/8 76/2 91/16 98/17 99/2 contact [13] 20/6 61/20 75/4 96/2 128/6 128/11 128/21 cover [12] 4/23 4/25 99/6 99/7 99/8 100/18 5/8 5/14 30/7 30/15 165/18 34/24 49/23 49/25 140/23 147/5 148/13 126/1 149/19 170/15 concerns [7] 4/12 65/15 76/12 91/14 169/19 170/13 171/1 30/22 41/11 145/3 commas [1] 40/25 4/23 156/4 159/19 112/18 112/23 167/4 145/6 175/4 175/6 171/2 commenced [3] 160/13 160/17 163/19 167/8 167/15 169/14 corrected [1] 7/5 cover-up [4] 4/23 124/15 124/17 124/21 **concluded [2]** 62/16 contain [1] 138/15 Correcting [1] 31/2 30/22 41/11 145/6 comment [1] 124/11 correctly [1] 172/14 71/17 contained [5] 17/18 covered [2] 64/2 88/4 commenting [1] **conclusion [1]** 101/5 142/11 143/7 170/20 corresponding [1] covering [4] 29/12 173/24 conclusions [2] 171/20 31/23 29/13 29/14 41/9 **comments** [1] 7/15 corrupt [1] 31/18 77/24 78/14 craft [1] 131/25 **containing [2]** 48/10 commercial [1] **condition [1]** 118/19 84/5 cost [1] 156/15 create [1] 126/18 85/17 conduct [5] 12/23 contains [1] 136/24 costs [2] 119/2 created [1] 11/14 commissioned [2] creation [1] 132/21 40/3 121/9 125/15 contemplated [1] 156/11 8/18 155/17 127/5 128/9 could [27] 14/3 24/4 credibility [1] 79/1 committee [1] 78/6 **conference** [8] 74/23 contemporaneous 25/2 50/21 58/18 Crichton [8] 83/3 **common [2]** 98/12 [1] 169/18 90/14 91/3 101/6 58/21 63/1 94/12 108/10 109/17 110/11 149/19 101/10 103/22 124/3 96/12 97/3 97/5 126/25 142/1 159/8 content [5] 1/24 8/21 commonly [1] 114/10 125/4 14/7 52/23 174/8 105/17 112/8 115/21 161/6

(51) Clarke's... - Crichton

C 101/21 122/18 29/16 32/18 38/7 **Dave [7]** 94/2 94/7 deciding [1] 150/16 94/11 94/14 97/8 decision [62] 21/9 degree [1] 134/9 38/17 39/1 40/20 criminal [77] 5/9 5/16 98/23 100/17 69/22 70/1 73/18 77/1 deliberately [1] 42/21 43/8 43/14 9/2 11/18 12/1 12/17 David [13] 57/21 87/13 96/19 108/21 141/11 43/16 44/2 44/5 44/7 12/19 12/25 14/6 57/24 58/2 95/5 96/22 108/25 109/15 110/1 demands [1] 2/13 44/7 44/8 44/8 44/13 14/19 15/6 15/18 97/5 98/5 102/5 110/2 110/6 111/3 demonstrate [1] 44/24 45/8 45/8 48/15 15/21 20/7 20/21 102/15 102/20 102/21 112/24 116/14 120/5 50/18 51/9 51/24 52/1 141/12 20/22 22/17 25/9 103/5 106/8 120/7 121/10 121/13 52/12 52/25 54/14 den [1] 125/5 25/10 28/18 39/8 **Davies [1]** 13/17 121/17 122/7 123/5 denial [1] 38/14 56/6 56/12 56/20 57/6 49/21 57/11 65/3 day [15] 14/15 15/11 123/7 133/4 133/24 60/1 60/9 62/17 62/20 denied [1] 148/2 66/14 68/2 69/21 70/3 134/10 135/23 136/10 **Dense [1]** 66/15 16/8 16/14 17/3 17/9 62/25 69/11 69/17 73/18 74/12 74/13 17/13 45/16 54/8 70/8 137/3 138/23 139/6 department [3] 48/22 72/19 73/3 73/15 74/17 75/6 75/9 75/18 94/17 98/7 144/3 139/13 140/23 142/4 50/14 96/9 75/12 76/7 81/16 82/9 82/6 82/25 96/8 96/17 161/2 162/7 142/23 142/25 143/10 depending [1] 82/10 84/3 84/3 84/7 96/19 98/9 98/16 days [4] 7/21 48/21 144/4 144/14 144/19 152/21 84/13 84/15 84/17 107/7 108/13 108/20 49/5 70/16 145/7 145/24 145/25 84/17 87/6 87/10 88/4 **deploying [2]** 121/8 109/19 109/21 116/20 148/19 149/6 149/7 89/14 89/17 89/21 deal [21] 1/11 1/17 143/25 116/24 117/4 117/5 18/13 22/24 28/24 149/8 149/9 150/17 depth [2] 163/10 89/23 90/13 93/24 119/11 121/11 124/15 37/19 51/10 52/25 154/24 170/22 171/3 94/19 100/14 100/14 163/15 124/17 125/16 127/8 56/4 58/15 60/10 61/1 171/3 171/24 172/4 described [6] 14/3 100/15 100/20 102/2 128/5 130/1 131/5 172/6 172/9 173/12 102/15 103/16 107/9 61/16 68/16 82/17 21/22 25/2 98/1 158/1 131/11 135/14 144/15 82/19 87/14 98/20 173/17 174/20 175/3 166/5 107/12 107/14 107/21 151/23 152/3 154/5 111/15 141/16 159/2 decisions [6] 21/6 **describes [1]** 31/14 111/5 111/8 111/21 155/7 155/13 166/4 dealing [41] 15/20 21/16 77/2 96/14 **deserved [1]** 43/12 112/5 112/9 112/14 166/24 167/3 168/7 23/20 24/19 25/12 108/3 170/22 desire [1] 164/13 114/16 114/16 115/5 168/25 172/22 174/21 126/17 132/8 133/6 39/25 46/23 51/7 declaration [2] desktop [1] 44/7 175/17 175/19 51/17 60/11 61/1 61/2 **destroyed [5]** 101/13 136/25 137/16 133/16 136/17 136/20 critical [2] 45/18 61/4 61/15 69/12 137/24 144/5 144/12 declaring [1] 167/3 101/19 101/20 101/21 112/11 69/12 73/6 74/12 decline [1] 2/8 101/25 146/16 149/11 150/3 criticise [3] 119/2 deeply [2] 24/5 96/1 74/13 74/15 83/1 84/9 150/4 157/19 159/17 destroying [1] 102/8 119/7 120/14 detail [6] 26/21 27/13 84/20 85/23 86/10 default [1] 76/2 160/15 161/13 163/21 criticising [2] 83/8 86/18 111/17 112/3 defect [6] 6/21 6/24 54/9 70/4 71/8 97/23 164/18 164/23 165/2 83/12 113/9 120/1 122/23 6/25 7/5 66/6 66/20 detailed [6] 39/12 165/8 165/16 169/2 criticism [3] 109/2 39/14 65/10 70/16 128/16 131/12 151/1 defects [15] 5/2 5/5 170/10 171/4 110/7 111/4 156/23 157/9 163/16 5/14 5/20 6/1 6/20 71/15 72/24 didn't [128] 4/11 12/4 cross [1] 58/12 165/19 165/20 168/8 11/11 11/13 13/25 details [9] 40/11 18/22 19/17 20/6 cross-examined [1] 173/11 173/13 15/10 15/25 16/13 43/10 43/13 48/11 21/19 21/23 22/4 24/8 58/12 17/2 67/22 78/2 67/10 68/25 69/25 26/7 26/8 34/20 35/18 dealings [2] 12/13 crown [5] 8/24 60/23 165/19 defects/bugs [1] 85/6 173/15 37/1 37/2 37/6 37/9 70/15 127/9 137/10 dealt [36] 9/19 12/13 13/25 determining [1] 37/17 37/17 38/5 38/9 **Croydon [1]** 49/6 12/16 12/18 12/25 defence [35] 21/7 152/13 38/25 39/2 39/19 40/6 current [6] 74/17 15/15 15/23 15/23 21/17 27/5 27/23 51/2 devalue [1] 154/11 40/14 40/17 42/19 79/3 79/4 79/21 96/19 16/20 16/20 20/22 52/20 60/12 60/22 developed [1] 141/13 43/1 43/5 43/14 44/6 160/3 28/15 28/18 30/19 61/4 64/3 69/21 70/15 developments [2] 45/1 45/11 45/14 currently [3] 59/15 38/17 39/7 47/17 78/17 81/5 81/6 85/2 48/14 49/8 45/25 46/6 46/15 47/6 60/3 118/11 86/11 118/4 118/17 51/19 52/25 60/14 48/4 48/19 48/19 diagnosed [1] 53/15 cut [1] 23/23 60/14 68/20 69/7 118/24 119/18 127/4 48/23 50/5 51/4 51/5 dial [1] 33/17 82/22 85/13 85/21 127/9 128/4 128/15 dial-in [1] 33/17 51/11 51/15 51/23 86/12 86/19 86/20 128/20 128/24 129/2 **Dickinson [20]** 55/16 52/23 56/13 57/10 damage [1] 52/7 87/16 87/19 105/8 129/3 130/1 132/22 68/16 69/16 72/4 60/16 61/6 61/12 damaged [1] 174/10 112/21 167/2 169/20 138/16 170/18 171/17 74/24 75/1 75/3 76/16 61/15 65/12 71/21 dangerous [5] 13/19 174/24 173/6 90/13 92/7 99/3 99/9 72/24 73/4 73/5 73/16 22/8 22/9 141/4 141/4 Dear [2] 48/18 58/2 99/12 99/25 100/1 73/23 75/10 75/19 defendant [6] 69/23 dangers [1] 139/17 118/25 119/5 119/13 100/4 100/16 100/18 75/21 81/19 82/2 **Debbie** [1] 50/2 dare [1] 91/20 decades [1] 37/2 119/20 120/12 100/20 103/4 82/14 82/18 83/14 dark [1] 15/4 **December [2]** 11/5 defendants [8] 13/24 Dickinson/Cartwright 84/7 84/7 84/8 85/13 data [2] 53/20 53/25 79/13 79/17 109/5 85/22 86/4 86/10 87/8 160/8 **[1]** 75/3 date [14] 32/12 36/7 113/3 114/25 120/18 dictate [1] 44/14 88/2 88/7 90/12 91/17 **December 2013 [1]** 76/18 88/22 89/1 91/2 154/12 91/18 96/25 96/25 160/8 dictated [2] 44/13 143/6 147/2 147/11 decide [4] 108/12 defended [3] 127/8 45/8 99/23 104/14 104/20 148/16 148/18 148/23 109/18 111/13 175/12 131/5 135/15 dictation [1] 44/8 105/2 105/4 107/16 149/1 149/5 decided [5] 73/14 deficiencies [1] 71/3 did [120] 5/4 5/12 107/20 109/18 112/7 dated [5] 36/12 43/2 5/19 9/3 23/1 23/19 112/18 112/22 115/7 114/20 148/24 171/14 deficient [1] 139/23 57/17 68/5 88/21 172/10 definitely [3] 67/2 24/5 24/23 26/1 26/6 120/24 122/20 128/12

40/6 42/7 74/21 79/22 118/11 doing [15] 42/18 55/8 169/11 D 80/22 81/1 82/13 83/9 do [103] 1/15 2/20 73/25 89/9 91/1 91/16 during [4] 3/6 75/5 didn't... [27] 129/1 83/21 85/11 88/6 96/7 3/20 7/12 15/8 19/24 96/24 114/22 119/25 78/10 125/6 131/10 132/24 133/1 96/17 97/24 98/9 20/10 21/4 21/12 133/24 137/24 142/1 duties [14] 7/25 133/5 137/1 142/14 78/16 80/22 81/1 81/2 98/11 98/14 98/25 21/20 21/25 24/4 143/3 161/9 161/10 143/7 149/6 149/14 100/19 103/13 104/11 24/18 24/20 26/22 doing' [1] 109/1 83/25 86/25 89/6 150/2 150/5 157/25 domain [3] 66/22 105/23 106/5 107/7 27/4 27/21 28/20 29/1 89/13 89/15 89/18 158/3 159/7 161/3 136/23 138/14 138/18 36/24 37/6 37/20 103/10 174/6 89/24 90/4 90/24 161/4 161/16 161/17 144/17 144/18 144/24 39/13 40/15 42/1 duty [5] 78/20 78/24 don't [241] 161/19 164/1 165/8 145/8 146/13 150/22 42/17 44/15 46/19 79/15 80/18 82/13 don't -- I wasn't [1] 166/13 167/8 168/6 152/22 153/1 153/17 46/19 48/9 48/19 49/4 77/13 170/22 171/2 50/5 51/18 55/9 55/12 done [35] 20/16 155/3 170/18 different [15] 9/16 each [3] 44/3 53/22 disclosure -- if [1] 56/23 61/6 61/18 23/12 25/15 26/4 10/17 21/11 26/1 79/7 112/3 103/13 65/17 69/24 72/1 72/2 26/13 46/11 46/25 84/22 99/5 101/22 72/20 73/1 73/2 73/2 earlier [11] 47/19 disclosured [1] 47/1 47/1 47/9 65/18 122/23 141/22 142/2 59/5 93/22 114/3 80/20 80/24 88/2 94/7 81/24 87/23 90/12 140/25 142/10 143/1 157/6 116/1 122/22 138/2 95/13 95/17 96/22 94/11 104/3 104/13 discontinue [1] 161/22 148/1 148/6 148/8 99/11 102/21 103/21 104/16 105/10 105/19 116/8 difficult [6] 15/5 153/20 108/2 115/14 116/10 105/25 106/4 121/6 discontinued [1] 30/17 37/14 104/5 early [3] 26/18 78/3 116/15 117/17 117/25 123/7 133/23 133/25 116/18 131/9 152/14 174/6 120/13 121/15 121/15 136/4 136/6 136/9 discover [3] 42/20 difficulties [5] 141/18 easier [2] 114/21 155/2 158/7 122/18 123/8 126/5 136/14 137/2 159/9 145/11 150/19 163/2 154/12 discovered [3] 6/23 126/11 129/5 132/4 161/7 165/5 172/13 164/11 156/12 167/25 132/13 132/20 134/12 double [1] 29/17 easily [1] 13/20 difficulty [1] 14/17 discredited [1] 80/13 134/13 137/22 137/24 doubled [1] 30/4 easy [1] 139/18 dig [1] 29/17 142/24 146/21 148/16 doubly [1] 73/10 **Edinburgh [1]** 162/1 discrepancies [9] direct [2] 163/3 148/17 148/24 148/25 doubt [3] 51/3 140/22 effect [5] 79/11 102/2 11/14 31/2 31/9 31/24 164/12 102/3 103/18 138/2 149/2 153/16 155/6 33/8 35/4 36/1 36/5 146/22 direction [1] 168/9 effective [1] 108/21 36/12 160/19 161/20 161/21 doubt' [1] 69/23 directly [5] 60/11 **effectively [1]** 160/20 161/23 166/23 167/13 down [37] 4/10 6/8 Discrepancies' [1] 61/4 150/13 156/23 6/18 8/10 13/11 20/23 effects [1] 54/12 41/23 168/10 169/9 169/13 157/10 21/2 29/17 30/4 32/23 either [15] 3/2 19/12 discrepancy [1] 32/5 169/18 169/22 170/15 **Director [1]** 108/23 47/23 66/10 89/23 171/25 172/2 175/13 33/2 35/3 36/9 41/13 discuss [7] 66/6 dirty [2] 166/12 99/13 101/7 107/18 67/22 72/9 89/14 175/14 53/2 60/4 61/18 68/1 166/13 113/23 128/19 142/19 89/17 166/18 175/8 document [40] 6/9 74/8 74/10 77/21 disagree [4] 80/7 143/18 147/3 147/14 discussed [12] 47/16 6/11 6/14 11/4 27/14 78/11 92/12 98/24 144/7 146/24 175/13 157/12 98/25 101/2 103/20 63/25 66/4 66/10 27/15 36/4 36/11 disappear [2] 33/9 element [1] 148/23 68/19 69/7 71/22 36/25 37/3 37/5 37/11 118/1 126/13 131/4 35/5 else [13] 4/16 16/1 72/18 90/6 90/9 98/12 37/16 37/20 37/22 131/19 132/7 135/8 disappearing [1] 16/3 16/18 24/1 93/4 140/3 38/5 38/8 38/12 40/11 137/6 138/13 151/4 34/5 98/22 105/17 114/6 discussing [5] 18/10 40/15 41/22 41/24 155/23 discharged [2] 80/22 115/21 115/25 121/19 66/2 92/11 97/24 42/1 42/3 42/11 42/20 **Dr [8]** 78/6 78/9 162/15 123/6 43/1 43/7 43/14 43/16 78/16 78/19 78/22 disclosable [3] 11/18 44/10 44/20 45/22 79/5 79/9 79/12 email [78] 13/7 13/11 discussion [14] 99/19 103/11 13/15 15/8 16/12 25/20 67/22 77/20 51/23 104/7 108/8 **Dr Jenkins [5]** 78/6 disclose [15] 29/20 16/19 16/25 17/14 89/19 107/22 122/1 138/25 139/3 140/11 78/9 78/19 78/22 79/5 38/25 57/11 78/22 19/3 22/7 24/24 29/2 **Dr Jenkins' [1]** 79/12 125/20 126/8 139/8 159/7 79/16 83/17 140/23 33/2 34/1 34/8 35/20 165/24 167/9 167/20 documentation [3] Dr Jennings [2] 141/23 143/23 151/23 37/7 37/20 37/22 38/7 167/22 170/2 51/22 141/9 142/13 78/16 79/9 152/1 161/13 163/21 38/10 39/21 40/9 discussions [9] documents [13] 6/2 draft [12] 22/12 165/2 171/17 40/10 40/13 40/16 15/17 18/8 48/9 96/6 27/19 29/2 33/11 37/8 112/1 124/7 129/17 disclosed [22] 5/9 42/23 44/5 44/18 42/20 43/2 44/18 107/1 111/25 156/19 131/7 131/14 131/15 5/10 5/16 7/3 13/24 44/20 45/1 46/9 47/18 165/12 166/7 45/22 60/20 85/25 131/16 133/12 136/12 20/15 27/23 28/4 48/10 51/3 52/8 53/6 92/14 159/4 159/7 174/4 display [2] 36/9 29/21 42/8 63/5 64/8 53/7 56/23 57/17 59/5 37/21 does [15] 1/6 1/7 drafted [2] 132/4 79/13 79/14 79/18 61/25 62/21 65/20 dispute [1] 119/14 10/23 13/25 14/7 134/14 107/18 137/8 139/18 66/5 67/12 67/21 68/6 46/19 47/13 78/15 disputes [1] 152/12 draw [2] 25/13 141/3 158/6 166/8 74/6 76/18 76/23 77/5 83/15 119/1 134/14 165/16 disseminated [1] 166/8 84/5 87/1 98/8 103/18 145/17 157/16 158/7 101/8 drawing [1] 25/15 disclosure [53] 7/25 108/9 110/10 118/1 distinction [4] 25/13 167/25 drew [1] 26/14 11/21 12/1 12/18 122/5 122/12 124/2 doesn't [11] 8/5 8/6 drive [6] 34/12 36/19 25/14 25/15 26/14 12/22 12/25 21/7 125/5 126/23 129/11 distracted [1] 27/15 31/25 34/25 39/8 36/22 37/9 40/12 43/8 21/16 27/4 28/5 28/10 134/20 139/8 143/3 40/22 52/8 52/11 divided [1] 109/24 drop [1] 73/17 28/17 28/21 30/6 39/6 145/6 145/7 145/16 **Dixon [2]** 118/3 65/21 93/6 119/6 due [3] 59/18 159/19

75/17 76/3 79/3 79/6 82/16 86/3 86/11 155/24 170/18 171/18 Ε entirely [1] 2/1 entitled [2] 31/1 80/14 81/4 84/8 86/8 86/18 86/24 87/5 90/4 **factors [2]** 116/15 email... [7] 148/5 41/22 91/7 91/11 92/15 146/14 151/10 151/23 116/16 151/5 151/6 151/7 environments [1] 95/22 110/18 120/25 152/1 154/6 154/24 facts [7] 18/11 22/14 155/11 159/24 160/6 66/15 137/9 138/8 141/10 154/25 155/15 155/19 63/8 63/8 119/13 **emailed [3]** 62/5 142/13 144/23 146/14 156/6 156/12 156/24 119/15 123/10 environments' [1] 76/12 101/11 161/14 163/23 169/2 157/11 159/3 159/6 65/4 factual [2] 120/2 **emails [6]** 45/10 160/15 160/25 161/8 equally [2] 15/2 evidential [3] 113/4 138/6 98/12 101/12 120/16 152/3 113/6 120/2 161/8 161/14 163/9 failed [8] 29/20 30/5 122/18 145/21 164/23 78/19 78/22 80/17 equivalent [2] 107/10 ex [1] 106/2 emanate [1] 99/23 107/14 exactly [5] 7/12 99/5 **expertise** [2] 34/23 81/14 83/21 83/24 **emanated** [1] 98/23 error [5] 28/3 58/13 111/10 134/24 142/8 39/11 failing [1] 82/18 embarrassed [1] failure [5] 78/24 79/9 70/14 70/18 85/11 examination [2] **experts [23]** 66/15 52/4 errors [8] 5/2 5/5 108/22 150/20 131/22 133/1 133/6 79/10 79/12 79/16 embarrassing [19] 5/13 5/20 5/25 15/10 **examine [4]** 60/10 152/17 152/21 152/25 **fair [4]** 25/14 108/21 14/24 15/2 17/25 18/3 16/13 17/2 60/15 127/10 127/14 153/1 154/10 154/16 110/2 116/7 18/15 18/21 18/24 154/17 154/19 155/1 **especially [1]** 106/15 **examined** [1] 58/12 | fairness [1] 2/13 19/4 19/8 19/19 19/25 essentially [6] 1/9 examining [2] 127/20 155/18 156/23 159/13 faith [12] 109/2 20/11 20/18 20/19 18/17 74/6 129/25 159/23 160/2 160/9 109/12 109/16 110/7 127/21 21/4 21/5 21/13 21/21 133/17 148/2 example [7] 44/13 161/13 164/19 164/24 111/4 111/6 111/18 22/1 established [6] 77/25 66/16 125/11 137/7 175/20 111/22 112/6 112/7 embedding [2] 119/8 119/10 119/22 142/18 142/19 175/4 experts' [1] 163/10 112/9 113/1 122/22 122/23 122/8 138/22 **examples** [1] 66/3 explain [12] 37/19 Falkirk [19] 7/8 9/25 emerged [10] 17/25 et [5] 7/15 36/18 excess [1] 2/5 48/18 61/14 81/3 10/1 10/8 10/12 57/16 18/3 19/19 19/25 124/13 135/10 154/6 81/16 87/4 91/18 58/11 59/12 62/8 **exchange** [6] 13/7 20/11 21/5 21/13 22/3 53/7 53/11 122/5 62/25 64/1 65/1 65/11 et cetera [2] 124/13 114/21 115/9 144/13 55/23 71/13 160/23 164/7 66/2 66/12 71/13 124/2 148/6 135/10 emphasis [2] 122/7 etc [2] 98/13 124/19 84/14 147/22 149/16 executive [1] 39/24 **explained [4]** 71/16 126/10 even [39] 12/18 executives [2] 8/16 71/23 82/12 82/21 Falkirk/Callendar [1] emphasise [2] 125/1 15/21 15/24 19/13 50/3 **explains** [1] 71/7 10/1 126/2 19/19 19/25 28/13 **exercise** [1] 108/19 explanation [2] 71/20 false [12] 29/5 41/1 emphasised [1] 29/23 34/21 36/23 **Exeter [1]** 118/15 173/8 41/3 41/3 42/16 42/17 121/10 40/16 45/24 46/10 **exhibited** [1] 140/6 **explicit** [1] 32/2 70/11 88/5 118/18 emphasising [1] 48/15 48/19 49/19 exhibits [2] 39/25 exploitation [1] 118/23 119/20 121/2 119/21 50/11 51/5 51/16 52/9 40/1 113/2 familiar [1] 6/4 employed [1] 58/12 family [1] 73/9 60/23 65/3 66/14 72/6 existence [21] 5/1 **exploited** [1] 109/3 **employee [3]** 14/18 5/5 5/13 6/19 6/20 9/4 explore [2] 152/7 87/25 92/9 94/11 far [18] 4/16 9/8 60/25 81/7 104/12 115/11 122/2 9/12 11/24 14/12 23/2 172/16 29/25 55/1 55/17 67/4 **enable [2]** 156/10 127/6 128/12 133/1 24/7 27/6 27/22 28/21 expressly [1] 140/6 69/14 86/14 90/20 157/1 161/16 161/17 165/12 38/25 63/6 78/7 79/18 extant [2] 78/3 128/5 109/21 119/12 145/8 enclosed [1] 122/15 165/21 170/6 172/7 150/21 171/20 174/4 **extent [2]** 101/7 147/7 147/8 155/2 encountered [1] 71/6 evening [1] 58/8 expand [1] 58/15 159/17 155/13 161/16 161/17 encountering [1] event [2] 94/13 97/8 expect [3] 1/22 34/22 external [5] 50/8 fat [1] 47/3 31/18 50/10 50/11 50/19 events [2] 59/19 170/13 fatally [1] 79/2 encourage [1] 174/7 59/22 **experience** [13] 4/13 52/13 fault [4] 88/3 88/3 end [8] 6/9 6/11 ever [11] 49/3 52/4 10/19 15/20 15/21 90/21 120/19 extraneous [1] 53/21 97/7 114/24 56/8 56/12 89/6 89/13 39/11 60/25 85/20 **faults [5]** 13/23 85/2 116/15 144/3 145/10 161/2 89/14 89/17 89/24 85/24 86/8 86/18 **extremely [3]** 141/3 85/6 96/6 96/7 ended [2] 136/3 90/24 137/4 146/23 152/12 152/13 141/4 174/7 February [6] 53/14 138/12 53/15 57/18 58/25 every [3] 45/22 experienced [11] eye [3] 55/11 55/18 endorse [1] 123/10 141/14 144/9 28/16 28/16 60/21 173/6 60/23 87/1 ends [1] 65/21 everybody [3] 93/4 80/4 81/4 86/7 86/25 eyes [2] 92/22 92/23 feel [2] 38/16 45/25 enforce [1] 104/9 87/11 87/15 87/16 116/25 149/18 feeling [1] 73/13 engage [1] 173/4 172/21 everyone [1] 158/24 fell [3] 40/6 82/20 **engaged [2]** 38/13 face [2] 35/13 75/16 everything [7] 26/6 expert [61] 7/25 110/21 129/1 facilitate [1] 74/24 30/3 46/4 48/6 137/19 15/18 22/16 39/9 felt [8] 54/18 60/2 **English** [1] 7/4 46/23 60/12 60/17 facing [1] 118/11 60/17 73/13 94/6 152/2 164/7 enough [1] 93/6 60/21 60/24 61/4 64/3 **fact [26]** 5/4 8/5 everywhere [1] 106/10 117/6 159/24 ensued [1] 8/14 11/23 14/2 14/17 149/20 70/14 70/20 76/11 few [4] 54/13 55/15 ensure [2] 134/6 19/20 20/1 20/12 25/1 106/9 127/18 evidence [38] 2/6 76/17 76/20 76/24 134/17 26/22 30/7 32/23 43/3 figure [1] 54/4 77/6 77/9 77/12 78/23 2/14 3/22 8/1 12/24 enter [1] 174/6 43/8 57/18 74/9 78/11 figures [1] 141/10 35/16 38/15 38/21 78/24 79/1 79/3 79/5 entering [3] 13/19 102/1 141/15 144/9 42/16 42/17 57/13 79/7 81/5 81/7 81/9 file [13] 44/2 44/5 22/8 22/9 144/21 148/25 155/12 44/11 44/15 44/19 70/15 70/23 75/5 75/9 81/12 81/17 82/13

file... [8] 45/4 45/9 141/12 145/12 145/13 145/18 145/20 145/22 files [2] 19/17 36/18 final [2] 31/25 133/12 Finally [1] 173/24 find [22] 23/17 24/1 37/15 45/3 47/12 54/22 55/25 56/20 58/9 62/6 63/4 73/7 136/2 76/20 76/24 77/6 109/1 132/12 141/10 142/13 144/23 154/24 158/10 finding [1] 69/23 findings [3] 7/14 7/17 152/22 finds [1] 156/24 fine [7] 2/2 13/5 76/1 110/19 146/4 158/23 176/9 finish [2] 123/23 158/22 finished [1] 137/25 **finishes [1]** 135/13 first [50] 1/12 4/22 5/19 6/21 7/1 10/18 10/19 26/21 26/22 29/3 31/22 32/12 32/24 33/4 35/3 35/23 140/7 40/23 41/15 41/18 45/20 46/11 46/24 47/15 51/25 53/14 58/3 65/1 66/12 85/20 85/24 86/17 86/19 89/5 93/23 99/14 100/1 100/6 103/25 104/7 104/21 105/2 105/5 111/15 116/4 120/8 123/1 131/6 131/15 131/16 169/2 firsthand [3] 18/11 18/12 25/25 firstly [6] 9/6 26/19 40/20 60/20 109/25 161/24 Fiscal [6] 107/18 162/1 162/17 163/12 163/22 164/18 Fiscal's [3] 107/10 162/20 163/19 **fit [1]** 3/17 fits [1] 172/6 five [4] 92/22 92/24 93/5 93/8 fix [1] 31/16 Flemington [29] 54/8 55/4 61/22 62/12 62/24 67/9 71/23 83/3 57/16 84/24 94/16 115/12 117/15 121/14 126/25 61/24 129/12 141/25 159/8

160/6 160/8 161/5 161/20 169/21 170/21 171/4 172/3 172/5 173/2 175/11 175/12 flu [2] 3/15 32/21 focus [4] 16/24 19/24 21/25 151/17 focused [3] 48/20 51/6 75/8 follow [1] 104/14 followed [2] 25/16 following [10] 14/22 54/2 98/7 100/12 101/5 101/8 107/8 127/11 130/4 132/16 follows [3] 15/5 40/22 84/1 foot [9] 11/8 13/12 41/20 54/6 68/1 108/9 fundamental [1] 124/6 140/1 155/11 footer [1] 36/15 forced [1] 121/1 forensic [4] 127/10 127/13 128/8 130/21 foreshadowing [1] 160/20 forgotten [2] 145/16 163/11 form [2] 2/11 53/1 formal [2] 130/18 forming [1] 152/2 formulate [1] 131/9 **formulated [1]** 15/19 fortnight [1] 64/12 forward [11] 11/3 45/1 63/12 72/9 77/15 95/12 134/4 139/4 144/15 162/24 171/15 forwarded [7] 47/16 53/6 54/7 99/15 102/13 102/18 133/9 forwarding [1] 33/5 forwards [7] 13/6 32/22 33/20 65/19 77/17 95/24 146/5 found [9] 14/23 16/2 32/3 62/15 63/17 64/1 70/9 87/23 106/24 four [1] 97/7 fourth [2] 94/21 126/14 framing [1] 160/19 fraud [1] 118/12 free [1] 8/21 Friday [4] 1/1 38/24 47/19 84/6 front [1] 3/25 FUJ00122794 [1] FUJ00154228 [1] Fujitsu [35] 14/13

14/18 14/25 15/4 18/1 19/5 19/20 19/25 20/11 21/13 23/25 33/6 46/24 57/25 58/1 58/9 58/12 58/20 60/25 65/15 70/21 75/3 75/5 75/9 75/18 76/12 79/10 81/7 85/18 87/2 87/19 153/5 156/1 163/4 164/13 Fujitsu's [1] 33/10 fulfil [1] 79/7 full [8] 58/13 70/16 118/20 132/14 139/24 154/1 154/1 145/20 153/4 156/10 fully [1] 1/22 functionality [1] 152/10 105/22 further [16] 33/17 53/13 59/3 61/17 63/8 63/23 64/13 64/24 66/17 74/21 88/8 141/13 146/2 156/5 159/10 164/3 future [8] 33/14 35/8 79/3 95/1 95/13 98/2 120/3 163/20 **FYI [3]** 34/25 39/10 39/14 G gains [1] 53/17 game [1] 174/20 Garden [1] 118/13 Gareth [31] 7/22

14/17 31/3 31/5 41/24 57/21 58/6 58/15 58/18 59/6 61/13 65/1 65/15 65/24 66/1 67/7 68/22 70/20 71/14 80/17 80/21 83/9 83/20 89/10 89/12 90/23 91/1 163/3 163/23 164/13 169/14 Gareth's [1] 59/11 gave [8] 1/19 1/25 2/6 44/15 81/4 81/17 91/7 161/3 Gavin [1] 124/2 general [16] 15/15 16/21 18/9 19/15 21/2 24/15 25/11 27/17 109/17 117/13 133/3 148/20 150/12 151/25 135/18 136/11 137/6 159/15 173/2 generally [4] 58/23 117/21 138/19 139/16 154/20 155/10 157/23 generated [1] 174/3 get [42] 23/10 23/20 26/2 27/14 32/19 40/14 43/1 46/7 63/13 Godeseth [2] 76/13

113/3 114/25 115/17 126/11 132/13 133/25 135/3 136/23 153/4 153/25 154/24 155/1 155/25 157/8 159/13 160/25 161/1 161/7 161/16 161/17 gets [1] 60/14 getting [6] 109/22 128/14 144/13 148/21 give [28] 2/1 3/21 21/7 21/16 30/5 40/6 42/17 50/24 56/16 65/5 69/24 76/2 79/6 82/13 83/21 108/20 110/18 112/2 121/20 126/16 133/4 141/14 144/8 144/17 144/18 144/23 144/24 157/6 given [26] 14/10 21/14 22/6 22/12 25/19 27/18 31/6 45/5 96/18 101/12 101/24 102/25 103/9 130/18 132/22 149/10 150/1 150/22 150/22 158/18 161/14 165/11 gives [4] 1/25 32/6 39/13 156/1 giving [4] 42/16 83/9 86/8 143/23 **GJ [1]** 89/9 glad [1] 87/3 glance [1] 58/3 glancing [1] 49/16 **qo [68]** 3/16 6/7 6/8 6/17 8/10 13/3 13/15 22/17 26/21 28/20 31/20 32/22 33/20 35/3 35/19 53/5 54/6 59/2 63/19 64/13 65/19 66/18 67/25 68/4 68/21 69/4 73/12 74/10 77/17 80/16 83/15 85/8 106/3 111/14 116/15 122/18 47/23 124/10 125/3 129/9 131/11 131/18 131/21 176/4 132/18 135/4 135/13 140/20 144/2 147/8 147/9 152/11 153/20 158/21 162/9 162/10 162/24 163/15 163/25 163/25 164/8

goes [2] 51/13 77/2 72/3 72/3 72/6 82/14 going [52] 5/24 6/1 13/3 19/14 22/13 26/20 27/3 27/13 32/11 34/16 53/6 55/23 57/2 60/24 61/17 63/5 68/5 73/5 73/24 76/6 77/21 78/12 81/7 83/15 85/8 89/4 92/17 93/18 95/12 95/18 97/11 98/2 105/2 108/17 112/7 116/5 118/8 132/18 132/24 134/8 136/7 137/22 145/14 149/7 151/20 155/10 156/20 161/19 164/2 165/6 168/7 175/14 gone [7] 105/17 114/3 122/16 145/1 167/12 167/25 168/3 good [13] 1/3 6/17 43/25 45/7 64/15 74/3 88/17 101/2 123/20 123/22 152/11 167/3 168/17 80/14 88/6 91/11 96/9 got [63] 3/15 8/8 8/11 22/14 22/14 22/16 23/14 23/21 24/18 24/18 37/7 37/7 40/10 40/11 40/12 40/17 46/15 55/4 55/14 55/15 60/25 68/16 71/25 77/18 80/5 81/21 83/3 83/6 84/4 87/19 90/22 92/23 95/10 95/15 106/16 106/22 110/1 111/11 113/7 114/1 116/6 116/7 116/7 116/9 116/22 117/16 120/4 123/4 123/5 123/9 125/21 128/24 129/11 135/23 137/15 137/18 142/3 142/23 144/1 149/11 157/9 168/12 174/18 grade [3] 20/24 20/24 105/15 grant [1] 171/15 108/12 109/18 110/13 Granville [2] 47/20 grateful [2] 170/5 great [1] 150/19 greater [1] 167/5 greatly [1] 174/11 green [3] 109/5 113/2 114/25 grieved [2] 73/8 73/10

76/15

67/7 67/10 67/18

68/22 68/25 71/24

83/5 104/11 109/5

ground [2] 13/3

161/1

79/10 79/22 81/23 173/16 G here [53] 3/1 10/14 87/19 88/24 90/24 he'd [4] 26/7 62/13 grounds [1] 2/20 97/24 101/9 102/8 105/23 131/12 20/19 25/13 25/16 group [23] 4/17 113/7 114/7 116/8 he'll [2] 98/20 98/20 26/14 42/13 42/17 11/19 15/21 16/21 119/22 127/7 131/4 he's [22] 8/7 39/9 19/13 19/18 21/1 23/7 131/5 132/4 134/15 39/10 60/10 60/11 60/1 60/11 61/25 23/13 30/4 37/4 55/5 135/14 135/15 136/7 60/21 60/21 61/1 61/2 64/11 67/6 69/15 55/14 62/18 63/9 137/13 139/15 139/21 61/5 61/15 61/16 80/4 71/19 73/25 82/23 84/12 87/17 119/9 141/25 142/1 143/3 80/5 80/5 80/6 80/13 120/11 134/2 138/22 151/21 151/23 158/19 89/6 89/13 91/10 166/25 167/13 171/23 173/12 96/19 120/15 groups [7] 12/14 hasn't [1] 119/24 head [52] 9/2 12/17 15/16 25/11 26/9 30/2 have [206] 12/19 12/25 15/15 56/4 56/6 haven't [8] 38/17 16/21 18/8 19/14 20/7 guess [1] 151/16 56/10 72/6 75/22 20/22 21/3 23/11 **guidance** [1] 94/3 77/18 123/5 167/10 23/17 24/2 24/13 quilty [13] 14/22 25/10 25/12 26/5 27/2 168/1 29/14 38/15 38/16 having [15] 7/24 8/11 28/18 39/7 49/4 49/21 hereon [1] 98/2 62/15 69/23 70/9 27/17 30/5 42/1 64/3 62/23 71/23 73/18 high [6] 25/9 45/13 70/10 118/23 118/25 73/25 89/19 90/5 87/2 96/9 96/13 96/18 51/22 127/8 158/3 119/4 119/5 120/13 101/24 119/12 140/3 102/13 104/23 105/21 166/7 guy [1] 47/13 **highlight [2]** 16/5 140/22 142/11 145/17 105/24 116/24 117/3 he [141] 1/7 1/10 8/1 Н 117/14 119/11 131/11 83/1 8/5 8/10 8/17 14/20 132/7 132/20 133/3 highlighted [8] 9/7 had [200] 14/20 17/19 24/14 134/10 134/15 135/17 hadn't [11] 18/5 24/15 26/7 33/4 34/24 135/25 136/12 148/20 100/2 105/16 123/8 20/15 29/7 42/10 35/1 39/9 39/10 39/13 150/13 167/2 169/21 68/13 76/8 82/12 171/4 39/14 46/16 46/17 85/11 141/21 159/9 46/22 46/23 55/4 55/6 heading [5] 57/22 166/22 66/5 67/21 68/6 152/9 highlights [1] 83/16 55/6 55/7 55/8 55/9 half [4] 47/19 134/10 health [2] 3/19 156/2 55/19 55/20 57/24 highly [7] 14/24 147/25 148/8 58/18 59/6 59/8 59/12 hear [7] 1/3 43/25 Hamilton [12] 140/24 59/15 60/3 60/6 60/10 88/17 93/15 121/1 20/11 139/22 140/24 141/2 141/7 60/14 60/15 60/20 123/20 166/11 him [45] 1/9 2/9 141/15 141/20 144/6 heard [6] 40/23 47/22 60/23 61/2 61/14 23/19 39/12 46/18 144/9 144/17 144/18 61/16 62/20 62/21 70/14 91/9 92/14 144/24 168/21 62/24 63/13 63/16 169/4 62/6 63/12 63/20 hand [7] 37/23 88/22 64/4 64/7 65/6 69/12 hearing [8] 93/4 93/5 65/16 68/19 71/23 89/3 89/4 89/7 89/11 70/24 71/2 71/3 71/5 119/15 119/16 119/16 141/10 169/11 169/15 176/12 71/14 71/16 71/17 80/15 81/2 81/13 handling [2] 152/12 72/2 72/8 72/20 73/2 heavily [1] 23/16 86/12 86/16 87/22 168/25 76/4 77/20 79/2 79/5 heavyweight [1] 92/5 89/19 90/14 91/13 hands [2] 2/1 153/14 80/4 81/4 81/12 83/13 held [4] 33/12 53/20 91/17 91/19 94/4 Handwritten [1] 83/16 83/20 83/21 114/10 124/3 95/16 96/23 97/1 102/12 83/24 86/8 86/10 help [18] 9/9 23/17 98/19 98/21 99/14 happen [5] 21/23 63/22 96/5 115/23 86/15 86/25 88/25 22/4 44/6 98/2 106/15 164/7 167/6 169/6 89/20 90/12 91/10 115/24 127/11 131/25 happened [12] 10/20 94/3 94/3 94/7 94/8 133/3 137/15 137/17 170/8 171/24 82/3 95/18 129/9 94/12 95/3 95/3 95/6 140/9 161/6 165/14 134/24 135/1 135/4 95/25 96/15 97/5 166/19 169/23 171/8 his [44] 7/24 9/19 136/7 136/8 138/3 98/12 98/19 98/19 172/17 138/4 140/10 99/3 99/11 99/11 helped [1] 134/3 happening [2] 56/21 99/13 99/13 99/15 63/23 67/13 70/23 helpful [2] 46/23 82/8 100/18 100/20 101/2 71/6 71/15 78/16 171/6 happens [3] 27/14 101/3 101/4 102/17 helping [2] 143/9 78/23 78/24 79/1 49/14 59/19 102/17 104/3 104/3 154/25 80/18 80/22 81/1 hard [4] 3/25 44/2 104/5 104/6 104/6 81/13 82/13 83/13 helps [1] 66/22 45/4 155/5 her [22] 30/12 44/15 104/20 106/1 115/15 has [**52**] 2/8 7/3 7/3 119/1 119/6 122/1 45/1 47/25 48/3 48/7 89/15 89/18 89/24 13/23 14/18 28/23 122/15 132/7 134/3 48/9 48/19 48/21 90/4 90/24 91/16 34/25 39/9 41/11 143/20 149/23 150/1 48/23 49/3 49/4 49/5 91/18 92/16 97/14 60/25 63/12 63/13 154/4 163/17 164/16 49/15 51/7 51/10 66/16 67/11 69/6 70/3

167/4 167/15 170/11

170/12 171/3 172/12

70/18 75/4 78/16 79/5

52/25 62/15 73/9

111/25 114/18 144/25 historic [4] 74/17

152/23 153/17 159/20 14/17 16/1 17/6 17/22 history [1] 78/9 **hm [1]** 83/19 Hogg [4] 51/1 52/20 47/6 47/13 52/5 55/14 85/5 87/2 hold [13] 43/1 57/4 58/10 84/3 88/2 109/5 109/8 113/3 115/1 85/23 88/3 88/3 90/22 120/22 149/11 158/23 99/18 99/23 111/17 167/24 113/8 114/6 119/23 honest [11] 34/22 121/15 121/17 121/23 44/23 50/7 96/24 124/6 141/1 142/21 102/7 102/7 105/6 147/7 153/14 153/16 106/3 120/20 129/18 153/25 161/6 161/11 170/4 164/21 167/12 167/25 honestly [3] 153/18 168/4 173/17 173/22 160/18 166/9 hope [3] 1/18 21/23 22/4 hopefully [1] 23/19 hoping [1] 6/12 Horizon [103] 5/2 5/6 7/6 8/20 11/11 11/12 33/15 35/9 35/15 49/9 17/16 26/5 48/6 49/1 49/11 50/24 51/12 51/15 51/15 51/17 51/18 52/14 52/17 highlighting [6] 16/2 54/15 54/19 58/14 61/11 61/11 125/22 58/20 60/8 60/18 63/6 66/6 66/10 66/11 66/16 67/22 70/5 71/3 18/14 18/20 19/3 19/8 71/10 72/14 75/5 76/11 76/24 77/6 78/1 87/4 96/6 96/7 99/14 109/3 109/13 109/16 47/16 55/4 61/5 62/5 110/7 111/4 111/6 111/19 111/22 112/1 112/6 112/8 112/10 72/1 72/18 73/1 78/23 112/12 112/17 113/1 117/23 119/2 119/7 119/7 119/19 120/14 120/19 127/5 127/6 127/20 131/2 131/2 132/3 132/15 133/15 141/8 142/12 146/18 102/18 102/20 105/14 147/17 151/15 151/15 151/17 151/18 152/10 152/11 152/18 153/1 hindsight [1] 121/3 154/22 155/8 156/1 156/13 158/8 158/10 14/22 31/6 54/4 58/6 159/6 159/19 160/14 58/16 58/18 62/2 62/9 162/22 163/2 163/16 164/11 169/9 170/20 171/20 174/5 hour [1] 47/19 House [1] 49/6 how [37] 9/3 18/13 84/5 88/24 89/6 89/13 36/24 36/25 37/6 37/11 44/12 44/22 45/6 45/12 46/19 51/3 52/1 52/16 57/12 64/5 118/25 138/7 146/25 80/14 81/9 82/17 173/16 173/22 174/20 104/11 117/6 118/17 119/19 136/7 136/8

141/24 142/2

Н how... [12] 136/20 141/12 142/7 142/8 145/16 147/7 147/8 164/2 166/23 169/6 172/4 172/6 however [5] 2/15 31/17 54/14 78/21 151/22 hub [1] 93/21 Hudgells [1] 168/13 Hugh [38] 54/7 55/4 61/22 62/12 62/23 67/8 67/9 68/23 71/23 72/19 76/12 84/24 94/16 104/12 112/22 115/11 115/12 115/12 117/15 121/13 126/25 129/12 133/2 133/11 133/24 134/3 137/20 141/25 159/8 161/20 169/21 170/21 171/4 172/3 172/5 173/1 175/10 175/11 I accept [2] 82/18 145/1 I admit [1] 52/3 I advised [1] 174/24 l agree [7] 81/14

81/15 82/10 154/14 159/18 166/2 166/5 I agreed [1] 80/2 **I also [1]** 94/15 I always [2] 23/10 73/13 lam [9] 13/18 17/15 19/14 19/18 52/4 94/12 146/11 175/9 176/3 I anticipate [1] 139/12 I apologise [3] 3/14 56/15 56/15 I appreciate [1] 134/21 lasked [3] 19/7 69/15 73/1 l assume [1] 50/8 I basically [2] 165/8 168/7 I be [1] 100/5 I become [1] 3/16 **I been [2]** 167/10 168/1 I begin [1] 3/13 I believe [4] 57/25 80/2 94/14 97/9 I blame [1] 32/21 I called [1] 94/9 I came [4] 17/14 28/14 85/25 172/5

33/24 43/15 59/2 72/9 88/23 96/5 107/12 133/21 137/10 146/2 159/14 164/10 166/9 168/23 169/20 I can't [38] 18/7 19/1 19/10 20/3 22/24 26/25 27/2 39/15 39/15 45/6 56/9 57/1 95/14 99/13 99/20 102/4 110/25 115/9 115/9 115/22 115/24 137/17 144/13 146/15 87/23 151/19 157/7 158/4 158/20 161/6 164/25 165/14 166/19 167/20 81/4 169/23 170/4 I certainly [6] 21/24 72/6 95/15 103/25 107/20 137/1 I consider [1] 2/12 I considered [1] 22/11 I could [4] 24/4 63/1 105/17 165/11 I couldn't [1] 175/13 I dealt [7] 12/16 15/23 16/20 28/15 86/20 112/21 167/2 I decided [1] 114/20 I dictated [1] 44/13 I did [22] 23/19 24/23 26/6 38/17 43/16 44/7 45/8 51/9 51/24 52/25 I hadn't [2] 76/8 57/6 62/20 62/25 73/3 82/9 84/7 87/10 107/12 146/16 150/3 157/19 170/10 I didn't [57] 4/11 19/17 20/6 26/7 26/8 34/20 35/18 37/1 37/6 37/17 39/2 40/17 44/6 I haven't [4] 38/17 45/11 45/25 46/6 46/15 47/6 48/19 48/23 51/23 52/23 56/13 57/10 61/6 61/12 65/12 75/21 84/7 84/7 85/13 85/22 86/10 87/8 90/12 96/25 96/25 104/14 107/16 112/18 112/22 I joined [1] 19/13 115/7 120/24 128/12 131/10 132/24 133/1 133/5 149/6 149/14 150/5 164/1 165/8 167/8 168/6 170/22 171/2 I disagree [3] 80/7 144/7 175/13 I discussed [1] 71/22 I divided [1] 109/24

I do [9] 7/12 37/20

I can [17] 3/8 23/4

40/15 42/1 42/17 50/5 131/11 135/3 152/13 61/6 146/21 172/2 I don't [201] I done [1] 104/13 I emailed [1] 62/5 l even [4] 34/21 40/16 115/11 165/21 lever [1] 56/8 I explained [1] 71/23 I find [1] 58/9 I first [2] 10/18 85/20 I formulated [1] 15/19 120/20 129/18 136/14|I found [3] 16/2 63/17| 85/13 85/18 87/3 87/8|I right [2] 3/1 110/15 I fully [1] 1/22 | I gave [3] 1/19 1/25 I got [7] 23/21 40/17 68/16 83/6 84/4 106/22 137/18 I had [40] 10/19 13/18 21/2 22/22 23/9 24/4 24/16 25/23 28/16 29/21 29/22 29/23 38/19 38/20 42/2 45/24 47/8 48/9 49/25 56/7 68/18 68/18 69/14 69/18 72/16 72/25 85/24 91/13 111/25 112/13 131/11 145/8 145/16 146/23 158/2 159/5 164/2 165/19 165/20 169/21 82/12 I have [16] 16/19 22/16 28/17 39/17 41/22 55/2 71/25 72/21 120/3 120/3 123/3 137/21 140/22 159/17 166/9 168/12 75/22 77/18 123/5 I heard [2] 91/9 169/4 50/20 61/13 82/14 I highlighted [1] 48/6 I honestly [1] 153/18 I hope [2] 1/18 22/4 I ignored [1] 52/24 I immediately [1] 94/6 I just [11] 46/2 48/3 48/4 48/7 92/22 102/20 106/10 110/9 137/24 164/5 165/6 I knew [7] 46/5 48/21 50/1 65/13 149/15 151/2 160/23 I know [15] 39/23 47/22 67/4 69/6 82/1 91/11 91/13 95/3 98/11 129/19 131/9

| I referred [1] 137/19 153/22 I relayed [5] 22/22 I look [1] 161/22 I looked [1] 83/7 I made [1] 73/15 I may [1] 57/4 I mean [72] 10/18 16/22 20/5 20/16 22/5 I represent [1] 22/10 23/4 25/9 28/13 168/18 30/13 48/17 50/12 76/25 77/4 80/12 80/13 81/20 81/25 81/25 82/14 83/5 87/9 90/1 90/11 90/11 | I said [38] 15/14 91/9 91/23 95/14 96/4 19/11 19/22 26/5 97/1 97/2 102/4 102/6 102/17 104/13 112/11 113/6 114/14 114/22 115/15 117/4 117/24 117/25 119/24 121/3 122/21 125/23 126/9 133/7 135/22 138/11 143/8 143/21 153/6 161/2 161/16 161/16 161/17 164/3 165/4 165/7 165/9 165/14 165/21 168/7 171/5 173/10 175/13 I might [1] 94/10 I move [1] 92/13 I moved [1] 50/13 I need [4] 55/10 55/11 63/11 127/2 Ineeded [3] 37/18 40/20 63/10 I note [1] 146/19 I noted [1] 146/19 I passed [1] 103/25 I personally [1] 25/24 I show [1] 27/14 I phoned [2] 23/25 102/6 I prepared [2] 18/7 137/17 I probably [7] 49/16 96/23 104/19 165/10 I propose [1] 158/21 I prosecuted [1] 144/6 I provided [3] 69/18 138/24 139/7 I put [2] 139/4 153/7 I quoted [1] 95/16 I read [4] 7/18 25/23 47/2 61/10 I recall [5] 1/5 94/1 96/15 159/5 159/22 I received [6] 7/12 40/8 47/2 59/5 146/16 146/22 I recognised [1] 94/9 I refer [2] 22/19 121/13

92/4 94/13 97/8 102/6 I remember [1] 45/11 I remind [1] 2/13 I replied [2] 50/20 51/8 I reproduce [1] 58/4 I request [2] 62/19 62/20 I revert [1] 122/11 28/11 29/25 36/20 40/15 46/1 46/10 49/20 51/24 57/8 62/18 72/1 72/5 77/7 81/19 92/2 95/4 99/2 99/10 100/17 102/4 102/19 102/21 117/12 117/14 117/19 150/6 150/12 164/5 164/21 164/21 166/4 167/2 167/5 167/15 I sat [1] 84/6 I saw [1] 105/7 I say [8] 22/23 32/18 56/4 72/17 73/7 75/13 86/18 114/14 I set [1] 153/11 I should [10] 1/17 2/15 4/12 58/7 66/5 82/7 86/24 87/21 106/4 158/15 I shouldn't [2] 116/3 145/1 I showed [1] 72/1 I speak [1] 95/4 I spoke [2] 55/4 104/12 I start [1] 92/19 **I stop [1]** 175/15 I suggest [3] 6/1 132/16 173/3 I suppose [3] 112/3 124/23 126/1 I take [2] 1/7 1/16 I think [155] 1/8 1/8 2/4 12/24 16/24 17/12 17/14 22/19 22/22 23/11 23/25 30/20 39/23 41/15 46/1 48/2 48/25 49/2 55/15 59/2 60/11 60/12 60/19 60/22 61/4 62/4 62/5 62/21 67/6 67/15 68/7 68/11 68/16 69/9 69/10 69/11 69/15 71/22 77/8 77/11 82/4 83/5 84/19 85/15

48/20 51/6 51/17 57/14 63/17 82/4 I think... [111] 86/12 84/10 86/21 96/3 86/12 86/16 87/24 104/20 106/12 106/25 90/16 93/3 93/22 109/20 111/10 111/11 94/10 95/14 97/17 116/2 117/5 137/24 97/20 97/21 98/19 138/21 138/24 139/5 99/2 99/10 99/13 141/9 142/13 144/20 99/16 100/2 100/21 150/6 150/15 153/3 101/17 101/20 102/5 153/14 153/25 159/14 102/15 103/5 104/5 159/22 160/24 162/4 104/6 104/6 104/19 162/6 163/25 165/13 104/21 104/25 105/1 167/22 106/1 106/2 106/8 I wasn't [58] 9/14 106/11 106/20 109/17 9/20 9/23 12/19 15/24 110/24 110/24 110/24 16/18 19/12 19/17 111/23 112/19 112/21 19/22 20/5 20/20 113/6 113/8 113/13 20/25 21/9 21/18 113/17 113/17 113/23 21/18 22/4 23/8 23/9 114/2 114/4 115/11 25/8 28/23 28/25 115/12 116/23 119/10 29/13 29/15 29/21 119/16 120/2 120/8 30/16 30/16 45/7 56/2 120/15 120/15 121/10 56/2 57/9 57/12 67/1 121/24 121/25 122/12 73/6 82/15 91/24 92/5 122/13 122/14 122/24 103/7 128/12 139/5 125/10 125/21 126/8 144/19 145/22 148/19 126/9 128/13 128/23 148/19 148/22 149/6 129/1 131/12 132/25 149/8 150/5 150/10 133/25 134/13 134/25 150/24 154/2 160/23 135/22 138/17 138/22 164/2 165/8 166/6 139/4 141/1 141/22 167/22 168/5 171/5 142/21 143/14 144/1 173/10 144/16 145/20 148/1 I went [3] 27/8 106/9 149/18 149/18 153/9 164/4 153/12 153/18 153/24 I will [5] 2/5 2/23 154/15 156/15 156/18 47/12 87/14 158/23 160/11 161/2 162/6 I wish [2] 158/2 162/8 164/5 165/1 160/23 166/16 166/18 167/4 I work [1] 47/11 168/13 170/5 I worked [1] 50/3 I thought [4] 115/7 I would [17] 21/23 115/10 135/2 168/5 29/21 30/15 34/22 I told [6] 28/19 57/12 37/14 38/17 42/3 42/7 65/12 84/8 94/7 96/22 44/14 46/11 46/18 I took [1] 171/11 47/8 51/9 82/24 122/1 I transferred [2] 122/3 152/17 19/13 29/24 I wouldn't [8] 15/19 I tried [1] 81/3 18/11 18/12 25/21 I turn [4] 4/21 53/3 34/21 128/22 135/18 108/1 126/14 175/19 I understand [1] I'd [11] 22/6 46/10 66/25 46/10 62/18 65/17 I very [1] 45/10 82/5 86/19 113/19 I want [3] 4/22 55/10 113/24 117/14 117/25 55/12 I'd've [1] 46/25 I wanted [4] 73/17 I'II [8] 16/4 26/16 98/19 114/18 133/2 56/16 72/2 72/3 108/8 I, [2] 29/24 55/1 I was [59] 6/12 9/13 135/24 142/10 12/14 12/17 13/1 I'm [130] 2/1 4/15 15/13 18/7 18/19 4/20 5/24 6/1 9/8 9/20 idea [1] 166/9 19/10 23/13 23/14 10/20 13/3 15/25 16/1 23/22 24/17 25/18 17/11 17/24 18/25 26/9 28/13 30/1 37/4 19/1 19/18 20/10 40/5 40/19 41/17 46/4 20/19 21/12 21/20

22/6 22/15 22/15 22/20 25/8 26/1 26/3 26/10 26/20 27/16 27/21 32/11 32/18 34/16 34/19 38/24 42/17 42/18 44/17 44/17 47/6 47/9 52/3 56/15 61/10 61/11 61/17 66/9 67/17 73/8 73/10 73/13 76/5 76/25 77/1 77/11 81/23 83/15 85/8 87/12 87/13 87/21 95/22 97/11 100/13 101/21 101/22 104/1 108/17 110/3 110/5 111/21 112/2 113/24 119/21 119/25 120/20 121/10 121/11 122/19 125/22 125/24 125/25 126/9 126/9 132/18 134/20 136/7 141/23 142/1 142/17 142/24 142/25 143/3 143/5 144/1 145/12 145/15 146/2 148/23 153/14 153/20 156/19 157/7 161/9 161/10 161/19 165/4 166/4 166/4 167/18 167/19 168/21 170/5 172/4 172/7 173/11 173/13 174/18 175/6 175/14 175/19 175/19 I've [62] 3/15 6/10 8/7 8/8 21/22 22/11 27/1 28/12 34/7 39/11 45/21 46/25 47/7 56/13 57/10 65/18 72/18 80/12 85/20 85/21 92/23 98/1 105/16 113/9 113/15 114/3 114/5 114/8 117/19 120/9 120/25 121/10 122/12 122/13 122/16 123/7 126/11 133/23 133/25 133/25 134/10 136/9 137/2 137/4 143/21 143/22 149/11 158/18 161/7 174/21 174/22 175/10 I, as [2] 29/24 55/1 ICL [2] 151/11 154/1 ideal [1] 160/9 identified [6] 16/13 17/2 33/6 54/19 74/22

160/9

identify [2] 54/15 ii [1] 102/10 169/9 **Idris [1]** 31/5 ie [9] 9/10 32/8 67/22 95/9 95/13 98/2 155/16 164/19 171/15 illustrating [2] ie not [1] 95/13 ie what [1] 164/19 ie what's [1] 98/2 ie your [1] 9/10 **if [168]** 2/1 2/2 2/16 2/18 3/4 3/5 3/6 3/14 3/15 4/1 6/8 6/17 8/10 88/1 88/3 92/17 95/18 12/3 13/10 13/11 13/15 14/13 16/23 17/5 17/25 18/3 18/22 19/4 19/19 19/25 20/11 21/5 21/12 21/13 21/21 22/3 22/13 29/21 31/11 31/20 31/25 32/23 33/20 34/20 35/19 36/15 38/17 38/19 38/20 39/2 40/8 42/2 44/13 44/18 45/3 46/10 46/10 46/25 47/2 47/2 47/7 47/11 49/10 49/12 49/14 51/9 51/13 51/24 53/5 important [14] 14/5 53/12 54/6 58/20 166/10 166/10 166/10 58/22 59/12 60/3 60/4 60/19 63/19 64/13 66/8 67/25 72/4 74/8 76/4 76/10 77/17 77/19 77/20 78/11 80/13 80/16 85/19 92/24 93/3 93/5 94/12 62/16 96/4 98/13 98/14 98/19 98/24 98/25 99/17 99/18 99/19 47/22 47/24 49/3 49/4 101/1 102/19 103/13 108/8 108/12 108/22 109/15 109/18 111/18 50/25 112/7 112/7 116/5 116/17 120/21 121/12 include [1] 65/22 122/12 123/8 124/10 126/22 130/2 130/6 131/18 132/6 133/8 134/22 135/8 135/13 136/11 137/6 140/11 140/20 140/24 141/2 144/5 144/21 146/16 145/23 145/23 147/24 147/4 150/20 150/25 151/4 152/3 152/16 161/20 163/11 174/18 152/21 152/25 155/1 155/10 156/3 156/12 156/24 157/11 157/22 incurred [1] 156/11 157/25 158/10 159/17 indeed [1] 9/4 160/6 163/11 164/8 165/9 167/20 169/17 170/11 170/23 172/12 173/3 173/19 173/21 175/5 ignored [1] 52/24

iii [1] 102/25 **illogical** [1] 71/10 illustrate [2] 142/17 142/22 142/18 143/9 illustration [1] 142/3 imagine [1] 158/20 **immediate** [1] 125/8 immediately [7] 2/22 77/25 94/6 124/16 155/21 156/8 169/6 immunity [8] 170/17 171/12 171/16 172/19 172/22 173/9 174/1 174/17 impact [3] 49/6 49/9 110/16 impacted [1] 11/13 Imperial [4] 151/12 152/5 152/7 154/8 implicated [1] 91/21 implications [1] 42/5 implied [1] 14/23 **import** [1] 8/16 **importance** [4] 45/13 45/19 51/22 112/15 15/4 45/15 45/20 51/3 51/6 52/16 104/11 112/5 112/9 113/11 116/12 117/21 126/18 impossible [1] 139/24 imprisonment [1] improved [1] 135/17 Improvement [1] 124/12 inaudible [1] 3/16 Incidentally [2] 50/8 **incidents** [1] 33/6 | included [3] 123/25 133/10 143/19 includes [1] 33/10 including [5] 8/24 112/14 128/1 146/13 168/20 incorrect [3] 14/1 34/6 54/5 incriminate [1] 2/21 incrimination [3] 1/20 2/12 3/5 independence [1] 155/18 independency [11] 77/12 82/7 148/22 153/3 153/7 156/21 157/8 157/9 157/20

176/4 143/22 144/3 145/20 interrupt [1] 110/9 isn't [18] 15/18 34/4 Inquiry's [3] 27/1 intervention [1] 47/3 52/16 52/17 69/2 146/7 148/20 149/7 independency... [2] 75/14 120/25 125/8 98/15 99/1 99/19 151/5 153/12 153/24 157/22 161/8 ins [5] 17/12 164/1 interview [2] 13/9 99/19 112/11 120/23 154/25 155/11 156/22 independent [10] 169/22 174/23 175/7 13/16 136/1 144/17 145/5 158/4 158/13 160/25 76/17 77/9 79/7 87/16 Inside [2] 13/10 into [26] 3/16 5/16 150/8 156/17 172/23 161/17 161/21 168/13 104/8 130/14 130/18 isolated [1] 127/18 168/24 170/5 171/2 13/16 23/20 26/21 50/4 153/5 154/17 163/9 50/23 52/23 53/19 171/8 172/2 172/13 instead [1] 99/24 issue [26] 3/4 24/5 indicate [1] 59/20 instruct [9] 81/9 55/5 65/10 98/12 24/8 32/1 58/16 59/20 172/24 173/11 173/12 indicated [4] 8/20 87/22 89/9 91/1 91/17 102/2 102/3 106/25 60/13 61/7 62/8 62/25 174/23 175/3 105/21 125/7 163/14 155/19 156/6 164/19 109/25 116/14 117/11 65/13 75/4 75/8 94/9 its [10] 7/1 7/14 25/6 indictment [1] 172/10 121/2 132/12 133/23 102/1 107/2 107/24 35/13 36/7 75/16 118/12 instructed [10] 70/20 136/23 137/15 141/20 111/17 126/25 131/2 79/11 98/14 108/19 indirect [2] 163/3 94/4 94/22 97/25 152/11 172/6 174/5 133/19 146/23 147/7 132/12 164/12 107/9 118/14 137/24 introduced [1] 164/6 151/20 159/2 168/24 itself [1] 144/3 individual [2] 112/3 iv [1] 103/20 152/17 160/3 164/24 introduction [1] issues [28] 10/18 140/5 15/25 16/16 23/22 instructing [1] 92/8 31/11 individuals [4] 13/8 instruction [9] 45/5 introductions [1] 57/22 59/8 59/10 16/11 24/6 53/11 January [17] 11/13 96/8 96/20 101/12 164/22 59/10 59/18 68/11 **inevitably [1]** 174/3 13/7 54/14 54/15 101/24 102/3 151/10 74/16 75/17 85/22 inverted [1] 40/25 inferences [1] 48/5 54/19 54/20 78/4 97/24 104/17 106/16 163/9 175/9 investigate [5] 23/1 inferred [1] 70/2 147/2 147/11 148/13 instructions [22] 24/5 71/14 152/8 106/23 112/25 127/3 inflated' [1] 141/11 148/16 149/1 149/7 39/14 81/18 96/17 159/18 143/2 146/14 146/18 influence [1] 154/19 149/13 150/2 150/21 112/14 120/6 121/20 investigated [4] 147/17 152/22 153/1 information [77] 1/25 121/20 122/10 122/19 18/17 109/9 139/16 153/17 159/20 163/16 154/22 7/4 8/12 8/12 15/1 **Issy [4]** 51/1 52/20 Jarnail [20] 1/5 1/13 128/6 128/19 129/21 141/13 15/16 16/18 17/16 9/2 13/13 24/17 62/24 130/18 133/4 136/10 investigating [6] 85/5 87/2 18/2 18/4 18/5 18/22 63/24 68/1 68/25 137/3 137/18 151/24 24/8 138/14 143/5 **Issy Hogg [1]** 87/2 19/6 19/20 20/1 20/6 84/17 108/12 130/3 154/2 154/5 155/15 143/6 143/24 144/22 it [730] 20/12 20/14 20/21 132/4 132/17 151/18 172/25 investigation [19] it as [1] 39/14 21/1 21/14 21/17 22/6 151/22 153/23 171/14 instrumental [1] 24/3 28/16 42/4 65/10 **It'll [2]** 7/10 7/19 22/11 22/22 23/10 171/25 177/2 121/8 84/13 84/14 120/6 it's [132] 2/5 3/24 4/1 23/11 23/18 23/21 integrity [16] 33/15 123/6 124/15 124/17 6/10 7/17 7/21 8/9 Jenkins [55] 7/22 24/14 24/19 24/22 9/19 14/18 17/17 35/9 35/14 70/4 119/1 125/16 139/17 139/21 17/11 20/19 22/14 25/18 25/21 25/21 139/23 140/17 141/8 17/23 31/3 31/5 36/4 119/7 120/14 127/25 22/21 30/19 31/11 25/23 27/9 30/17 48/5 41/24 45/24 51/19 155/18 157/21 159/6 141/19 142/11 153/10 32/6 32/24 34/4 34/19 53/8 55/12 55/19 58/9 57/21 58/6 60/2 61/13 160/3 160/12 160/13 36/12 38/4 41/18 investigations [1] 60/15 61/3 62/22 62/1 65/16 65/24 66/8 160/16 161/8 141/20 45/15 45/20 52/15 63/11 63/13 63/17 66/24 67/13 68/13 52/16 53/7 53/9 53/10 Investigator [2] intend [1] 152/8 65/17 65/24 69/14 70/20 71/14 78/6 78/9 57/18 60/12 60/13 intended [2] 155/19 140/9 140/12 72/16 72/25 80/6 85/2 78/19 78/22 79/5 156/6 Investigators [2] 68/7 68/9 69/10 72/17 86/14 87/20 92/4 80/17 80/21 80/25 intention [6] 142/9 140/4 140/16 74/10 75/24 80/13 101/3 101/8 102/11 142/21 144/11 156/12 involved [26] 4/24 82/21 83/20 87/20 81/17 82/13 83/9 105/13 131/10 134/1 93/20 95/23 97/18 83/20 84/3 86/3 87/7 157/3 157/15 12/14 23/13 23/16 138/16 154/7 154/9 88/6 89/10 89/12 **intentions** [1] 137/23 24/19 25/8 30/2 55/6 98/8 98/13 98/14 154/11 154/16 154/17 89/15 89/17 89/23 55/14 55/15 56/2 63/9 98/24 99/12 99/17 interest [10] 155/25 158/18 159/23 164/3 90/3 90/21 90/23 91/1 170/17 171/12 171/16 67/1 77/1 77/8 77/13 99/18 99/18 103/10 165/9 167/4 174/5 91/7 149/22 161/14 172/18 172/22 173/5 103/10 103/12 103/12 82/5 92/5 93/22 informed [6] 7/3 8/17 163/4 164/13 169/14 173/9 173/25 174/17 106/20 106/22 106/24 103/13 103/19 105/14 14/25 18/1 19/5 78/6 Jenkins' [8] 32/11 107/1 132/21 132/24 105/15 108/17 110/1 interested [5] 48/13 initial [2] 33/10 37/8 45/3 58/23 59/2 49/8 130/12 130/19 159/14 112/11 113/16 113/18 162/20 79/12 163/23 165/18 167/10 involvement [8] 113/23 114/2 114/3 initially [1] 134/15 15/13 16/19 17/13 114/3 114/7 114/8 Jennings [2] 78/16 interests [4] 124/19 input [9] 24/12 26/7 79/9 126/3 155/16 158/24 24/11 48/25 63/14 114/8 114/19 114/21 50/23 52/13 55/19 **Jess [1]** 144/3 interim [17] 3/23 6/4 159/5 173/14 115/18 116/1 116/12 62/19 63/10 84/24 119/16 119/17 119/23 Jessica [9] 141/24 7/13 8/8 11/10 11/16 inward [1] 84/16 175/12 11/24 14/16 15/12 inward-looking [1] 119/25 120/1 121/12 141/25 142/22 143/9 inquiry [21] 2/8 3/22 144/14 145/24 153/22 16/9 16/14 64/11 74/7 84/16 122/21 123/1 123/9 23/6 28/23 29/25 154/2 175/11 78/8 86/11 147/19 irrelevant [4] 65/4 124/7 124/24 125/4 30/18 34/7 39/17 **JFSA [3]** 52/14 113/2 169/2 66/14 70/25 71/17 125/20 125/20 126/8 40/17 42/2 42/16 130/20 126/10 126/12 128/13 internal [2] 56/17 is [384] 42/25 43/16 47/7 **Jo [7]** 140/24 141/2 90/25 is Simon [1] 7/20 132/18 133/9 135/22 61/10 62/22 62/22 141/7 141/15 144/6 135/24 136/3 136/8 internet [1] 36/18 **Ismay [3]** 47/20 76/4 79/25 122/15 144/17 144/18 interrogated [1] 67/3 47/23 54/9 138/5 138/22 142/16

(59) independency... - Jo

job [1] 166/4 John [5] 94/4 94/8 95/6 96/13 99/24 join, [1] 145/15 join, so [1] 145/15 joined [1] 19/13 **Jon [1]** 51/18 Jones [3] 57/21 57/24 87/2 Jones' [1] 59/4 judge [1] 171/17 judgement [1] 108/19 judgment [4] 28/3 71/7 71/7 71/12 Κ Juliet [2] 32/25 50/2 July [28] 4/24 5/5 5/14 5/22 6/4 7/21 11/23 54/24 56/18 61/19 62/2 62/10 68/5 74/7 77/15 77/17 93/24 93/24 94/1 97/14 126/23 146/20 147/20 148/5 151/7 165/17 169/6 170/15 June [9] 8/13 53/9 54/8 54/16 108/10 114/3 116/19 117/9 117/11 June 2012 [1] 117/9 junior [1] 20/24 jury [8] 40/1 69/22 69/23 69/25 70/3 70/9 70/14 70/23 jury's [3] 70/17 71/21 72/14 just [104] 8/2 9/17 13/10 13/12 17/15 19/24 21/5 21/13 21/20 24/24 27/16 28/20 29/2 29/3 31/6 31/11 32/12 32/23 35/3 35/19 38/19 39/10 39/14 41/7 41/17 46/2 48/3 48/4 48/7 48/10 53/12 55/11 56/11 61/8 61/18 66/18 72/8 73/2 74/9 75/13 77/19 77/21 78/12 79/24 80/16 83/5 85/15 92/22 93/20 95/22 97/11 97/18 97/20 99/6 99/8 102/20 106/10 106/10 110/9 110/14 110/24 114/20 115/16 116/3 116/8 119/17 119/21 119/25 123/23 125/22 125/24 126/9 126/10 131/13 35/1 41/6 45/13 45/18 132/7 134/20 137/24 46/5 48/21 50/1 56/1 139/6 141/23 143/8

144/2 144/21 148/23 151/5 151/6 152/24 153/24 154/23 154/25 156/20 157/25 161/1 161/2 161/19 164/5 164/6 165/6 165/13 170/1 170/24 171/6 172/16 173/18 173/19 justice [3] 50/25 52/19 146/21 justification [1] 116/9 justified [1] 125/9 justify [2] 71/21 72/12

KC [2] 124/4 168/18 keen [1] 125/1 **keep [19]** 19/17 23/15 55/11 55/18 64/18 68/4 77/21 78/12 82/7 82/7 84/10 89/4 104/23 108/4 118/8 155/10 157/20 157/20 164/13 keeping [1] 24/12 Kelleher [2] 132/6 132/8 kept [7] 15/3 25/5 48/2 108/25 111/9 146/19 156/22 key [2] 76/19 151/11 **Kim [1]** 137/9 kind [1] 96/20 kindly [2] 3/22 26/12 King [63] 8/13 11/4 11/6 15/18 18/10 19/16 22/18 23/15 24/12 24/21 25/19 25/20 25/22 25/24 55/17 74/18 74/20 75/3 75/4 75/7 75/17 76/14 82/2 82/12 82/24 84/20 84/23 89/1 90/2 90/23 91/11 91/13 92/6 94/10 105/3 105/5 107/6 107/21 109/22 115/17 116/22 122/11 128/13 last [13] 1/8 1/18 128/18 128/20 128/23 133/22 134/8 146/6 146/12 147/8 150/9 150/14 152/4 154/7 155/12 155/21 156/8 156/23 157/23 162/7 162/16 165/12 King's [1] 90/10 knew [39] 5/9 5/13 5/15 5/20 10/10 14/12 23/1 24/1 24/8 24/9

63/5 65/13 73/21 75/7

78/9 83/20 86/3 86/6 142/10 143/6 143/12 143/13 149/15 149/15 150/1 151/2 160/23 166/8 167/18 170/8 172/12 knit [1] 46/16 know [258] knowledge [72] 4/7 4/13 4/25 5/1 5/4 5/7 5/8 5/15 5/15 5/18 5/23 5/25 6/2 9/11 9/15 10/24 15/20 16/16 18/11 18/12 22/16 24/11 25/16 26/2 26/13 26/17 26/19 28/11 29/14 29/23 30/23 32/4 34/23 35/1 37/17 37/18 38/15 39/9 39/11 39/13 53/3 55/2 56/22 56/24 57/15 58/13 58/24 61/1 61/6 led [2] 67/12 96/9 61/20 65/9 73/23 88/4 **Lee [2]** 69/20 71/2 90/7 90/8 92/10 104/16 105/18 105/20 51/3 51/9 89/3 89/4 106/18 107/2 107/4 107/19 107/22 107/25 138/9 149/11 149/14 149/19 150/4 165/16 174/18 knowledgeable [2] 80/4 172/8 known [26] 2/11 9/4 9/5 11/11 11/20 11/25 12/21 14/14 16/7 17/9 29/7 29/10 29/19 29/21 39/12 42/2 57/10 58/19 60/7 60/18 78/22 85/6 85/11 146/18 147/16 169/8 knows [1] 60/21 lady [2] 51/2 121/23 lady's [1] 110/25 language [1] 101/25 largely [1] 151/21 1/25 4/12 12/24 17/15 28/19 81/4 85/1 85/8 86/20 103/25 130/4 lasted [1] 70/16 late [1] 17/13 later [7] 7/21 7/21

37/25 53/6 54/8 77/11 95/18 law [35] 2/7 4/13 4/14 155/24 4/19 7/25 12/17 12/19 let's [9] 1/11 6/17 12/25 14/6 15/6 15/21 20/7 20/21 20/22 25/9 25/10 28/18 39/8 49/21 73/18 74/12

74/13 74/13 74/14 74/14 74/15 82/6 82/25 116/24 117/4 119/11 131/12 151/23 **level [5]** 25/9 33/9 154/5 167/3 lawyer [13] 3/7 57/24 liaison [1] 24/11 58/1 68/2 87/21 116/20 117/5 121/11 166/4 166/24 168/8 174/22 175/19 lawyers [9] 2/9 2/19 123/4 127/4 127/9 128/4 134/6 144/16 155/13 lay [2] 160/12 160/17 leading [2] 165/1 172/25 least [8] 76/18 78/2 78/4 79/12 148/5 149/16 158/24 169/9 leave [2] 93/3 93/7 leaving [1] 106/12 left [10] 37/23 39/22 89/11 116/3 141/25 164/6 left-hand [4] 37/23 89/3 89/4 89/11 **Legacy [1]** 66/10 legal [52] 1/23 2/11 4/17 4/18 4/18 13/24 14/15 15/15 16/8 16/21 18/9 19/15 19/21 20/2 20/14 20/15 21/3 21/6 21/14 21/15 22/12 23/11 23/17 23/24 24/2 24/13 25/12 26/6 39/24 50/2 62/23 71/23 77/10 84/19 103/1 104/10 109/25 114/19 115/16 116/5 117/14 117/17 133/3 134/11 148/21 150/13 list [2] 49/2 116/16 151/1 165/23 169/21 171/4 173/1 175/9 **Legally [1]** 57/23 length [1] 67/3 lens [5] 109/24 114/2 115/13 117/18 117/18 litigation [4] 9/2 **Lesley [1]** 53/7 173/14 lesser [1] 121/2 let [6] 49/10 49/15 50/22 88/5 155/12 24/17 28/20 32/19 33/2 36/9 68/21 135/4 letter [5] 44/14 112/1 118/4 118/10 118/18

letterbox [1] 47/10 letters [2] 44/17 128/14 34/5 35/6 166/7 liberty [1] 52/6 lie [2] 47/3 47/6 light [7] 17/21 81/19 109/5 113/3 114/25 120/6 149/9 like [31] 1/23 22/21 23/7 28/19 34/23 50/14 52/1 52/22 57/8 58/15 61/13 65/12 72/10 81/3 81/19 81/21 82/15 84/8 87/3 87/11 87/15 91/25 92/1 99/3 102/16 106/14 118/17 128/22 151/1 173/1 174/19 likely [4] 169/19 170/25 172/13 174/7 likewise [1] 20/25 limited [26] 8/19 9/21 15/13 15/14 15/22 19/14 20/25 22/16 23/10 28/12 29/22 29/24 35/2 50/13 84/23 102/25 108/18 112/22 116/2 116/20 119/10 119/24 120/10 121/22 172/24 173/4 line [30] 16/6 21/3 22/23 24/13 24/25 26/6 39/21 42/13 55/3 55/17 61/22 62/12 63/9 81/11 84/24 86/17 89/8 92/9 94/22 121/14 126/8 132/19 132/19 134/11 136/9 137/2 141/24 154/1 170/21 175/10 lines [3] 13/21 97/7 128/5 **listed [2]** 118/14 154/6 listen [2] 76/5 144/21 literature [4] 113/24 114/5 114/7 114/17 48/22 92/6 107/7 less [3] 99/18 102/19 little [10] 48/9 53/12 86/8 97/21 101/2 156/4 159/10 160/7 165/19 169/21 live [1] 168/25 local [15] 6/24 12/7 17/8 32/4 33/8 35/5 53/3 53/10 53/19 54/17 55/1 55/24 56/24 57/5 84/15 location [2] 14/3 25/2

locking [3] 59/18 61/7 61/12 **Log [1]** 85/11 logic [1] 149/1 logs [8] 59/9 59/19 59/21 59/23 60/11 61/16 85/15 85/20 London [4] 151/12 152/6 152/8 154/8 long [15] 4/1 9/3 17/14 61/8 129/19 135/3 153/24 153/25 154/23 158/21 159/13 161/1 163/18 164/4 170/8 Longman [10] 45/24 46/12 46/21 46/21 47/14 51/18 51/25 61/14 85/15 87/19 look [81] 6/18 7/9 7/23 11/7 13/12 13/18 22/15 23/13 24/17 26/19 30/23 31/11 32/16 32/23 32/23 33/2 36/15 41/13 46/18 47/18 53/12 55/7 60/19 61/24 71/24 72/5 72/19 72/20 86/16 89/3 91/17 92/20 93/18 95/6 95/16 98/12 99/10 100/25 102/21 105/1 108/9 109/20 109/23 113/25 114/1 115/12 115/13 116/4 117/15 117/17 118/1 119/25 120/4 122/3 122/12 124/1 126/22 126/22 127/16 130/2 137/18 139/1 139/8 139/9 142/22 147/8 151/3 151/5 151/15 152/18 153/1 153/23 155/2 155/5 160/5 161/22 161/23 171/6 173/18 173/21 175/13 looked [11] 8/2 29/2 29/3 32/12 34/7 83/7 85/14 140/22 145/17 148/5 153/8 looking [31] 5/24 27/15 27/16 41/6 43/6 55/5 57/16 57/17 58/23 63/16 84/16 88/20 95/9 95/12 95/23 95/23 96/16 111/1 116/19 121/3 127/20 127/21 147/7 151/4 151/16 157/13 160/22 160/23 162/19 171/9 172/17 lose [2] 155/12

155/24 loss [2] 52/6 70/12 losses [2] 53/18 119/2 lost [5] 31/9 36/1 36/4 41/23 91/13 lot [19] 15/14 15/16 21/4 21/12 21/21 22/1 23/12 23/12 24/18 25/19 30/20 30/21 48/8 50/14 52/10 85/25 86/11 106/22 134/1 lots [3] 27/17 84/13 84/14 lump [1] 87/8 **lumping [1]** 87/6 **Lyons [7]** 66/17 66/19 67/6 67/18

M

M Smith [1] 89/5 **M029 [1]** 139/10 made [41] 3/23 9/10 12/2 12/17 12/19 14/17 14/19 21/6 21/16 26/23 27/4 29/1 30/16 45/9 52/3 52/5 52/14 59/24 73/11 73/15 73/15 73/18 76/8 81/10 108/4 132/20 137/13 139/16 147/20 164/11 169/17 manifested [2] 14/2 170/11 170/22 170/23 171/23 171/24 172/12 173/12 173/17 174/20 175/3

127/1 131/19 132/25

Madron [1] 141/25 magazines [1] 49/1 **magnitude** [1] 30/15 Mail [13] 4/17 11/19 12/15 15/21 19/12 37/4 84/11 87/17 119/9 120/11 134/1 166/25 167/13 maintain [4] 44/2 109/12 112/5 112/9

maintaining [2] 111/5 111/22

make [40] 2/15 17/20 21/18 27/2 39/8 59/15 60/2 60/3 60/6 60/17 69/22 70/1 76/9 77/1 96/20 104/9 120/5 120/18 123/5 124/10 133/4 134/7 134/18 137/19 139/13 142/4 143/10 144/4 144/14 145/18 145/25 149/6 149/9 153/5 154/12 154/24 170/22 170/24 171/2 172/10 maker [20] 77/1

87/13 96/20 120/7 121/10 121/17 123/7 138/23 139/6 142/23 142/25 144/19 145/7 148/20 149/6 149/9 171/4 172/4 172/6 172/9 makers [5] 135/23 136/10 137/3 145/24 150/17 making [11] 14/18 17/18 21/9 96/14

108/21 110/1 116/14 125/19 138/6 176/1 176/2 man [4] 39/10 43/10

60/19 60/19 man's [1] 81/15 managed [2] 133/25 134/10

management [6] 16/11 17/7 112/19 130/8 130/13 135/10 manager [14] 21/3 24/14 55/3 55/17 61/22 62/12 63/9 84/24 92/9 121/14 126/8 141/24 170/21 175/10

managers [3] 47/21 112/14 112/15 Mandy [3] 47/22 48/2

48/18 25/1

many [3] 25/7 137/11 166/21

March [1] 71/16 **Marilyn [1]** 57/19 Martin [33] 8/13 8/15 8/16 88/25 94/10 94/12 94/14 95/15 95/17 95/20 97/4 97/9 97/12 97/19 98/8 98/10 101/16 101/19 102/6 102/23 106/8 107/5 118/2 121/24 122/1 151/18 151/22 153/12 154/14 159/18 164/25 169/3 171/13

Martin/Jarnail [2] 151/18 151/22 Masters [1] 52/19 material [12] 78/22 79/12 101/7 140/12 140/16 151/19 151/20 87/14 89/20 91/17 151/24 151/24 152/5 154/5 173/6

matter [21] 1/16 2/10 8/6 22/25 58/15 69/10 89/21 90/6 90/9 105/9 105/10 106/5 106/23 121/12 148/25 148/25 150/12 150/16 156/22

170/21 175/8 matters [16] 11/17 12/12 15/15 15/24 18/13 20/23 77/23 80/3 82/5 100/2 121/12 146/13 146/15 161/5 163/18 173/5 Matthews [2] 124/3 124/6 may [41] 1/1 8/17 8/20 25/14 32/1 33/14 35/8 50/23 50/24 57/4 58/10 72/5 77/23 80/21 80/25 90/12 108/23 109/1 109/4 109/16 110/6 110/16 111/3 111/18 114/14 114/25 127/23 127/24 128/4 139/24 143/6 152/4 152/7 154/10 155/2 155/22 156/25 170/2 171/6 171/8 176/12 May 2024 [1] 1/1 maybe [21] 55/16

61/8 72/9 82/15 82/21 91/23 106/4 115/11 116/2 116/2 120/22 121/4 122/21 122/22 123/1 126/4 134/25 142/17 145/1 161/10 166/18

McFarlane [2] 32/25 50/2

McLachlan [2] 64/4 70/23 me [117] 1/23 2/10 2/16 2/19 2/21 3/8 14/14 16/7 17/16 18/10 18/25 19/1 21/2 157/17 157/20 21/19 23/5 28/17 28/23 34/25 37/19 39/8 39/18 39/24 42/2 43/17 45/15 45/20 45/23 46/17 46/23 47/10 47/11 49/10 51/5 51/16 52/8 52/21 55/9 55/12 55/20 56/16 58/8 61/14 62/23 62/24 63/10 63/13 72/2 72/2 72/8 72/20 73/1 73/2 73/6 75/20 76/22 76/22 77/3 81/11 82/2 84/9 86/1 86/2 87/11 87/12 56/12 56/13 76/14 92/9 93/8 93/9 94/3 94/14 97/4 97/9 98/19 99/15 100/2 100/17 101/9 101/14 103/5 104/5 104/6 105/1 109/17 112/4 113/17 113/23 114/4 114/7

114/14 114/18 114/21

115/13 115/14 117/3 117/12 118/17 120/9 121/12 121/25 122/2 122/14 125/2 127/11 128/23 133/3 133/4 133/24 134/3 137/23 161/7 165/5 165/6 166/11 168/9 168/22 mean [87] 10/18 16/22 20/5 20/16 22/5 22/10 23/4 25/9 28/13 30/13 34/25 43/11 43/15 45/4 46/19 48/17 50/12 50/18 52/8 52/21 55/2 75/12 76/25 77/4 78/15 80/12 80/13 81/20 81/25 81/25 82/14 83/5 85/13 85/18 87/3 87/8 87/9 90/1 90/11 90/11 91/9 91/23 95/14 96/4 97/1 97/2 102/4 102/6 102/17 104/13 112/11 113/6 114/14 114/22 115/15 117/4 117/24 117/25 119/24 121/3 122/21 125/23 126/9 133/7 135/22 138/11 143/8 143/21 153/6 154/15 157/16 161/2 161/16 161/16 161/17 164/3 165/4 165/7 165/9 165/14 165/21 166/23 167/13 168/7 171/5 173/10 175/13 meaning [1] 157/6 means [6] 23/16 37/15 78/15 141/2 meant [9] 37/18 38/18 40/18 42/5 61/12 82/17 89/10 115/3 157/25 media [11] 71/11 74/14 74/15 132/8 132/13 132/20 134/16 135/17 136/1 136/13 137/21

mediation [9] 23/8 138/18 138/21 138/21 140/18 142/25 143/2 150/7 150/8 meet [6] 49/2 49/22

128/20 meeting [21] 33/17 39/19 39/20 39/23 56/7 93/25 94/1 125/6 126/6 130/2 130/4 159/12 161/24 162/11 162/19 162/24 163/1 163/19 163/21 164/1

165/5

(61) locking - meeting

М	5
meetings [8] 23/9	m
33/12 56/7 93/21 98/13 129/14 130/7	9
135/9	m
Member [3] 109/5 113/3 115/1	m
members [7] 135/10	9
151/1 165/21 166/16 167/6 167/16 167/19	9
Members' [1] 130/10	1
memory [8] 17/5 23/4	1 1
38/11 40/1 102/5 171/8 172/17 173/19	m
men [2] 49/7 50/6	m 1
mention [6] 13/25 17/18 58/19 63/6 66/2	m
99/16	1 2
mentioned [19] 9/14 9/25 10/5 10/8 10/11	2
15/10 16/17 26/17	3
49/19 67/4 68/19 69/7 92/10 95/8 95/25 98/5	5
111/25 125/7 153/12	8
mentioning [1] 112/1	8
mentions [2] 35/13 98/1	M
message [12] 32/2	1
51/12 109/7 113/11 125/1 126/18 129/25	2
131/25 132/12 132/13	2 4
133/16 136/20 messages [1] 50/4	5
Messrs [1] 38/8	5
Messrs Simpson [1] 38/8	6
met [6] 49/4 50/25	6 7
52/15 56/8 162/7 165/21	8
methodical [3] 46/5	M
46/8 52/2 mid [3] 108/3 146/11	3
152 <u>/</u> 25	m 1
mid-2012 [1] 108/3 mid-2013 [1] 146/11	m
mid-2014 [1] 152/25	1 m
middle [2] 92/8 129/10	8
Miele [2] 163/12	m 5
163/14 might [17] 2/21 11/18	7
43/18 70/13 94/10	m [
94/16 115/5 128/10 134/7 138/15 144/6	M
150/19 153/2 165/5	M M
171/13 172/16 173/9 Mike [7] 47/20 47/22	m
48/13 48/16 48/18	2 4
50/4 50/22 mind [8] 2/2 29/18	1
38/13 51/20 105/18	1 m
117/11 153/7 153/11 minister [2] 51/1	1
· L - J - · · · ·	M

52/15 46/16 ninisters [1] 52/19 money [4] 34/4 70/11 ninute [4] 17/15 70/13 109/9 92/24 95/13 103/21 months [2] 2/6 78/7 ninuted [3] 99/18 more [50] 14/2 19/19 Mr Flemington [4] 03/10 103/13 19/25 21/4 21/5 21/12 83/3 160/6 160/8 21/21 22/1 25/1 26/8 ninutes [21] 37/25 10/13 92/22 93/5 93/9 33/13 54/9 67/5 80/6 94/5 94/23 95/1 95/7 97/25 98/3 99/14 97/17 97/21 99/17 00/3 101/10 101/13 102/19 104/14 104/19 01/18 102/5 102/12 106/4 113/10 113/25 03/7 107/9 168/14 114/22 114/23 114/23 115/18 117/16 117/21 nisbalance [1] 32/7 niscarriages [1] 125/21 135/2 135/24 46/21 143/10 153/15 154/3 157/24 161/10 161/21 149/22 161/14 nismatch [30] 6/22 2/5 17/8 26/20 26/24 27/7 27/22 28/22 29/4 165/15 168/10 169/24 37/8 45/3 58/23 59/2 29/20 30/6 30/24 173/13 175/21 31/13 31/16 31/23 morning [6] 1/3 43/19 43/25 94/2 98/8 Mr Jones' [1] 59/4 32/3 32/8 40/24 48/11 51/21 57/6 65/9 73/24 100/13 33/10 83/18 84/4 most [3] 51/6 71/1 34/18 88/5 147/21 174/9 47/25 mostly [1] 168/9 lisra [45] 9/14 9/18 **mounted [1]** 11/19 0/17 10/19 12/16 **move [11]** 11/3 13/6 5/23 16/17 23/23 26/16 74/5 76/10 24/23 28/12 28/15 77/15 92/13 98/6 29/22 30/9 39/25 40/3 100/24 102/10 146/5 15/4 45/13 46/15 49/1 moved [2] 50/13 51/5 51/15 52/2 52/4 81/22 57/22 62/3 62/15 moving [1] 31/14 63/21 64/8 65/5 66/2 **MP [1]** 111/23 66/22 67/2 68/11 69/5 MPs [3] 130/8 130/16 69/7 70/6 70/10 71/21 130/20 72/24 73/4 74/3 85/3 Mr [231] 35/21 91/7 148/8 Mr Altman [5] 90/9 lisra's [6] 26/23 90/12 124/4 125/4 27/5 27/24 28/22 126/7 38/23 71/18 Mr Baker [1] 65/24 nisrepresent [1] Mr Beer [16] 1/6 1/14 4/7 1/17 3/12 3/19 32/17 nissing [2] 70/13 110/9 143/14 146/1 54/10 nistake [4] 82/18 175/24 176/7 177/4 36/23 87/9 145/1 Mr Bradshaw [4] nistakes [6] 52/3 122/10 135/6 136/17 52/5 73/11 73/15 137/11 73/15 81/10 Mr Bradshaw's [1] nisunderstanding 137/7 **11** 105/22 Mr Castleton [2] 64/5 **/lm [2]** 83/19 154/20 64/6 **/lm-hm [1]** 83/19 Mr Castleton's [1] **10loney [1]** 168/18 71/8 noment [12] 10/7 Mr Clarke [21] 7/24 27/13 27/16 43/18 83/15 90/20 98/17 14/17 93/7 95/18 99/22 100/13 102/11 10/3 116/25 123/13 169/13 169/17 170/8 170/23 170/24 171/10 Mr Singh's [1] 31/13 175/15 171/23 172/10 172/12 110/16 nomentarily [1] 173/13 173/16 173/22 Mr Smith [13] 89/14 145/16 Monday [2] 38/24 175/2 175/8

77/16 100/25 107/17 Mr Davies [1] 13/17 **Mr Dixon [1]** 118/11 161/5 Mr Gareth [1] 61/13 86/24 87/10 90/6 96/4 Mr Jenkins [27] 9/19 17/17 17/23 36/4 45/24 51/19 60/2 62/1 66/8 66/24 67/13 68/13 80/25 81/17 82/13 84/3 86/3 87/7 88/6 89/15 89/17 89/23 90/3 90/21 91/7 161/21 165/11 165/14 Mr Jenkins' [6] 32/11 165/18 Mr Jones [1] 87/2 Mr Longman [9] 45/24 46/12 46/21 46/21 47/14 51/25 61/14 85/15 87/19 **Mr Martin [1]** 169/3 Mr Matthews [1] 124/6 Mr Miele [1] 163/14 Mr Parsons [2] 100/21 151/7 Mr Posnett [4] 94/19 94/21 95/16 100/3 Mr Scott [8] 94/22 98/24 100/15 102/16 104/3 104/16 104/18 107/8 **Mr Simon [1]** 92/16 Mr Simpson [1] 33/2 Mr Singh [59] 1/6 1/15 1/18 2/7 2/13 3/11 3/21 4/24 6/12 41/17 92/22 93/2 93/8 9/16 16/23 18/14 20/9 21/11 21/25 26/10 28/1 29/8 29/10 34/4 34/15 44/2 47/5 55/21 56/10 73/21 76/10 81/22 83/8 87/6 88/1 88/20 92/25 93/4 93/18 99/22 100/5 101/22 110/17 111/17 115/23 123/12 123/22 my [121] 3/14 5/7 131/13 142/16 143/1 143/11 146/3 158/17 168/11 168/17 171/8 172/1 173/20 174/17 174/25 175/15 175/22 176/2 89/17 100/10 102/2

Mr Clarke's [4] 77/15

153/18 169/13 170/12 170/24 171/24 173/13 Mr Tatford [12] 23/25 45/24 46/12 46/14 46/18 47/13 51/24 69/11 81/12 81/21 85/14 87/15 Mr Williams [6] 88/24 89/10 89/11 89/21 90/24 91/15 Mr Wilson [10] 32/25 33/4 33/20 34/23 39/19 45/25 46/2 48/4 48/7 48/7 Mrs [12] 30/9 49/1 50/2 51/5 51/15 52/4 62/15 70/10 71/18 141/20 144/24 168/21 Mrs Debbie [1] 50/2 Mrs Hamilton [3] 141/20 144/24 168/21 Mr Kelleher [1] 132/8 Mrs Misra [7] 30/9 49/1 51/5 51/15 52/4 62/15 70/10 Mrs Misra's [1] 71/18 **Ms [13]** 47/20 48/12 49/12 67/18 83/3 110/11 110/25 125/5 142/1 168/16 169/25 175/23 177/6 **Ms Crichton [3]** 83/3 110/11 142/1 **Ms Lyons [1]** 67/18 Ms Patrick [2] 169/25 175/23 Ms Talbot [3] 47/20 48/12 49/12 Ms van [1] 125/5 much [25] 1/4 3/11 3/21 4/21 8/21 43/5 45/11 47/25 48/23 49/4 93/17 112/18 123/16 131/10 152/2 164/5 164/21 165/9 167/7 167/8 168/5 168/6 173/22 175/22 176/10 must [14] 2/21 3/8 28/2 28/8 39/23 94/7 96/22 108/19 120/12 130/25 140/15 152/1 154/6 173/4 5/18 5/23 9/15 9/21 10/23 12/24 15/13 15/21 16/10 16/16 17/12 18/8 19/14 20/23 21/3 21/25 24/10 24/11 24/13 24/13 26/12 28/11 30/22 33/12 34/10 34/19 35/1 35/16 38/21 39/24 41/11 (62) meetings - my

102/14 152/16 153/16

M
my [88] 44/7 44/8 47/13 51/7 51/24 55/3
47/13 51/7 51/24 55/3 55/17 55/17 55/21
56/22 57/13 58/8 61/9
61/22 62/12 63/9
63/14 63/15 64/2 69/10 75/14 82/18
84/8 84/21 84/22
84/23 85/19 85/19
86/17 86/23 87/9
87/20 87/21 90/8 92/3 92/9 92/10 92/13
92/18 92/22 92/23
94/3 99/5 104/7
105/12 105/15 105/20
106/7 107/4 107/25 108/1 110/10 110/17
113/13 116/1 121/14
121/21 126/8 126/14 135/18 136/9 137/23
135/18 136/9 137/23 141/24 145/1 150/6
150/24 150/25 151/9
151/15 153/7 153/11
153/22 155/4 156/18
159/24 160/2 164/15 166/4 166/13 167/2
168/17 170/21 172/24
173/11 173/14 173/25
174/2 175/10
myself [4] 15/19 22/21 106/11 126/10
myth [1] 98/12
N
naive [1] 114/14
name [3] 31/7 110/25 168/17
named [1] 55/6
namely [3] 98/24
130/20 158/6 names [2] 10/18 65/6
narrative [2] 72/24
99/5

88/5 national [2] 173/7 174/9 nature [4] 46/14 77/13 86/19 86/20 **NBSC [1]** 53/14 nearly [1] 122/25 necessary [2] 119/4 152/10 need [50] 1/6 22/17 22/24 24/8 24/17 24/20 46/2 51/13 52/13 55/10 55/11 61/13 62/17 63/11 63/11 76/20 76/24 77/6 78/11 87/12 87/13 109/7 109/23 112/1 113/25 115/15 117/15 117/16 123/5 123/8 125/15 126/16

127/2 128/25 129/24 132/1 132/13 139/1 145/13 153/18 153/23 157/5 157/23 157/23 161/5 164/16 166/3 166/18 171/17 175/8 needed [9] 37/18 40/20 63/10 84/24 94/12 155/6 159/24 164/19 164/24 needs [9] 31/17 52/13 59/8 59/12 60/15 61/2 102/17 102/18 121/13 negative [1] 11/14 neither [1] 114/22 nervousness [2] 154/21 155/1 neutrally [1] 135/24 **never [13]** 15/1 19/6 37/5 39/11 41/11 41/12 47/22 81/17 90/3 91/4 92/10 105/18 137/21 new [22] 45/23 46/4 76/11 76/12 76/16 76/20 76/24 77/6 77/8 139/25 151/10 152/25 153/8 153/9 155/7 155/8 158/18 159/6 164/24 **Newcastle [1]** 137/9 Newton [1] 119/16 next [8] 34/16 49/9 51/13 53/23 74/23

76/10 135/4 168/21 nice [1] 75/24 nine [2] 37/25 40/12 no [171] 4/15 5/3 5/7 5/11 5/23 5/23 12/6 12/16 13/5 13/22 14/19 14/23 17/18 22/5 22/23 27/4 28/10 28/21 28/25 29/6 29/9 29/11 29/13 29/15 29/23 30/14 30/22 32/2 32/4 34/17 37/1 37/6 37/10 38/4 38/6 40/15 41/2 41/5 41/8 41/11 41/11 42/12 42/15 42/17 42/22 43/4 45/2 47/4 49/25 50/20 51/3 51/5 51/15 51/23 51/23 52/12 55/2 56/7 56/13 57/8 57/12 57/13 63/8 65/23 70/18 70/18 71/22 72/13 72/13 72/16 72/25 73/22 75/11 76/5 77/14 78/11 79/22 80/23 80/23 81/8 85/10 85/24 87/8 88/8 88/8

88/8 89/20 89/25 91/19 91/25 92/11 100/17 103/24 105/20 Notwithstanding [1] 107/4 107/12 107/12 107/13 107/16 107/16 November [1] 135/6 111/7 111/7 111/23 112/18 112/21 112/23 113/6 114/12 114/14 117/8 117/10 117/10 117/12 117/22 117/24 117/24 121/18 125/2 126/4 126/21 128/12 132/9 132/9 132/24 136/19 138/12 138/17 121/3 121/4 129/11 140/22 141/22 142/15 133/13 142/22 143/1 142/21 143/10 143/13 144/13 155/6 173/3 144/7 144/11 144/11 144/11 145/4 145/6 145/8 145/12 146/23 150/10 153/3 155/4 155/9 155/9 156/15 156/15 156/15 156/20 number [21] 8/15 157/14 157/24 158/9 158/9 158/12 160/21 165/19 165/25 166/9 167/9 167/15 167/21 168/10 169/16 169/16 129/14 130/7 135/9 172/3 174/18 **nobody [5]** 81/20 159/13 161/13 164/19 82/23 87/24 92/9 92/9

non [2] 96/7 96/17 non-disclosure [2] 96/7 96/17 none [2] 58/20 158/16 nor [3] 9/4 27/2 166/14

normally [2] 123/10 134/12 not [277]

not' [1] 103/14 note [24] 31/12 31/13 obtain [1] 62/14 77/18 90/22 94/15 97/10 97/13 97/14 97/15 146/19 147/1 161/24 162/24 164/11 **obvious [1]** 125/11 168/11 169/17 169/18 obviously [11] 28/24 170/11 170/23 171/6 171/23 172/13 173/16 175/2

noted [1] 146/19 **notes [4]** 31/9 35/24 88/21 88/24

Notes\lost [1] 36/12 **nothing [9]** 63/15 72/10 85/19 105/25 114/22 148/17 149/2 153/15 161/21 notice [2] 60/22

137/8 notified [3] 54/13

81/6 81/13 notify [2] 155/21

156/8 **notifying [1]** 74/20 79/9 107/25 109/14 109/18 now [38] 4/12 8/7 8/8 odd [2] 70/7 86/21 17/11 18/14 18/20 19/10 19/11 33/3 38/13 39/4 43/19 45/6 45/15 61/11 70/25 74/19 79/17 81/12 81/22 83/2 104/13 115/9 116/24 116/25 117/3 120/20 120/24 176/6 nowhere [3] 48/24 62/1 62/4 nuisance [2] 47/24 48/1 13/8 46/1 65/3 66/13 77/19 79/17 79/21 86/13 87/18 87/18 101/11 119/23 120/17

> oath [2] 38/22 166/10 **objection [2]** 2/23

168/19

2/24

objective [3] 174/13 174/14 174/15 obligations [6] 81/13 82/16 83/13 83/14

91/18 107/8 observer [2] 148/23 165/13

obtained [1] 15/17 **obtaining [4]** 63/14 85/20 86/14 87/20 73/8 82/1 86/23 110/16 121/25 153/9 157/4 158/23 165/21 172/9 occasion [7] 1/18

4/12 28/19 70/1 85/1 85/9 122/20 occasions [3] 46/1 86/13 176/3 occur [5] 51/5 51/16 75/20 82/2 84/9 occurred [5] 49/10 148/18 149/5 149/12

166/21 occurrence [1] 7/1 occurring [1] 99/11

33/3 33/21 42/21 42/24 43/2 45/18 47/19 78/5 78/10 148/1 148/9 off [10] 13/13 28/2 65/20 97/2 117/24 123/23 135/13 136/20 153/14 161/1 offence [1] 121/3 offences [1] 121/2 offered [1] 118/23 office [179] Office's [12] 5/1 19/21 20/2 21/6 77/10 107/7 108/2 109/11 124/7 126/3 140/7 155/25 officer [7] 28/17 53/8 65/25 106/2 118/15 123/6 141/8 officer's [7] 138/25 141/7 143/5 143/7 143/19 143/24 144/22 officers [2] 139/17 140/25 officers' [2] 138/15 137/10 146/13 166/25 141/2 113/12

October [12] 26/23

offices [3] 8/24 109/7 oh [7] 4/3 4/3 36/8 99/3 110/4 141/25 143/13 okay [33] 7/21 10/7 10/9 13/5 13/10 26/16 32/9 32/10 32/14 35/19 56/15 67/18 76/1 76/9 89/1 102/10 103/8 108/8 111/1 115/14 124/8 126/13 131/18 133/8 135/24 137/19 138/13 140/18 142/10 145/1 151/6 170/7 171/7 old [12] 13/3 48/21 84/11 151/15 151/17 152/18 152/21 153/1 153/8 155/8 164/20 164/23 on [258]

once [3] 15/13 42/6

one [63] 1/16 4/9

28/5 31/14 33/13

41/18 45/20 47/9

4/10 7/5 7/22 9/25

9/25 10/1 10/5 10/10

10/10 14/3 23/15 25/1

53/19 55/9 57/1 70/12

74/3 78/2 78/4 80/20

86/15 92/4 92/6 92/8

80/24 81/19 83/17

92/25 93/23 95/8

60/14

12/4 12/18 26/8 28/13 30/18 39/18 40/17 0 163/2 paragraphs 94 [1] 29/22 33/11 48/25 own [8] 4/25 29/14 61/10 61/20 62/22 158/14 one... [25] 95/23 75/14 80/5 80/6 90/13 Parliament [6] 109/6 55/15 57/1 62/7 63/22 38/15 70/20 88/4 95/23 97/19 101/24 65/6 66/3 66/9 66/21 138/22 138/23 138/23 120/5 122/15 123/4 113/4 115/1 135/10 103/6 103/6 110/14 67/3 71/4 78/3 83/10 123/5 139/24 140/22 170/19 171/19 111/12 111/23 113/9 85/21 85/22 92/7 92/8 145/17 Parsons [6] 72/4 115/5 115/11 116/8 95/12 99/16 105/13 page [74] 4/1 6/7 76/16 100/21 100/22 paperwork [4] 117/24 123/1 129/14 6/11 6/17 7/10 7/11 106/23 112/20 124/13 141/16 144/2 145/10 139/11 151/7 131/13 139/17 145/6 7/23 11/8 11/8 11/15 125/25 137/11 143/2 145/22 part [45] 7/24 14/25 148/12 158/19 162/16 13/12 31/1 31/20 19/12 19/17 19/22 152/1 paperworks [1] 164/20 168/24 173/11 32/13 32/13 33/20 others [6] 5/12 52/21 145/23 20/25 23/8 23/9 30/4 one's [2] 142/24 35/3 36/10 36/15 53/9 131/20 137/10 30/22 41/11 55/9 63/2 paragraph [37] 6/18 142/24 41/14 41/19 41/20 151/8 6/21 7/10 7/11 7/23 63/15 70/18 82/6 ones [8] 9/13 9/20 41/20 53/5 54/6 54/7 8/6 8/10 11/8 11/15 82/18 83/23 86/23 otherwise [2] 37/14 10/6 16/17 18/16 54/11 57/17 59/3 101/15 101/18 105/12 82/12 16/4 24/25 35/3 41/14 120/8 123/1 166/17 ought [7] 5/9 5/15 61/25 63/19 63/23 41/21 76/11 77/18 106/8 118/25 119/4 ongoing [2] 79/4 64/19 65/19 67/25 34/1 39/5 39/7 79/22 80/16 92/20 93/18 119/5 120/12 135/20 128/10 68/1 68/4 68/21 69/4 82/11 93/25 101/1 110/5 137/2 138/21 142/24 Online [11] 11/12 71/16 75/2 77/18 our [18] 2/7 49/5 111/1 111/15 146/7 143/2 144/20 145/3 33/16 35/15 66/11 78/12 78/13 93/19 58/14 70/20 108/22 155/23 156/3 156/4 148/19 148/22 148/24 78/1 151/15 151/18 100/25 108/9 124/6 108/24 112/11 116/14 156/5 156/24 157/16 149/8 150/5 150/6 160/14 163/2 163/16 124/10 126/23 129/10 159/2 162/24 163/7 130/4 131/25 133/13 150/24 155/4 164/15 164/11 129/11 130/2 131/18 133/16 135/20 137/15 164/8 171/9 173/21 165/8 166/13 only [46] 9/13 9/20 131/23 132/6 132/10 139/15 167/25 174/13 paragraph 12 [2] Participant [1] 10/6 10/10 14/9 15/23 174/15 135/5 135/13 136/11 162/24 164/8 158/19 16/16 16/18 21/1 24/3 137/6 139/9 140/1 ourselves [2] 73/8 paragraph 13 [1] Participants [1] 24/4 24/16 28/14 30/5 140/20 146/7 151/4 83/14 163/7 158/16 37/8 39/17 48/25 155/10 155/11 158/14 paragraph 16 [1] out [48] 2/4 7/24 participation [1] 49/20 49/25 54/2 64/8 160/5 162/9 163/7 11/12 13/10 13/16 171/9 176/4 65/13 68/18 69/6 171/9 173/21 16/2 17/12 24/1 31/20 Paragraph 2 [2] particular [7] 13/3 69/14 69/17 70/3 71/2 37/15 38/5 38/9 38/9 page 1 [7] 11/8 54/6 156/5 156/24 48/20 59/18 70/1 71/25 72/16 72/18 59/3 67/25 69/4 137/6 44/17 45/6 54/22 paragraph 204 [2] 84/17 140/10 174/23 72/25 77/8 87/3 91/9 155/10 55/25 56/20 58/9 41/14 41/21 particularly [1] 91/10 98/1 112/19 page 10 [1] 7/23 61/19 62/1 62/4 62/7 paragraph 24 [1] 175/20 112/21 116/20 117/5 63/4 67/4 77/20 77/24 page 14 [1] 64/19 173/21 parties [3] 123/11 117/17 121/11 127/19 page 15 [2] 7/10 7/11 87/23 100/17 101/2 130/13 130/20 paragraph 28 [1] 140/11 168/24 page 18 [1] 6/11 102/9 103/5 104/8 7/23 parties' [1] 119/17 onto [1] 45/25 page 2 [7] 11/15 109/1 114/5 114/9 parts [1] 26/18 paragraph 29 [1] onwards [4] 4/25 57/17 68/21 100/25 119/19 122/5 128/6 8/10 party [3] 108/22 30/8 158/14 159/2 126/23 131/18 160/5 129/24 130/25 132/18 paragraph 37 [2] 109/4 157/9 ooh [1] 147/6 page 20 [1] 93/19 134/16 153/5 154/1 7/10 7/11 pass [4] 83/6 87/10 open [6] 29/18 66/21 page 26 [1] 146/7 160/22 167/11 175/7 paragraph 38 [2] 103/16 134/10 109/2 110/6 111/3 page 3 [5] 53/5 63/19 outlined [2] 163/8 77/18 80/16 passages [1] 83/16 116/6 65/19 129/10 162/9 paragraph 4 [1] 11/8 163/18 passed [11] 18/4 opening [2] 53/23 page 34 [1] 158/14 18/23 19/20 20/1 outputs [1] 33/12 paragraph 5 [2] 54/4 20/12 20/14 20/23 page 4 [2] 61/25 outs [3] 164/1 169/22 11/15 101/1 operative [1] 154/22 151/4 21/2 102/23 103/23 174/23 paragraph 55 [3] opine [1] 159/6 page 5 [1] 135/5 outset [3] 82/23 92/20 93/18 93/25 103/25 opinion [5] 78/23 page 6 [3] 6/17 31/1 125/15 158/16 paragraph 6 [1] passes [1] 131/20 152/3 160/11 160/20 36/10 outside [3] 106/9 156/3 passing [1] 105/13 174/2 page 68 [3] 41/14 past [7] 94/25 96/7 150/24 150/25 paragraph 6.10 [1] opportunity [2] 41/19 41/20 96/16 98/3 152/12 outsourced [2] 19/16 8/6 141/15 144/9 page 7 [2] 31/20 91/15 163/23 171/21 paragraph 6.5 [2] opposed [1] 122/4 171/9 over [21] 3/12 5/25 6/18 6/21 paste [4] 23/24 68/7 or [205] page 9 [1] 173/21 paragraph 71 [1] 13/3 14/4 16/23 25/3 68/9 68/9 order [11] 59/6 101/4 pages [1] 4/1 27/1 27/2 29/24 59/2 146/7 **PATRICK [5]** 168/16 124/21 127/11 128/20 75/2 78/12 78/12 paid [1] 119/3 168/18 169/25 175/23 paragraph 8 [1] 130/12 131/14 143/17 pain [1] 73/9 81/22 83/15 85/8 155/23 177/6 155/6 157/6 173/5 painful [1] 121/1 123/3 135/13 149/20 paragraph 94 [1] Paul [1] 163/12 ordination [1] 74/25 Panter [2] 118/2 149/20 163/7 Paula [1] 53/9 159/2 organisation [3] 8/23 118/8 overlooked [1] 87/24 paragraphs [3] 8/1 pay [2] 3/18 43/5 53/12 55/25 paper [4] 28/23 oversee [1] 130/22 paying [1] 43/12 10/16 158/14 other [39] 1/16 7/5 125/20 167/11 168/2 overturned [1] 30/12 paragraphs 6.5 [1] payments [32] 6/22 8/12 8/12 9/15 9/21 overview [2] 74/11 papers [19] 23/5 27/1 10/16 12/5 17/8 26/20 26/24

82/19 92/4 94/2 98/20 64/22 70/1 70/21 P 98/6 **presented** [4] 75/5 104/22 101/5 102/10 106/12 POL00346092 [1] 75/18 170/19 171/19 payments... [27] 27/6 placed [1] 149/23 116/5 125/11 125/19 139/9 presently [1] 64/16 27/9 27/22 28/22 29/4 placing [1] 79/14 137/10 139/13 142/17 **police [1]** 106/2 **preserves** [1] 155/17 29/19 30/6 30/24 plain [1] 78/24 143/9 146/3 146/17 policy [4] 109/11 press [2] 127/25 31/12 31/16 31/23 plan [1] 55/7 147/16 152/25 153/6 120/12 121/5 124/8 174/9 32/3 32/7 40/24 48/11 play [3] 74/6 116/16 165/10 170/1 172/21 poor [2] 138/3 138/4 Presumably [3] 51/21 55/24 57/6 65/9 137/2 175/17 posed [1] 112/4 10/22 96/1 115/3 73/24 83/10 83/18 played [1] 70/18 pointed [2] 100/17 position [19] 17/24 pretence [1] 42/10 84/4 84/18 88/5 21/18 30/5 59/15 60/3 pretend [1] 5/19 plea [7] 118/23 103/5 147/21 147/25 60/6 76/2 78/21 119/8 pretty [1] 152/2 118/25 119/4 119/6 pointing [1] 17/22 **PEAK [1]** 31/17 120/13 120/18 123/8 points [2] 58/3 142/2 119/9 119/10 119/17 prevent [1] 170/17 **PEAKs [2]** 31/13 119/21 119/22 119/24 previous [5] 11/7 pleaded [1] 14/22 **POL** [5] 7/3 17/6 31/14 please [139] 1/5 1/12 157/8 157/10 174/1 120/9 122/8 146/24 12/23 82/5 101/10 Penny [2] 57/21 58/2 1/15 3/24 6/3 6/7 6/10 **POL00006357 [1]** 155/14 136/11 people [25] 14/21 6/18 7/9 7/23 8/10 **previously [3]** 62/10 77/16 positive [1] 11/14 18/21 23/14 23/20 11/3 11/7 11/8 13/11 POL00006375 [1] Posnett [15] 94/2 120/18 161/15 24/18 30/4 49/22 50/1 16/23 21/25 27/10 94/7 94/11 94/14 primarily [1] 159/22 7/19 51/25 55/8 55/15 56/5 31/1 32/13 32/16 POL00006799 [1] 94/19 94/21 95/16 principle [3] 2/11 74/12 74/13 74/14 97/9 98/5 98/23 99/7 32/22 33/20 35/3 2/14 151/20 100/24 80/20 80/24 83/1 83/2 100/3 100/17 102/15 35/19 36/9 36/10 POL00028838 [2] **print [6]** 44/5 44/10 101/11 115/11 121/1 36/10 36/15 41/13 31/1 36/9 103/5 44/20 44/20 84/7 125/21 125/24 168/3 41/14 41/19 41/20 **POL00029744 [1]** 6/3 Posnett's [1] 102/20 94/11 per [3] 99/13 99/20 43/20 44/10 44/20 POL00031352 [1] possibility [2] 38/14 printed [9] 37/9 137/17 44/20 46/19 47/18 37/11 37/25 38/5 38/8 65/19 119/19 perhaps [3] 27/15 48/18 50/4 53/4 53/5 POL00040194 [1] 40/12 43/14 45/5 45/9 **possible [6]** 59/16 103/1 136/21 53/13 54/6 54/7 54/11 69/25 70/12 96/7 printing [9] 34/8 34/9 11/3 period [8] 53/21 57/17 58/22 59/3 60/4 POL00055410 [2] 98/15 126/4 35/17 36/21 38/21 53/22 53/24 54/2 54/5 61/24 61/24 63/19 32/22 37/21 39/16 44/9 45/8 45/11 post [191] 56/18 78/10 123/3 63/23 64/13 64/18 POL00055418 [1] post-conviction [1] printout [2] 141/9 periodically [1] 139/1 64/19 64/24 65/20 47/18 106/5 142/12 periods [1] 54/3 66/8 66/17 66/24 67/5 POL00058155 [1] postbox [2] 92/4 prior [7] 4/25 5/1 permit [1] 174/5 67/8 67/10 67/19 129/9 14/15 16/8 26/19 166/5 persistent [1] 26/12 67/25 68/4 68/23 69/1 POL00120723 [1] posting [2] 33/7 35/4 154/8 165/5 person [13] 12/22 74/5 74/9 74/10 77/16 135/4 Postmasters [1] prioritisation [1] 16/19 51/6 60/21 77/17 77/21 77/22 POL00139745 [1] 50/25 126/2 65/14 81/5 81/8 86/7 78/12 88/11 89/3 89/4 97/13 potential [7] 14/10 prison [1] 30/9 86/25 104/9 112/20 92/19 92/21 92/25 108/20 109/3 113/1 POL00139879 [1] private [1] 86/22 139/13 167/19 93/1 98/6 100/13 125/16 160/15 174/2 161/23 **privilege [3]** 2/12 personal [2] 126/12 100/24 103/20 104/24 POL00143374 [1] potentially [3] 148/17 2/17 3/7 138/5 108/1 115/25 118/1 126/22 149/2 150/11 **Privileged [1]** 57/23 personally [7] 25/24 118/4 118/8 118/10 POL00144919 [1] PR [6] 132/7 132/20 privy [10] 20/5 20/20 44/6 67/1 125/2 118/20 118/21 122/11 134/15 135/17 136/1 145/22 150/15 164/2 53/5 126/21 128/12 128/16 123/14 124/1 124/10 POL00147068 [1] 136/12 165/9 166/6 166/17 persons [1] 112/21 125/3 126/14 126/22 practice [2] 86/22 171/5 173/10 160/5 perspective [2] 14/6 126/23 127/11 129/10 POL00148137 [1] probably [36] 2/7 101/3 15/6 131/18 131/23 131/25 practitioner [1] 80/5 25/22 46/11 46/14 124/1 phone [1] 97/4 132/6 133/8 135/5 POL00148242 [1] **pre [1]** 74/19 46/17 48/8 48/17 phoned [2] 23/25 136/11 137/6 139/9 125/3 pre-separation [1] 49/16 49/22 50/1 102/6 140/1 140/20 146/5 50/20 56/3 56/6 56/6 POL00148714 [1] 74/19 phrases [1] 126/6 146/6 151/3 151/4 151/3 preceding [2] 42/25 61/13 81/10 81/11 physical [1] 44/14 151/4 151/6 152/16 POL00155555 [1] 82/14 86/21 96/4 78/8 picked [7] 65/2 66/13 154/13 155/10 155/23 96/23 97/4 97/22 88/20 pregnant [1] 30/10 81/20 81/23 82/2 160/5 160/6 162/9 102/24 104/19 114/8 POL00169386 [1] prepare [4] 27/18 82/23 87/24 162/25 163/7 163/13 13/6 127/2 155/19 156/6 115/4 126/8 132/12 picking [2] 81/24 164/8 171/9 173/21 POL00172804 [1] prepared [6] 11/4 162/7 164/16 165/10 88/1 18/7 71/4 136/9 172/24 173/2 174/9 plucked [1] 142/19 171/8 picture [1] 145/13 plus [1] 86/12 POL00180229 [1] 137/17 163/15 174/18 pieces [1] 150/4 pm [11] 33/21 37/23 problem [22] 6/22 108/8 present [14] 8/6 PII [2] 171/16 173/25 53/14 88/14 88/16 90/14 93/23 160/12 6/24 31/15 31/18 42/6 POL00297710 [1] pinning [1] 68/10 93/12 93/14 123/17 160/13 160/16 160/17 74/5 53/15 60/1 64/1 64/22 pinpoint [1] 64/17 123/19 163/10 176/11 POL00325434 [1] 162/3 162/4 162/5 71/12 71/14 71/15 pipe [1] 149/11 162/13 162/15 163/20 73/5 73/6 73/7 85/16 point [28] 2/22 17/20 118/1 place [7] 53/19 82/4 22/12 31/22 58/5 58/7 POL00325474 [1] 171/21 92/23 95/5 132/2

130/13 132/16 152/25 174/11 174/16 37/13 70/13 77/23 P quite [5] 6/12 22/10 163/8 publication [13] 30/20 86/1 121/1 79/12 79/16 91/12 **problem... [3]** 145/8 prosecute [12] 14/16 15/11 16/8 quote [2] 97/1 142/6 96/22 128/25 143/22 163/23 171/13 108/24 108/25 109/16 16/14 17/3 17/10 quoted [3] 95/16 143/23 144/17 144/18 problems [12] 30/14 110/6 111/3 111/13 54/23 61/18 63/3 117/19 143/4 144/23 144/24 159/24 58/19 59/17 60/7 111/18 112/8 116/6 64/11 78/8 169/1 quotes [2] 113/18 169/23 60/18 62/7 70/24 71/5 151/17 155/7 155/7 169/7 114/8 reasonable [1] 69/23 85/23 85/23 106/17 prosecuted [9] 14/21 **publicity** [1] 174/3 reasonably [1] 77/24 155/3 R 28/6 44/3 109/9 pulled [1] 53/18 reasoning [1] 173/24 procedure [1] 152/4 Rachael [3] 118/2 141/16 144/6 144/10 purely [3] 75/20 reasons [10] 69/24 procedures [4] 73/16 118/8 118/22 167/1 168/19 84/10 175/9 78/19 80/17 80/21 82/19 127/22 130/17 raise [2] 59/10 89/21 80/25 83/24 127/13 prosecuting [6] purpose [2] 134/6 proceed [1] 73/19 raised [21] 9/17 33/25 108/5 110/22 136/16 133/23 173/18 173/23 proceeding [1] 128/14 128/18 153/13 purpose' [1] 152/9 11/17 53/14 58/16 reassured [1] 87/11 108/20 64/3 64/5 65/1 66/12 prosecution [26] purposes [4] 8/7 rebut [1] 139/25 proceedings [11] 70/25 75/4 90/9 91/4 33/15 35/9 69/21 13/9 123/24 125/18 recall [60] 1/5 7/12 5/10 5/16 14/19 57/11 92/9 107/2 127/3 78/17 79/3 82/6 85/3 19/10 23/5 26/25 pursue [1] 61/17 96/8 96/17 96/19 127/3 130/10 130/16 96/10 105/23 108/2 put [32] 2/9 2/16 2/18 27/25 30/16 34/7 128/5 128/11 130/1 131/8 133/19 148/9 108/13 108/18 108/23 2/22 4/9 17/5 27/8 36/20 36/21 37/11 172/23 109/19 109/21 110/12 27/12 30/17 44/15 raises [2] 14/11 16/5 37/13 38/12 38/20 process [9] 11/5 raising [1] 75/17 112/25 116/17 117/6 39/15 39/20 40/15 51/20 52/5 60/22 123/2 134/12 136/2 ramping [1] 52/15 119/14 123/24 124/8 69/22 104/8 104/8 42/1 45/6 49/19 50/7 146/6 147/3 151/25 113/18 114/14 114/16 rang [3] 35/7 46/17 124/18 125/17 153/11 56/19 56/21 81/25 156/10 157/2 127/12 128/22 129/24 46/18 82/1 85/7 89/22 89/25 157/1 processes [2] 127/22 prosecutions [18] 130/3 134/12 135/24 rank [1] 48/8 90/1 90/5 90/11 91/16 130/17 136/15 136/17 139/4 rarely [1] 45/10 91/19 92/11 94/1 11/19 12/15 18/16 Procurator [9] rather [5] 105/2 142/10 144/15 150/4 96/15 104/13 111/10 18/18 18/22 35/14 107/10 107/18 161/25 105/5 113/4 139/2 79/11 96/14 105/22 120/20 122/21 129/18 153/7 162/17 162/20 163/12 157/10 109/12 111/5 111/21 **putative [1]** 161/13 134/24 135/1 137/1 163/19 163/22 164/18 112/12 124/20 163/20 puts [1] 58/24 Re [1] 124/12 138/11 138/11 142/7 produced [2] 98/13 163/24 166/21 168/25 putting [3] 125/24 reach [1] 18/22 143/8 146/15 146/21 103/12 reached [4] 15/1 18/2 prosecutor [4] 79/15 125/25 131/13 158/4 159/5 159/12 production [1] 29/5 108/18 113/7 128/17 18/5 19/6 159/22 164/25 165/4 professional [2] 4/11 read [29] 6/6 6/14 protect [3] 124/18 170/4 170/16 172/17 86/3 qualified [2] 4/14 7/18 10/22 25/23 27/1 124/21 125/17 172/20 **Professor [2]** 64/3 4/18 28/2 38/7 39/17 46/9 protecting [1] 112/15 recap [1] 156/19 70/23 quality [1] 152/13 46/25 47/2 52/22 58/7 receipt [1] 14/22 protection [1] 123/25 Professor quashed [1] 168/20 60/3 61/10 74/9 78/11 **protocol** [1] 140/3 receipts [32] 6/22 McLachlan [1] 70/23 **querulous [1]** 167/23 79/25 80/12 84/7 prove [2] 93/6 162/22 12/5 17/7 26/19 26/24 **profile [1]** 127/8 108/17 130/6 141/19 question [28] 2/9 proved [1] 134/13 27/6 27/9 27/21 28/21 profound [1] 79/10 2/16 2/22 2/23 16/10 142/6 143/18 143/21 provide [21] 24/21 29/4 29/19 30/6 30/24 programme [3] 13/10 145/19 147/4 16/24 19/24 20/10 24/22 55/12 59/21 31/12 31/16 31/22 13/17 124/12 21/11 21/20 26/1 26/3 readership [1] 71/20 59/23 62/20 62/25 32/2 32/7 40/24 48/11 progress [4] 153/14 63/11 68/12 69/16 26/12 28/20 55/21 reading [11] 7/13 51/21 55/24 57/6 65/9 153/23 154/25 157/24 56/12 66/20 77/4 7/16 15/7 34/8 38/21 69/19 71/19 72/4 73/23 83/10 83/18 progressing [2] 84/19 90/25 99/5 39/16 76/23 79/20 72/22 74/1 79/2 84/4 84/18 88/4 76/16 148/21 101/22 110/11 110/20 110/10 134/20 142/19 130/12 136/17 152/10 147/21 147/25 prohibition [1] 1/9 144/21 151/11 152/14 ready [1] 63/11 152/11 160/11 ReceiptsPayments **Project [1]** 140/4 155/6 real [2] 6/2 71/12 provided [16] 42/2 **[1]** 35/23 promised [1] 49/9 42/3 63/1 63/18 69/18 questioned [5] 1/14 realise [1] 120/24 receive [3] 51/23 promote [1] 108/21 168/16 176/3 177/4 realised [1] 81/11 71/14 72/23 75/9 79/5 84/7 112/14 prompt [1] 57/4 reality [2] 29/18 90/13 118/24 138/24 177/6 received [21] 6/6 prompted [1] 97/4 139/7 154/5 154/16 questioning [1] 3/6 127/21 6/13 7/12 34/21 38/17 **prompts** [1] 173/19 questions [28] 2/10 really [21] 17/11 38/19 39/12 40/8 163/1 pronouncements [1] 2/18 2/19 3/13 4/22 18/25 22/24 43/10 provides [1] 71/9 40/13 44/18 46/8 25/6 14/11 16/6 21/25 48/23 52/17 66/20 **providing [1]** 59/13 46/10 46/17 47/2 proper [4] 22/20 26/21 27/17 34/15 86/1 92/5 96/3 97/20 proviso [2] 155/21 48/10 51/21 59/5 87/22 145/10 174/16 48/3 56/10 59/7 59/7 106/1 106/10 106/10 156/8 61/16 140/14 146/16 properly [6] 89/15 76/3 92/18 112/4 106/11 112/8 122/5 public [19] 2/8 22/13 146/22 89/18 91/18 101/4 128/3 128/4 129/7 127/20 131/10 161/5 25/6 66/22 103/10 receiving [8] 7/16 131/3 139/15 129/25 131/7 158/17 169/23 108/23 117/22 170/17 35/17 38/20 39/3 propose [1] 158/21 158/20 168/11 169/6 reappearing [1] 54/1 171/12 171/16 172/18 39/16 40/9 40/21 52/9 proposed [8] 33/11 175/21 rearranged [1] 157/5 172/22 173/5 173/6 recent [1] 125/6 33/13 126/24 129/17 quickly [1] 6/12 reason [17] 3/17 173/8 173/25 174/6 recognise [1] 29/16

R recognised [1] 94/9 recollect [4] 12/2 19/2 89/19 124/24 recollection [7] 39/2 69/10 94/18 113/13 138/7 160/2 172/16 reconciliations [1] 130/17 reconfirm [1] 127/25 **reconnect** [1] 93/8 record [9] 32/20 97/9 97/11 97/13 97/16 97/19 104/9 122/4 162/11 recorded [3] 88/25 94/15 144/22 recording [2] 11/23 175/3 records [2] 173/17 173/22 recovered [1] 109/10 recreating [1] 119/21 red [1] 142/16 refer [9] 22/19 121/12 121/13 121/19 121/25 140/17 145/24 154/10 159/3 reference [14] 7/7 14/20 31/6 36/11 89/12 110/21 112/25 113/14 147/20 159/11 163/3 164/12 170/2 172/3 references [2] 170/20 171/20 referred [24] 6/21 6/24 39/21 48/3 48/7 54/25 63/21 64/16 65/16 71/12 111/24 113/15 113/17 113/23 114/4 114/7 128/23 133/1 133/5 137/19 139/20 140/7 140/15 164/12 referring [5] 50/12 97/11 97/15 108/7 153/16 refers [2] 64/22 65/6 refusal [1] 85/1 refuse [1] 85/13 refused [1] 85/11 **refuted [1]** 71/6 regard [6] 23/21 24/23 72/17 100/6 112/5 112/9 regarding [1] 85/23 regards [1] 155/14 reinforce [1] 132/15 reiterated [1] 120/9 rejected [2] 71/8 124/14 related [3] 30/1 63/25 reply [18] 50/5 50/18

66/10 relates [1] 31/13 relating [6] 3/4 30/21 50/23 52/14 110/12 160/13 relation [15] 7/14 7/25 14/10 26/17 33/6 52/14 58/10 68/18 92/15 107/6 107/23 130/8 146/20 146/23 153/17 relations [5] 50/9 50/10 50/11 50/19 52/13 relationship [3] 85/16 85/17 85/17 relay [1] 126/12 relayed [12] 22/22 23/19 24/1 90/2 92/4 94/13 97/8 100/9 101/9 102/6 102/11 102/20 relaying [1] 22/6 release [2] 127/25 134/6 released [2] 1/9 133/13 relevance [1] 71/25 relevant [3] 27/18 73/1 112/13 reliability [1] 165/18 reliable [1] 162/22 reliance [1] 149/23 relied [1] 16/3 rely [3] 2/17 60/24 81/7 relying [2] 25/5 60/24 remained [1] 78/3 remedied [1] 78/5 **remember [32]** 1/19 7/13 7/16 12/10 12/10 representatives [1] 18/7 26/25 34/8 35/16 13/25 35/17 36/4 36/7 37/14 represented [1] 3/1 37/20 38/10 40/8 40/20 42/22 45/11 52/9 61/18 75/13 75/15 90/11 99/20 102/4 110/25 129/18 169/5 169/10 169/13 169/20 remind [1] 2/13 remit [6] 121/22 127/15 128/2 128/25 138/23 150/25 repaid [1] 118/19 repeat [4] 1/23 2/5 89/16 140/12 repercussions [3] 33/14 35/8 35/14 replaced [1] 142/1 replied [3] 50/20 51/8 resolution [2] 78/10 51/9 replies [2] 66/8 140/2

51/11 58/23 59/2 59/4 respect [4] 2/16 63/19 63/23 64/14 67/25 86/2 108/15 110/16 112/2 118/21 133/11 140/20 154/13 129/2 129/3 report [83] 5/21 6/4 6/6 6/19 7/13 8/2 8/8 8/11 8/18 8/22 11/10 11/16 11/18 11/24 12/11 12/12 13/23 14/8 14/16 15/12 16/9 16/14 16/15 17/3 17/10 23/3 24/7 25/7 26/18 29/5 31/1 32/1 32/11 40/25 45/3 54/24 54/25 55/23 61/19 63/4 63/7 64/12 restricted [1] 130/15 74/8 78/8 83/17 84/5 | result [10] 11/16 138/25 139/17 139/20 31/15 74/2 94/19 140/6 140/11 140/13 141/7 141/20 142/6 142/11 142/20 142/20 resulted [1] 54/1 143/5 143/7 143/19 143/21 144/22 145/11 resworn [4] 1/7 1/10 147/20 151/25 153/15 1/13 177/2 154/11 154/12 155/17 retained [1] 101/7 155/20 155/25 156/7 157/22 165/22 169/2 169/7 170/19 170/20 171/18 171/19 174/5 174/8 reported [2] 71/11 104/7 reports [8] 86/11 138/15 140/17 140/25 141/3 143/24 144/5 163/10 reports' [2] 140/4 140/24 represent [1] 168/18 reproduce [1] 58/4 reputation [6] 112/16 147/2 148/19 148/22 112/17 124/19 124/22 125/18 174/10 reputational [1] 126/3 request [5] 13/9 62/19 62/20 129/3 131/21 requested [4] 24/14 26/7 58/9 130/21 requests [1] 85/2 required [3] 55/19 70/4 74/21 research [1] 59/13 resisting [2] 136/21 136/22 118/6 resolved [2] 42/6 78/3

49/11 100/19 160/3 respond [6] 48/19 118/17 118/20 128/24 ring [4] 34/1 35/11 responded [1] 47/25 responding [2] 17/15 108/20 140/5 response [10] 17/13 59/14 60/12 64/2 81/24 126/19 129/1 131/7 140/7 162/19 responsible [2] 96/18 105/21 rest [3] 45/9 160/13 160/17 105/19 108/23 109/6 115/1 115/5 129/9 resume [1] 2/14 returning [1] 3/21 reveal [1] 57/4 revealed [8] 5/21 11/10 11/24 12/11 20/13 40/25 166/14 166/15 revealing [1] 65/8 reveals [1] 6/19 revelation [2] 65/10 174/4 revert [1] 122/11 review [28] 11/6 30/1 49/3 69/11 74/17 74/19 75/1 78/20 80/19 120/5 127/5 127/16 129/21 130/9 130/14 130/25 132/1 132/2 146/6 146/19 149/8 150/9 153/6 164/2 169/1 reviewed [4] 71/1 80/5 84/11 130/22 reviewing [4] 127/18 129/4 130/16 153/13 reviews [2] 82/4 82/8 rhetorical [1] 90/25 riding [1] 52/10 right [22] 1/11 2/4 2/8 9/17 15/14 19/3 19/10 3/1 6/7 6/17 17/6 22/19 49/15 57/24 80/13 82/22 88/22 89/7 96/5 104/11 110/15 132/5 141/5 158/23 176/8 176/9 right-hand [2] 88/22 89/7 **Rightio [1]** 168/15

rightly [3] 64/7 73/14 174/1 rigorous [1] 71/9 60/9 60/16 rise [3] 13/25 14/10 risk [1] 109/25 risks [4] 108/13 109/19 109/20 117/13 **Rob [21]** 38/11 46/2 49/21 50/1 51/9 52/24 54/9 73/18 74/11 81/12 85/15 86/12 87/11 87/11 119/11 120/15 131/11 134/1 137/18 167/3 167/15 robust [4] 109/8 120/23 127/7 131/3 robustness [2] 128/1 132/15 Rod [9] 47/20 47/23 48/13 48/16 48/18 50/4 50/23 54/9 140/1 Rodric [2] 88/21 104/12 role [10] 24/16 55/17 79/8 84/21 84/22 92/3 150/6 150/25 160/10 163/3 rolling [1] 11/12 Ronan [1] 132/6 room [3] 50/14 93/4 93/5 root [3] 53/16 54/15 54/20 rough [1] 173/8 Royal [13] 4/16 11/19 12/15 15/21 19/12 37/4 84/11 87/17 119/9 120/11 134/1 166/24 167/13 rule [2] 2/24 151/25 rules [1] 105/23 ruling [2] 119/19 171/15 run [3] 42/13 63/3 124/3 run-up [2] 63/3 124/3 running [1] 42/13 rush [1] 54/22 said [98] 5/25 9/6 19/11 19/22 20/13 36/20 38/19 40/15 46/1 46/10 46/18 49/14 49/20 51/24

26/5 28/11 29/25 30/3 55/4 55/6 55/10 56/11 57/8 58/13 62/18 62/21 62/24 65/1 66/19 72/1 72/2 72/5

6/18 6/23 7/12 8/1 8/8 151/20 159/11 159/14 11/1 16/5 26/2 62/16 S 17/17 18/19 19/18 20/9 20/20 22/15 32/6 8/11 8/19 8/22 11/10 160/7 161/23 162/13 75/12 114/24 142/11 said... [62] 72/8 40/22 48/12 54/8 11/16 11/24 12/11 162/15 163/5 164/8 143/4 143/7 144/8 72/19 72/20 73/2 77/7 60/16 67/18 81/15 12/12 13/23 14/5 14/7 164/10 168/21 169/2 162/25 81/19 85/5 86/15 92/2 82/10 90/20 90/23 14/9 14/11 14/16 171/23 171/25 173/19 sentiment [1] 114/17 92/3 94/4 95/4 95/4 91/17 100/12 100/20 14/21 15/10 15/11 173/22 separate [5] 21/20 95/6 95/16 96/24 103/2 104/4 105/14 16/4 16/5 16/9 16/13 30/18 54/17 111/17 seeing [3] 36/21 97/18 98/22 99/2 99/3 116/4 128/23 129/3 17/2 17/17 17/19 38/10 39/3 176/3 99/10 99/12 100/17 138/24 141/1 142/24 20/13 23/2 23/8 24/7 seek [6] 79/7 107/10 separation [2] 74/19 100/18 102/4 102/19 142/24 143/5 144/1 24/24 25/4 25/7 26/18 107/14 159/8 171/15 122/25 102/21 104/3 105/1 **September [13]** 6/23 144/5 145/12 29/5 29/25 36/1 39/21 173/25 109/18 113/20 113/22 says [26] 7/24 8/10 40/24 54/23 55/22 13/1 13/1 32/13 36/7 seeking [10] 42/9 115/12 115/12 115/15 11/9 24/25 28/3 33/4 56/7 56/8 56/8 56/12 72/12 94/3 128/6 36/12 41/24 78/1 117/12 117/14 117/19 64/7 66/24 67/6 67/9 56/13 61/19 63/3 63/5 128/18 150/13 159/5 88/21 90/15 90/16 120/3 122/13 122/13 75/19 83/20 83/23 74/7 75/1 78/6 83/16 159/14 175/4 175/6 90/22 91/3 122/16 122/16 123/3 89/4 97/20 97/23 88/10 89/7 92/13 Seema [12] 26/23 **September 2010 [1]** 129/17 132/25 133/5 99/18 101/4 101/18 92/21 93/19 100/1 27/5 27/24 28/22 6/23 138/2 141/8 149/14 110/5 124/6 127/6 100/6 101/15 102/1 38/23 45/4 45/13 series [3] 33/6 149/22 150/6 150/12 133/9 135/8 156/24 102/10 110/5 111/1 57/22 69/5 70/6 74/3 116/16 129/6 156/3 164/5 164/21 162/25 126/15 126/20 126/24 85/3 serious [14] 21/5 164/21 166/4 167/2 scary [3] 106/1 127/5 127/15 128/2 seemingly [2] 62/1 94/9 96/21 97/1 105/8 167/5 167/15 170/11 106/14 106/18 128/8 128/25 129/4 90/23 105/8 105/10 106/7 same [16] 10/5 37/21 scheduled [1] 31/17 129/21 130/14 130/23 seems [4] 56/23 106/13 166/1 166/2 42/13 46/21 48/8 131/8 131/25 133/19 118/6 130/1 134/22 172/23 173/5 173/7 **scheme [2]** 23/8 48/22 49/5 49/22 135/13 139/9 141/14 seen [17] 6/10 38/20 144/20 seriously [1] 174/10 49/22 54/1 94/8 94/17 147/19 151/19 151/21 42/1 42/10 46/10 47/8 seriousness [2] scope [8] 78/20 125/19 135/16 136/12 80/18 83/25 155/20 162/25 169/1 169/7 47/9 52/1 90/20 163/14 175/7 137/13 156/7 156/16 156/17 170/18 171/18 174/4 108/19 120/25 129/20 served [1] 62/15 Samra [2] 169/10 163/10 secondhand [1] 83/5 133/12 137/4 149/21 set [9] 7/24 44/12 170/15 secondly [7] 9/9 27/4 154/15 154/18 77/24 92/3 93/21 Scotland [4] 107/11 sat [1] 84/6 107/19 107/23 161/24 55/3 60/11 60/22 61/3 selected [1] 147/12 128/6 132/18 139/24 Saunders [1] 118/13 Scots [3] 4/14 4/18 161/25 **selecting [2]** 148/16 153/11 save [2] 36/25 37/3 166/15 secret [4] 108/25 sets [5] 31/20 77/20 149/1 saved [6] 36/18 Scott [15] 94/4 94/8 111/9 164/14 166/12 self [3] 1/20 2/12 3/5 101/2 122/5 167/11 36/22 37/5 37/8 40/12 94/22 95/6 96/13 secretary [14] 23/16 self-incrimination [3] setting [2] 93/23 43/8 97/24 98/24 99/7 24/22 39/24 44/7 44/8 1/20 2/12 3/5 160/22 saw [3] 38/14 105/7 99/24 100/15 102/16 57/19 61/23 62/5 send [11] 34/24 settings\jarnail.a.sin 105/8 46/11 72/2 72/20 73/1 gh\local [1] 36/17 104/3 104/16 104/18 62/13 63/12 65/25 say [75] 7/11 9/16 107/8 131/20 132/25 137/20 73/2 109/4 109/7 Settings\temporary 13/17 13/22 17/25 **Scottish [2]** 4/13 **secrets** [1] 166/13 113/11 114/25 115/14 **[1]** 36/17 22/7 22/23 32/18 107/14 sections [1] 71/11 sending [6] 37/22 settled [1] 67/4 40/13 41/21 41/25 scrabbling [3] 55/22 security [14] 15/2 42/20 67/12 113/2 seven [2] 7/21 30/8 44/10 44/19 50/5 56/17 63/2 18/2 18/6 18/15 19/7 152/5 154/8 seven years [1] 30/8 50/18 56/4 56/9 56/13 33/3 42/4 96/9 96/13 **scrap [2]** 95/7 95/13 sends [2] 118/8 **several [1]** 127/18 57/1 58/1 59/9 64/24 96/18 102/13 105/21 Sewell [1] 53/7 scrapped [6] 94/5 131/24 66/5 69/20 72/17 73/7 94/23 95/2 97/20 105/24 173/7 shape [1] 52/25 senior [23] 8/15 13/8 75/13 76/7 79/25 80/1 16/10 16/11 17/6 97/25 107/9 see [72] 1/3 8/2 **she [40]** 44/8 44/13 80/8 82/11 86/18 88/2 scrapping [1] 100/7 13/11 13/12 31/5 31/6 47/21 53/11 80/4 83/2 44/15 44/21 44/22 93/22 93/25 97/7 screen [4] 7/10 7/20 31/11 32/24 33/23 84/9 84/19 104/5 44/24 44/25 45/8 45/9 97/12 100/9 100/20 35/19 35/21 36/10 45/9 47/23 48/2 48/6 53/4 93/20 112/15 112/19 151/1 102/15 107/12 108/6 scroll [28] 6/8 13/11 37/21 37/23 37/25 164/4 165/23 166/16 48/21 48/24 49/18 108/22 111/2 114/14 36/9 58/22 60/4 66/8 38/3 43/7 43/14 43/16 168/3 172/25 173/1 49/18 49/20 50/11 114/17 116/12 116/16 66/24 67/5 68/1 74/8 43/25 52/23 53/6 174/19 175/9 50/16 52/6 52/20 122/3 122/10 122/19 74/9 77/21 78/11 57/17 58/22 59/6 sense [11] 9/22 39/8 52/23 58/13 62/23 124/11 125/5 125/13 101/2 103/20 118/1 61/25 62/17 64/19 60/13 61/2 61/5 73/11 70/7 70/9 70/10 70/11 127/1 127/9 131/7 118/8 131/19 132/7 67/21 68/5 72/8 84/13 80/12 83/13 105/15 70/12 70/12 73/9 133/21 139/10 145/10 133/8 135/8 137/6 84/14 87/1 88/17 124/23 171/2 73/11 87/3 109/18 146/10 147/1 147/14 151/4 152/16 154/13 88/22 93/15 94/3 sent [16] 23/5 28/23 109/18 110/24 111/25 149/11 155/11 156/5 30/9 32/24 35/20 156/4 160/7 163/11 94/21 97/11 97/23 121/25 133/5 159/4 159/10 159/21 111/5 111/21 118/4 39/10 39/14 39/18 she'd [2] 62/15 133/5 scrolling [2] 64/18 160/15 164/23 166/9 43/3 43/17 72/8 74/6 155/23 118/10 123/20 126/5 she's [3] 112/4 175/13 175/19 129/9 129/10 131/19 74/11 84/5 129/11 117/12 170/1 scrutiny [1] 73/24 saving [39] 8/7 9/11 seat [1] 1/15 132/7 133/8 135/5 134/16 **Shoosmiths** [2] 51/2 12/3 16/10 16/25 17/6 second [97] 5/21 6/3 135/8 137/7 145/20 sentence [12] 9/7 52/20

76/7 80/16 85/25 87/5 somebody's [3] 46/6 S 56/12 56/13 61/19 single [4] 10/7 45/22 63/4 63/5 74/7 75/1 64/8 118/11 89/11 89/22 89/22 46/6 52/5 **short [5]** 43/23 88/15 89/25 90/20 91/3 91/6|someone [2] 18/23 78/6 83/16 126/15 sir [58] 1/3 1/21 3/3 93/7 93/13 123/18 126/20 127/5 128/2 3/10 3/13 3/20 4/15 92/8 92/16 92/17 33/25 **shortage [1]** 125/12 128/8 129/1 129/4 5/3 5/11 5/18 9/8 10/6 94/11 94/18 94/21 something [43] **shorthand** [1] 2/11 129/21 130/14 130/23 17/5 18/25 20/3 24/10 95/14 96/16 97/5 10/20 12/14 15/19 shortly [1] 26/22 131/8 132/1 133/20 25/8 26/15 32/21 99/22 101/1 102/22 16/2 24/20 25/24 should [51] 1/17 2/15 141/14 147/19 151/19 36/20 42/12 43/15 106/2 106/18 107/2 34/22 49/14 51/18 2/24 3/24 4/12 28/5 151/21 155/12 155/24 43/18 43/25 44/23 109/14 109/24 110/24 52/24 55/21 56/17 32/12 50/5 53/22 58/7 169/1 169/7 170/19 45/15 47/4 47/6 51/5 82/21 87/13 98/22 111/1 112/2 114/3 66/5 79/6 79/7 79/13 171/18 174/5 52/12 57/8 57/12 63/8 115/17 119/14 119/16 98/24 99/2 99/15 79/18 81/11 81/13 Sight's [4] 14/9 29/25 88/10 88/13 88/17 123/10 125/19 126/24 99/23 102/14 102/16 81/16 82/7 82/21 92/23 93/11 93/15 126/24 127/15 128/4 129/6 130/6 102/22 103/23 106/21 82/22 86/24 87/21 107/12 109/14 110/17 131/6 132/16 133/16 106/25 113/15 121/13 sign [1] 13/12 87/23 93/4 94/5 94/8 signature [1] 4/2 112/18 115/20 116/19 134/14 139/1 139/4 128/13 128/22 133/22 94/23 95/1 95/2 significance [1] 1/23 117/10 123/13 123/16 140/16 141/19 145/15 139/4 139/6 139/19 101/13 102/12 106/4 123/20 143/21 158/15 145/17 147/19 148/12 148/20 150/25 156/13 significant [2] 71/1 108/4 110/13 110/17 92/14 159/1 168/13 168/14 148/23 151/17 153/25 157/12 157/22 159/9 117/22 119/5 122/2 175/25 176/5 176/8 155/6 160/7 160/12 170/12 172/25 173/12 **similar [2]** 84/16 124/14 124/17 133/18 160/16 161/4 164/8 174/24 126/5 176/10 138/6 138/7 147/8 166/1 170/15 171/22 **Similarly [1]** 79/4 sitting [2] 168/21 sometime [1] 6/10 147/9 158/15 162/21 **Simon [26]** 7/20 9/10 174/19 173/18 175/14 176/6 sometimes [1] 166/14 169/18 170/24 11/22 64/12 74/8 80/2 situation [1] 13/20 so-called [2] 92/16 142/18 shouldn't [16] 20/16 92/16 97/17 98/11 101/1 somewhere [5] 22/23 **skip [1]** 59/2 79/2 116/3 121/4 105/13 107/6 131/20 **Skipping [1]** 70/22 81/10 86/15 86/17 **software [1]** 7/6 121/5 121/5 136/4 131/21 131/23 132/11 122/14 **slightly [2]** 99/5 **sole [1]** 175/17 136/6 136/14 137/25 sorry [45] 4/3 4/3 133/8 146/12 146/14 **solicitor [9]** 3/2 40/3 101/22 138/3 138/4 138/6 146/20 163/1 163/8 slowly [1] 77/21 51/2 52/21 91/4 10/3 16/23 26/10 145/1 155/5 166/14 164/3 164/16 164/25 Smith [32] 8/13 8/15 121/23 121/24 133/18 26/11 27/11 32/18 show [3] 6/2 27/14 165/2 165/17 8/16 88/25 89/5 89/14 172/21 38/24 41/15 42/24 74/2 simple [2] 26/21 89/17 94/10 94/12 **solicitors [5]** 118/5 48/1 52/3 58/7 61/8 **showed [2]** 70/17 152/9 95/15 95/20 98/8 120/4 132/23 157/1 66/17 68/8 68/15 72/1 simpler [1] 170/6 100/10 101/16 101/19 161/25 68/21 77/18 77/19 showing [3] 34/4 **simplified [1]** 13/21 102/2 102/6 102/14 **solicitors' [1]** 118/18 81/22 89/16 91/2 43/2 143/3 simply [4] 33/9 35/5 102/23 107/5 118/2 **solution [3]** 33/11 92/22 93/2 93/2 95/7 **shown [3]** 33/9 34/5 121/24 152/16 153/16 33/13 126/1 95/19 101/23 110/4 82/10 122/5 35/6 Simpson [2] 33/2 153/18 169/3 169/13 solution/s [2] 33/11 110/9 113/21 115/4 **shred [3]** 95/7 95/7 38/8 170/12 170/24 171/13 33/13 116/11 117/2 121/16 95/9 since [10] 2/5 2/6 171/24 173/13 128/3 136/5 143/21 **Solutions [1]** 35/8 shredded [7] 94/6 6/10 11/11 22/11 32/1 **Smith's [5]** 94/15 some [44] 2/5 3/18 145/15 151/5 155/11 94/24 95/1 98/4 49/5 78/1 122/9 97/9 97/12 97/19 8/1 8/12 8/23 8/24 156/4 158/18 101/21 101/25 107/9 168/20 159/18 11/6 11/17 12/23 sort [14] 20/6 20/20 shredding [7] 92/14 Singh [68] 1/5 1/6 sneezing [1] 3/16 14/25 19/5 22/10 25/21 25/23 48/2 55/7 92/17 97/22 98/5 1/13 1/15 1/18 2/7 so [138] 1/8 3/8 3/15 26/20 27/17 31/13 57/2 92/2 95/4 113/16 100/7 101/1 102/8 2/13 3/11 3/21 4/24 4/16 7/16 7/21 8/7 55/7 57/2 61/20 71/5 115/16 122/23 126/10 sic [2] 32/13 52/19 10/10 10/14 11/22 71/11 77/11 87/22 6/12 9/2 9/16 16/23 161/18 side [18] 4/9 37/23 18/14 20/9 21/11 12/21 13/15 14/13 101/5 103/21 104/25 sorted [2] 72/3 154/1 45/7 46/24 88/22 89/3 21/25 26/10 28/1 29/8 14/15 15/11 16/8 113/16 113/23 114/4 sorts [5] 10/18 50/15 89/4 89/7 89/11 92/6 29/10 34/4 34/15 44/2 16/14 17/3 17/4 17/6 114/9 114/17 121/25 97/2 97/3 106/16 114/19 115/16 117/17 47/5 55/21 56/10 68/1 17/9 17/22 18/19 124/20 127/18 127/24 sought [8] 5/8 5/14 120/2 125/24 131/13 73/21 76/10 81/22 19/12 19/18 23/10 129/20 132/4 156/19 30/7 61/19 71/20 152/1 153/11 83/8 84/17 87/6 88/1 23/19 27/16 30/2 32/6 158/18 158/20 159/5 106/23 107/5 130/19 sidelines [1] 116/22 88/20 92/25 93/4 167/24 168/2 168/2 32/13 32/18 32/24 **source [3]** 140/11 sight [73] 5/21 6/3 140/14 151/24 93/18 99/22 100/5 169/9 38/7 38/24 40/10 6/19 7/13 8/2 8/8 8/11 101/22 110/17 111/17 40/19 41/20 44/10 somebody [27] 16/3 sources [1] 8/12 8/19 8/22 11/10 11/16 115/23 123/12 123/22 45/2 45/3 46/4 46/4 22/21 22/24 23/7 **Sparrow [1]** 140/4 11/24 12/11 12/12 131/13 142/16 143/1 46/8 46/24 47/13 34/22 37/18 40/20 speak [9] 16/23 13/23 14/5 14/7 14/11 143/11 146/3 158/17 47/14 48/6 48/20 52/4 47/13 61/13 72/3 48/23 81/22 95/4 14/16 14/21 15/10 168/11 168/17 171/8 53/10 53/22 54/8 81/11 81/21 81/23 95/17 97/5 102/21 15/11 16/9 16/13 17/2 171/14 171/25 172/1 54/16 55/8 55/20 81/24 82/11 82/24 145/15 160/16 17/19 20/13 23/2 23/8 173/20 174/17 174/25 57/24 58/23 59/23 87/3 87/10 87/15 88/1 **speaking [4]** 67/13 24/7 25/4 25/7 26/18 175/2 175/15 175/22 59/25 60/13 61/5 64/7 113/14 113/17 113/23 106/8 113/14 114/6 29/5 40/24 54/23 114/4 114/6 114/7 speaks [1] 6/19 176/2 177/2 67/16 67/18 69/19 55/23 56/7 56/8 56/8 Singh's [1] 110/16 74/7 74/10 74/10 75/7 142/20 specialist [6] 22/17

9/20 14/22 30/20 17/24 45/21 46/2 64/20 S 133/14 133/18 134/7 34/20 41/14 41/16 134/18 summary [3] 64/21 88/10 93/6 108/8 specialist... [5] 58/12 42/9 43/6 58/6 58/17 subpostmaster [4] 71/15 149/22 116/8 116/14 158/20 82/25 155/13 175/17 supervision [1] 58/18 58/21 59/16 54/4 71/4 110/22 165/8 175/20 60/2 60/4 60/6 60/17 113/5 82/14 taken [10] 90/3 specific [10] 24/12 62/2 62/10 62/17 64/2 subpostmasters [11] supplied [1] 62/23 109/16 112/25 114/5 24/15 55/19 56/5 64/17 67/7 67/14 114/8 150/7 153/24 34/1 54/13 96/10 supplier [1] 15/4 59/10 66/9 71/5 84/24 67/19 68/13 68/15 109/12 113/11 114/13 154/23 161/1 163/17 **supplying [1]** 23/23 85/4 139/16 68/22 69/16 69/19 117/7 130/20 149/13 **suppose [3]** 112/3 taking [3] 82/4 95/13 specifically [7] 5/4 71/16 71/17 71/24 124/23 126/1 150/14 167/1 168/19 5/12 5/19 56/21 108/7 subpostmasters' [1] 72/23 74/1 79/5 79/24 sure [16] 4/20 15/24 **Talbot [5]** 47/20 130/15 139/19 17/11 18/25 19/1 80/8 92/21 93/19 47/22 48/2 48/12 109/4 speculation [3] 8/21 97/18 113/17 135/5 subpostmistress [1] 19/18 70/17 98/3 49/12 174/8 174/9 136/3 136/18 136/24 70/6 99/13 101/21 104/1 talk [5] 55/23 74/24 **split [1]** 114/20 137/8 137/13 138/1 subsequent [2] 65/3 137/12 137/19 146/2 94/12 164/16 173/16 **splitting [1]** 115/18 138/5 140/15 146/7 66/14 153/5 168/21 talked [1] 100/7 spoke [6] 55/4 94/16 talking [15] 8/9 9/24 146/8 158/13 subsequently [7] 7/5 | Surely [1] 28/1 95/20 104/12 105/1 statements [7] 7/4 16/3 22/23 30/21 77/9 surprise [1] 163/14 27/9 34/12 36/23 115/11 14/19 17/18 86/14 99/15 104/21 surrounding [1] 82/9 44/17 44/18 49/18 spoken [5] 66/21 137/11 150/1 176/2 50/17 69/4 138/17 subsequently-correc Susan [21] 77/11 66/25 67/2 91/21 104/7 104/21 105/1 138/18 143/1 166/16 **statutory [2]** 136/24 ted [1] 7/5 114/4 137/16 substance [1] 4/21 108/10 108/16 109/17 169/5 spotlight [1] 17/22 stay [1] 136/22 successfully [3] 112/22 126/25 133/2 targeted [1] 92/18 spotted [1] 54/10 127/7 131/5 135/15 133/11 133/24 134/4 task [2] 23/14 26/8 stealing [1] 70/7 Square [19] 7/7 8/5 such [23] 2/22 5/20 134/11 137/20 153/24 **Tatford [13]** 23/25 step [1] 172/23 10/1 10/8 10/12 57/15 159/8 161/6 163/25 45/24 46/12 46/14 11/21 15/4 15/4 17/11 **Stephen [1]** 138/7 58/11 58/24 59/25 165/6 165/12 22/13 39/5 59/22 46/18 47/13 49/2 **Steve [3]** 118/15 61/21 64/1 64/9 64/20 112/25 139/25 150/23 suspense [17] 6/24 51/24 69/11 81/12 122/2 122/10 64/23 71/13 147/22 still [5] 45/15 67/21 154/10 154/23 170/24 12/7 17/8 32/4 33/8 81/21 85/14 87/15 148/7 148/13 149/16 35/5 53/3 53/10 53/19| **Tatford's [1]** 59/7 68/5 96/13 140/11 171/11 172/10 173/3 Square/Falkirk [2] 173/7 174/6 174/9 stock [2] 31/15 53/18 54/17 55/1 55/25 team [38] 4/17 4/18 10/8 10/12 stolen [1] 70/11 174/13 174/15 56/25 57/5 84/15 4/18 15/2 15/22 18/2 stage [11] 3/6 3/15 **stop [11]** 15/7 67/5 sudden [1] 48/24 147/21 148/4 18/6 18/15 19/7 19/21 65/8 77/11 77/13 **suspension [1]** 125/8 20/2 20/7 20/14 20/15 77/19 77/22 116/10 **Suddenly [1]** 69/4 84/21 87/22 106/24 116/12 131/23 157/13 suffer [2] 73/9 73/10 swore [1] 96/23 20/21 20/22 21/6 122/1 127/24 174/6 161/18 161/18 175/15 suffered [3] 52/4 21/14 21/15 25/10 system [50] 11/11 stages [1] 73/17 33/3 39/8 39/23 42/4 **stop/start [2]** 161/18 52/6 78/1 11/12 14/4 23/20 25/2 **staggered [1]** 166/10 161/18 25/14 33/16 34/12 46/16 49/21 51/24 sufficient [1] 1/25 stake [1] 52/6 35/10 44/12 44/22 82/6 82/20 84/9 84/19 stopping [3] 79/24 sufficiently [2] 70/16 **stance [2]** 109/8 139/21 44/24 44/25 51/12 104/10 120/6 151/1 115/5 152/24 122/8 suggest [6] 6/1 89/23 story [14] 50/23 53/20 58/14 58/20 166/17 168/13 173/1 stand [1] 74/2 52/14 126/17 126/18 103/1 132/16 134/23 60/8 60/22 70/5 71/3 175/9 standalone [2] 130/3 132/22 133/16 173/3 85/2 85/6 87/4 112/2 teams [1] 165/23 117/25 139/2 134/14 135/16 135/18 suggested [14] 117/23 119/2 120/22 technical [1] 37/18 **standing [1]** 27/16 135/19 135/20 136/20 14/25 15/3 19/4 70/12 123/2 127/6 127/8 **technically [2]** 98/15 Stapel [1] 50/2 127/14 127/21 128/1 137/15 75/22 77/9 77/24 103/13 start [17] 6/3 53/23 story' [1] 133/12 86/16 99/8 147/1 131/2 131/4 132/15 telephoned [2] 8/14 57/16 65/21 88/20 **straight [3]** 56/16 147/6 147/24 163/18 133/15 134/2 135/14 58/8 92/19 132/14 134/25 97/5 158/21 170/12 152/18 152/21 153/8 tell [18] 2/16 2/21 3/8 146/6 147/2 147/11 153/8 153/9 160/4 straightforward [1] suggesting [9] 15/9 6/5 6/13 19/11 43/15 148/16 149/1 151/3 13/20 72/11 73/20 75/20 160/12 160/16 161/9 51/13 84/3 93/9 94/8 160/5 161/18 161/18 75/23 76/7 77/3 99/3 161/18 95/14 102/2 126/16 strange [1] 92/2 started [4] 38/24 156/25 157/5 158/13 161/12 **system' [1]** 127/10 **strategy [2]** 87/6 73/4 136/20 153/24 164/18 108/2 suggestion [5] 76/8 **systemic [5]** 13/23 **starting [3]** 125/11 strength [1] 113/4 76/9 96/1 107/8 14/3 25/2 25/6 25/13 telling [7] 34/19 146/17 147/15 stressed [1] 130/25 124/13 systems [4] 58/11 59/25 76/22 138/10 **starts [2]** 65/20 73/16 82/19 174/13 strike [1] 132/5 suggests [2] 75/16 142/20 166/10 166/11 158/10 **string [4]** 31/9 36/16 76/4 tells [1] 52/10 state [7] 3/14 3/18 43/7 165/3 summarise [2] 10/23 **Temple [1]** 118/13 9/11 10/23 22/3 26/17 table [1] 125/22 strong [1] 83/8 156/19 temporary [2] 53/20 74/6 tail [1] 27/2 stuff [1] 45/8 summarised [2] 8/17 53/25 stated [1] 77/23 subject [1] 98/9 tainted [1] 149/23 ten [1] 168/13 10/15 statement [60] 3/23 take [16] 1/7 1/15 subjective [1] 152/14 summarises [1] 11/5 tend [2] 27/14 103/1 4/3 4/10 6/5 6/13 7/9 1/16 6/12 30/8 41/13 submissions [4] summarising [1] terminate [1] 158/11

75/19 82/8 82/20 84/8 26/16 30/7 30/23 131/9 131/23 133/14 134/9 134/9 134/11 84/19 84/25 85/18 31/13 31/20 33/2 35/7 135/2 137/10 141/22 134/12 134/13 134/18 terminated [5] 88/8 88/8 88/9 94/18 36/9 37/19 53/16 143/22 144/14 145/2 134/22 136/2 137/20 156/10 156/14 157/2 137/22 138/15 138/22 96/22 97/4 97/20 99/5 54/11 56/16 58/5 145/6 145/18 147/19 157/13 162/21 102/1 102/19 102/19 58/22 58/22 59/19 150/18 150/20 152/24 138/23 144/22 148/24 terminology [3] 14/5 103/5 104/13 109/24 63/23 64/13 64/18 154/20 154/21 154/21 149/15 150/16 152/2 14/9 25/3 110/17 111/23 113/18 64/24 65/2 66/8 66/13 155/1 156/3 156/15 153/4 153/5 153/8 terms [6] 14/11 27/15 114/5 114/8 115/15 66/17 66/24 67/5 67/9 156/18 157/22 159/11 153/13 155/2 155/6 50/20 83/9 104/2 117/10 117/12 119/8 67/25 68/4 68/4 68/21 162/10 163/22 164/9 155/13 155/15 155/21 130/24 119/11 119/17 119/22 68/24 69/4 69/17 75/2 164/13 165/6 165/24 156/8 157/23 157/23 territory [3] 13/19 120/8 120/8 120/15 76/9 77/21 78/18 167/9 167/15 169/10 159/23 159/24 160/11 22/8 22/9 123/9 125/23 133/6 79/20 80/16 83/20 170/16 171/23 171/25 161/3 161/4 161/7 test [3] 42/7 113/6 83/23 89/5 89/7 91/14 172/3 175/9 175/15 134/25 135/16 135/18 161/19 162/6 162/21 113/8 135/19 135/22 136/2 92/13 93/6 93/8 95/6 there'd [1] 119/15 164/6 165/1 165/5 text [4] 129/11 130/3 97/5 97/6 98/14 98/14 there's [22] 1/16 4/10 165/5 165/9 166/22 136/15 137/4 137/22 133/17 135/25 137/23 138/11 142/4 98/24 99/1 99/12 8/11 17/14 34/9 54/17 168/8 169/14 169/17 than [35] 14/3 21/4 142/18 143/8 143/14 99/16 99/19 100/12 60/13 61/25 62/21 170/24 175/12 21/5 21/13 21/21 22/1 143/20 143/24 144/7 101/12 102/1 103/13 63/9 65/10 97/2 99/16 they'd [4] 12/9 12/11 25/1 26/8 66/21 80/6 144/17 146/11 151/12 103/20 105/11 111/1 106/15 116/13 120/15 149/9 157/12 96/4 97/21 104/14 153/6 156/18 157/3 114/6 116/21 118/21 124/13 130/1 132/2 they're [12] 6/20 104/19 105/2 105/5 157/3 157/10 157/19 119/15 120/11 125/10 145/21 145/22 172/3 55/23 76/4 84/20 105/13 113/4 113/10 157/19 157/25 158/15 125/13 131/18 131/23 thereafter [1] 2/24 112/7 121/21 121/21 114/22 114/23 125/21 161/9 161/11 165/7 132/6 132/6 132/15 thereby [1] 79/14 133/1 153/12 156/25 135/2 139/2 143/10 166/6 173/8 174/20 132/18 133/8 133/9 therefore [8] 1/10 166/17 168/11 153/15 154/3 157/10 175/24 176/8 135/4 135/24 137/19 2/18 20/18 103/11 thing [19] 9/16 17/17 157/24 161/10 161/21 140/1 149/19 149/21 24/4 46/11 46/24 theft [4] 70/9 141/10 104/23 110/21 155/5 164/3 165/14 168/10 142/14 144/23 152/4 154/13 155/10 158/21 47/12 47/15 61/9 169/24 157/16 158/22 159/10 these [49] 8/8 11/13 their [40] 13/16 13/24 68/18 69/17 71/25 thank [53] 1/4 3/10 16/13 17/3 17/3 26/18 161/22 161/25 162/9 11/20 11/25 12/12 91/9 91/16 93/3 96/12 3/11 3/13 3/21 4/9 30/5 31/25 40/25 63/6 163/7 163/8 166/25 12/12 14/14 15/5 99/20 105/14 105/15 4/21 7/19 11/3 32/21 69/22 69/24 70/1 169/5 169/10 176/9 15/14 15/24 18/13 113/24 32/23 35/13 36/10 70/15 78/8 78/9 79/15 theoretical [1] 70/24 20/22 23/6 23/11 33/8 things [41] 1/6 9/6 41/20 44/1 53/2 59/3 87/4 109/5 113/3 there [146] 4/23 8/14 35/1 35/5 36/24 39/9 10/18 20/9 23/6 23/15 60/5 64/25 76/10 42/22 49/7 50/6 55/3 115/1 120/13 121/22 8/21 9/6 10/15 10/17 35/1 36/24 39/9 45/7 88/13 88/18 88/19 125/24 126/15 126/16 11/1 11/10 12/16 55/24 56/20 59/24 46/24 50/15 55/3 55/8 92/12 93/10 93/11 126/17 128/9 130/21 13/11 13/22 14/4 15/7 61/4 74/12 74/13 55/9 55/11 55/18 93/16 93/17 96/1 98/6 138/22 138/23 150/14 19/18 20/23 23/6 25/3 74/14 80/3 83/2 83/24 56/11 60/20 76/4 100/24 108/1 108/9 151/24 152/3 152/22 27/3 28/5 28/10 28/21 85/25 87/17 88/21 83/10 90/21 95/8 123/12 123/16 123/21 155/16 156/13 157/13 30/13 30/14 30/22 88/24 90/21 104/17 95/23 96/16 97/2 123/22 126/13 131/18 158/11 168/20 31/5 31/7 31/22 32/2 142/4 142/23 144/5 114/19 122/24 125/25 138/13 159/1 162/25 them [49] 12/2 12/10 32/6 33/17 38/4 39/5 146/15 150/4 150/16 133/6 142/4 142/23 163/12 168/12 170/15 12/13 12/23 14/14 41/11 46/1 49/17 163/10 166/7 172/8 143/1 145/7 153/11 173/22 175/21 175/22 18/10 18/22 20/15 49/18 52/10 54/22 174/18 158/10 167/24 172/8 175/23 176/1 176/5 22/15 22/19 22/22 55/8 55/21 56/2 56/4 they [116] 3/5 5/21 173/7 174/18 175/4 176/5 176/10 23/23 44/5 56/1 61/10 56/5 56/17 57/2 58/19 15/24 18/16 18/18 think [211] Thanks [4] 64/15 59/10 59/16 59/20 20/23 23/9 24/1 25/20 thinking [10] 3/1 18/7 61/22 61/23 65/12 67/7 67/8 68/22 69/16 83/4 83/21 60/7 60/18 62/7 63/14 28/14 30/18 32/1 19/10 91/24 92/1 that [781] 89/23 90/5 91/15 66/3 67/5 70/18 72/10 45/22 47/21 47/21 96/25 106/12 110/15 that's [131] 2/2 3/17 93/23 102/16 102/17 72/10 72/11 73/11 48/8 49/22 49/22 111/10 111/11 7/7 9/16 9/20 10/5 102/17 120/3 123/4 77/19 77/22 79/16 49/23 50/13 50/24 third [9] 16/6 24/25 16/1 17/16 18/20 133/1 134/22 138/15 79/21 79/22 79/22 55/2 56/6 56/6 63/16 93/25 96/12 101/5 21/11 21/20 24/3 24/4 139/7 140/9 142/4 79/24 81/8 81/10 82/1 63/16 64/16 69/16 108/1 108/22 109/4 24/10 28/15 29/6 29/9 145/7 153/13 154/24 84/16 87/12 93/7 70/1 72/5 72/5 73/14 157/9 30/13 30/19 31/6 157/6 157/10 164/6 93/21 97/3 97/5 97/6 74/21 82/6 83/5 85/5 thirdly [1] 61/5 37/10 38/10 39/21 97/12 97/22 99/6 85/14 90/13 91/14 164/6 165/3 166/18 this [327] 41/5 41/5 41/24 42/12 166/19 167/20 167/21 99/17 102/5 102/20 91/14 95/1 106/20 **Thomas [1]** 57/21 42/18 42/22 43/4 43/9 168/10 103/19 106/22 107/22 106/21 112/7 112/8 thorough [1] 139/22 43/9 46/19 46/24 47/7 themselves [1] 108/3 108/13 109/19 112/8 114/4 116/25 those [34] 9/19 9/22 47/10 47/11 47/14 115/18 116/8 116/10 117/3 117/3 120/13 10/6 11/20 12/1 14/13 106/24 49/12 56/23 57/12 then [119] 1/12 3/4 116/12 117/5 117/22 120/21 121/11 127/16 15/25 16/7 16/16 61/8 61/10 63/13 64/7 121/11 121/12 122/18 127/18 127/20 128/12 29/23 40/9 47/9 49/3 4/21 6/1 6/17 7/1 8/1 65/13 65/16 65/17 8/14 9/1 10/14 11/6 123/2 124/15 125/7 129/1 129/4 129/5 50/20 52/5 56/5 65/4 65/18 69/17 72/16 11/15 13/6 16/6 18/10 125/14 125/24 126/10 131/22 132/4 132/24 66/15 79/4 81/2 81/20 72/19 72/25 75/16 18/17 18/20 19/11 128/10 129/5 131/2 133/5 133/6 134/7 83/21 85/20 87/20

81/2 82/4 83/13 84/8 75/21 75/25 76/4 76/7 59/19 44/12 45/9 52/15 53/4 Т 84/10 88/24 89/10 80/14 81/3 98/15 undermine [5] 109/2 53/13 58/22 59/3 63/3 those... [10] 95/8 89/11 89/20 94/7 145/13 158/5 158/6 109/16 110/7 111/4 63/23 64/13 64/24 96/16 100/2 101/12 94/14 94/21 95/6 161/12 111/18 65/2 65/21 66/8 66/13 107/23 109/20 111/23 96/22 97/9 98/3 98/19 truth [3] 17/1 88/8 undermined [2] 79/2 66/17 66/24 67/5 128/18 144/12 161/4 102/14 103/3 104/20 91/20 174/11 68/10 74/2 80/16 though [3] 65/3 106/19 106/21 107/5 try [6] 16/4 37/15 81/20 81/23 81/24 undermines [1] 66/14 127/6 113/19 120/11 120/23 82/2 82/23 87/24 88/2 42/4 74/2 115/23 78/23 thought [8] 10/23 undermining [1] 126/19 132/22 143/18 115/25 88/4 91/17 92/3 93/20 82/24 87/9 115/7 157/11 157/12 158/15 **trying [11]** 56/15 93/21 93/23 104/14 113/1 115/10 135/2 166/12 161/20 67/17 76/5 76/5 95/22 understand [29] 1/22 104/23 104/23 118/8 168/5 112/2 142/17 154/18 2/20 31/3 34/20 34/21 118/21 124/3 124/10 tone [1] 132/5 thoughts [1] 151/9 too [6] 24/5 88/3 88/3 156/19 157/7 160/25 39/15 40/17 42/4 129/11 131/3 131/23 three [5] 6/20 57/10 91/22 155/2 155/5 **Tuesday [3]** 38/23 46/15 47/11 47/12 132/6 132/10 136/3 62/10 96/16 97/7 took [9] 71/19 94/2 176/6 176/12 48/4 51/16 61/6 61/12 137/21 137/25 138/12 three years [2] 57/10 104/22 129/19 134/4 turn [16] 3/24 4/1 66/25 73/4 75/12 76/6 140/1 140/20 142/4 62/10 4/21 6/1 7/19 7/22 76/21 77/4 83/14 142/23 145/3 145/6 135/3 137/21 159/13 through [11] 46/22 171/11 26/16 34/16 53/3 85/22 86/1 95/22 145/7 149/11 149/19 52/2 73/12 99/7 top [13] 13/15 22/7 57/15 61/24 65/19 110/10 124/4 133/16 151/6 152/16 154/13 109/24 123/2 123/2 108/1 109/3 126/14 140/10 155/10 156/4 158/15 32/24 54/11 68/4 132/18 134/12 137/18 74/10 108/15 124/10 160/7 161/3 168/13 141/17 understanding [11] 158/21 9/21 38/18 40/19 61/9 130/2 136/25 140/20 turned [3] 136/23 175/4 175/6 **thus [1]** 8/17 160/7 174/20 137/15 158/15 99/24 100/15 110/17 up' [1] 66/23 tier [1] 113/8 topic [6] 5/24 92/13 turning [1] 70/21 110/20 134/5 156/18 upcoming [1] 13/10 **Tim [1]** 168/18 108/1 123/23 126/14 172/24 tweaking [1] 132/16 update [3] 24/21 time [75] 1/8 1/25 139/8 understood [4] 14/20 50/24 158/19 twenty [1] 128/3 3/16 5/25 10/22 12/24 topics [1] 15/5 40/8 51/11 117/22 twice [1] 126/5 **updated** [2] 23/15 13/1 17/11 18/19 two [47] 1/6 9/6 9/19 Torstein [2] 76/12 undertake [1] 130/9 139/1 22/10 24/4 27/17 76/14 9/22 9/24 11/11 11/25 undertaken [3] 11/6 upheld [1] 2/25 28/14 29/17 29/18 upon [13] 2/17 2/24 12/4 12/21 13/25 15/9 127/17 130/15 total [1] 63/14 29/23 34/1 37/1 37/16 undertaking [1] 15/25 17/7 19/6 20/1 7/13 29/4 58/15 71/19 touch [1] 62/6 37/21 39/16 39/17 touched [1] 96/6 20/12 23/2 23/15 129/24 75/8 79/6 79/11 96/7 47/8 48/15 50/12 23/22 26/17 35/20 unfortunate [3] 49/10 101/3 110/16 149/22 towards [3] 17/22 50/16 54/16 59/12 163/19 167/11 49/7 50/2 54/3 55/9 49/14 49/17 upset [1] 95/4 61/7 69/13 75/7 75/19 trading [5] 53/21 55/24 56/20 60/20 unhealthy [1] 174/7 **us [30]** 1/3 6/5 6/13 77/5 77/8 81/4 82/3 53/22 53/23 54/2 54/3 64/16 70/16 78/2 78/7 **uniformity [1]** 116/13 7/3 9/9 19/11 43/25 85/24 86/19 86/20 unique [2] 87/4 91/12 83/17 95/23 109/20 50/22 51/13 65/5 84/3 training [2] 7/15 96/13 98/17 104/25 82/14 109/25 113/8 115/11 unit [1] 31/15 88/17 88/24 89/10 106/4 108/3 114/11 147/25 148/7 150/4 89/11 93/15 104/20 transaction [3] 59/9 units [1] 53/18 114/20 115/10 117/1 160/9 162/15 162/16 105/2 105/4 107/5 59/21 59/23 unknown [1] 32/8 117/4 120/17 121/7 transactions [2] 14/2 162/16 176/1 176/3 unless [2] 143/12 115/23 123/20 131/25 123/3 123/7 128/8 59/17 two-tier [1] 113/8 155/6 137/15 138/10 155/3 135/3 141/19 146/11 transcriber [1] type [3] 97/25 99/20 155/12 155/24 157/5 unlike [1] 71/4 146/18 147/3 147/8 158/25 144/12 unlikely [1] 139/22 158/13 147/14 147/16 147/19 use [8] 14/9 14/19 transcript [1] 85/8 typed [3] 94/4 101/11 unpublished [1] 8/20 148/8 153/25 154/23 transfer [1] 116/1 80/15 130/13 133/18 102/12 unreasonable [1] 158/6 159/13 161/1 **transferred** [2] 19/13 134/9 140/3 157/25 typing [1] 44/8 129/6 167/9 169/1 169/8 29/24 unsafe [3] 148/17 used [15] 14/5 14/11 170/9 170/11 172/13 treat [1] 105/10 149/2 150/11 23/10 25/4 44/6 109/8 timed [1] 37/22 trial [25] 26/23 27/24 **U-turn [1]** 109/3 113/12 113/20 113/22 until [18] 7/1 14/15 timeline [2] 53/12 **Um [3]** 19/9 110/8 38/23 38/25 39/25 15/10 16/8 16/14 17/2 114/13 131/3 140/9 56/24 41/7 49/9 51/4 51/13 111/20 17/9 30/8 43/16 43/19 158/6 161/17 165/22 times [1] 106/9 51/15 51/17 51/17 unable [5] 60/2 60/17 53/20 54/15 78/3 78/5 useful [2] 127/23 today [8] 3/22 4/22 141/9 142/13 144/23 52/10 52/16 52/17 88/10 123/14 176/6 127/24 27/18 27/19 66/3 unaware [5] 6/25 9/3 70/3 70/9 84/6 91/10 176/12 user [4] 31/25 32/8 73/13 168/22 171/19 9/12 10/14 32/1 118/7 118/14 148/8 untowards [1] 63/15 152/11 152/13 together [7] 30/18 170/15 171/17 171/21 unclear [1] 101/6 up [95] 3/24 4/23 using [4] 66/15 91/13 46/13 53/18 130/3 uncomfortable [4] trials [5] 69/21 75/6 4/25 5/8 5/14 7/10 101/25 170/1 134/22 150/4 168/18 94/6 96/3 96/4 157/12 7/19 8/24 13/15 18/16 utterly [1] 71/6 75/10 75/18 127/8 told [47] 8/7 8/17 under [10] 2/7 31/14 tried [2] 81/3 120/18 25/16 25/18 27/8 14/21 17/19 23/13 35/21 53/16 73/24 27/12 29/12 29/13 true [24] 4/6 17/4 23/14 24/17 26/9 vague [1] 71/10 89/5 97/23 146/19 26/16 29/6 29/9 30/3 29/14 29/18 30/7 28/19 41/6 54/16 151/23 152/8 validated [1] 160/11 30/11 30/11 38/10 30/15 30/22 33/20 57/12 62/19 65/12 underlying [2] 59/9 value [1] 31/23 38/16 41/5 43/9 74/4 35/19 41/9 41/11

(72) those... - value

van [1] 125/5 various [8] 33/12 55/8 55/8 73/17 125/21 125/22 126/10 134/20 Vennells [1] 53/9 verbatim [1] 143/19 verdict [4] 69/24 70/17 71/21 72/14 versed [1] 82/16 version [1] 35/24 very [74] 1/4 3/11 3/21 4/21 9/16 9/21 14/20 15/5 15/14 15/22 15/22 17/13 23/7 28/12 30/17 35/1 39/13 45/7 45/10 45/11 45/15 45/20 45/23 45/23 46/13 46/16 46/22 47/25 48/9 48/13 48/23 49/4 49/8 49/16 52/2 80/20 80/24 83/8 86/8 93/17 94/6 94/7 96/20 100/5 105/8 105/10 106/7 106/7 112/18 117/13 123/16 126/5 150/19 152/14 160/24 161/17 164/5 164/21 165/19 167/3 168/3 168/5 169/21 169/21 170/5 172/2 172/21 172/23 173/4 173/4 173/22 174/2 175/22 176/10 vet [2] 152/5 154/7 vetted [1] 151/21 via [2] 24/21 103/18 videos [1] 50/15 view [17] 22/12 59/11 90/3 114/10 116/5 124/17 125/16 126/1 126/12 138/17 138/24 138/24 139/5 142/2 162/20 165/10 171/11 views [2] 122/16 141/22 vindication [1] 72/14 virulent [1] 174/8 voice [2] 3/14 104/23 W wait [1] 93/4 walked [1] 106/9

want [25] 2/1 2/2 4/22 6/8 46/6 55/7 55/10 55/12 72/1 72/19 73/1 73/2 77/3 82/7 86/2 92/24 95/17 102/21 110/10 152/7 161/3 161/4 161/19 168/3 168/24 wanted [17] 24/15

24/15 26/7 44/19 61/23 62/23 63/17 73/17 98/19 114/18 115/13 133/2 133/22 134/9 153/10 161/4 161/19 wants [2] 102/16 102/17 warning [3] 1/19 1/24 1/24 Warwick [3] 49/2 59/7 61/14 was [481]

wasn't [95] 9/14 9/20 9/23 12/14 12/19 15/24 16/18 18/8 19/12 19/17 19/22 21/18 21/18 22/4 23/8 23/9 25/8 25/24 28/23 28/25 29/13 29/15 29/17 29/21 30/16 30/16 36/19 36/22 41/1 41/3 45/7 49/17 56/2 56/2 57/9 57/12 60/20 67/1 71/22 72/10 73/6 73/6 77/7 77/13 80/23 82/15 83/13 86/3 91/12 91/24 92/5 96/14 103/7 106/6 106/21 106/25 112/13 113/10 114/23 120/17 128/12 137/23 139/3 139/5 142/8 144/11 144/19 145/2 145/22 148/19 148/19 148/22 148/24 149/6 149/8 150/5 150/6 150/10 150/24 154/2 156/20 160/23 164/2 165/8 166/6 167/3 167/22 168/5 171/5 172/15 173/10 watch [1] 166/21 way [38] 17/5 20/16 21/23 22/13 23/4 23/6 30/14 34/24 45/21 46/22 47/11 47/14 66/23 73/7 85/13 87/22 105/7 111/5

52/3 52/23 57/1 57/13 111/21 114/20 114/21 115/15 120/1 121/6 122/23 132/12 133/6 138/23 142/10 143/25 155/17 157/5 160/19 163/18

we [226] we'd [3] 55/4 81/5 129/20

we'll [6] 10/7 93/6 133/8 158/10 158/22 176/6

we're [15] 27/13 33/3

53/6 60/1 60/24 60/24 64/11 95/12 96/16 109/22 113/8 116/5 122/22 147/7 171/9 we've [20] 8/2 23/13 24/18 29/2 29/3 40/10 40/3 40/22 41/9 43/5 40/11 40/12 46/16 81/22 90/20 90/21 92/14 95/6 95/9 100/6 120/1 120/23 128/24 129/11

93/21 week [11] 7/21 33/7 33/12 38/23 49/9 51/1 51/13 64/11 91/3 130/4 153/20

20/5 20/20 20/25 21/9 weekly [7] 93/21 94/1 94/5 94/23 99/14 103/7 103/22

weeks [2] 54/23 55/22 weigh [3] 142/3

142/23 145/7 weird [1] 48/3 well [88] 1/11 2/3 2/4 3/19 8/11 11/2 12/24 17/11 19/11 20/16 20/19 21/9 21/23 22/4 22/10 24/12 26/5 28/7

28/11 30/13 39/7 43/11 50/5 55/10 72/1 72/2 72/5 72/8 72/20 75/19 75/23 76/1 76/5 76/9 80/4 80/12 82/15 83/12 86/16 91/9 92/2 98/20 99/10 100/2 100/17 105/1 105/12 105/15 106/1 106/2

112/7 112/11 115/15 116/22 116/22 116/25 40/3 41/9 42/11 43/12 119/18 120/22 120/24 129/3 130/16 135/22 136/2 136/4 136/7

106/5 109/18 109/20

136/14 138/5 144/19 154/10 154/20 156/18 70/6 157/3 157/19 158/22

171/2 172/4 172/8 173/10 173/16

went [11] 27/8 28/1 49/2 52/1 87/25 106/9 131/14 138/9 163/18 164/4 165/6

were [154] 4/24 5/21 6/14 9/13 9/17 10/15 12/21 12/22 14/14

15/8 15/9 15/15 15/24 16/7 16/10 16/12 16/16 16/25 17/1 17/9 18/15 18/16 18/21

19/16 20/13 23/6 23/20 24/6 24/9 25/3 25/5 26/23 28/14 29/5 29/12 29/14 30/4 30/14 31/24 39/25 43/13 43/13 45/3 45/22 46/12 47/21 48/22 49/5 49/23 51/1 51/25 52/3 54/12 55/8 56/5 59/10 60/18 63/5 Wednesday [2] 74/23 63/8 63/16 63/21 65/8 66/15 67/4 69/12 69/19 70/25 71/6 71/8 72/12 73/15 73/25 75/8 76/18 80/20 80/24 82/4 82/16 82/17 84/11 85/20

89/9 90/14 91/1 91/13 93/18 95/8 97/15 98/3 98/4 102/12 106/18 106/20 106/21 108/3 109/15 116/20 116/23 116/24 123/23 124/20 125/1 128/6 128/9 128/12 128/16 128/17 128/18 128/18 131/8

132/24 133/6 135/20 137/22 138/13 144/22 148/4 148/7 148/12 148/21 150/16 150/18 151/1 152/21 152/24 153/1 154/21 154/21

159/7 160/2 160/19 160/22 162/3 162/5 164/6 164/11 165/1 167/17 167/19 167/23 whereby [1] 33/7

167/23 168/8 168/19 168/25 169/5 174/1 weren't [21] 16/15 18/18 20/23 29/12

47/21 72/15 76/19 81/7 90/14 92/1 93/22 93/23 116/21 116/24

116/25 117/3 121/8 144/19 145/15 151/15 West [3] 57/22 59/22

what [228] 166/16 166/24 167/20 what's [16] 1/19 76/25 77/7 91/2 93/9 98/2 114/2 122/16 129/7 129/8 129/21 135/22 145/14 156/20 9/24 10/11 10/15

167/12 168/3 whatever [10] 69/12 75/20 82/15 129/2 134/12 137/24 149/15 161/20 175/10 175/12 14/21 14/24 15/2 15/3 when [79] 4/17 5/21

7/12 10/22 18/7 19/13 19/13 24/20 27/14 28/15 29/23 32/2 33/7 35/4 37/4 39/17 40/16 71/20 78/23 79/12

40/22 40/24 42/19 43/5 43/13 46/1 48/21 48/22 48/25 49/5 50/12 51/20 53/17 54/10 54/24 55/10 55/10 55/11 55/11 55/18 55/23 55/25 56/20 58/6 58/18 59/18 61/10 61/16 62/19 63/10 65/9 73/14 76/2 76/8 83/6 83/7 84/23 86/21 87/12 87/13 87/22 94/11 95/20 103/7 104/21 104/25 106/15 108/3 110/1 125/6 126/24 127/7 129/25 131/4 133/19 135/14 136/21 140/5 164/16 166/9 168/8 169/8 Whenever [1] 59/20 where [37] 26/1 28/13 34/9 40/19 47/6 48/5 59/17 66/3 67/2 67/3 69/6 70/3 71/24 72/6 73/8 74/11 74/21

76/6 77/20 79/4 79/21 79/22 81/20 91/10 97/12 99/6 100/14 113/16 114/5 122/12 124/16 125/8 129/18 133/14 137/11 138/12 148/9 where's [3] 99/2

100/18 122/4 whereas [1] 113/7 whether [46] 2/24 3/8 4/23 14/12 23/1 24/1 24/5 37/11 42/5 55/5 58/19 59/9 60/7 60/17 62/7 66/20 68/17 69/16 82/11 89/14 89/17 95/22 101/6 101/24 102/1 102/8 104/12 104/18 106/20 106/23 107/20 108/4 110/12 112/24 123/24 128/16 128/17 134/19 143/2 146/15 146/21 151/11 151/22 153/7 167/18 167/22 which [93] 2/19 9/9

13/23 13/25 14/19 14/20 14/23 15/23 20/24 22/18 23/8 23/9 23/22 24/13 24/23 25/14 26/1 28/3 31/17 33/14 35/23 41/19 49/9 49/14 52/7 53/20 54/1 54/18 58/4 59/2 64/21 64/22 69/25

W which... [54] 83/17 83/17 85/4 88/25 89/9 91/7 92/13 92/16 93/19 94/1 97/11 100/9 101/3 101/18 103/2 108/1 108/20 110/5 111/18 114/17 118/14 122/5 122/18 123/23 123/24 125/14 126/14 127/3 128/17 130/3 130/10 135/25 136/24 143/3 143/4 145/17 147/20 149/21 150/12 150/18 155/17 155/22 156/1 156/9 156/25 157/1 157/5 158/14 158/20 163/15 166/5 167/11 168/25 174/3 whichever [1] 58/16 while [4] 24/24 82/6 129/19 158/4 whilst [7] 13/22 30/9 33/11 60/1 124/13 158/14 166/24 white [1] 142/16 who [75] 2/10 2/19 9/4 18/21 19/16 19/16 20/22 21/3 22/21 22/25 23/7 23/16 23/20 24/13 24/18 24/19 24/19 32/24 33/25 34/23 40/20 47/13 47/23 48/1 48/15 48/18 50/3 50/6 50/11 50/22 51/25 53/7 55/6 56/4 60/21 60/25 65/14 69/11 69/22 81/5 81/6 81/21 82/25 86/15 86/16 87/15 87/16 87/19 100/20 105/16 113/20 113/22 115/8 115/21 115/25 120/11 121/14 121/14 128/14 131/13 132/7 136/15 157/18 162/15 163/11 164/6 166/8 166/8 167/16 167/18 168/3 168/19 168/21 170/22 174/19 who'd [2] 30/9 134/2 who's [2] 80/14 96/18 whoever [2] 138/6 175/11 whole [4] 139/2 145/22 153/6 165/2 wholly [1] 162/22 whom [3] 14/13 79/17 149/23 whose [2] 70/11 96/9 why [73] 18/2 18/20

19/7 20/4 22/8 28/15 30/19 34/19 37/13 39/10 50/5 61/10 62/17 65/8 65/16 70/13 71/8 71/17 72/14 74/2 76/7 78/19 80/7 80/17 80/21 80/25 82/20 83/24 84/15 92/1 96/22 97/4 99/10 99/10 99/11 104/3 104/20 105/2 105/4 105/24 109/15 109/24 111/8 112/24 113/11 113/18 114/8 114/16 114/16 115/5 115/7 119/4 122/10 122/20 126/5 128/25 128/25 129/4 131/8 132/20 133/23 138/3 141/15 142/3 144/9 144/12 157/25 160/15 163/21 164/18 164/24 167/10 168/1 wide [4] 14/4 25/3 25/14 71/20 widely [1] 90/6 wider [5] 20/7 39/9 112/23 152/11 155/25 will [45] 1/18 2/5 2/23 3/5 3/20 31/15 31/18 31/22 32/4 32/8 41/11 47/12 55/20 59/6 60/14 61/16 64/20 78/4 87/14 93/8 109/1 109/3 109/9 118/13 124/15 125/14 125/14 125/15 127/3 127/5 127/9 127/16 130/15 130/19 132/12 139/18 witnesses [2] 70/14 139/23 145/11 155/2 156/9 156/10 157/1 158/20 158/23 160/11 Williams [7] 88/21 88/24 89/10 89/11 89/21 90/24 91/15 Wilson [31] 32/25 33/4 33/20 34/23 38/8 word [8] 25/6 94/13 38/11 39/19 45/25 46/2 48/4 48/7 48/7 49/21 50/1 51/9 52/25 54/9 73/18 74/11 81/12 85/15 86/12 87/11 87/11 119/11 120/15 131/11 134/1 137/18 167/3 167/15 window [1] 117/11 wish [13] 2/17 2/20 3/6 3/7 13/22 50/23 103/21 152/5 154/7 158/2 158/7 158/16 160/23 withdrawal [1] 108/23

withhold [2] 154/9

173/5 withholding [1] 154/17 within [34] 8/23 13/8 16/11 18/23 20/6 24/6 133/10 34/24 49/23 49/25 53/11 54/22 55/25 58/16 63/2 78/7 81/8 85/19 85/19 90/6 100/20 102/5 104/10 106/17 112/18 112/23 113/14 113/15 114/10 117/20 119/15 120/8 167/4 167/7 167/16 without [4] 39/12 118/6 138/9 156/10 WITN04750100 [1] 41/19 WITN04750200 [1] 3/24 witness [57] 2/8 3/23 4/9 6/5 6/13 7/4 7/9 9/19 30/20 34/20 41/14 41/15 42/9 43/6 60/17 62/2 62/10 62/17 64/2 67/7 67/13 67/18 68/12 68/15 68/22 69/19 71/15 72/22 74/1 76/20 78/25 79/1 79/5 79/24 80/8 80/13 82/16 86/4 86/14 92/21 93/19 97/18 135/5 136/3 136/17 136/24 137/7 137/11 137/25 138/5 146/7 146/8 149/22 149/24 150/1 158/13 176/1 163/9 woefully [1] 71/9 won't [1] 151/16 wonderful [2] 46/22 48/3 wondering [1] 167/24 94/13 97/8 97/8 101/13 136/11 136/12 wording [2] 132/17 135/16 words [7] 132/4 134/20 138/2 144/12 157/5 158/1 158/5 work [7] 19/16 23/12 47/11 56/3 91/15 129/24 136/21 worked [7] 23/7 36/24 37/2 46/20 47/14 50/3 170/8 working [22] 12/13 15/16 16/20 19/17 21/1 23/7 23/13 25/11 26/9 28/17 30/2 46/12

works [3] 45/6 133/9 worse [1] 14/17 worth [1] 173/24 would [128] 1/10 1/23 9/10 14/24 17/25 wrongdoing [1] 18/3 18/20 18/24 19/3 19/7 19/19 19/24 20/10 20/18 21/4 21/12 21/21 21/23 22/1 26/12 29/21 30/8 30/15 33/25 34/22 34/22 35/11 35/12 37/14 37/15 38/17 42/3 42/7 42/19 43/1 44/10 44/14 44/15 44/19 44/21 44/22 45/4 45/5 46/8 46/11 46/16 46/17 46/18 46/25 47/1 47/8 47/15 47/15 47/16 47/17 49/15 51/9 51/18 51/20 51/25 54/3 54/5 56/11 57/4 58/14 65/14 65/14 75/24 76/23 77/5 80/7 82/24 82/25 96/5 96/5 96/20 year [6] 7/1 17/24 101/15 101/16 102/22 37/1 37/16 54/2 103/1 103/2 115/8 115/19 116/16 118/17 years [15] 25/7 30/8 118/18 120/21 121/25 57/10 62/10 86/21 122/1 122/3 123/13 125/7 125/8 130/9 132/22 134/5 134/9 141/3 141/4 141/14 141/17 144/8 146/16 147/4 147/15 148/17 149/2 152/17 154/7 154/9 154/11 156/14 157/13 159/23 160/15 75/22 115/24 169/9 169/14 169/18 170/25 172/13 173/7 174/3 174/6 174/10 174/11 wouldn't [20] 15/19 18/11 18/12 18/14 18/21 18/24 25/21 34/21 35/11 46/9 51/20 51/22 76/24 77/6 96/21 101/16 128/22 135/18 146/24 4/16 6/4 12/3 17/6 175/19 write [7] 26/2 68/10 92/16 98/17 98/25 111/8 143/17 writing [11] 43/5 43/13 48/12 64/12 90/25 118/25 119/6 119/13 123/9 123/10 171/10

62/18 62/18 63/9

86/22 131/3 138/25

55/5 55/14 56/4 56/5 written [8] 31/2 49/12 71/7 81/17 98/13 98/24 108/17 143/11 wrong [11] 46/7 51/14 116/2 121/4 157/3 158/7 158/10 161/11 164/19 164/23 167/25 109/9 wrongful [1] 121/8 wrote [7] 26/3 42/19 52/24 85/5 85/5 135/25 157/18 Wylie [1] 137/9

yeah [36] 4/4 10/9 11/2 25/22 34/14 35/16 57/25 67/15 67/17 90/15 90/15 91/9 93/1 95/19 95/25 100/23 104/25 110/14 110/25 110/25 111/16 115/4 117/4 129/23 130/5 131/15 131/17 134/21 137/12 137/14 147/6 162/6 162/10 172/15 175/1 175/16 122/25 87/18 87/18 95/15 105/24 106/3 119/23 122/9 122/9 148/1 148/8 yes [227] **yesterday [3]** 58/8 169/3 169/5 | yet [4] 8/19 17/19 Yetminster [4] 170/13 170/16 170/25 108/11 110/12 110/22 116/17 you [919] you'd [11] 29/7 38/7 41/6 43/14 56/13 68/12 85/11 116/23 129/20 142/6 170/8 you'll [4] 35/19 36/10 95/8 164/8 you're [58] 3/1 4/14 17/17 17/22 18/25 19/1 20/9 22/7 22/13 27/9 34/12 34/15 36/23 38/13 42/9

42/13 43/10 54/16

56/10 63/8 69/4 72/11

75/20 76/6 76/7 76/21

76/22 77/3 86/1 91/4

97/11 99/22 100/12

Υ	Z		
you're [21] 108/6	zero [1] 53/23		
110/1 111/17 120/4			
123/4 125/19 129/6			
133/9 138/10 141/1 142/22 143/1 143/2			
143/23 143/25 144/5			
152/19 161/11 162/13			
166/11 175/17			
you've [32] 3/22			
22/14 46/15 47/9 52/1 55/14 55/15 56/11			
68/5 81/21 83/3 87/19			
106/16 107/5 111/11			
113/25 116/6 116/6			
116/7 117/16 120/4 122/14 123/4 125/21			
133/17 142/3 142/23			
144/1 148/1 157/9			
166/16 172/12			
young [1] 121/23			
your [116] 2/1 2/14 2/17 2/23 2/24 3/7			
3/19 4/2 4/6 4/10 4/12			
4/25 5/25 6/2 6/5 6/13			
7/9 9/10 13/11 22/14			
25/15 25/16 26/13 26/16 26/19 28/6 29/1			
29/14 29/18 30/23			
34/12 34/12 36/18			
36/22 37/8 38/13			
38/15 40/12 41/13 41/15 43/8 44/22			
44/24 51/20 53/3			
57/15 57/18 58/24			
60/16 61/20 64/17			
65/8 67/25 73/23 76/2 77/4 79/24 80/8 85/1			
88/4 90/7 92/20 93/19			
94/18 97/18 98/8			
99/24 100/9 100/15			
103/18 104/16 104/23			
104/23 105/18 106/18 107/2 107/14 107/18			
107/19 107/22 108/15			
109/23 110/20 111/15			
113/25 117/11 117/15 118/21 120/6 121/19			
122/6 122/16 121/19			
126/2 131/6 131/6			
134/5 135/16 138/9			
143/3 146/7 146/8			
156/12 157/11 158/6 158/13 165/16 166/21			
167/9 169/17 170/23			
171/8 172/16 172/17			
173/19 176/4			
yourself [11] 71/19 74/9 81/15 99/6			
102/21 105/18 114/16			
128/19 143/18 167/24			
176/2			
_			(75) vou're - zero