1		Wednesday, 12 June 2024	1		statement, you'll see it runs to 82 paragraphs.
2	(9.4	15 am)	2	A.	Yes.
3	MR	STEVENS: Good morning, sir.	3	Q.	Is that your signature?
4	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Good morning.	4	A.	Yes, it is.
5	MR	STEVENS: We're hearing from Mr Beezer today.	5	Q.	You made a second witness statement on 8 May 2024.
6	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.	6		Could I ask you to turn to that, please?
7		THOMAS MATHEW BEEZER (sworn)	7	A.	I have it.
8		Questioned by MR STEVENS	8	Q.	Thank you. Page 41, please.
9	MR	STEVENS: Thank you. Before we begin, sir, I should say	9	A.	Yes.
10		we're due to have the usual fire alarm test at 10.00.	10	Q.	Is that your signature?
11		I propose we simply sit through it.	11	A.	It is.
12	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course.	12	Q.	Now, as part of your statement, you have exhibited
13	MR	STEVENS: Please could you state your full name?	13		several handwritten notes or attendance notes of various
14	A.	Thomas Mathew Beezer.	14		meetings you had. You also exhibited versions you'd
15	Q.	Thank you for attending the Inquiry today to give	15		typed recently, transcribing what those notes said
16		evidence. Mr Beezer, you've made two statements to this	16	A.	To assist the Inquiry.
17		Inquiry, and thank you for your written evidence. The	17	Q.	Yes, and we're grateful for that. I understand that
18		first has Unique Reference Number WITN09510100. That	18		since you've re-read your statement you have a four
19		was read into the record on 2 February 2024 but, as	19		corrections to make to those?
20		you're called to give evidence now, I'll ask you to	20	A.	Yes.
21		affirm it. Can I ask you to turn to the front of that	21	Q.	I'll deal with those shortly now. Please can we bring
22		witness statement in front of you, please?	22		the first one up. It's WBON0001751.
23	A.	Yes, I have it.	23		If you go right to the bottom, please, I understand
24	Q.	Thank you. It should be dated 13 June 2023 and, if	24		that the first correction is where it says,
25		I could ask you please to turn to page 32 of that	25		"distraction" at the bottom line, that should read
		1			2
1		"distinction"?	1		second statement will be published on the website
2	Α.	It should.	2		shortly. Before I ask you questions about your
3	Q.	The second document, please, is WBON0001747 and about	3		evidence, I understand there's a statement you'd like to
4		six lines down, I think it says "but only insofar as	4		make?
5	_	clause x 12" and that should say "clauses X, Y, Z"?	5	Α.	Yes, thank you. I'd like to take this opportunity at
6		Agreed.	6		the outset of my evidence to reiterate my apology in my
7	Q.	Thank you. Can we then, please, turn to WBON0001752.	7		second witness statement. To each and every
8		If we could turn to the second page, please, midway down	8		subpostmaster and mistress, I'm sorry that the recusal
9		there's an asterisk and it says "contract incorp is	9		application added to the complexity and challenges they
10		a problem in this Clause". I understand that "clause"	10		faced in the GLO.
11		should read "class"?	11		Additionally, I'd like to apologise to Mr Castleton
12	Α.	Agreed.	12		personally. I submitted a witness statement in the
13	Q.	Finally, can we turn to WBON0001888. I'm playing	13		Inquiry in its Phase 4 work and I had anticipated I'd be
14		catch-up with myself, sorry. I think here, if we turn	14		called in that phase. I had wanted and planned to make
15		the page, please, on the third line at the end it says	15 16		an apology to Mr Castleton in Phase 4 had I been called.
16		"May view (QC)". I understand that should read "My	16		I was not, hence taking this opportunity to now express
17	^	view"?	17 10		my deep regret about the circumstances he and his family
18	Α.	Agreed. Thank you. That can be taken down now. Subject to	18 10		were placed in.
19	Q.	Thank you. That can be taken down now. Subject to	19		At the time of the case in 2005 and 2006, I was
20 21		those corrections to the exhibits, are the contents of	20		confident in the assertions made to me by POL about the
22		your first and second statement true to the best of your knowledge and belief?	21 22		robustness of the Horizon system and I believed I was acting properly and in accordance with my instructions
		momoago ana bonor.	~~		asing property and in accordance with my mondellone

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A. They are.

Q. Thank you. That stands as your evidence in the Inquiry.

The first statement has already been published but

this Inquiry, my confidence in such assertions has been 4

information that has come to light over the course of

when dealing with that case. However, with the

- 1 eroded, so I'm taking this opportunity to now say that
- 2 I'm truly sorry.
- 3 Q. I'd like to start with some background questions, if
- 4 I may. You qualified as a solicitor in 1996?
- 5 A. Correct, yes.
- 6 Q. You joined Bond Pearce in 2003?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. As the Inquiry knows well, Bond Pearce subsequently
- 9 became Bond Dickinson --
- 10 A.
- Q. -- and Bond Dickinson then became Womble Bond Dickinson? 11
- 12 Α.
- 13 I'll use the terms interchangeably, treat them as Q.
- effectively the same body. 14
- 15 Α. Fine.
- 16 Q. You were made a partner of Bond Pearce in 2005?
- 17 A. Yes.
- You remain a partner of Womble Bond Dickinson today? 18 Q.
- 19 A.
- 20 Q. Have you practised in civil litigation throughout your
- 21 career as a solicitor?
- 22 A.
- 23 Q. Do you have any experience of practice in criminal law?
- 24 A.
- 25 Q. I'm going to primarily focus in evidence today on two
- 1 summary form, what experience did you have of conducting
- 2 litigation for Post Office itself?
- 3 A. I find that quite hard to answer at this distance. It's
- 4 18/19 years ago. I suspect it will have been some of
- 5 the more complex debt recovery, I suspect. But I'm
- 6 dredging my memory.
- 7 Please can we bring up your first witness statement,
- 8 which is WITN09510100, and page 5, paragraph 12, please.
- 9 Thank you.

- You make a point about an engagement letter relating
- 11 to the Castleton litigation, and you then say:
- 12 "I cannot now recall why this was done, not least
- 13 because my firm had a global engagement in place with 14 Post Office throughout this period (and, so far as I am
- 15 aware, at all times in our relationship) ..."
- 16 Could you please describe to me what you mean by 17 "global engagement"?
- A. I understand that you could call it a framework 18
- 19 agreement; you could call it an appointment agreement.
- 20 I can't picture it, I may never have seen it, I may just
- 21 know that each year or at the recommencement of
- 22 successful tenders a new framework agreement between
- 23 Post Office and its panel law firms was put in place.
- 24 So there's a fully termed framework agreement,
- 25 I believe. Although I can't picture it and may never

- 1 areas: firstly, the case of Post Office v Lee Castleton,
- 2 which you've just alluded to and, second, the recusal
- 3 application in the GLO proceedings. Before we do that,
 - I want to turn to Bond Pearce/Womble Bond Dickinson's
- relationship with Post Office. 5
- 6 In 2005, when you say you became involved in the
- 7 Castleton case, you described the Post Office then as
- 8 a significant client?
- 9 A. Yes.

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- 10 Q. Why did you consider the Post Office to be a significant 11 client at that stage?
- Bond Pearce had acted for the Post Office, I believe, 12 A.
- 13 for many years in a number of streams of work,
- 14 commercial work, employment work, some litigation work,
- 15 and it was a household name and a significant client.
- 16 It was a client we were proud to have.
- 17 Q. You've named a few streams of work there. You didn't
- 18 mention criminal proceedings. Is that because Bond
- 19 Pearce didn't take on criminal work?
- 20 A. In the Civil Litigation Team we didn't take on criminal
- 21 work. There may have been parts of the firm that did
- 22 criminal work. We have regulatory teams, for example.
- 23 So I can't say no criminal work in the firm at all.
- 24 I did no criminal work for Post Office.
- 25 Q. Prior to dealing with the case of Lee Castleton, in
- 1 have seen it, I just know it existed.
- 2 Q. Based on your knowledge of it or whatever knowledge you
- 3 had, would that global agreement then be supplemented by
- 4 individual retainers on specific matters?
- 5 A. It may have been. It may have been.
- 6 Q. The Inquiry heard evidence from Chris Aujard, who was
- 7 General Counsel between October 2013 and March 2014,
- 8 with some overlap with Jane MacLeod, as a General
- 9 Counsel of Post Office Limited. In his evidence, he
- 10 described during that period that Bond Dickinson was so
- embedded within Post Office that, in many ways, they 11
- 12 acted as an extension of the in-house team. Would you
- 13 accept that is a fair characterisation of how Bond
- 14 Dickinson operated with Post Office at that time?
- 15 A. 2013/2014?
- 16 Q. Yes.

- 17 A. I probably wasn't much to do with the Post Office
- 18 relationship at that time, so I can't answer that with
- any precision. I suspect I was doing no Post Office 19
- 20 work at all at that time. As a partner in the firm,
- 21 I would say we always had a proper lawyer-client
- 22 relationship but, from my personal experience, I can't
- 23 answer. I wasn't doing Post Office work.
- 24 Q. In respect of when you were doing Post Office work,
 - would that description be fair for any period of time

- 1 which you were involved with it?
- 2 A. I don't think so. I did Post Office work in those early
- 3 years and then, later on, as we will see, in the recusal 4 but in the intervening years not at all.
- 5 Q. So you say "early years", we're talking --
- 6 A. Early 2000s, yeah.
- 7 Q. When do you think you stopped doing that work?
- 8 A. It's a guess but, if you want me to guess, I will.
- 9 2007/8/9, somewhere like that. Before, probably 2007/8,
- 10 I drop out of that vein of work and that relationship.
- Q. As a partner in the litigation team during that period, 11
- 12 would you have had any oversight at all of the Post
- 13 Office relationship, even when you weren't specifically
- 14 working on cases for them?
- A. No, not oversight of the relationship but, as a partner 15
- 16 in the litigation team, I will have had a connection
- 17 with the people in the litigation team, yes, and they
- 18 may have been doing Post Office work. So I would have
- 19 known about stuff going on but we had a proactive
- 20 relationship partner for Post Office and that wasn't me.
- 21 Q. Who was that?
- 22 A. That was a gentleman called Simon Richardson.
- 23 **Q.** We may come back to that period of time in due course.
- 24 I want to look at the early years first and let's start
- 25 with 2005, please, and some emails relating to the case
 - anticipation of the criminal trial, Paul Whitaker's report and his interview of David Blakey."
 - So, at this stage, you were aware of an overlap in some cases between civil proceedings being brought by the Post Office and criminal proceedings; is that right?
- 6 A. No, probably not. My read of this, when I was sent this 7 recently by the Inquiry, is that we were doing the debt 8 recovery afterwards, is what I think, but I don't know
- 9 that.

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- 10 Q. Let me rephrase my question, sorry. You were aware
- 11 that, in some cases where you were instructed to pursue
- 12 debts on behalf of the Post Office, the Post Office had
- 13 prosecuted the people you were pursuing?
- 14 A. I believe that must be right, from this email, yeah.
- Q. Presumably, you were aware that Post Office relied on 15 16 Horizon data when pursuing those criminal prosecutions?
- 17 A. Yes, probably, but -- I say, "yes, probably" in answer
- 18 to that question because I think the first time that was
- 19 gone into intellectually as a topic was in the Castleton
- 20 case. Everything in the Castleton case suggests to me
- 21 we -- me and the people in that case -- are on that
- 22 journey for the first time. You know, the language
- 23 is -- we're not saying we did this in the last case. 24 I think that's the first forensic investigation. So --
- 25
 - Just to clarify, are you saying that Castleton was the Q.

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- 1 against Gillian Blakey and David Blakey. Can we please 2 turn to POL00142517.
- 3 (Pause for fire alarm test)
 - Right, I think that's over.
- 5 So we have an email on the screen here, if you could
- 6 just scroll up slightly, thank you. So this is from
- 7 a solicitor at Bond Pearce, is it Dave Panaech?
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- 9 Q. Panaech, thank you. It's to Cheryl Woodward at Post
 - Office and Mandy Talbot, and you are in copy, and it's
- 11 referring to sending a letter before action off on the
- 12 Riby Square Post Office case. Why would you have been
- 13 copied in as a partner on a correspondence such as this?
- 14 Dave was a solicitor in the team. In those early times,
- 15 I had a footprint within the Post Office relationship.
- 16 I think that's why Dave is copying me in.
- 17 Q. Okay if we look for an email further on in the timeline,
- 18 it's POL00142534, please, from Dave Panaech again to
- 19 Cheryl Woodward, you're in copy, dated 22 November.
- 20 This concerns civil proceedings and it sets out that
- 21 Particulars of Claim were enclosed with the email. The
- 22 penultimate paragraph, it says:
 - "The facts of the case were ascertained from the documents prepared by the investigators in the POID file, in particular, the witness statements produced in
- 1 first time at least you turned your mind to data
- 2 produced by Horizon being used as an evidential basis to
- 3 pursue claims for debt?
- 4 A. Yes, I think so. I think so but, given that Horizon
- 5 underpinned their business, the debts being chased at
- 6 this time -- if that's what's happening because I don't
- 7 remember this at all -- must have been generated from
- 8 Horizon.
- Q. It seems that, from here, Bond Pearce, as part of its 9
- 10 debt recovery work, were being sent bundles of documents
- 11 relevant to those criminal prosecutions?
- 12 A. That seems to be some of the background material that we
- 13 sent but, as I say, I've no memory of this whatsoever.
- 14 Q. So, as a broad question, if a solicitor at Bond Pearce
- 15 at this time, who was handling a debt recovery action,
- 16 if they had or discovered evidence that called into
- 17 question the reliability of the Horizon IT System, to
- 18 what extent do you think they would have
- 19 a responsibility to consider whether that document or
- 20 information ought to be disclosed to subpostmasters
- 21 convicted of theft or false accounting in criminal
- 22 proceedings that relied on data generated by the Horizon
- 23 IT System?

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- 24 As a civil practitioner, I'm not sure I'm really placed
 - to answer that. Can we unpack that question a little

- 1 bit? So if there was a document that demonstrated
- 2 the --
- 3 Q. Well, let me unpack it. There's a civil practitioner
- 4 dealing with a claim for debt --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- and that claim for debt relies on data generated by
- 7 the Horizon IT System.
- 8 A. Yeah.
- 9 Q. That civil practitioner is aware that his or her client
- 10 also prosecutes subpostmasters for theft or false
- 11 accounting based on Horizon data?
- 12 A. Yes, if that was what had happened in the Blakey case
- 13 but I don't know that.
- 14 Q. Yes, setting out some hypotheticals here.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. In those circumstances, if that civil practitioner
- 17 discovered evidence or information that undermined or
- 18 tended to undermine the reliability of the Horizon IT
- 19 System, do you think there was any responsibility on the
- 20 civil practitioner to consider whether that document
- 21 ought to be disclosed to subpostmasters who had been
- 22 convicted of theft or false accounting?
- 23 A. The specific subpostmasters or subpostmasters generally
- 24 as a class?
- 25 Q. Well, let's start with generally as a class first.
 - 13
- 1 A. Yes, I believe so. We're going way back into my memory.
- 2 Q. Following an audit on 23 March 2004, the Post Office
- 3 suspended Mr Castleton because of alleged discrepancies?
- 4 A. I believe, so.
- 5 Q. The Post Office subsequently instructed Bond Pearce to
- 6 pursue Mr Castleton for the shortfall as a debt?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. This was initially handled by a team called CMS within
- 9 Bond Pearce?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. A claim was issued and served on Mr Castleton --
- 12 **A.** Yes.
- 13 Q. -- and he served a defence and counterclaim on 15 August
- 14 2005?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. The Post Office failed to file a defence to the
- 17 counterclaim by the deadline --
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 Q. -- and that was because of an error by a fee earner. We
- 20 don't need to go into the details of it but that was
- 21 subsequently resolved?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. But the court had entered judgment in default of
- 24 a defence being served, which led to your involvement in
- 25 the case?

- 1 A. I don't know how to answer that, to be honest with you.
- 2 I'm not trying to avoid answering it. It would need the
- 3 civil practitioner to have sufficient knowledge of
- 4 criminal process to be able to navigate those waters.
- 5 It would certainly have an impact on the civil case that
- 6 was on the desk at the time, of course it would.
- 7 Absolutely. Would it trigger a solicitor out there in
- 8 law land to take on a proactive disclosure duty?
- 9 I don't know the answer to that.
- 10 Q. Let's not go as far as to say they have a disclosure
- 11 duty but do you think there's any responsibility to
- 12 raise or discuss it with the client and say, "You may
- 13 need to consider your criminal prosecutions" or --
- 14 A. If they had a full enough picture of what was going on,
- 15 and so, if a case on a desk had -- if someone was --
- 16 became -- actually knew that the data that had
- 17 underpinned a civil case or a criminal case was wrong,
- 18 I believe there would be a conversation with the client.
- 19 $\,$ **Q.** I want to move to look at the Lee Castleton case now.
- 20 It's a case the Inquiry has looked at in some detail in
- 21 Phase 4. Just to refresh on the background,
- 22 Mr Castleton was a subpostmaster of the Marine Drive
- 23 Post Office from 18 July 2003.
- 24 A. I believe so.
- 25 Q. You're nodding, yes?

- 1 A. It did.
- 2 Q. Let's have a look at a document, then. It's
- 3 POL00070496, please. Could we go to page 2, please,
- 4 right at the bottom. There's an email from Stephen
- 5 Dilley; he was an associate, was he, at the time in Bond
- 6 Pearce?
- 7 **A.** Yes.
- 8 Q. Did he report to you?
- 9 A. Yes, on this case.
- 10 Q. We see there this is to Bob Heckford on 18 November.
- 11 Who was Bob Heckford?
- 12 A. I believe Bob Heckford was one of our internal risk
- people. I'm not absolutely sure but I think that's the
- 14 role he fulfilled.
- 15 Q. So we see "Private, Privileged and Confidential and
- 16 Prepared for the Purposes of a Possible Claim Against
- the Firm", and this goes on to set out the background
- which we've just discussed. We can see you're copied in
- to it there. So, against that background, can we turn
 to your email on page 1, please. Thank you. So
- 21 21 November, you say that you have spoken to Mandy,
- 22 that's Mandy Talbot?
- 23 A. Agreed.
- 24 Q. What was your working relationship with Mandy Talbot at
- 25 that point?

- Solicitor-client, cordial. Which aspect do you? 1 Α.
- 2 Q. Well, how often did you work with her?
- 3 A. I can't remember but sporadically but regularly.
- 4 Q. You said cordial?
- 5 A. Yes
- 6 **Q.** Is your evidence that it was a cordial relationship?
- 7 A. Yes, yes.
- 8 Q. You say:
- 9 "I spoke to Mandy. She is understandably a little 10 disturbed."
- Presumably that's by the default judgment? 11
- A. She was angry. 12
- 13 Q. We've said already in your witness statement you
- describe Post Office Limited as a very significant 14
- 15 client. Were you effectively being brought in --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- to calm Post Office's nerves?
- A. Yes. 18
- 19 So it was being brought in to show that a partner was
- 20 having clear oversight of this case?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Would you usually have been brought into a debt claim
- 23 such as this?
- 24 Α. No.

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25 Q. If we go down -- it's already there, sorry. You see at

> she could be quite forceful, and, at this time, I think she was saying to me words to the effect of "You've really stuffed up, there's an embryonic class action" to put fear into me and to tell me off.

That's what I thought at this point, when this conversation took place. As time moved on, although I didn't know it at the time this conversation took place, I think she was overstating the embryonic class action because, as I understand it, it was, in fact, two cases, I think, and I think she was overstating the position to extract her ounce of flesh from the firm for having made a mistake, is what I think was going on but I don't know that for certain.

- 13 14 Q. But, at this stage, there's a clear link being drawn 15 between Mr Castleton's case and an overall background 16 worry of other cases relating to the integrity of the 17 Horizon IT System?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Point 1, under "Requests from Mandy", you say "I feel we MUST comply with", the first one is: 20
- 21 "that she is kept fully informed on this matter --22 including steps to be taken. I will lead on this.
- 23 "2) that she be sent a full set of proceedings (in 24 order) and a full set of correspondence ..."
- 25 You go on to say:

19

- 1 number 2 it says:
- 2 "Hugh James are currently trying to contain 3 an embryonic and not yet issued class action relating to 4 the Horizon [IT] system. A judgment in relation to it
 - (even a default) is currently very bad news for RM."
- 5
- 6 Presumably that's Royal Mail?
- 7 A. Royal Mail, POL; at that time they were the same entity.
- 8 So breaking that down, Hugh James are another firm of 9 solicitors?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. They are acting for Post Office in relation to what's
- 12 described here as a potential class action?
- 13 A.
- 14 Q. Can you recall what Mandy Talbot told you about this 15 potential class action?
- 16 A. No, because it's 18/19 years ago. I can go on, if you 17 want me to, to give you some colour.
- Well, yes, what was your understanding of the scale of 18 Q. 19 the action at this point?
- 20 A. I don't think I had an understanding at this point in
- 21 time. What I think was going on here was Mandy was
- 22 pretty peeved with the firm. We'd got a default
- 23 judgment against them, which -- for £250,000, which is
- 24 thoroughly bad news. Mandy -- as I said, I did interact
- 25 with Mandy periodically, I knew her reasonably well and

1 "As you know I would like a full set too please."

- 2 So you're envisaging a very hands-on role for 3 yourself, it seems, in this case.
- 4 We need to get that default judgment set aside.
- 5 Q. So that's getting the default judgment set aside. Was 6 it also because of wider concerns about a class action
- 7 that had been raised?
- A. At this point, I mean, it's a long time ago but, knowing 8 me because I know me, I will have been laser focused on 9
- 10 the default judgment, the mistake the firm had made, and
- 11 responding to the urgency that the client is putting
- 12 upon me. And so my concern, my irritation that's coming
- 13 across to my internal team here is saying "We're going
- 14 to get this default judgment set aside". That's what
- 15 I think is going on.
- Q. Well, if we look at (3), it says: 16
- "due to matters handled by Hugh James relating to 17 18 Horizon, Mandy asks that we speak to them to ensure we 19 are all pulling in the same direction. This is even 20 more important given the threatened class action."
- 21 You go on to say at (4) about not issuing 22 proceedings in a claim based on Horizon evidence without 23 her consent, and (5):
- 24 "... wants a report on how many Horizon based claims 25 we currently handle."

- 1 So you may be focused on the default judgment but 2 the class action was certainly playing a part in your --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- mind and work going forward?
- 5 A. Yes
- 6 Q. At that point, did you or anyone at Bond Dickinson have 7 a desire to become more involved in handling the wider
- 8 potential class action? 9 A. I don't believe so, not at that point.
- 10 Q. Could we look, please, at POL00070480. This is
- an attendance note dated 23 November 2005. We see on 11
- 12 the left in the second tramlines, it says "Name: Stephen
- 13 Dilley", and it says:
- 14 "I had a telephone conference with Tom Beezer and 15 Mandy Talbot."
- 16 So this is Stephen Dilley's note of that?
- 17 Α.
- Would you have seen that at the time or not? 18
- 19 A. No. I have seen it since.
- 20 Q. So, at this stage, default judgment hadn't been set
- 21 aside?
- 22 Α. No.
- 23 Q. If you just read, as best you -- well, as much as you
- 24 need, points 1 to 5, would you agree those are all about
- 25 the substance of the case and not the default judgment?
- 1 Q. -- and serve that as part of the --
- 2 A. I think that's what happens. If I'm wrong, I'm really
- 3 sorry but I think that's what's happened.
- Q. We then have point 6 about recommendations for counsel: 5 Richard Morgan, now Richard Morgan KC, who we know came
- 6 on to be counsel in this case.
- 7 A. Yes.

- 8 Q. At 7, referring to Mandy Talbot, and you say there that
- 9 is to attend a hearing on 6 December. Now, that's not
- 10 a hearing for the default judgment application to be
- heard, was it, because it was still being prepared at 11
- 12 this point?
- 13 A. I don't know but there is a file note on the file that
- 14 I read in preparing for hearing this that that hearing
- 15 gets vacated. I don't know what it is. Maybe you do,
- I don't know. 16
- 17 Q. Then as we carry on, if we go down, Mandy Talbot asked
- a question at the meeting on Friday to ask whether 18
- rebooting the system will change the cash accounts, and 19
- 20 then asked for a copy of the expert reports.
- 21 Would you accept that the conversation -- I know you 22 said this is about default judgment and preparation for

23

- 23 default judgment but it's also forward looking to the
- 24 substance of the case as a whole.
- 25 A. I -- yes, I suspect, yeah, I -- I think I agree with you

- A. No, I wouldn't agree with that, because -- do you want 1 2 me to say why?
- 3 Q. Yes, please do.
- 4 A. So the witness statements at (3), John Jones, Helen
- Hollingsworth and Cath Oglesby, were the set aside 5
- 6 witness statements, I think. You've got to remember
- 7 we're going back 18 years here. I think those were the
- 8 witness statements in support of the set aside
- 9 application and so I think, in these early stages -- so
- 10 the question was: do all five relate only to the forward
- 11 facing actions in the case? The answer to that is no.
- 12 I think some probably do.
- 13 Q. So as I understand what you're saying is the --
- 14 admittedly it is a long time ago --
- 15 A. A long time.
- 16 Q. -- but, presumably for the purpose of overcoming the
- 17 merits test of setting aside a default judgment, rather
- 18 than simply putting the solicitor's witness statement,
- 19 your evidence is that you're going to obtain witness
- 20 evidence of fact --
- 21 A. Yes.
- -- from the actual witnesses --22 Q.
- 23
- 24 Q. -- in the substantive case --
- 25 Δ Yes

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- 1 but what I think is going on here is Mandy and me
- 2 desperately trying to get up to speed. I think my first
- 3 substantive involvement is on 21 November, I think. when
- 4 I sent that note that you've shown me to Bob Heckford
- 5 after my first conversation with Mandy, when she told me
- 6 off. Mandy then says, "I want a full set of papers";
- 7 I say, "I want the same".

8 We've had a call with Stephen, I think it's 9 certainly in part -- and I probably would say in large 10 part -- about understanding what we can know with two days' worth of exposure to this case about the merits.

11 12 At 3 we have the witness statements that I think are

13 going to be prepared to support the set aside

14 application and, at 9, we're talking here about

15 Mr Castleton's expert reports.

16 It was the Bentley Jennison one and the White 17 Hoggard or something like that, that had come in in 18 September before my involvement, I believe, and they 19 must have been mentioned on this call. So Mandy is 20 asking here for those expert reports that Mr Castleton 21 sent on a without-prejudice basis. We didn't have any 22 expert reports at this point.

- 23 Q. Before we turn the page, was it your usual practice in 24 making an application to set aside default judgment to
- 25 lead witness evidence from some or all of the witnesses

- 1 you actually intended to call in the litigation, rather
- 2 than simply rely on a solicitor's witness statement?
- 3 A. I'm going to say something that I don't mean to be
 - jocular: I hope I don't have a usual practice in setting
- 5 aside default judgments but, at this distance, I don't
- 6 know, I just don't know. But this was our mistake, and
- 7 and me being the way I'm wired, the kitchen sink was
- 8 going to go at this to get that default judgment set
- 9 aside for what was an important client of our firm.
- 10 Q. If we can turn the page, please, it says:

"Tom made it clear that we were to get counsel involved at an early stage as [Bond Pearce] were picking up the tab for rectifying the default judgment and he

14 wanted to go for a sledge-hammer approach."

Do you recall using the term "a sledge-hammer approach"?

17 A. Not at all.

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- 18 Q. Is it wording you would use?
- 19 A. In that circumstance, probably.
- 20 What do you mean by that?
- 21 A. I mean my firm has made a mistake and, as a partner of
- 22 my firm, I'm going to get that mistake rectified.
- 23 Q. Did the sledgehammer approach go to the overall conduct
- 24 of the case, not just the default judgment?
- 25 Α. Not at all, and I've pondered that and I can answer that
- 1 attempts at settlement and there was no desire for 2 litigation.
- 3 Q. Well, let's just look at this point. You're told at
- 4 this point that there's a potential class action in the
- 5 background; in your own words in the email before
- 6 a default judgment was "very bad news"?
- 7 A. Very bad news.
- 8 Q. I assume that, at this stage, Post Office or Mandy
- 9 Talbot was saying that the Horizon system is -- has --
- 10 it's an -- sorry. Was Mandy Talbot saying to you that
- there were any difficulties or problems with the Horizon 11
- 12 IT System?
- 13 Α. Not at all.
- 14 Q. Presumably, Post Office wished to defend any class
- action at this stage? 15
- 16 A. Yes, I assume.
- Q. In this conference, it appears that you do touch on the 17
- 18 merits of the case?
- 19 A. Yes, because we are collating evidence to put in, in
- 20 support of the set aside.
- 21 Q. So standing back from all that, in that context, is it
- 22 really your evidence that the sledgehammer approach was
- 23 purely limited to the default judgment or to dealing
- 24 with these Horizon claims generally?
- 25 It is my evidence that it was purely limited to default Α. 27

- 1 more fully if you'd like me to.
- 2 Q. Please do.

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- 3 A. We can see from later emails that maybe we will go to,
 - that, after the default judgment is set aside, there is
- a definite pause and "What shall we now do", both with 5
- 6 Mandy and from the Bond Pearce side. So, once the case
- 7 is regularised, what shall we now do to take this
- 8 forward? And so the sledgehammer approach or the
- 9 kitchen sink approach isn't a comment about the action
- 10 in general and, in fact, it's worth just remembering
- 11 that, in November 2005, Stephen Dilley had already
- 12 suggested mediation to Mr Castleton's lawyers and, in
- 13 January 2006, before the default judgment was set
- 14 aside -- I think that's right, in terms of timeline --
- 15 a Part 36 offer had already been made. The offer of
- 16 mediation was rejected the very next day by
- 17 Mr Castleton's lawyers back in November 2005.

So there wasn't a set plan to have litigation here at all. There was a set plan in my mind to get rid of a default judgment, absolutely, yes. But sledgehammer, call it what you will, I was going to do everything that I could to rectify my firm's mistake for my client. But there was definitely post-post-set aside of default

23 24 judgment, which happened by consent, but quite late in

25 the day. There was a step back and reflect, further

- 1 judgment. I'm absolutely sure of that.
- 2 Q. Could we look at, please, POL00119895. This is
- 3 a document that was sent to you relatively recently by
- 4 the Inquiry.
- 5 A. It was.
- 6 Q. It's a note of a meeting this Inquiry has seen on
- 7 numerous occasions. My understanding is the attendance
- list, there's no one from Bond Pearce on that list; is 8
- 9 that correct?
- A. That's what it shows to me. I hadn't seen this document 10
- 11 before and I hadn't seen it come up in the Inquiry. It
- 12 was a new document to me completely when you sent it to
- 13
- 14 Q. I appreciate at this distance: can you recall Mandy
- 15 Talbot referring to a meeting such as this to discuss
- 16 Post Office's approach to cases that involve challenges
- 17 to the integrity of Horizon?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. If we turn to page 3, please, we see paragraph 14
- 20 there's a reference to Mr Castleton's case, scheduled
- 21 for 7 February. Your evidence is that, at this stage,
- 22 you weren't consulted, in respect of Mr Castleton's
- 23 case, about it being part of this broader strategy
- 24 meeting?
- 25 A. No, this is -- when is this, 2006?

- 2005, sorry. 1 Q.
- 2 A. 2005?
- 3 Q. 6 December 2005, so shortly after the conference note we 4 just --
- 5 A. So this is Mandy saying, on 7 February 2006, because the
- 6 date is not there, is it, so -- because this is December
- 7 2005.
- 8 Yes, it'll be --Q.
- 9 A. So that must be something to do with --
- 10 Q. I think it's a case management conference?
- A. Was it, or is it to do with the set aside? Anyway. 11
- Nothing turns on it. 12
- 13 Q. Your evidence is that you cannot recall being consulted
- 14 about this meeting?
- 15 Α.
- 16 Q. Thank you. Can we turn, please, to POL00070910. If you
- 17 could turn to page 3, please, that's perfect. Thank
- 18 you.
- 19 So now, further on in the chronology, this is
- 20 an email from Stephen Dilley to Mandy Talbot with you in
- copy on 20 February 2006. If we look at number 1, it 21
- 22 says:
- 23 "[Post Office's] view of pursuing the claim in the
- 24 light of the favourable evidence from John Jones, Cath
- 25 Oglesby and Helen Rose ..."
- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. -- which is suggesting pursue the claim --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- and, on the other hand, balanced against that, or not
- 5 pursuing it, are broader concerns over Horizon issues?
- 6 A. Yes, it says that but I can't be put that into context
- 7 for you.
- 8 Q. You can't recall because, obviously, you were dealing
- 9 with this case to provide reassurance to Post Office?
- 10 A.
- Q. You presumably discussed it with Mandy Talbot since 11
- 12 November --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- and February?
- 15 A. Absolutely.
- Q. Can you recall being told anything about concerns about 16
- 17 Horizon issues, broader concerns about Horizon issues,
- 18 which would, in your view, lean the Post Office in
- favour of not pursuing Mr Castleton? 19
- 20 A. No, I know Mandy Talbot was concerned that there was
- 21 a case that was an issued case that had a counterclaim
- 22 for £250,000 that had a challenge to Horizon in the
- 23 defence, and so that might be the broader concern. She
- 24 was absolutely concerned about that. But that's against
- 25 the background of my understanding and I believe Mandy's

- 1 So causing there, those are witness statements in 2 relation to Mr Castleton's case in particular --
- 3 A. And they were the ones in support of the set aside 4 application.
- Mr Dilley's view is that's in favour, in effect, of 5 6 pursuing the claim against Mr Castleton?
- 7 Yes. He's saying -- I mean, the Inquiry has heard from
- 8 Mr Dilley already but my understanding from reading the
- 9 file is his view of the merits of the case improved in
- 10 the collation of the evidence for the set aside, and
- 11 what he's saying here is, in his view, there's
- favourable evidence from those three witness statements 12
- 13 that was got in support of the set-aside application so
- 14 I think his view -- my reading of the file -- improved
- 15 on the merits of the case.
- 16 Q. He says:

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- "... balanced against any broader concerns over
- Horizon issues ..." 18
- 19 Is that talking about the potential class action?
- 20 A. I suppose the straight bat answer is I don't know what 21
 - was in his mind but that may be. That may be.
- 22 Sorry, I'm not asking you about what's in his mind. Let
- 23 me rephrase it in another way. At this point, reading
- 24 this, do you suggest that, on the one hand, there's the
- 25 evidence in the case --

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- 1 understanding that Horizon was robust, to use a word 2
- that we've heard many times.
- 3 Q. Can we turn to page 1, then, please. This is Stephen 4 Dilley to Julian Summerhayes on 24 February and says:
 - "Since my last email, I have spoken to Mandy to agree the strategy moving forward."
- 7 Do you recall if you were involved in that
- 8 conversation as well?
- 9 A. I don't know.
- Q. "Internally, the [Post Office] feel conflicted about the 10
- Castleton case. The [Post Office] believes to be the 11
- 12 Horizon system is robust but the downside is the cost
- (in [Post Office] time and money) of proving a negative 13
- 14 (ie that there are no faults) is expensive."
 - It goes on at (2):
- 16 "However, her view is that the [Post Office] must
- not show any weakness and, even if this case will cost 18 a lot, there are broader issues at stake other than just
- 19
- Castleton's claim: if the [Post Office] are seen to
- 20 compromise on Castleton, then 'the whole system will
- 21 come crashing down' ie it will egg on other
- 22 subpostmasters to issue speculative claims. She knows
- 23 that Castleton is talking to Bajaj (the other
- 24 subpostmaster bringing a Horizon based claim). Her
- 25 clear message is that we must be seen to take a firm

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line. With this in mind, our instructions are asfollows ..."

Can you recall if, at this point, you thought there was a change in approach to Castleton based on wider concerns to do with Horizon, from -- I should say, sorry, change in approach from Post Office?

- sorry, change in approach from Post Office?

 A. No, no, and so we tried to mediate in November, we'd issued the Part 36 in January 2006 and there were -- absolutely right, Mandy had broader concerns, as is displayed quite clearly here. But once a case is issued and once a counterclaim is issued, you can't get rid of it unless you settle it or unilaterally walk away.
- 13 Q. I think we're talking at cross purposes. So, in the
 14 first email from Stephen Dilley, we had, on the one hand
 15 the evidence in the case from the witness statements was suggesting go ahead --
- 17 A. Yes.

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- 18 Q. -- and, in his view, on the other hand, broader Horizonconcerns --
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. -- saying try to settle it?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 **Q.** Here we have an email saying, well, actually, at number 2, the broader concerns is a reason to pursue the

case, even if it costs a lot. Was that a change in

- 1 counterclaim. What do we do? We've got to get rid of 2 this. We've got to try to settle it.
- Q. If someone is trying to simply settle a case, just
 because, for the reasons I think you said earlier,
 publicity or whatever it might be, you adopt a different
 litigation strategy to those types of cases, than you do
 to, for example, a test case where you're trying to make
- 8 a point irrespective of the cost. Would you accept9 that?
- 9 that?
- 10 A. As a proposition, yes, I would accept that, I think --11 I think.
- 12 Q. So, in this case, are we seeing here a change from your
 13 firm thinking this may be a case to settle to, "Well,
 14 now we're going to litigate it and treat it as a test
 15 case"?
- 16 **A.** We tried to settle it throughout, all the way through.
- 17 The Inquiry has Stephen Dilley's long witness statement
- and I can picture the table in it that sets out every
- 19 attempt at settlement. Post Office wanted to settle
- 20 this case. The counterclaim, the £250,000 counterclaim
- 21 that sat there as a poison pill was only stepped away
- from and dropped to about £11,000 on 7 November 2006,
- and that was about a month before trial, and so that was
- 24 held on to all the way through, which created huge
- 25 problems: how do we get rid of this? Mr Castleton held

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1 position from Post Office?

A. I don't read it as that. They're sort of veins of
 thought that go through this difficult situation. We
 have some issue proceedings. You can't magic them out
 of existence. Unless you settle it, which of course
 is -- it needs consent of both parties or unless you
 unilaterally discontinue -- pay the costs -- you're
 still left with the counterclaim of £250,000.

This is a difficult situation that the Post Office has become locked into and, in fact, if we read on, the very next step, "With this in mind, our instructions are as follows: Please can you draft a Part 18 request", now that Part 18 request was March 2006 and was, I think, completely directed at what is the problem, what's the defence, what is the allegation over Horizon, because we didn't know. We wanted further information. We weren't trying to avoid engaging with that in any way. We actually wanted that information. So the very next thing Mandy says is "Go and get information. Let's try and get some clarity here".

We wanted to move this case forward. It's a problem. We as a firm have had a default judgment entered against our client. That's now sorted. That still lurks in this case as a sensitivity. There are issued proceedings. There's a vastly inflated

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- on to that overinflated counterclaim, which I think actually sat in the hands of a company, really, if one
- 3 looks at legal entities.
- Q. Well, we have your evidence on that. Let's look at how
 the strategy developed in those months, in March. Can
- we look at POL00071202, please. Can we turn to page 9.
 I think this is a hard copy document, which is why it's
- 8 presented like this, but we see there's an email, top
- 9 left, from Mandy Talbot, is date is 1 March 2006.
- There's Post Office addressees there and then, in the cc list, this has been sent to you and Stephen Dilley?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 **Q.** It says:

"I write further to the meeting in December 2005
which most of us attended to bring you up to date with
the current state of play."

17 I think that refers to the note we showed earlier 18 but you weren't in attendance at?

- 19 **A.** No.
- 20 Q. Do you recall receiving this email?
- A. No, I don't think -- I only saw this very recently when
 the Inquiry sent it to me. So it's a new one to me,
- other than it was sent to me 18 years ago. I've only
- 24 seen it recently.
- 25 Q. Can we look at, then, page 6, please. This is further

on in the chain, it appears to have been printed by 1 1 earlier, dealing with what was described as the 2 2 Stephen Dilley at the top -embryonic class action. So was this conference to deal 3 3 A. with strategy or consistent strategy on how to deal with Yes. 4 4 Q. -- from Mandy Talbot to him and you. If we go down, Horizon related claims? 5 please, to where it says, "Both", it says: A. I think this is the call that Mandy has asked the two 5 6 "I copied you into my epic email on 1 March 2006 but 6 firms to have. I think that's what's going on. What 7 the response to the same has been limited in the 7 date is this? 8 Q. 7 April 2006. extreme." 8 9 It goes on to say: 9 A. Mandy wanted there to be some interaction between the 10 "I have also been contacted by John Cole asking for 10 two firms in dealing with cases of a similar nature. 11 assistance in preparing a spec for an external expert or 11 That's absolutely right. 12 experts but I think that this is of limited use until we 12 Q. So it refers to a discussion between you, Stephen Dilley 13 have reports completed by Fujitsu on the system and [the 13 and Ian Herbert, before Mandy Talbot joined. It 14 Post Office] on the data provided. However in respect 14 referred to Post Office having: 15 of an external expert from the field of computer systems 15 "... difficulty obtaining information from Fujitsu 16 and accounting can you suggest any names or firm who may 16 and that the strategy should be to identify key 17 be suitable?" 17 individuals at Fujitsu who could provide the relevant 18 18 Can you recall at this time being involved or information we require in terms of evidence and then for 19 instructed by Post Office to find an expert to assist 19 Stephen Dilley of Bond Pearce and Ian Herbert of Hugh 20 with Horizon claims generally, not just in relation to 20 James to make an appointment to visit those individuals 21 Mr Castleton? 21 ... to take Proofs of Evidence. Each solicitor could 22 22 A. prepare witness statements for their respective cases 23 Q. Can we please bring up POL00070850. This is 23 for Fujitsu to sign, thereby making it easy for them." 24 24 a conference note on 7 April 2006. You're in attendance In broad terms, was this proposition here to get 25 and Ian Herbert of Hugh James, the firm we heard from 25 evidence of fact from Fujitsu witnesses? 38 1 A. I'm not sure because I think, at the early stage of the 1 Fujitsu's evidence first because then we will be able to 2 Castleton case -- and I'm going to class April as 2 focus the independent expert's report (which [the Post 3 an early stage -- I think there was a -- there's 3 Office] will need to pay for) on relevant issues." 4 a letter that Stephen wrote to Fujitsu in the early 4 Then it goes on to refer to more generic issues of 5 stages that suggests they might give an expert report. 5 negotiation between Slaughter and May relating to the 6 Now, with hindsight, that's misconceived because Fujitsu 6 Horizon Online contract. 7 7 is too close to be an independent expert, so --Now, where you're talking about a separate 8 Q. Just pausing there, you say "with hindsight", if you 8 independent expert report here and it says, "We will 9 need to obtain", is that across the board as look at the fourth paragraph, it says: 9 10 10 "Tom Beezer explained that if Fujitsu were not going an independent expert report, generic report, going to 11 11 to put forward an expert, we would need to take Fujitsu the integrity of Horizon? 12 through questions we have for them." No. I don't believe that. That's a new concept on me. 12 13 Α. Okay, so I have already got there: they're not going to 13 So, with 18 years passing, it's hard to be absolutely 14 be an independent expert. Okay, that's right, but there 14 definitive but at no point have I ever thought we would 15 had been a notion early in this case that Fujitsu could 15 get a one-size-fits-all. I don't believe I ever thought 16 16 that. I think the "we" here in Stephen Dilley's note --

be a Part 35 expert and I think that was misconceived and I've clearly got to that place here. So, yes, that must have been attending to get witness statements of

fact from Fujitsu.

20 Q. So it says:

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"The information we get from Fujitsu will not be an independent expert report ..."

It says:

"We will need to obtain a separate independent report as well, but this will be easier if we have 39

17 remember it's his note -- is us, Womble Bond, not 18 a joint -- I believe that's right.

19 Were you involved in -- because you obviously had client Q. 20 care responsibilities in oversight?

21 **A**.

22 Q. Were you involved in discussing evidence in the 23 Castleton case with any representatives of Fujitsu?

24 A. Me?

25 Q. Yes.

- A. 1 Nο
- 2 Q. Were you involved in discussions with any representative
- 3 of Fujitsu about the Horizon IT system generally?
- 4 A. Before preparing for this Inquiry, I would have said no.
- 5 I see from the file I did attend a meeting at counsel's
- 6 chambers where Anne Chambers was present and there must
- 7 have been a discussion but, before preparing for this
- 8 event, I would have denied that even took place. So
- 9 I've got no memory of it. I clearly met Anne Chambers
- 10 once. I don't believe I ever spoke to anybody from
- Fujitsu at any other time. 11
- 12 Just on that, so I cover this off, I take it from your Q.
- 13 evidence that if were to ask you any questions about
- 14 a meeting with Anne Chambers you would simply point me
- 15 to the attendance note of that?
- 16 A. I would.

- 17 Q. Could we look at one of the draft --
- 18 Actually, sir, looking at the time it may be a good
- 19 time to take our first morning break.
- **SIR WYN WILLIAMS**: (Microphone muted) 21 MR STEVENS: Sir, I think you're on mute, I think.
- 22 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: How much longer have we got on
- 23 Mr Castleton?
- MR STEVENS: Not very long at all. 24
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, let's finish Mr Castleton and then

- 1 double entry is not being put through."
- 2 You say in your witness statement that you were
- 3 initially concerned by this?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Why were you concerned?
- A. Because if there is a problem with the system, that is 6
- 7 concerning in the case.
- 8 Q. These are small numbers.
- 9 A. Yes.
- But the fact that Horizon wasn't adding transactions or 10 Q.
- 11 the allegation appears to be that double entry
- 12 accounting wasn't being put through, that's quite
- 13 a significant issue for Horizon integrity altogether,
- 14 isn't it?
- A. It would be. 15
- Q. Can we look at POL00069612. This is a note of 16
- 17 a telephone call on 6 September 2006, so two days after
- 18 that report has been received. Again, I understand this
- 19 is Stephen Dilley's note?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. It refers to a conversation with you and says:
- 22 "Also Tom [expressed] his concerns that the expert
- 23 said that they found some early indications of possible 24 problems ..."
- 25 It refers to the problem we've just described. It

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we'll have a break. 1

MR STEVENS: Of course. Can we look at POL00081490 008. 2

- This a letter of 5 September 2006 to Stephen Dilley from 3
 - Michael Mason of BDO Stoy Hayward LLP. They had been
- 5 instructed to provide expert evidence subsequently not
- 6 relied on in the proceedings.
- 7 Α. Yes

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8 Q. Yes. Can we turn to page 3, please, and if we could go 9 to the bottom, please. Under "Early indications of 10 problems with the Horizon system", it says:

> "We have found that there is some indication of possible problems with Horizon from our initial review of the electronic information you sent us. You sent the transaction summaries for January, February and March 2004. In theory the system should reflect the double entry nature of each transaction, eg the system should show the sale of a stamp and the receipt of the cash paid by the customer. Therefore the Horizon transaction entries for a period (whether day or month) should total zero. From our initial review we can see that March balances but January is out by £2.47 and February by £4.05. We have found which transactions cause the differences and will investigate them in due course. Although these are very small amounts they do

indicate that some problems may exist, ie that the

savs:

"My comment to Tom is that I thought those amounts were quite small and that there will probably turn out to be a rational explanation because I have met with Fujitsu and they are utterly convinced of the integrity of their system and really it is just an electronic calculator so it is only as good as the person who inputs information into it."

Did that assuage your concerns at the time?

- A. To a degree. We've got to remember the 5 September 10
- 11 letter 2006 from BDO was their initial letter; they
- 12 hadn't done their work; they hadn't prepared a report.
- 13 It was more than a passing comment but it wasn't their
- 14 concluded view. They had yet to do their work and so,
- 15 in this case, as you may know if you've looked into the
- 16 history of it, there were lots of blind alleys and lots
- 17 of issues that were chased down unbelievably diligently
- 18 by Stephen Dilley, for example the Greg Booth
- 19 screen-freezing issue.
- 20 Q. Well, let's focus on this one?
- 21 Yeah, for sure, but what I'm saying is we chased down
- 22 issue, after issue, after issue. We were diligent and
- 23 forensic. This was a comment from BDO before they'd
- 24 done any work and it's against that background that
- 25 I would have been thinking about these things.

- 1 Q. Well, let's assume this analogy or comparison with
- 2 Horizon being an electronic calculator, let's be
- 3 favourable to Mr Dilley and assume that's accurate.
- 4 Would you agree that for an electronic calculator to be
- 5 fit for purpose, it should be able to add up numbers
- 6 accurately?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. So the fact that addition errors were potentially found
- 9 by BDO, Mr Dilley's point about it being an electronic
- 10 calculator doesn't really take anything anywhere, does
- 11 it?
- 12 A. I think you're probably reading too much into
- an internal filenote but I agree with you: an electronic
- 14 calculator would have to work.
- 15 Q. If we look at the third paragraph, it says:
- 16 "Agreeing with Tom that the strategy should be that
- we pick up the phone to Lee Castleton's solicitors,point out to them that Castleton has made an error
- analysing the cash account ... tell them what our
- 20 accountancy expert alone is going to cost and invite
- 21 them to ADR before we instruct an expert."
- 22 Was this a strategy to try to dissuade Mr Castleton
- from obtaining expert evidence on the basis of how much
- 24 it would cost?
- 25 A. No, we wanted to understand the defence being put.
 - 45
- 1 A. It does.

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- 2 Q. Over the page, 6.2.4:
 - "I do not have an explanation for these errors but my review of the transaction listings for the three months has given no indication of any other errors."
 - Can we then go to page 4, please, and paragraph 2.1.2(a), summarising the conclusion:
 - "The only indications of possible computer problems that are apparent from the accounting records are three very small differences in the cash account (trial
- balance) but each are less than £5. This is discussed in section 6.2."
- So you get the draft report on 29 November and this addition issue is still raised?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. So the problem is still there. It's possible or it's at
- 17 least raised that Horizon in this case wasn't
- implementing double entry bookkeeping?
- 19 A. It's possible.
- 20 $\,$ Q. Did you discuss the BDO report with anyone at Post
- 21 Office?
- 22 A. I don't remember but I suspect the answer is yes.
- 23 Q. Who would you have discussed it with?
- 24 A. Mandy Talbot.
- 25 Q. Anyone else?

- 1 There was a real desire to get information from
- 2 Mr Castleton. We'd Part 18ed in March 2006 on exactly
- 3 that point, to try and get information.
- 4 Q. Well, let's focus here though, you'd received
- 5 an additional letter from an expert that raises
- 6 potential problems and the immediate response appears to
- 7 be to raise the costs of an expert and go to ADR. Was
- 8 it actually the strategy that you didn't want to dig any
- 9 further into --
- 10 A. Not at all.
- 11 Q. -- into what BDO had found?
- 12 A. Not at all. Not at all.
- 13 Q. Can we look at the draft report, this will be the last
- 14 question we ask on this. POL00069955, please. This is
- a draft report dated 29 November 2006.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Did you receive this?
- 18 A. Yes, I will have done.
- 19 Q. Would you have reviewed it?
- 20 A. At a high level, given the circumstances and the
- 21 imminence of the trial, but yes, I will have looked at
- 22 it yes.
- 23 Q. Can we turn to page 18, please, and if we could go down
- to 6.2. We see "Addition errors", and it refers to the
- 25 same addition errors as before.

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- 1 A. I doubt it. No, I would have been speaking only to
 - Mandy at this time.
- 3 Q. Did you discuss the BDO report with anyone at Bond
- 4 Pearce?

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- 5 A. Stephen Dilley.
- 6 Q. After the Castleton case had come to an end, did you
- 7 speak about the BDO report with anyone at Bond Pearce or
- 8 Womble Bond Dickinson?
- 9 A. No. So that BDO report, just to give you some context
- 10 around it, contained one huge glaring error that I knew
- about, which has become called the 3,500 point, that was
- 12 a glaring error, and that BDO report was a draft report.
- 13 It was dreadfully late. It was after all evidence --
- 14 expert evidence has been debarred. It had a huge error
- in it and it was six days before trial.
- There was no time to have the normal toing and
- froing that would happen on a draft expert report tobottom out issues. I simply don't know what would ever
- 19 have happened to those small addition errors, as to
- whether they would have remained in that report or not,
- 21 but no work was done to find out because it was
- 22 pointless. The report was privileged, there was no time
- 23 to do it. I'd lost confidence in the report, because it
- 24 had a huge error in it already, the duplication error,
- 25 the 3,500 point, and we were debarred by the order of

- 1 Mr Justice Seymour QC (sic) on 27 November, at which 2 point we had still been wanting to try to get some
- 3 expert evidence in. We were not running away from
- 4 expert evidence at all. That expert report was meant to
- 5 be in reply to something Mr Castleton was meant to have
- 6 served on 10 November. He never served it, although we
- 7 know he had it because his solicitors told us, on
- 8 17 November, that he had an expert report but they were
- 9 not instructed to send it to us.
- 10 And so that draft document was meant to be
- 11 sequential. It was never meant to be a standalone
- document. It was late, it was debarred. It was wrong.
- 13 I know it was wrong, in huge degree, and so it was
- 14 debarred. We couldn't use it.
- 15 **Q.** You said you know it was wrong in huge degree. You're
- 16 referring to a point about £3,500 --
- 17 A. Yes --
- 18 Q. -- at trial and a balanced snapshot?
- 19 A. Something like that, yes.
- 20 Q. You didn't know that the addition errors raised -- their
- 21 position --
- 22 A. No, we didn't but there was no time to bottom out those
- 23 kind of issues as you would do with any normal expert
- 24 report.
- 25 $\,$ **Q.** At this stage, you were aware that Post Office was
 - 49
- 1 A. I just don't know.
- 2 MR STEVENS: Sir, that's a good time to break and we'll move
- 3 on to the recusal next.
- 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right, thank you very much. I make it
- 5 11.05. Do we need to be as limited as ten minutes,
- 6 given that we have just got one topic to cover before?
- 7 What's the timetable, Mr Stevens? Is Mr Lenton coming
- 8 in this afternoon or is he available before that, so to
- 9 speak?
- 10 MR STEVENS: I understand he's available before that.
- 11 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right, I see.
- 12 MR STEVENS: I'm in your hands, sir. I'm happy to take ten
- minutes or happy to take 15, whichever you prefer, but
- 14 I don't think we're pressed for time.
- 15 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. So let's take 15 minutes but it's
- on the basis that we might jiggle the day, so to speak.
- 17 We'll take 15 minutes and then, if we complete Mr Beezer
- 18 before 1.00, we'll make a decision about whether we
- 19 start Mr Lenton or have an early lunch then. All right?
- 20 MR STEVENS: Yes, sounds good. Thank you, sir.
- 21 (11.06 am)
- 22 (A short break)
- 23 (11.20 am)
- 24 MR STEVENS: Good morning, sir.
- 25 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Good morning.
 - 51

- 1 relying on Horizon data for civil and criminal claims?
- 2 A. Yes. Well, certainly civil. Certainly civil. I don't
- 3 know what they were doing in criminal claims.
- 4 Q. You were aware that there were other cases where
- 5 subpostmasters were challenging the integrity of the
- 6 Horizon IT System?
- 7 A. At a high level. I mean, I knew of them. I didn't know
- 8 any detail.
- 9 Q. You had a report that raised a potential issue with
- 10 double entry bookkeeping in the Horizon IT System?
- 11 **A.** Yes, but for all the reasons I've just been through it
- went one we were confident in.
- 13 $\,$ Q. But on the addition error, you couldn't say that was
- 14 an incorrect opinion?
- 15 A. Nor could I say it was correct but, yes, I agree with
- 16 you.
- 17 Q. Do you accept that it was incumbent on you to advise the
- 18 Post Office to investigate that issue further because
- 19 there were other -- it would have started a train of
- 20 inquiry as to whether the Horizon IT System lacked
- 21 integrity?
- 22 A. I don't know that I didn't say that, I don't remember.
- 23 I will have discussed it with Mandy.
- 24 Q. Let me ask you, is your evidence that you did advise
- 25 that or can you not remember?

- 1 MR STEVENS: On timetabling, I anticipate that we will
- 2 finish well in advance of 1.00. Whether we have
- 3 an early lunch or plough straight on, I think we'll need
- 4 to decide when the evidence is finished. I have spoken
- 5 to Ms Hodge and there's a couple of logistical matters
- 6 that need to be seen to.

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- 7 $\,$ SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. Whatever, Mr Stevens. All I'm
 - indicating is my willingness to be flexible in the way
- 9 we deal with these things.
- 10 MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir.
- 11 I will carry on, then. I want to turn to the
- 12 recusal application and, at this point, I'm going to
- make a point, almost word for word, that was made by
- 14 Mr Beer yesterday. The authoritative legal position in
- 15 relation to the issues addressed in the Group Litigation
- 16 are set out in the judgments of Mr Justice Fraser -- now

Lord Justice Fraser but, for historical purposes, I'll

- 18 refer to Mr Justice Fraser -- so, for the purpose of
- 19 your evidence, those judgments include the Common Issues
- judgment of 15 March 2019; the recusal judgment, 9 April
- 20 judgment of 15 March 2019, the recusal judgment, 9 Ap
- 21 2019; and, insofar as relevant, the Court of Appeal's
- decisions refusing permission to appeal those. I'm not going to be exploring the factual legal position
- 24 definitively established in Mr Justice Fraser and the
- 25 Court of Appeal's judgment.

- Α. Understood. 1
- 2 Q. You say in your witness statement that you were broadly
- 3 aware of the GLO proceedings but that you didn't have
- any material involvement until the recusal application? 4
- 5 Α.
- 6 Q. Now, this was Andrew Parsons' case, effectively, wasn't
- 7 it, the GLO proceedings?
- 8 Α.
- 9 Q. You hesitate there. Why wasn't it Andrew Parsons' case,
- 10 as solicitor?
- A. Yes, it was but there were other people involved -- the 11
- run in to the GLO was -- took some time and there were 12
- 13 other people involved. So was Andrew Parsons the lead
- 14 person? Yes, I think he was, if that's the question
- 15 you're asking.
- 16 Q. Yes, he was the partner with responsibility for the
- 17 conduct of the case?
- 18 A. Yes -- sorry, yeah, I was talking about a different
- 19 issue.
- 20 Q. In terms of the management structure of Womble Bond
- 21 Dickinson, during the currency of the Group Litigation,
- 22 where did Mr Parsons sit in relation to you?
- 23 A. So the Group Litigation started in 2016?
- 24 Q. It did, yes.
- 25 A. So I was a partner in the Southampton office. I was the
- 1 a huge surprise to the internal team at Womble Bond. So
- 2 the mood music about the Common Issues trial pre-8 March
- 3 was not negative.
- 4 Q. I take it from that that no concerns had been raised
- 5 with you about the impartiality, apparent or otherwise,
- 6 of the judge, before 8 March?
- 7 Α.
- 8 Q. In your second witness statement -- we don't need to
- 9 have it up but it's page 5, paragraph 9 -- you say:
- 10 "I understood from the Womble Bond Dickinson GLO
- 11 team that the draft Common Issues trial judgment was
- very unfavourable to Post Office, that the Womble Bond 12
- 13 Dickinson team and Post Office were dismayed by the
- 14
- outcome and that there was talk of a possible urgent
- 15
- 16 Who within Womble Bond Dickinson told you about the
- 17 Common Issues trial judgment?
- A. It would have been Andrew Parsons, Amy Prime, those kind 18
- of people. I can kind of picture them sitting, the 19
- 20 judgment on their knees, turning the pages getting more
- 21 and more distraught, as it were. So I can picture that.
- 22 It was --
- 23 Q. What did they say to you?
- 24 Oh, I don't know. I don't know in detail, "This isn't
- 25 good", "He's got that wrong", "Oh, my God", you know, 55

- 1 team leader of the Commercial Disputes Team and he was
- 2 a partner in the Commercial Disputes Team.
- 3 Q. Did you have any oversight of Andrew Parsons's work at 4 this stage?
- A. Not his work. I mean, I had oversight of the team and 5
- 6 the things going on the team but day-to-day work, no;
- 7 concern over day-to-day work, yes, absolutely. So I'm
- 8 not using that answer to try to step away from anything
- 9 but would I check another partner's work? No.
- 10 Q. For background, Mr Justice Fraser distributed a draft
- 11 judgment in common issues on 8 March 2019?
- A. 8 March, yes. 12
- 13 Q. The Horizon Issues trial was due to start on 11 March
- 14 2019?
- 15 A. Agreed.
- 16 Q. What had you heard from members of Womble Bond Dickinson
- 17 who worked on the GLO about how the GLO proceedings were
- 18 going, in effect, prior to the common issues draft
- 19 judgment being distributed?
- 20 A. I had heard positive -- I was going to say positive
- 21 signs. You can't hear a positive sign. The mood music
- 22 was okay. It wasn't -- if the question you're asking
- 23 is, from a management perspective, me, was this a case
- 24 that was flagging up as a difficulty pre-Common Issues
- 25 draft judgment, it was not, and so the judgment was
- 1 those kind of comments. But those aren't verbatim
 - quotes.

- 3 Q. When was the first time you were aware of the
- 4 proposition to issue or potentially issue an application
- 5 for an order that the judge recused himself?
- 6 A. So the first it was either the 11 or 12 March but which
- 7 one, I don't know. I was provided some papers on
- 8 11 March, I think in that tranche of papers was the
- David Cavender note on 10 March, I think, and I think 9
- 10 that included a paragraph on recusal so I'm going to say
- 11 11 March.
- 12 Q. I think in your witness statement you say -- we don't
- 13 need to have it up -- at paragraph 14, page 7, to the
- 14 best of your understanding, the idea of recusal came
- 15 from David Cavender KC?
- A. I think that's right. There's an email of 9 March, 16
- 17 where I think its first raised by him. I'm not copied
- 18 in on that, I'm not involved at that stage. But that,
- 19 to my knowledge, that's the first time in this matter --
- 20 reading in and preparing for this Inquiry, that's the
- 21 first time I've seen that the recusal is mentioned. 22 Q. You were brought in to assist on the recusal application
- 23 because the rest of the GLO team in Womble Bond
- 24 Dickinson were preparing for the Horizon Issues trial;
- 25 is that right?

- Yes, not all of them. Some were working on the further 1 Α.
- 2 issues trial. So a nucleus of the Womble Bond Dickinson
- 3 team absolutely was preparing for the Horizon because
- 4 8 March was a Friday, there was an intervening weekend,
- 5 the 11 was the Monday, when Horizon Issues trial
- 6 started. So there was no time at all in which to do
- 7 anything, hence me being brought in as a senior person
- 8 in a point of difficulty for the client with a judgment
- 9 that's gone against them.
- 10 Q. To what extent, if at all, do you think your lack of
- 11 familiarity with the GLO proceedings limited your
- ability to advise on the recusal application? 12
- 13 A. It must be a factor. I don't -- I did not have
- 14 familiarity with the GLO proceedings. That's absolutely
- 15 right. Was it an impediment? With what I was asked to
- 16 do rapidly, which is to get independent advice, it was
- 17 not an impediment to carrying out that instruction. As
- 18 I got more up to speed, I think comment was passed and
- 19 advice was given, although I have to say the client was
- 20 not after our advice, Womble Bond's advice, my advice.
- 21 They did not want that advice, they wanted new
- 22 voices -- you will have seen from the file, the phrase
- 23 "new voices" comes up quite a lot -- and independent 24
- advice. So it must be an impediment on hour zero 25 because I know nothing about it but, as we go forward
- 1 Neuberger equals insight?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. "Only 2 days off SA", and this is, presumably, the note
- 4 you took of the conversation at the time?
- 5 A. It will be scribbled notes. It's not verbatim, it's
- 6 scribbled notes. Obviously this was done out of habit
- 7 as a lawyer. This isn't a verbatim note but, yes, these
- 8 are my notes of that conversation.
- 9 Q. Was this the first conversation you had with Jane
- 10 MacLeod?
- A. There might have been an earlier one, if you tell me 11
- this is the first one I'll say yes to that but I can 12
- 13 picture one in blue ink that says "in-depth advice",
- 14 I thought that was the first conversation, but if you
- 15 tell me this is a later one.
- Q. Well, we'll come to another note. Let me rephrase my 16
- 17 question. On 12 March, was that the first time you'd
- 18 had some material conversation with Jane MacLeod?
- 19 Must have been. I've got documents on the 11th. I was
- 20 reading in on the 11th, trying to get up to speed and
- 21 the 12th is when I suspect I began to interact with
- 22
- 23 Q. Can you recall on this conversation, we see you're
- 24 talking about the instructing counsel --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 over the intense few days, I knew more. In any event,
- 2 what the client wanted from me was organisation and
- 3 logistics to get independent advice from, as it turned
- 4 out, Lord Neuberger, and then Lord Grabiner.
- 5 Q. I want to look at some of your early conversations with
- 6 Jane MacLeod in organising the recusal application. Can
- 7 we look at a conversation you had with her on 12 March
- 8 2019 and I want to bring up your handwritten note and
- 9 your transcript of it, just for ease. So can we have at
- 10 the same time, please, WBON0001734 and also WBON0001735.
- 11 Now, this is the first time -- we'll see a few of
- 12 these. We'll see this is a handwritten note, this is
- 13 taken from a notebook of yours --
- 14 A.
- 15 Q. -- and there are parts which are covered out in yellow,
- 16 which are redacted and the Inquiry understand that those
- 17 have been redacted for either privilege or relevance
- 18 reasons.

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- 19 A. Agreed. And the redaction, I should say, is nothing to
- 20 do with Post Office. It'll be other clients or -- so
- 21 none of the redactions at all relate to Post Office.
- 22 Just so that's an issue we cover off.
- 23 Q. Yes. So we see there 12 March 2019, it says "Jane
- 24 MacLeod" and then a redacted bit. Further down we then
- 25 kept, your note which says, "Neub = insight", presumably
 - Q. -- what, if anything, did Jane MacLeod say about her
- 2 view of whether the Post Office should bring a recusal
- 3 application at this stage?
- 4 A. I think they were interested in the concept of
- 5 an application but trepidatious. That's reconstructing
- 6 what I think was going on. This is some good few years
- 7 ago now. It was a topic that had to be investigated if
- 8 there was legal purpose in doing it. That's my
- 9
- impression.
- 10 Q. Did, at this stage, Jane MacLeod say anything about Post
- Office's motivation in investigating the recusal 11
- 12 application?
- 13 A. I don't know if it was in this conversation but my
- 14 impression -- one of the main planks of their
- 15 motivation, I think, was to get to a legally correct
- 16 Common Issues judgment. That's what I think was going
- 17 on. Whether that was said in this conversation or in
- 18 later conversations, I don't know. But that's my
- 19 impression of their motivations.
- 20 Q. So we'll come to the later conversations but, just
- 21 taking that there, on what basis did you form that
- 22 impression from why that was Jane MacLeod's motive?
- Because I suppose, and this me reconstructing, so on the 24 11th I'm reading in, there are two topics knocking
- 25 around. They're intertwined but not necessarily

intertwined, being appeal of Common Issues judgment and recusal, and the interconnection with those two topics is large parts of the Common Issues judgment was perceived to be wrong and perceived to be the judge, as we've heard from Lord Grabiner, had gone too far. The apparent bias point.

So in any early conversations with Jane, I must have been talking about why we're doing any of this. Why we're on this journey, to look at appealing, to look at recusing the judge.

- Q. You say then "Neuberger = insight, only 2 days off SA",
 and then it says "can assist but not be briefed in
 person". What does that mean, "Can assist but not be
 briefed in person"?
- A. He either had gone, or was about to go, I don't know, to
 what we now know to be South America, Argentina, but at
 times we thought was South Africa.
- 18 Q. So that's referring to whether or not he could attend inperson?
- 20 A. Yes.

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- 21 Q. Thank you.
- 22 A. Yes, face to face.
- Q. Could we please then turn to WBON0001739. So this isyour email to Andrew Parsons and Amy Prime --
- 25 A. Yeah.

61

- 1 like a recusal, you've got to get on with it, especially 2 with the Horizon Issues trial under way. This is urgent 3 and I remember being frustrated that -- I simply wanted 4 to know who we were instructing and to get on with it. 5 And there was prevarication about who to instruct and 6 I remember being really quite frustrated by that, and 7 I wanted, personally, to instruct -- and we might come 8 on to these topics later -- the advocate who could do 9 the advocacy, the barrister who could do the advocacy. 10 This two-staged approach, whilst, with hindsight, makes 11 sense, at the time it frustrated me because it's a time 12 impediment as to what I see as being urgent.
- impediment as to what I see as being urgent.
 Q. Just to be sure I've got your evidence right on this, your frustration is a decision on who to instruct. Was there any hesitancy from Ms MacLeod at this time as to whether or not Post Office should even investigate -A. No.
 Q. -- the recusal application?
 A. No. I don't believe so. I don't believe so. There
- 18 Q. -- the recusal application?
 19 A. No, I don't believe so. I don't believe so. There
 20 wasn't a dead set plan to do it, the Board were nervous
 21 but there was, I felt, some prevarication as to who to
 22 instruct and I just wanted to get on with it, to find
 23 out what the independent advice would say, yes/no, and
 24 so there wasn't a concrete plan of any sort at this
 25 point.

- Q. -- on 12 March at 8.23. You referred to a "Good chat
 with GC Jane", and just timing it, you see the third
 para down, you say:
- 4 "Issue I raised is inability to brief N QC ..."
 5 Presumably that's Lord Neuberger?
- 6 **A.** Yes.
- 7 **Q.** "... in person."
- 8 So do I take it that this email follows the note
- 9 that we just saw then?
- 10 A. Yes. Yes.
- 11 Q. It says:
- 12 "Think she begins to agree -- Grab."
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Is that referring to Lord Grabiner?
- 15 A. It is
- 16 Q. When you say, "Think she begins to agree", what is that17 referring to?
- 18 A. Instructing Lord Grabiner.
- 19 $\,$ **Q**. That reads almost like she needed to be persuaded into
- 20 it or she had a view and, you know, begins to agree to
- the instruction of Lord Grabiner. Why is it written in
- 22 that way?
- 23 A. What I think is going on here is this is on day two of
- 24 my involvement. I'm -- knowing how I'm wired, I'm
- 25 perceiving urgency. If you're going to do something
- 1 Q. Could we then turn, please, to WBON0001745. Fortunately
- 2 you've got a typed version, WBON0001747, on the same
- 3 screen, please. So this is a note on the 14 March 2019.
- 4 I'm going to work from the left one. It says, "Jane and
- 5 DCQC call", so that's Jane MacLeod and David Cavender?
- 6 A. Agreed.
- 7 Q. When it says, "CC Gideon" is that referring to Gideon8 Cohen?
- 9 A. Yes, but I don't know what the "CC" means because,
- 10 obviously, this wasn't a letter, so I don't know if he
- 11 was there or not. I've no idea.
- 12 Q. Briefly looking at the document on the right, we have
- 13 black pen and then blue pen. The blue pen, it sort of
- 14 fits around the text that's already been written in the
- 15 black. Are both entries made by you?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. Presumably, the blue pen is made later?
- 18 A. Maybe not. I have many pens, a slight fascination of
- mine, and multiple colours are habitual and changing pen
- 20 is a habit. So I can't say that that didn't happen on
- 21 that call.
- 22 $\,$ Q. If we look down, I'm looking at the left again, we see
- 23 halfway down two bullet points. It says, "Had LN note",
- 24 so that's referring to Lord Neuberger's note of advice,
- 25 I assume?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. So the call happens after that?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. It says, then "Stages: 1. What does POL want to do?",
- 5 and "3. [Post Office Limited] not able to make
- 6 a decision by 12 tomorrow".
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. At this call, do you recall if there was any discussion
- 9 of what the Post Office directors thought about whether
- or not they should bring in application for recusal?
- 11 A. At this point, no, but this -- you will see that this
- 12 builds into the narrative that I'm frustrated -- "What
- do you want to do?"
- 14 Q. Did you have any impression at this stage of the Board's
- 15 position?
- 16 A. 14th? No, I don't think I would have done.
- 17 Q. If we could go further down, please. Thank you. So at
- 18 the bottom, it says "Board call", presumably that's
- 19 referring to the need to set up a board call?
- 20 A. It will have been, yes.
- 21 Q. Now, help us with how this is structured, because we've
- got a second bullet point saying, "Real possibly Board
- 23 to speak Neuberger -- possible outcomes"?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 **Q.** Does that mean there's a real possibility that the Board
- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. It records, I assume, what she said, "Tom Cooper,
- 3 Chairman, setting up Board call [for] Monday night"?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. "Board to form a view"?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Do you recall whether anything else was said, at that
- 8 stage, on the Board's view or individual director's
- 9 views?
- 10 A. No, this is me, I think, probably, in that way lawyers
- do, jotting down bits of information, as they're given.
- 12 This is Jane MacLeod speaking to me, telling me things
- 13 and I'm scribbling them down out of habit.
- 14 Q. It says, "Tom C", so that's Tom Cooper?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Tom Cooper was a UKGI official?
- 17 A. I believe so.
- 18 Q. He was the Non-Executive Director appointed to represent
- 19 the Government Shareholding interest?
- 20 A. I believe so.
- 21 $\,$ Q. It says, "Tom [Cooper] will struggle to get this through
- 22 Shareholder". So in that, "shareholder" means
- 23 Government?
- 24 A. I think so, yes.
- 25 **Q.** Do you recall what Jane MacLeod said to you that led you 67

- 1 want to speak to Lord Neuberger about his advice?
- 2 A. I suspect this is Jane speaking, saying, well, to take
- 3 this forward, we're going to have to have a -- POL will
 - have to have a Board call. POL will need to take this
- 5 issue to the Government but -- that's little number 2 --
- 6 and there's a real possibility POL's Board will want to
- 7 speak to Lord Neuberger about possible outcomes. So
- 8 that -- my impression, as I sit here now, is that's me
- 9 capturing what Jane is saying.
- 10 Q. Okay. What was said at this stage, if you can recall,
- 11 about government's involvement in the decision to -- of
- 12 whether or not to issue the recusal application?
- 13 A. I think at this stage, Jane is saying, "I will need to
- 14 get the Government involved". I think that's all that's
- 15 going on at this stage.
- 16 Q. Could we --
- 17 A. This is the 14th, yeah?
- 18 Q. 14th, yes. We'll look at the next day now, please,
- 19 WBON0001749 and, at the same time, could we have
- 20 WBON0001752, please. So assuming that means telephone
- 21 call in --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- from Jane?
- 24 A. Yeah, she's called me.
- 25 Q. She's called you?

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- 1 to make this note?
- 2 A. I think that's what she will have said. This is me
- 3 scribbling down -- I will not have really known at this
- 4 point, who Tom Cooper was. I probably, had I turned my
- 5 mind to it, would have understood the ownership
- 6 structure but this is Jane saying things to me and me
- 7 writing them down.
- 8 Q. You've said that you were -- I think frustrated was the
- 9 word you used --
- 10 A. Yes
- 11 Q. -- it may not have been but it conveyed that meaning --
- 12 of getting a decision.
- 13 **A**. Yes
- 14 Q. This presumably, then, wasn't welcome news, if there's
- going to be a difficulty to get it through the
- 16 shareholder?
- 17 A. It's only unwelcome news if you're going to go for it.
- 18 If you're not going to go for it, it doesn't matter
- 19 either way.
- 20 $\,$ Q. Did you enquire as to why she formed that view that Tom
- 21 Cooper would struggle to get it thorough the
- 22 shareholder.
- 23 $\,$ A. No, the Post Office relations with the Government and
- 24 its shareholder, being the Government, were something
- 25 I didn't get involved in. We never had substantive

- 1 discussions about that, beyond these kind of, I suppose,
- 2 why is she telling me this? I suppose it's a timing
- 3 conversation this, isn't it? This is all about timing.
- 4 Q. Then it seems it refers to a brief note over the
- 5 weekend. That's a note to the Board that you assisted
- 6 in preparing to explain --
- 7 A. She is asking us. It became called -- she wanted
- 8 a plain English note, I think she called it. So I think
- 9 Jane is saying to me "I'm going to need a note over the
- 10 weekend for the Board", and that's indeed what happened.
- Yes. So this is about timing and steps on the way. 11
- 12 Q. I want to just cover the timing of the note a bit
- 13 because I think it's relevant to understanding how that
- 14 note was formed and what your instructions were. Can we
- 15 look, please, at WBON0001499 and page 4, please. Thank
- 16 you. If we could go down the page slightly. Thank you.
 - So your email to David Cavender and Andrew Parsons is included in copy, "See attached":
 - "I may be on Jane's wavelength -- I may not be ..."
- 20 So this is attaching your initial draft of that
- 21 note --
- 22 Α.

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- 23 Q. -- that she asked for. You said:
- 24 "... be as harsh as you like."
- 25 Α. Yes.

69

- 1 know there are competing views around the Board so 2 I don't want us looking fully partisan."
- 3 At that stage, what were you aware of the competing 4 thing views around the Board?
- 5 A. I don't remember and so, reading this, I must that have
- 6 known something to write it. I cannot recall what
- 7 I knew about competing views. I just don't know.
- 8 Q. Can you assist with this and if this is a fair reading
- 9 of that email: what you appear to be saying there is
- 10 your current feeling was not to expressly set out, "We
- 11 recommend you do this"?
- 12 Α.
- 13 Q. But your view was the substance of the note as
- 14 drafted --
- 15 A. Yeah.
- 16 **Q.** -- pushed them in a direction to recuse anyway?
- 17 A. Yes, because -- we mentioned earlier the interconnection
- 18 between the appeal on the law of the Common Issues
- 19 judgment and the connection with recusal, which is
- 20 driven by the procedural unfairness point. So if they
- 21 were going to go forward with a head of appeal based on
- 22 procedural unfairness, for reasons we might not need to
- 23 go into but you'll be aware of, that there had to be --
- 24 or it was felt at the time there had to be
- 25 an application to recuse.

- Q. You're inviting comments, basically? A. Yes.
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- 3 Q. If you go to the bottom of page 3, please.
- 4 A. I'm inviting comments because I'm aware of my paucity of
 - information and background on this. So I have broken
- 6 the back of -- everybody's busy, I thought I've broken
- 7 the back of this task and got something down on paper
- 8 and got it out to people to finesse.
- Q. Then it's Andrew Parsons's email to you, he attaches 9 10 another version. It says:
 - "Did Jane want us to offer a recommendation on whether to do this or not? It seems like we are sitting on the fence slightly, but sometimes she prefers that."
- 14 If we then go up to your response -- so just for 15 timing, that was Andrew Parsons sent at 11.50 pm on the 16 15th; your response is just before 4.00 in the
- 17 morning --
- 18 It was a busy time.
- 19 -- on the 16th. You refer to the drafting and then you 20
- 21 "As to recommendations ... I am unsure. My current 22 feeling is we simply set matters out and then let [Post 23 Office] Board discuss rather than pushing them one way 24 (which the note already does to be fair, as it has to as 25 we have to point out the 'inconsistency' risk etc) as we

- 1 And so that's what I mean by the inconsistency 2 point. If you appeal on procedural unfairness but don't
- 3 try and recuse, the Court of Appeal may later say, well,
- 4 that's an inconsistent position to adopt. That's what
- 5 the inconsistency phrase is there. And I am saying, 6 because I know that Jane wants independent advice,
- 7 I know that she doesn't want our advice, hence me
- 8 drafting a neutral note, but it does have to push them
- 9 one way, because, if they do want to go down the route
- 10 of procedural unfairness, it's inevitable that you have
- 11 to promote the concept of a recusal.
- 12 If you could turn to page 1, please. So this is David
- 13 Cavender's email to you and Andrew Parsons. It's at 14 11.05 on 16 March, and the final substantive paragraph
- 15
- 16 "On the issue of giving" --
- 17 Sorry, before I ask that: had you spoken, on the 18 telephone, not in email, to Jane MacLeod in between your 19 email of just before 4.00 on 16 March and David
- 20 Cavender's email?

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- 21 I've no idea. If we don't have a note, I have no idea.
- 22 Q. So Mr Cavender says:
- 23 "On the issue of giving [Post Office] a steer 24 I understand the sensitivity but [it should be
 - 'I think'] that advisers should advise and not simply

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leave it to the Board to come up to their own untutored view. Surely we should be setting out the options but making our recommendation?"

We can go to the documents if you wish but, as I understand it, that advice was accepted and the note sent following that said that Mr Cavender and Womble Bond Dickinson recommended that the application be made as soon as possible?

9 A. Yes.

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- 10 Q. So you accepted that advice from Mr Cavender, 11 effectively?
- 12 Yes, and the amendments that the document were taken in, Α. 13 and sent to Jane in mark-up, so she could see who had 14
- Q. Could we please turn to POL00022969. If we could turn 15 16 to page 4, please. So we have here an email from Jane 17 MacLeod, 16 March 2019 to you and Andrew Parsons. So 18 this is just before, I think a matter of ten minutes or
- 19 so, before Mr Cavender's email?
- 20 A. Yeah, okay, yeah.
- Q. It says, "Many thanks". It refers to a call with the 21 Chairman, Al Cameron, and the Minister, Kelly Tolhurst 22
- 23 MP:

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24 "... although I don't believe that recusal will be 25 part of the discussion. I have been advised by the UKGI 73

has formed any views on this yet, and if so what they are?

"The Board is highly nervous of this strategy (our Chairman has already said to our Minister that while he recognises that the Board has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the company, he feels it is unlikely that they would want to adopt this course of action)."

Just pausing there, the talk of fiduciary duty, had there been any discussion of there being a fiduciary duty on the directors to act, prior to this being

- 13 Α. At that point -- because I know it came up later but 14 forcefully from Lord Grabiner.
- Q. Well, I want to come to that in due course? 15
- A. I don't know if it had come up already. I don't recall. 16
- 17 Q. It says:

"So we need to be very clear on both why doing it is the best course of action, and what our prospects of success are."

- 21 You said:
- 22 "Jane
- 23 "I'll call in 20 minutes."
- 24 Now, you recently and helpfully provided another 25 note --

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[General Counsel] that 'government' will not express an opinion on recusal as they will not want the 'executive' to be seen as criticising the 'judiciary'.

"This will put more pressure on our Board, and the Chairman is acutely conscious that such an application will not sit well with the perception that [the Post Office] is arrogant, whereas we are trying to edge towards 'contrition'.

"The effect of that is we need to be very clear what the risks will be of not proceeding with the application

It goes on to set out what she wants.

- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Had you communicated the content of that email to David 15 Cavender before he sent his email recommending that 16 a position should be taken on how to advise?
- 17 A. If the -- I don't know, is the straight bat answer. If the file doesn't show I did, I simply don't know. It's 18 19 the kind of information I would have circulated but I'm 20 unsure as to the timing.
- 21 Q. Can we move on actually, please, to POL00330036. If we 22 go down, thank you. So this is an email later on that 23 day:
- 24 "... it would be helpful to have a call on this, and 25 in particular ... to understand whether Lord Grabiner 74
- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- which I want to go to now. For our Core

3 Participants, it won't be on CPview(?) yet, it was very

- 4 recently provided. That's no criticism but can we turn,
- 5 please, to WBON0001899, please, and the typed version 6 that you've created, WBON0001900. Is this a note of the
- 7 call that we were referring to in the email just now?
- 8 A. I suspect so but I don't time these scribbles so, I'm 9 sorry, but I suspect it may well be.
- Q. Do you recall what, if anything, Jane MacLeod said about 10 the Board or the Chair's concerns about the recusal 11
- 12 application?
- 13 A. No, other than as I've said, they were trepidatious
- 14 about -- they were nervous about making it.
- 15 Q. Do you recall if anything was said about the 16 Government's position on the recusal application?
- 17 A. Beyond the emails that we've seen saying that they would 18 be neutral, no.
- 19 Q. Please could we -- it's either scroll down or turn over 20 the page. I don't have a printed copy.
- A. I think it's scroll down on my note. 21
- 22 Q. Sorry, is there a second page to that document? Yeah, 23 thank you.
- 24 So it says here "BIG PIC": big picture, presumably?
- 25 A. Big picture.

- Q. "Told Jane to Jane", what does that mean? 1
- 2 A. If we can get the handwritten one up, I might be ...
- 3 Q. Yes, of course it's on the right. If we could turn to 4 page 2, please.
- 5 "Told Jane", so I suspect they're two different blocks Α.
- 6 of conversation "Told Jane" and "to Jane loss all the
- 7 way through". So I think they're bits of different
- 8 jottings, if you see what I mean. So it's not one
- 9 sentence that says, "Told Jane to Jane".
- 10 Q. I see. So would it be "Told Jane" --
- A. PR --11
- Q. -- "PR v Trial"? 12
- 13 A. Yeah, and "To Jane loss all the way through". I think
- 14 if you can draw a line mentally down the centre of the
- 15 page in that part, anyway.
- 16 Q. It says "PR v Trial loss all the way through."
- 17 A. Yes.
- "If not, recuse." 18 Q.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So is this what you were saying, you were advising or
- 21 telling Jane MacLeod?
- 22 Α. By this stage, we'd had the Lord Neuberger note,
- 23 I believe, on the 14th. We were developing our note
- 24 that became the note of the 17th, and there was
- 25 a process of mutual drafting with Andrew, David Cavender
- 1 that time, we had decided on Lord Grabiner -- and she
- 2 wanted information in from those people. So even our
- 3 note that was drafted between the 15th and the 17th,
- 4 what she really wanted was what's Lord Grabiner's view
- 5 on that note? That's all she wanted.
- 6 Q. Well, I am going to turn now to a conference with Lord
- 7 Grabiner. Now, you set out your recollection of that
- 8 conference in your statement. You've exhibited typed
- 9 and handwritten notes?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. We heard from Lord Grabiner yesterday and I don't
- propose to deal with lengthy issues on that. I want to 12
- 13 cover two points, briefly. Could we please have
- 14 POL00006397. So this is a note of a conference on the
- 15 18 March 2019, and then this is the version that's
- 16 updated to include 20 March Board dial-in as well?
- 17 A. Yes, Jane wanted a compendium note, as it were, in the 18
- 19 Can we turn to page 2, please? Thank you. So we have Q. 20 "Duty to act":
- 21 "Lord Grabiner explained that in his view if there
- 22 is no recusal application made then Post Office will
- 23 lose the series of trials set up in this matter.
- 24 Without a recusal application Post Office is stuck with
- 25 this judge. An appeal on the law may correct some of

- 1 and Jane herself, and there was the view that, if the
- 2 judge remained in place, there was risk to the coming
- 3 trials due to the view of apparent bias and entrenched
- 4 views
- Q. So it then says: 5
- 6 "High tempo step.
- 7 "Jane warned."
- 8
- Q. What does that mean? 9
- 10 So that's -- so -- and, if you recall, the red ink note
- 11 that we saw earlier, that also had the "PR" bit in it.
- 12 So this is my shorthand to myself. I'm warning Jane
- 13 about the risk of -- in doing this, "This is a really
- 14 aggressive step, Jane, the PR of doing this. So it's
- 15 a high tempo step. I've never done this. I've never
- 16 had cause to do this in my whole career, Jane. This is
- 17 unusual step to take, its high tempo"; that's me warning
- 18 Jane.
- 19 Q. At this stage, what was your impression of Jane
- 20 MacLeod's view of whether or not to pursue the recusal
- 21 application?
- 22 A. I think she was -- well, I know she was seeking
- 23 independent views. To be blunt, she couldn't care what
- 24 I thought. She wanted the views of Lord Neuberger and
- 25 Lord Grabiner, or whoever we went on to instruct -- by
 - 78
- 1 the very significant errors in the [Common Issues trial]
- 2 judgment but then the case will be sent back to this
- 3 judge, who has demonstrable apparent bias against Post
- 4 Office and hence the firm conclusion that Post Office
- 5 will lose and the financial impact of that will be
- 6 substantial. Recusal is therefore essential and Lord
- 7 Grabiner asserted that in the face of legal advice from
- 8 Lord Neuberger that recusal should be applied for and
- the quantum of damages that Post Office will pay out on 9
- 10 a loss, then it was Lord Grabiner's view that there was 11
- a duty on Post Office to seek recusal." 12
 - What did you understand from that point: that there
- 13 was a duty on Post Office to seek recusal?
- 14 So to act in the best interests of the company is what
- 15 I think I will have taken at that point, from that word,
- 16 "Duty to act".
- Q. Was your understanding of the advice given by Lord 17
- 18 Grabiner that there was a legal duty to apply for
- recusal, or something else? 19
- 20 A. I don't know and I don't know how hard I would have
- 21 turned my mind to that question. Duty to act in the
- 22 best interests, did that tip over into the legal meaning
- 23 of that in that conference? I don't know. I don't
- 24
- 25 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Can you tell me, Mr Beezer, this note is 80

- 1 on Womble Bond Dickinson notepaper?
- 2 **A.** Yes.
- 3 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Someone obviously composed it. Do you
- 4 know who actually composed this minute or note?
- 5 A. Me
- 6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: It was you, right.
- 7 A. Absolutely, it was me, yes. Yes.
- 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right.
- 9 MR STEVENS: Sir, we have on the documents a series of
- 10 emails of it being amended, which --
- 11 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, that's fine. I just wanted to have
- 12 it clear in my mind while we were discussing it. That's
- 13 all.
- 14 MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir.
- 15 THE WITNESS: So this, whilst not absolutely verbatim, it
- 16 will be not far off and the Inquiry has the
- 17 contemporaneous handwritten notes that I produced this
- 18 from.
- 19 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
- 20 MR STEVENS: I want to turn to that now for a second point.
- 21 Could we please bring up WBON0001776 and, sorry,
- 22 I should orientate ourselves, so could we also get up
- WBON0001737. So we see this is referring to the
- 24 handwritten note of the conference call you were just
- 25 referring to.

- 1 stuff, lawyers, as if we're going to go. I still need
- 2 to get the board over the line". So we are preparing as
- 3 if we are going to -- or, more to the point, the counsel
- 4 team is preparing as if it is going to go; she is going
- 5 to need to still get the Board over the line.
- 6 Q. So at this stage, did you have any impression of what
- 7 Jane MacLeod thought of the merits of the recusal
- 8 application?
- 9 A. No, I don't think I did. What she thought personally?
- 10 **Q.** Yes.
- 11 A. I don't think I did.
- 12 Q. Your evidence is that wasn't discussed in this
- 13 conference?
- 14 A. No. If this note doesn't -- I mean, whilst this is not
- an absolutely verbatim note, I will have tried to
- 16 capture the salient points. So, no, I don't think so.
- 17 Q. I want to ask one brief question on the call of 20 March
- 18 2019. If you want to see the note, we can bring it up.
- 19 As the note reads, it appears that you and Lord Grabiner
- 20 attended the call, Lord Grabiner gave advice and then
- 21 you and Lord Grabiner left the call?
- 22 A. Yes. That's exactly what happened.
- 23 Q. From that call on 20 March 2019, did you get any
- 24 impression of any of the Directors' views on the merits
- 25 of the recusal application or whether it should be 83

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can we please go to page 5 of both notes. Thank you.
- 3 You see there's, towards the bottom, "JANE" underlined;
- 4 that's Jane MacLeod, isn't it?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. I read this as, tell me if I am wrong, instructions to
- 7 prepare on the basis that the recusal application will
- 8 go ahead?
- 9 **A.** Yes.
- 10 Q. Then it says, "Need to get Board over line"?
- 11 A. Yes
- 12 Q. What did Jane MacLeod say that led you to make that
- 13 note?
- 14 A. That is what she will have said. I mean, that is what
- she will have said, that "I need to get the Board over
- the line, there's going to be a Board call today and we
- 17 are going to schedule a Board call for next Monday". So
- 18 that's what she said.
- 19 $\,$ Q. $\,$ So, at this stage, was it Jane MacLeod's position that
- the right decision was to issue the recusal?
- 21 A. No, no, no. Okay, I understand what you're asking. So
- she was saying -- because I'm saying, "It's urgent,
- Jane. We're waiting. This is -- you know, it's
- 24 annoying me".
- 25 So she's saying, "Okay, press on, draft, do your
- 1 brought?

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- 2 A. No. It was -- no. There wasn't free-flowing discussion
 - at all. As the handwritten contemporaneous note will
- 4 probably sort of give you the impression, Lord Grabiner
- 5 said his bit. There were three or four questions from
- 6 unknown voices, unknown to me at the time. So the Board
- 7 asked, you know, "Is there a middle way?", I don't know
- 8 who, and then we left the call. And so Lord Grabiner
- 9 and I were not there for any of the -- what I assume
- 10 must have followed as being discursive, "Should we do
- it? Shouldn't we do it?" We weren't there for any of
- that, if that, in fact, occurred. I wasn't there;
- 13 I don't know.
- 14 Q. Last document or two documents from me. Please can we
- bring up WBON0001792 and, at the same time, please,
- WBON0001795. So on the handwritten note we see it says
- 17 20 March 2019.
- 18 **A.** Yes.
- 19 Q. There's a "17" on the typed copy. Is that an error?
- 20 A. Yeah, that shouldn't be there. I think that's someone
- 21 putting a page number on, isn't it?
- 22 **Q.** Fine.
- 23 A. So sorry about that.
- 24 Q. No need to apologise. Just so we're clear, it's
- 25 20 March 2019.

- Α. 1 Yeah
- 2 Q. It says, "Jane" and in quotes "go". Is that go on the
- 3 recusal application?
- 4 Δ Yes
- 5 Yes. Then we get this:
- 6 "Uncomfortable [regarding] tone in Judgment."
- 7 Α. Yes.
- 8 "Board really uncomfortable." Q.
- 9 What did Jane MacLeod say to you that led to that 10
- A. I mean, it's probably exactly what -- this is my 11
- 12 scribbles during a phone call and so that is what she
- 13 will have said. She'll have said, "The Board is really
- 14 uncomfortable, they're really sensitive around tone.
- 15 You've got to tell the counsel team. I don't want any
- 16 high tempo language. I want calm". So that's what she
- 17 will have been saying to me in that call.
- 18 So what was she saying the Board were uncomfortable
- 19 about: was it the language or the making of the
- 20 application itself?
- 21 A. "Re tone in judgment". So no, the Board is
- 22 uncomfortable with how Post Office is portrayed as
- 23 aggressive in the Common Issues judgment and she's
- 24 saying, "I want these documents that support any recusal
- 25 and any witness statement to be calm". So the
- 1 MR STEVENS: Sir, I have just been handed a note. That may
 - be the end of my questions but, if I may just have
- 3 a moment to discuss it with Ms Price?
- 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course.
- 5 MR STEVENS: Thank you. (Pause)
- 6 Sir, there's no further questions from me but I will 7
 - just check the room to see if there's --
- 8 Ms Page has asked for one issue to be dealt with.
- 9 Ms Page has asked for five minutes, sir.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, I'm sure that we can accommodate 10
- 11 that, Ms Page.

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- MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir. 12
 - Questioned by MS PAGE.
- 14 MS PAGE: Thank you.
- 15 Mr Beezer, I am going to ask you about a particular 16 note which is to do with the relationship between the
- 17 Bates litigation and the criminal appeals. If I could
- 18 ask, please, to bring up WBON0001511, and if we go to
- 19 page 4. As far as I've been able to work out, the blue
- typing is you chipping in to these emails? 20
- 21 A. That's right, yes.
- 22 Q. There's this paragraph in the middle. It reads:
- 23 "Also on the topic of settlement it is necessary to 24 remember that 30 out of the 557 claimants have been
- 25 convicted for shortfalls. Those 30 are relevant to the
 - 87

- uncomfortable is how the Post Office is portrayed in the
- 2 Common Issues judgment. That's what's going on here.
- 3 Q. Did Jane MacLeod say to you anything else about her view 4 on the application itself?
- 5 A. I don't think she did and, since you asked that
- 6 question, I've been pondering. I don't think I ever
- 7 knew what Jane's own position on it was.
- 8 Q. At this point, did you have any understanding of what
- 9 the Board's motivation was in making the application?
- 10 My understanding of why Post Office wanted to do this is
- 11 about the desire to get a legally correct judgment in
- 12 the Common Issues, the desire to avoid what seemed to be
- 13 a near inevitable series of losses of trials going
- 14 forward. They were the motivations, and I can only
- 15 speak from my impression that I got from Jane, because
- 16 that's all I -- the only person I really interacted with
- 17 substantively on any of this, and all of those
- 18 motivations seemed, based on the understanding that we
- 19 had at the time, proper.
- 20 Q. To what extent, if at all, was there any discussion when
- 21 concerning the recusal application, that it should be
- 22 made to put pressure on the claimants or the litigation
- 23 funders?

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- 24 Not at all, from within my visibility, not at all. A.
- 25 Yeah, not at all.

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- process currently under way at the CCRC. Post Office
- 2 cannot therefore currently simply settle with the entire
- 3 claimant group as that would throw serious doubt on
- 4 safety of those 30 convictions."
 - First of all, you obviously came in to the Bates
- 6 litigation relatively fresh. Can you remember how you
- 7 came to find out that some of the claimants had been
- 8 convicted?
- A. I will have picked up this information -- and this is 9
- 10 probably the totality of my knowledge on this -- by
- 11 osmosis, by being in the office around people who were
- 12 dealing with this case. And I don't have deep knowledge
- 13 on that, but it seemed a relevant point to put in this
- 14 email, because it seems an impediment to settlement,
- 15 based on what I was picking up that other people might
- 16 be dealing with.
- 17 Q. Do you have recollection of others having this sort of
- 18 issue, in other words the interrelationship between the
- 19 civil and the criminal proceedings being something that
- 20 was at the forefront of minds?
- 21 A. I don't believe so. I just knew from conversations in 22 the office that, in the claimant group, there were
- 23 people who had been convicted and that would be an --
- 24 how do you pay someone who's been convicted, if you want
- 25 to settle? As to detail of who was dealing with that,

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		The Post
1		where that was being dealt with, I'm really not sure.
2	Q.	Do you think that the GLO was contested, in that very
3		vigorous way that it was, partly because to settle would
4		have been to concede that past convictions were unsafe?
5	A.	I can't answer that. I don't have enough information
6		but I really shouldn't think that was the case but
7		I don't know.
8	MS	PAGE: Thank you. Those are the questions I ask, sir.
9	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Can you just show me the date when this
10		observation is made, please?
11	MR	STEVENS: That will be coming up shortly, sir.
12	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: That's fine, yes.
13	A.	19 March.
14	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: 19th. So it's still in the same period
15		as you are dealing with the logistics for the recusal
16		application?
17	A.	Absolutely. I had a sort of short, three-week burst,
18		and then drifted out.
19	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I follow. That's fine, thanks.
20	A.	Yeah.
21	MS	PAGE: Thank you, sir.
22	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Is that it, Mr Stevens?
23		Thank you, Ms Page.
24	MR	STEVENS: Yes. I'm just doing a final check and that
25		seems to be everything.
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1		is Ma Hadge and Lack guestions on habelf of the
1		is Ms Hodge and I ask questions on behalf of the
2	۸	Inquiry. Please state your full name. Matthew Guy Lenton.
4	Α.	
	Q.	You should have in front of you a hard copy of your
5		witness statement dated 14 May 2024; is that right?
6	Α.	Yeah.
7 8	Q.	That statement should run to 54 pages, including an index of documents; is that correct?
9	Α.	Correct.
9 10	Q.	Could I ask you, please, to turn to page 51 of your
11	Q.	statement.
12	Α.	Yeah.
13	Q.	You should see there in the middle of the page
14	Œ.	a statement of truth and a signature. Is that your
15		signature?
16	Α.	Yes, it is.
17	Q.	Is the content of this statement true to the best of
1 <i>1</i> 18	⋖.	your knowledge and belief?
19	A.	Yes, it is.
20	Q.	Thank you. I'm going to begin just by asking some short
	⋖.	mann you. The going to begin just by asking some short

questions about your academic and professional

In 1987, you obtained a bachelor's degree in film

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studies and philosophy from the University of Kent; is

background, please.

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23 A. Okay.

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SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Well, then thank you very much, Mr Beezer, for making two witness statements dealing with two, in effect, discrete issues and I'm grateful to you for giving oral evidence before the Inquiry this morning. THE WITNESS: Thank you. MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir. I have heard from Ms Hodge. We think that the best approach, subject to you agreeing, is to take an early lunch now. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. MR STEVENS: So if we could come back for Mr Lenton's evidence at 1.20. SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, by all means, Mr Stevens. We will resume at 1.20. MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir. (12.21 pm) (The Short Adjournment) (1.20 pm) MS HODGE: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear us? SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you. MS HODGE: Thank you, sir. Our next witness is Matthew Lenton. Please could the witness be sworn. **MATTHEW GUY LENTON (affirmed) Questioned by MS HODGE** MS HODGE: Good afternoon, Mr Lenton. As you know, my name

that right?

A. Correct.

Q. Before joining Fujitsu in 2006 you worked for various
 companies in the field of document control; is that
 right?

6 A. Correct.

Q. Could you please explain for those who are unfamiliarwith the term, what document control entails?

A. Yes, so, basically, it's -- somebody doing that role is normally employed by, obviously, an organisation that generates large volumes of normally technical but -- or otherwise formal documentation. So I worked for Arup, the consulting engineers, also for British Gas, and that was before working for Fujitsu. And, obviously, those companiesall produce large volumes of technical drawings, specifications, et cetera.

It's clearly important that people using those documents know what version they're using, et cetera, and that old documents are preserved and records are correctly kept, basically and, because of the volume, they employ somebody specifically, or often a team, in fact, specifically to do that.

And it also involves things such as formal reviews and approvals of documents with other parties, and internal peer reviewers.

- 1 Q. Thank you. When you joined Fujitsu in November 2006,
- 2 that was the role of Document Manager; is that right?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. You initially worked on several different accounts,
- 5 albeit temporarily on the Post Office Account, as
- 6 well -- is that right --
- 7 A. Correct, mm-hm.
- 8 Q. -- before you were employed permanently as a Document
- 9 Manager in May 2009?
- 10 A. Yeah, before being employed permanently as a Document
- 11 Manager on Post Office Accounts, I was actually
- 12 recruited by Fujitsu to work on the NHS Account.
- 13 Q. Thank you. You remain in that role to the present day;
- 14 is that right?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. Is there more than one Document Manager on the Post
- 17 Office Account or are you the Document Manager?
- 18 A. No, that is me and I have an assistant. That's it.
- 19 Q. Who is your assistant?
- 20 A. So currently, it's somebody called Ashwini Vishian(?),
- 21 who works in Chennai.
- 22 Q. And previously?
- 23 A. Previously we had somebody called Hanifa Thariq
- Mohammed, who also works in Chennai, and, before that,
- 25 there have also been various other people who have
- 1 the [Post Office Account] is the responsibility for
- 2 ensuring that design documentation and key process
- 3 documentation is controlled. The basis of that control
- 4 is the use of a single repository for such
- 5 documentation, which is a configuration management
- 6 database known as Dimensions. The database provides the
- 7 [Post Office Account] clarity on the latest versions of
 - current documents, and that previous (superseded)
- 9 versions, as well as obsolete documents, are retained."
- 10 Would it be right to say that here you're
- emphasising the need for there to be one place where all
- 12 design and key process documentation are held?
- 13 A. Correct.

- 14 Q. One of the reasons for that would be to ensure that such
- 15 documents are distributed or disclosed appropriately; is
- 16 that right?
- 17 A. Disclosed -- um, mm, so the original purpose of it is
- not for that purpose. It's so that people using the
- 19 documents in terms of the staff in the company can know
- 20 that they are referring to the correct version of
- a document, so that we don't have, you know, multiple
- 22 versions of documents in various places on local hard
- 23 drives, et cetera, that people are looking at that may
- 24 be out of date.
- 25 Q. So the principal purpose would be an internal one?

- 1 worked with me from 2008 until about 2015 or 2016.
- 2 Q. Thank you. We may come on to identify some of those
- 3 shortly?
- 4 A. Sure.
- 5 Q. So far as you're aware, for how long had the role of
- 6 Document Manager existed in the Post Office Account?
- 7 A. Since around 1998, I think.
- 8 Q. Just some small points of clarification, please. Is it
- 9 right you don't have any formal qualifications or
- 10 training in information technology?
- 11 A. Um ... mm, I'm not sure about that. I think I do
- 12 actually have a formal qualification in IT. I think
- 13 it's what used to be known as an NVQ but I'm not sure
- that exists any longer, so it's probably not recognised.
- 15 Q. Okay, thank you. Would it be correct that you don't
- have any legal qualifications or training?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. I'd like to ask you, please, some questions about the
- 19 core part of your role as Document Manager for the Post
- 20 Office Account. Please can we show the witness's
- 21 statement WITN00530100.
- 22 Thank you. On page 3, please, you describe the Post
- 23 Office Account Document Manager role, and in your
- statement, you say at paragraph 8:
 - "The core part of my role as Document Manager for
- 1 A. Correct.

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- 2 Q. But it would equally be --
- 3 A. It could -- can therefore be used --
- 4 Q. -- useful --
- 5 **A.** -- for other purposes --
- 6 Q. -- externally?
- 7 A. -- such as you suggest, yeah.
- 8 Q. Another reason for having a single repository would be
- 9 to ensure that they're retained appropriately; is that
- 10 fair?
- 11 A. Correct, yeah.
- 12 Q. Is it right that, during the period with which we are
- 13 concerned, the Post Office Account did not adhere to
- 14 this key principle of document control?
- 15 A. It may -- well, mm, no, I'm not sure that's true,
- 16 actually. So, in terms of the documentation that is
- 17 stored within Dimensions, as far as I am aware, all of
- the documents that have been placed into Dimensions
- 19 since, I think, before 2000 are still there and are
- 20 still version controlled.
- 21 Q. I'm going to ask you, Mr Lenton, about another
- 22 repository which is the SSC website?
 - 23 **A.** Sure.
 - ${\bf 24}~~{\bf Q}.~~{\bf We}$ may explore whether or not that contains key process
- documentation, as you've defined there?

- 1 **A.** Mm-hm, mm-hm.
- 2 Q. Now, one of the repositories to which you refer in your
- 3 statement is a dedicated website that was used by the
- 4 SSC for incident management and support documentation;
- 5 is that right?
- 6 A. Right, yes, correct.
- 7 Q. That website you say contained work instructions
- 8 relating to the reporting and management of bugs, errors
- 9 and defects; is that right?
- 10 A. Sorry, can you just repeat the last bit of that?
- 11 Q. Yes, work instructions relating to the reporting and
- 12 management of bugs, errors and defects?
- 13 A. I'm not sure that it did contain work instructions for
- 14 that. I mean, certainly there may be some overlap with
- 15 processes that do deal with that issue.
- 16 Q. So if we could look, please, at page 6. At paragraph
- 17 20, please. The final sentence there reads:
- 18 "There are also internal SSC-specific work
- 19 instructions that relate to the reporting and management
- 20 of [bugs, errors and defects] which are stored" --
- 21 A. Sure. So reporting and management, yes. So at a low
- 22 level, I would say. So they're work instructions rather
- than procedures and processes.
- 24 Q. Thank you. What's also contained on the website are
- 25 PEAKs and KELs; is that correct?
 - 97
- 1 Q. When did you first attain access to the website?
- 2 A. In 2016.
- 3 Q. Before you were granted access to the SSC website, so
- 4 far as you are aware, was it accessed and controlled
- 5 solely by members of the SSC?
- 6 A. That is my understanding, yeah.
- 7 Q. Why was that the case; do you know?
- 8 A. I'm not totally sure. My understanding is that, for
- 9 historic reasons, the SSC were originally part of
- 10 a division in Fujitsu, which wasn't directly part of the
- 11 Post Office Account. So they would have dealt with
- 12 other accounts as well as the Post Office. So it's kind
- of like a shared services support team. So, because of
- 14 that, they would have had their own repository for
- 15 dealing with incidents across the various accounts, so
- it would be owned by that division rather than by the
- 17 Post Office Account itself.
- 18 $\,$ Q. Do you know who within the SSC was responsible for
- 19 administering the website?
- 20 A. In the time since I've worked there, I believe it is --
- 21 has been administered by John Simpkins and Mark Wright
- 22 and probably with the assistance of various other
- 23 people.
- 24 Q. Did you consider it was appropriate, in your role as
- 25 Document Manager, for the SSC to have exclusive control

- 1 A. Correct, yes.
- 2 Q. Now, would it be fair to characterise those documents as
- 3 key process documents, and Known Error Log?
- 4 A. A Known Error Log isn't really a process document; it's
- 5 actually a record of an incident or of the symptoms of
- 6 certain incidents, whereas a process document would be
- 7 one that tells you how to actually record or manage
- 8 incidents generally. So I think -- I mean, I see the
- 9 point you're making but I think that KELs are very
- 10 specific to individual incidents, whereas when I am
- 11 referring to process documents about how to manage
- 12 incidents, I'm talking about much higher level, such as
- 13 incident management procedure, for example, which
- 14 wouldn't in itself contain any details of any BEDs.
- 15 **Q.** Thank you. When did you first learn about the existence
- 16 of the SSC website?
- 17 A. I suspect I probably heard of it shortly after joining
- the account, maybe in 2009 or 2010.
- 19 Q. What did you understand the website to contain at that
- 20 stage?
- 21 A. It's hard to say what I understood at that time.
- 22 I mean, I think I knew that it contained PEAKs and
- 23 I think I had a fairly vague idea of what PEAKs were but
- 24 I didn't regularly come across them, to be honest, as
- 25 I wasn't really involved in that area of work.

- 1 over this website and its content?
- 2 A. I'm not sure whether -- so that probably is a question
- 3 that I had debated with my learned friend at certain
- 4 times and I think it -- I just accepted it as being the
- 5 way that it was and had been for many years. And so --
- 6 I mean, I think if I'd questioned it, I'm not sure that
- 7 I would necessarily have changed anything, shall we say.
- 8 Q. Why were you granted access to the website in 2016?
- 9 A. I can't remember now, actually, what the specific reason
- 10 was that prompted it but I think it was possibly looking
- 11 at wanting to look at PEAKs, which related to document
- 12 updates, so that occasionally, if it had been noticed
- that during something like testing, for example, that
- 14 a document that an incorrect statement in it, then the
- 15 testers may raise a PEAK that says the document needs to
- be updated and, therefore, I think when I was being
- 17 asked whether a document had been updated correctly or
- not or whether progress had been made on that update,
- then it was useful to look at PEAK. But I think that
- 20 possibly -- well, as I say, I'm not sure why
- 21 particularly in 2016 that came up.
- 22 Q. Thank you.
- 23 A. I'll just say I don't think it's in any way related to
- 24 the issues that we're discussing here. I think it's
- something unrelated.

- Part of your role as Document Manager involved liaison 1 2 with the Post Office; is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes, correct, yeah.
- 4 Q. If we could turn to page 3, please, of your witness
- 5 statement at paragraph 8. You say there in the final sentence:

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"Document issues and receipts between Fujitsu and Post Office Limited, as well as other parties, are controlled via a central mailbox owned by me, and those transactions are recorded and the emails stored."

You seem here to be referring to the present tense; is that fair, they "are" controlled by you?

- 13 A. Correct.
- 14 Q. Has that central mailbox been used throughout the time 15 on which you've worked on the Post Office Account?
- 16 Α. Yes, it has.
- 17 Q. Are you only the member of the account who has access to 18 the central mailbox?
- 19 A. No. so the person I mentioned who assists me at the 20 moment, she has access and, over -- since I've worked
- 21
- there, all the other people that have worked with me
- 22 have also had access to it.
- 23 Q. Would it be right to understand that this is an internal
- Fujitsu mailbox, to which those outside the organisation 24
- 25 wouldn't have access?

101

- 1 Gareth Jenkins on the subject of data integrity; is that
- 2 right?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. What caused these particular documents to stand out in 5 your memory?
- 6 Α. Well, only -- well, mainly the fact that they relate to
- 7 the issues that we're discussing here. So, obviously,
- 8 when I'm asked about them, then that's effectively the
- 9 first documents that I remember dealing with that
- 10 directly related to this issue. I mean, they were
- 11 obviously also slightly unusual documents, in that they
- 12 didn't -- most of the documents that I would have dealt
- 13 with related to the implementation of the solution, or
- 14 processes relating to the implementation, whereas these
- 15 clearly are reports on an aspect of it, rather than
- 16 being design documents, as it were.
- 17 Q. Were they documents that you held in Dimensions?
- 18 Α.
- But they were of a different character to the other 19 Q.
- 20 documents that you held there; is that what you're
- 21 saying, in essence?
- 22 A. Well, I'm saying that, because of the nature of them,
- 23 there's -- they were perhaps somewhat memorable in terms

103

- 24 of being different from most of the other documents,
- 25 which are things like high-level designs, test reports,

- Correct. 1 Δ
- 2 Q. Did you respond to or oversee all requests for access to
- 3 documents from the Post Office from the date of your
- 4 appointment as Document Manager?
- A. Well, only as far as I know. So if people -- if other 5
- 6 people received -- other people on the Account received
- 7 requests directly from people within Post Office, then
- 8 it was expected that they would pass them to me, but
- 9 it's perfectly possible that people may have answered
- 10 them directly without me knowing.
- 11 Q. If you did not obtain access to the Account until July
- 12 2016, does it follow that you did not provide to the
- 13 Post Office any documents that were held solely on that
- 14 site before that date?
- 15 A. That sounds likely. I mean, I can't say that that's
- 16 definitely the case because it's possible that somebody
- 17 may have sent me something internally that I then passed
- on but that sounds unlikely to me because there wouldn't 18
- 19 have been any need for me to record it.
- 20 Q. From quite an early stage in your tenure as Document
- 21 Manager you started to handle requests relating to
- 22 Horizon data integrity; is that correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. In your statement you say you recall processing and
- disclosing to the Post Office two reports produced by 25 102

1 et cetera.

- 2 Q. At the point when you first came to handle and pass on
- 3 these documents to the Post Office, what, if anything,
- 4 did you know about Gareth Jenkins' role in the Post
- 5 Office Account?
- 6 A. Yeah, um, I already knew who he was. I mean, he was
- 7 a -- one of the most senior architects on the Account.
- 8 He sat just upstairs from me, I'd spoken to him before,
- so I knew perfectly well who he was. 9
- 10 Q. Do you recall being asked in October 2013 to set up
- a SharePoint site on which to store documentation 11
- 12 relating to data integrity?
- 13 A.
- 14 Q. This became known as the data integrity SharePoint; is
- 15 that right?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. Did you know why you were asked to set up that
- 18 SharePoint?
- A. I suppose, in general terms, I did, but I wasn't 19
- 20 particularly aware at that time of the investigations
- 21 going on within Post Office or of the Mediation Scheme
- 22 or Second Sight, et cetera. So not in detail,
- 23 basically.
- 24 Q. What did you understand in general terms?
- 25 Well, obviously, only that there was some question over

- 1 the integrity of the data and that various work was
- 2 being done between Fujitsu and the Post Office and,
- 3 I think, various other parties to investigate that
- 4 issue
- 5 Q. Who was granted access to the data integrity SharePoint?
- 6 A. So I don't think I'd be able to give you the full list
- 7 but my recollection is that it's about ten people within
- 8 the Post Office Account only. So people such as James
- 9 Davidson, Torstein Godeseth, Gareth Jenkins and about
- 10 five or six other people, I think.
- Q. How did you determine who ought to have access to the 11
- 12 SharePoint?
- 13 A. I'm sure I was just asked to provide access to those
- 14
- So far as you're aware, would any Post Office employees 15 Q.
- 16 have had access to that SharePoint?
- 17 Α.
- 18 **Q.** How did you decide which documents were to be stored on
- 19 the SharePoint?
- 20 A. I was asked to download them from Dimensions and put
- 21 them on there so, again, I can't really remember who it
- 22 was who asked me to do it but, one of those same people
- 23 that I mentioned earlier.
- 24 Q. Who would have identified to you which documents were
- 25 relevant?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. You're not either the recipient or copied in to this
- 3
- 4 A. Mm-hm.
- 5 Q. But what it confirms, we can see at the second bullet
- 6 point, is that you, Matthew Lenton, are in the process
- 7 of setting up the site for all documentation relating to
 - data integrity and for that to be stored. He goes on to
- 9 say:

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- "Gareth has a lot of data which is on his laptop and
- on [his] server share currently but this will proved us 11
- 12 [presumably 'provide us all'] with a place to keep
- 13 drafts/WIP, [work in progress] and historical
- 14 documentation."
- 15 So I think it's your evidence you weren't specifically told that by Mr Davidson; is that correct?
- 16
- 17 No, I don't think I was and I actually don't think that A.
- 18 happened either. So I don't think we did end up storing a lot of data from Gareth into that SharePoint site. 19
- 20 Q. Thank you. So far as you can recall, did you have any
- 21 contact or communication with Gareth Jenkins at this
- 22 time about what he held on issues of data --
- 23 A. No, I don't think so. As I say, I think the SharePoint
- 24 site only contained documents that I added to it from
- 25 Dimensions, as far as I recall.

107

- A. Yeah, so probably either Gareth Jenkins or Torstein 1
- 2 Godeseth.
- 3 Q. Did you take any steps to consult with members of the
 - SSC about what could or should be stored on the
- 5 SharePoint relating to data integrity?
- 6 A. No.

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- 7 Q. Why not?
- A. I don't think there's any reason to do that. So I was 8
- 9 really only doing what I was asked to do to set up the
- 10 site, give access to certain people, add certain
- 11 documents to it.
- 12 Did you obtain any documents from sources other than Q.
- 13 Dimensions?
- 14 A. As far as I recall, no.
- 15 Q. Were you aware that Gareth Jenkins held a lot of
- 16 relevant data on his laptop and on his server share at
- 17 that time?
- A. I don't think I knew that as a fact, no. I mean, I may 18
- 19 have guessed that. It was common that people did hold
- 20 lots of data on their laptops and on file shares at that
- 21 time.
- 22 Q. Perhaps it might help if we just look at that email.
- 23 FUJ00156902, please. Thank you. So this is an email
- 24 from James Davidson. Is that who you believe asked you
- 25 to set up the SharePoint site?

106

- 1 Q. Thank you. When did you first start liaising with
- 2 Mr Jenkins directly over issues of data integrity?
- 3 **A.** I'm sure it was probably the two reports, so the Horizon
- 4 and the HNG-X data integrity reports.
- 5 Q. Because you obtained those directly from him?
- 6 A. Well, I know they were written by him. So it seems
- 7 perfectly possible -- even likely -- that they would
- 8 have checked with him that they were the latest versions
- and that he hadn't made any other changes to them. 9
- 10 Yeah, before that, I don't think I would have had any
- 11 reason to discuss it with him.
- When you say you would have checked, this is from the 12
- 13 point of view of version control --
- 14 Α. Mm
- 15 Q. -- rather than in relation to the content of the
- documents; is that right? 16
- 17 A. Yeah, I mean, simply I might have, say, version 1 and
- 18 I would perhaps check with him that there wasn't a more
- 19 recent version that I didn't yet have that he wanted to
- 20 provide to Post Office instead.
- 21 Q. Thank you. I'd like to move on to a new topic, please,
- 22 which concerns your involvement in the Group Litigation
- 23 brought by subpostmasters and others against the Post
- 24 Office?
- 25 In your statement you explain that your role was to

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1 field requests for information and evidence from the 2 Post Office's lawyers, Womble Bond Dickinson; to direct 3 those requests to the appropriate subject matter expert 4 within Fujitsu; and to provide responses back to Womble

Bond Dickinson. Is that a fair summary?

6 Α. Yes.

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7 Q. You identify in your statement six individuals from whom 8 you obtained information about Horizon; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Perhaps if we could just turn up your statement, please, 11 where that is addressed at page 18, paragraph 47. Can 12 you tell us, please, for the benefit of those following 13 your evidence, who each of those individuals were, and 14 their roles? You've dealt already with Mr Jenkins.

15 A. Okay. So Pete Newsome was -- his job title was often 16 something like Consulting Manager or something like that 17 but he was somebody who worked on the Post Office 18 Account and I believe had worked quite closely with Post 19 Office themselves, in terms of actually working in their 20 offices on some occasions. But he was also kind of in 21 charge of commercial change, at a kind of high level, so 22 in terms of discussing and fielding changes that the 23 Post Office wanted to implement. So, effectively, he

Stephen Parker was the Manager of the SSC.

was a kind of senior kind of commercial change manager.

109

1 from being provided by various Architects, for example, 2 or Service Managers. So I would know who was subject 3 matter expert in certain areas.

4 Q. Who within Fujitsu was responsible for determining what 5 was or was not disclosed to the Post Office's lawyers?

6 A. I suppose, ultimately, in terms of this exercise, it was 7 Pete Newsome, I guess, as he was effectively managing 8 this kind of small virtual team of people mentioned 9 here, plus me.

10 Q. What were you told about the role that Gareth Jenkins was to play in supporting the Post Office's defence in 11 12 the Group Litigation?

13 A. I'm not sure I was told anything specifically in those 14 terms. I think it was simply that, when we were looking 15 at providing answers to questions as it came to us from 16 WBD, then I think it had been determined that this team 17 of people would help to analyse the information in order 18 to answer those questions. And he was one of those 19 people, because of his longstanding expertise and 20 knowledge on Horizon. So I don't think I was told 21 anything specifically about what his role would be, 22 other than in those terms.

23 Q. We know that some of the individuals named there gave 24 witness statements in support of the Post Office's 25 defence. Who was responsible for determining which of

111

John Simpkins and Mark Wright were both Team Leads in the SSC. So I think, basically, they were kind of Steve Parker's deputies. I think they had kind of half a dozen or so people working under them.

5 And Torstein Godeseth was the Senior Architect on 6 the Account. So I think he was -- yeah, effectively he 7 was senior to Gareth Jenkins, I think.

8 Q. Thank you. Would it be right to say that these would 9 not be the only individuals from whom you obtained 10 information; you say they are the principal ones?

A. That's right, yeah. So sometimes we would ask other 11 12 members of the Account for help with obtaining certain 13 bits of information, so various subject matter experts, 14 from various teams.

15 Q. How did you determine to whom within Fujitsu a request 16 for information should be directed?

17 So, often, that would just be simply by discussion with 18 other the people. I mean, so the staff on the Account 19 are kind of -- so all of the people listed here were on 20 the Account for quite a long period of time and, 21 obviously, I had also been on the Account for, you know, 22 about 10 years, by this time, so we obviously knew who 23 dealt with which types of issues and who had expertise 24 in certain areas.

> Personally, I would have seen many document updates 110

1 Fujitsu's employees were to give witness evidence?

A. I suspect that was between -- probably, conversations 2 3 between Pete Newsome, possibly Chris Jay, the Fujitsu --4 I think he's a lawyer, I'm not quite sure what his

5 qualifications are -- and with WBD, I suspect.

6 Q. Did you know why Mr Jenkins was not asked to provide 7 a witness statement?

8 A. I believe I wasn't directly involved in that, so I'm not 9 sure. I think it may be because of the fact that he was 10 no longer a Fujitsu employee by that time.

11 **Q.** Did you know why he was being asked to feed information 12 and evidence to other witnesses, such as Mr Godeseth?

13 A. Feed, mm. So, I mean, I think he's providing analysis, 14 so he's being asked his opinion on various issues. So 15 I'm not sure that I would necessarily have seen it as 16 being characterised in that way but I'm aware that other 17 people have characterised it like that.

Q. Did you have any concerns at the time about this 18 19 approach to the preparation of the witness evidence that was being provided by Fujitsu? 20

21 A. Personally, no.

22 Q. The next topic I would like to address with you, please, 23 concerns the very late disclosure by Fujitsu of 24 a substantial number of Known Error Logs. Is it right that you were informed in late November 2017 that the 25

1 Post Office was required to declare the locations in 2 which documents relevant to the operation of Horizon 3 were held? 4 A. Yes, I was indirectly made aware of that by being 5 presently with the EDQ, yes. When I say "indirectly", 6 I wasn't told that that was what needed to be done in 7 the terms in which you've just expressed it. 8 Q. You were asked, were you not, by Womble Bond Dickinson, 9 to attend a conference call on 30 November 2017 --10 Α. Q. -- the purpose of that call being to assist them to 11 12 understand which documents were held by Fujitsu and 13 where they were stored; is that right? 14 A. Yes. Q. You attended that call with two other Fujitsu employees; 15 16 is that right? 17 A. I believe so. Q. Could you confirm their names and roles? 18 19 A. I think that was probably Pete Newsome and Chris Jay. 20 Q. You understand Chris Jay to be an internal Fujitsu 21 lawyer; is that right? 22 A. So he's a member of the Fujitsu Legal Team at that time, 23 yeah. 24 Q. To assist you, please could we turn up FUJ00158114. 25 Thank you. In the second half of the page, please, we 1 discussions that took place. 2 Q. A week later, you were sent by Womble Bond Dickinson 3 a draft appendix to the Post Office's Electronic 4 Directions Questionnaire -- is that right --5 A. Yes. 6 Q. -- in which they had attempted to summarise the 7 documents held by Fujitsu? A. Yes. 8 9 Q. So if we just scan up while we're on this document, 10 please, to the top, thank you, this is an email now from 11 Michael Wharton, again to the same recipients: 12 "As discussed on Thursday's call, I have attached our draft appendix to the EDQ [the Electronic Directions 13 14 Questionnaire], summarising the documents held by 15 Fujitsu -- please could I ask you [first] to: 16 "review it generally and confirm you are happy with 17 it; and [second] 18 "confirm the specific points highlighted in yellow 19 in the attached." 20 He goes on to say: 21 "Please accept our apologies for the delay in

getting this over to you such that it is now urgent,

115

to be exchanged today. Your help is greatly

however, please can I ask you to come back to me with

your comments by 14.30 this afternoon, as the EDQs need

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1 have an email here dated 28 November 2017 from Amy 2 Prime, an employee of Womble Bond Dickinson. It's 3 addressed to you, Pete Newsome and Chris Jay, who is 4 referred there as Defence Legal --5 Α. 6 Q. -- and others copied: 7 "Chris, Matthew, Pete. 8 "Post Office are required to inform the court of the 9 location in which potentially relevant documents are 10 located. 'Relevant document' is a very broad term and 11 will encompass pretty much all dealings which Fujitsu 12 have had with Post Office in relation to Horizon and 13 HNG-X spanning emails (with both POL and internally), 14 documents stored in Dimension, Transaction and Event 15 data, HSD logs, PEAKs system and any other document 16 produced by Fujitsu which relates to Horizon. 17 I appreciate that this may be a large volume of 18 documents. 19 "So as we can understand the documents held by 20 Fujitsu and where they are stored, it would be helpful 21 if we could have a call." 22 Now, do you have any recollection of what was 23 discussed at that meeting? 24 A. I must admit I don't really remember the meeting. 25 I remember that I did attend it. I don't recall the 114 1 appreciated." 2 Now, obviously that email is timed at 10.18 am on 3 the Wednesday, so you were given just over four hours? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Could we please look at the document attached to that email, so this is the draft appendix, which is at 6 7 FUJ00158115. 8 Now, you make the point in your statement you didn't have very long to review the document. It wasn't very 9 10 lengthy though, was it, it ran to just over two pages? 11 A. That's true. Q. Would it be fair to say that you did have sufficient 12 13 time to consult with your colleagues on a number of 14 points that you raise in the statement? 15 Yes. Although, yeah, I mean, my recollection and what 16 I see when I look back at the comments on it now are 17 that, basically, I consulted with colleagues on the points which had been highlighted, as I think Michael 18 19 Wharton mentions in his email and then, if I spotted any 20 other things that I knew to be incorrect, then 21 I commented on those as well. So I think if I saw -- if 22 I read the rest of it and didn't either see

highlighted -- sections of it highlighted to be queried

or spot that there was something wrong myself, then I'm

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- 1 send this on a review to other people as a whole.
- 2 Q. Thank you.
- 3 A. If that makes sense.
- 4 Q. Just to look at what we have here, this is obviously one
- 5 of several appendices dealing with databases of
- 6 electronic documents but these specifically are
- 7 Fujitsu's databases; is that right?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 **Q.** Now, if we look just above the table, it states:
- 10 "This information has been provided by Fujitsu to
- Post Office." 11
- A. Yeah. 12
- 13 Q. Now, presumably that was in the meeting that you had on
- 14 30 November?
- **A.** Um --15
- 16 Q. Sorry, not attended solely by you but by Pete Newsome
- 17 and Chris Jay, as well?
- 18 A. Yes, correct, yeah, although it is possible -- I have
- 19 reflected on this and it does seem to me possible that
- 20 Pete Newsome had separate either conversations or emails
- 21 with WBD. But I -- as I say, I don't recall the details
- 22 of the meeting and, certainly, information relating to
- 23 KELs wouldn't have come from me, so it's not clear to me
- 24 whether it was in that meeting or not.
- 25 Q. When you say it's possible he had other communications,
- 1 within the meeting but, certainly, not from me and it
 - possibly came from elsewhere, is that I don't think he
- 3 would have necessarily known -- come up with that
- 4 definition on his own. So that sounds like something
- 5 that somebody from the SSC would have provided him with.
- 6 Q. Was that something that you knew, that you had knowledge
- 7 of at that time, what is described there in relation to
- 8 the KEL?

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- 9 A. No, not without asking somebody else to provide that
- 10 information, no.
- 11 Q. The next entry, please, in the column entitled
- 12 "Comments" reads:
 - "The KEL only contains the current database entries
- 14 and is constantly updated and so the current version 15
 - will not necessarily reflect the version that was in
- 16 place at the relevant time."
- 17 Now here:
- 18 "The previous entries/versions of the current
- 19 entries are no longer available."
- 20 Again, do you recall providing that information?
- Α. 21
- 22 Q. By whom do you think that information was provided?
- 23 A. So, again, I suspect that went to -- I mean, I'm
- 24 guessing really but I could only assume that that went
- to WBD from Pete Newsome but I would also expect that he 25 119

- 1 were you copied in to those?
- 2 A. I don't think so because I think I actually have looked
- 3 to see whether that is the case or not. So ...
- 4 Q. You haven't found anything?
- 5

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- 6 Q. The first row in the table concerns the Known Error Log
 - and, in the middle column, it provides a description of
- 8 it to this effect:
- 9 "The KEL is a proprietary database with
- 10 approximately 4,000 entries containing information which
- 11 is used by Fujitsu to explain how to deal with or work
- 12 around minor issues that can sometimes arise in Horizon
- 13 for which (often, because of their triviality)
- 14 system-wide fixes have not been developed and
- 15 implemented."
- 16 Now, do you recall providing that information to the
- 17 Post Office's lawyers during your call?
- 18 A.
- 19 Q. By whom do you think that information was provided?
- 20 So, if there was only three of us on the call, I could
- 21 only assume that it would be Pete Newsome but, again,
- 22 I would have -- so the reason that I say I think it's
- 23 seems possible perhaps even likely that he got that
- 24 information from elsewhere and provided it to WBD
- 25 separately from that meeting is that -- or possibly
 - 118
- 1 had got that information from somebody in SSC. I mean,
- 2 I have to say, we know that that last statement that you
- 3 just read out is incorrect. But I don't know why it's
- 4 incorrect and I don't -- you know, I've looked to see
- 5 whether we can trace the source of that error but
- 6 I haven't been able to and, I mean, it strikes me now
- 7 that it's possibly even just been heard by somebody
- 8 incorrectly. Perhaps it doesn't mean "available" but
- means "valid", or something like that. 9
- 10 Q. When you read that, when you reviewed the document, as
- you were asked to do by Womble Bond Dickinson, that 11
- 12 didn't jump out at you?
- 13 A. No, I don't think that I was -- well, I know that
- 14 I wasn't familiar enough with KELs at that time to have
- 15 had an opinion on that actioning.
- Q. In March 2018, so several months later, you provided to 16
- 17 Womble Bond Dickinson approximately 8,300 KEL entries;
- 18 is that correct?
- 19 A. I think that's right, yes.
- 20 Q. Who would supply those entries to you?
- 21 A. So those would have come from the SSC and I think it was
- 22 probably John Simpkins who obtained them and provided
 - 23 them.
 - 24 Q. At the time that you provided those entries, you were
 - 25 asked by Womble Bond Dickinson to confirm whether the

- documents you had provided contained all historic and current KEL entries; is that right?
- 3 A. Sounds correct, yeah.
- 4 Q. Let's take a look at that email, please. FUJ00220950.
- 5 On page 3, please -- thank you. So we have an email
- 6 from Amy Prime again, of Womble Bond Dickinson, dated
- 7 23 March 2018, to you, and copied in to Chris Jay at
- 8 Defence Legal, Pete Newsome and, I think, some other
- 9 lawyers from Womble Bond Dickinson.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. It reads:
- 12 "Matthew
- 13 "Thank you, we have safely received the documents.
- "There is also a file named 'KELComplete' uploaded
 to the data room. Please could you confirm if this
 contains all historic and current KEL entries."
- 17 So that was a question that was raised specifically 18 to you?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. So what did you understand historic KEL entries to mean?
- 21 A. I think my interpretation of that was, and actually
- 22 still is now, that it means KEL entries that are no
- 23 longer applicable. So rather than old versions of KELs
- 24 that have since been updated, it means old KELs that are
- 25 no longer current KELs. So no longer applicable to the
- 1 A. Sure, mm-hm.
- 2 Q. -- which said the KEL database only holds current
- 3 entries of KELs. Now, here we have an email from Amy
- 4 Prime, March 2018, which says, "Have we got all historic
- 5 and current KEL entries?" So what I'm asking you is, at
- 6 the time, did you ask yourself from where are these
- 7 historic entries, if the database only holds current
- 8 KELs?
- 9 A. I'm not sure that I did ask that but I may well have
- 10 discussed it with John Simpkins but I think I took the
- 11 KELs that he had provided me with, but again, I think
- 12 this is the distinction between historic KEL and
- 13 a superseded version of a KEL.
- 14 Q. Okay we'll come on to that terminology shortly. Now, to
- 15 answer this question that Ms Prime had raised about the
- 16 upload that had been made in March, as you say, you
- 17 sought some clarification from John Simpkins; is that
- 18 correct?
- 19 A. I think I probably did.
- Q. If we scroll up, please, to page 1. Thank you. So youremail to him of 23 March 2018 is at the bottom.
- 22 "John, I uploaded the KELs to [Womble Bond
- 23 Dickinson's] site and let Pete know I'd done it, but it
- sounds like maybe he hasn't told them, so they are
- 25 checking -- Amy Prime asking 'Please could you confirm 123

- 1 current system.
- 2 Q. So obsolete but for a different reason?
- 3 A. Obsolete because they -- the KEL as a whole is no longer
 - valid, rather than them being superseded versions of
- 5 KELs, yeah.

- 6 Q. We'll come on in a bit to the terminology, it gets
- 7 a little bit complicated but thank you. Now, bearing in
- 8 mind what the electronic directions questionnaire had
- 9 said, if the KEL only contained current database
- 10 entries, from where had the historic entries been
- 11 obtained?
- 12 A. So I think I go on to explain all of that, actually, in
- another email to Amy Prime, probably after this,
- 14 I guess. So there are various statuses that KELs could
- have. So they could either be the currently applicable
- 16 KELs, in other words the ones that the SSC would consult
- 17 that were deemed to relate to the current version of
- 18 Horizon.
- 19 **Q.** Sorry, can I pause you because we will come to that
- 20 email
- 21 **A.** Okay.
- 22 **Q.** That's quite some time later though. What I want to ask
- you about is what you thought at the time that you
- 24 received this email. So we dealt firstly with
- 25 a guestionnaire in late November 2017 --

122

- 1 if this contains all historic and current KELs?'
- 2 "The answer presumably is yes, and am I okay to
- 3 repeat the info you gave to Pete below as the answer to
- 4 Amy?"

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- He answers "Yes, and Yes".
- 6 For information below related to the distinction
- 7 between a Legacy Horizon KEL and a Horizon Online KEL;
- 8 is that correct --
- 9 A. Yes, mm-hm.
- 10 Q. -- how to distinguish the two.
- 11 A. That's right. I think he includes a screenshot, doesn't
- he, showing the difference. Yeah.
- 13 Q. Is that the answer which you gave to Womble Bond
- 14 Dickinson, to the effect that, yes, they had all of --
- 15 A. I assume it is, yes.
- 16 Q. Approximately six months later, you received a further
- 17 request from the Post Office's lawyers to provide any
- 18 KEL entries relating to the Callendar Square bug; do you
- 19 recall that?
- 20 **A.** Yes.
- 21 $\,$ Q. You initially provided to them some statements and
- 22 material relating to the bug; is that correct?
 - 23 A. Yes.
 - 24 Q. You told them that you didn't believe that there was
 - a KEL relating to that particular bug; is that right?

- 1 A. So I think it transpired that there wasn't one in the
- 2 set that we had given to them and, therefore, it looked
- 3 like there wasn't one available.
- 4 Q. Is that the basis on which you said, "I believe there
- 5 isn't one"?
- 6 A. I'm not quite sure but I suspect that if I -- I may well
- 7 have checked with either John Simpkins or Mark Wright
- 8 and, if it wasn't in the set that we provided to WBD,
- 9 then I expect that, if they went and looked for it, they
- 10 wouldn't have found it.
- 11 Q. Just to assist you, the relevant email chain is at
- 12 FUJ00179779, please. Thank you. The original requests
- can be found on page 4, please. Forgive me, if we just
- 14 scroll down a little bit, please, to the email from Lucy
- 15 Bremner, thank you.

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- So this is dated 11 September, addressed to you and Pete Newsome, this email not copied to Mr Jay on this
- 18 occasion, the lawyer. It reads:
- 19 "Matthew, Pete,
 - "You may recall a while ago I asked you to provide
- 21 information on Callendar Square, Falkirk. Apologies if
 - I have missed your response, however I think this CEO
- 23 may still be outstanding."
- 24 So chasing up an earlier request, it would appear;
- 25 is that fair?
- 125
- 1 A. So it is actually a subsite within that site, yeah,
- 2 that's correct. So it contained all of the KELs. So
- 3 this is basically a means of keeping a record of what we
- 4 had provided to WBD. So it seems perfectly possible
- 5 that I would have searched that and then not found it
- 6 but it also be the case, and seems very likely, that
- 7 I would have spoken to John Simpkins about it or Mark
- 8 Wright and they may have looked for it as well.
- 9 Q. Is this, you say, before this email --
- 10 **A.** Um ...
- 11 Q. Because we will come on to see that you did seek some
- 12 clarification from John Simpkins?
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 Q. But it's the basis of your assumptions?
- 15 A. So it's not completely clear from this because one thing
- 16 you have to remember is that not all of the
- 17 conversations I had with people, such as John and Mark,
- were done by email, since they sat on the floor directly
- above me. So I may well have gone and spoken to them.
- 20 Q. If we scroll up, please. So, essentially, forgive me,
- 21 we can keep going up through, there's some back and
- 22 forth between you and Ms Bremner over what materials
- 23 held relevant to Callendar Square --
- 24 **A.** Yes.
- 25 $\,$ **Q.** -- and you provide some additional material, including

- 1 A. It sounds like it, yes.
- 2 Q. "Please could you provide me with any information you
- have on this. Could you also confirm whether KELs exist for this bug?"
 - If we follow up to your initial response, please.
- 6 You initially reply, 12 September:
 - "Lucy,

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- 8 "The attached email I sent to you in July included
- 9 the zip file that was originally provided to Second
- Sight, and which includes information relating to theCallendar Square case.
- 12 "I don't believe there is a related KEL but I will
- 13 check for other information."
- 14 My question was what the basis of that assertion was
- and I think your answer is that it wasn't contained
- 16 within the original batch and, therefore, you'd assumed
- 17 that it didn't exist.
- 18 A. So I think it's -- looking at that now, I think it's
- 19 quite likely that, when the -- when we provided WBD with
- the set of KELs, I believe we also uploaded the same set
- on to our SharePoint site, which, therefore, was
- separate from the SSC's original database, but then,
- 23 in --
- 24 Q. Can I just clarify, which SharePoint site are you
- 25 referring to? Is this the data integrity --
 - 126
- 1 statements from Gareth Jenkins; is that correct?
- 2 A. Yes, I believe, so.
- 3 Q. Then -- thank you -- on 24 September Ms Bremner says:
- "On our call last week you said you were waiting for
 Gareth to confirm whether there is a KEL for Callendar
- 6 Square -- can you let me know?
- 7 "Kind regards,
- 8 "Lucy."
- 9 Now, is that something you recall raising with
- 10 Gareth Jenkins at the time?
- 11 A. I don't recall it, no.
- 12 **Q.** It seems as though you've told Ms Bremner that that was
- 13 something you were doing?
- 14 A. It seems likely that -- yeah, possibly. Or she may have
- 15 thought that I -- I mean, it seemed to me from this
- 16 email thread that I was talking to Gareth about other
- 17 aspects of what they were looking at, at this point. So
- 18 it may be that she thought I was waiting for him to
- 19 confirm that as well, although that may not be the
- 20 case -- it kind of seems more likely to me that I would
- 21 have spoken to SSC about it, rather than Gareth, as to
- 22 whether there was a KEL.
 - 23 Q. Why is that?
- 24 A. Because they're the custodians of that system.
- 25 I suppose it is possible that -- I mean, because we got

1 into the point of whether -- so I believe that Callendar 2 Square was a Horizon issue rather than HNG-X issue, so 3 it seems possible that the KEL may have been deleted, 4 but since Gareth was working there at the time, 5 I suppose it's possible in theory that he may have had 6 a local copy of it that hadn't been deleted. But, 7 I mean, that's speculating in some ways and I'm not --8 don't think that is the discussion I was having with 9 10 Q. When you say a local copy, you mean stored on a laptop 11 12 A. Indeed. 13 Q. Thank you. Can we scroll up, please. So you contact 14 John Simpkins, having been pressed again by Ms Bremner 15 for an answer on this issue as to whether there exists 16 a KEL for Callendar Square. You say: 17 "John, 18 "I am being asked if we can confirm if there is/was 19 a KEL for the 'Callendar Square' issue. Are you able to 20 confirm that definitively please?" 21 You say: 22 "Please see the attachment which describes it 23 (points 1-4); it seems that it was a known issue that 24 was fixed in S90 ..." 25 Do you recall what that is? 129 1 say that I think it shouldn't have been deleted. 2 Q. That's your opinion as a Document Manager? 3 A. Yeah. 4 Q. If we turn, please, to first page, we can see -- forgive 5 me, at the bottom of the first page -- we can see the 6 initial response you received from John Simpkins on 7 25 September 2018. He says: 8 "... Matthew, 9 "I have spent some time trying to track this down 10 via the branch name, date range, release, problem description etc. 11 12 "However I have yet to find a matching KEL. 13 "I think that the best fitting PEAK is [and he gives 14 a reference] which is for the branch [named] but the 15 branch is in Falkirk." 16 He references another PEAK, which has: 17 "... a good description of the problem, which is in 18 the Escher product, fixed in the new version at S90." 19 He then says: 20 "This KELJSimpkins338Q appears to apply which should 21 have been in the extract supplied to [you]." 22 **A**. To them. 23 Q. Forgive me, to them, being the Post Office's lawyers. 24 A.

Q. If we scroll up the page, please, we can see your

131

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So that's a major release in Legacy Horizon. 2 Q. A software release? A. Correct, yeah. 3 4 Q. "... and that in this context was of interest because it was brought up in connection with the West Byfleet case. 5 6 "If it was fixed, and therefore the bug wouldn't arise again, would a KEL, had it existed, have been 7 8 deleted?" 9 So did that reflect an understanding you had at the 10 time about the processes relating to the deletion of 11 KELs or is this simply an assumption that you --12 Yeah, I'm not sure. I mean, it seems from the way I've A. 13 asked the question that I didn't know that at the time 14 and that's why I was seeking clarification, yeah. 15 I mean, I may have either started to suspect it, or --16 yeah. I mean, logically, it seems possible, doesn't it? 17 So again, bearing in mind the fact that this 18 Callendar Square was a Legacy Horizon issue, that 19 related to Riposte. So by the time we got, you know, 20 several years into operation of HNG-X then it would have 21 had no operational relevance any longer. 22 What was your understanding at this stage about 23 Fujitsu's internal policy in relation to the retention 24 or deletion of KELs? 25 In terms of KELs specifically, I don't know but I would 1 response. You say: 2 "John. 3 "Thanks for this. It looks like [the KEL] 4 JSimpkins338Q no longer exists, it wasn't in the set 5 that we sent them. Do KELs get deleted?" So, as you said before, some uncertainty on your 6 7 part as to what the correct procedures were. A. Yes. 8 9 **Q.** The response you received from John Simpkins: "Yes KELs can get deleted. 10 11 "I will see if I can dig out the deleted KEL 12 details, or would you prefer that it is just stay as 'deleted'." 13 14 Presumably that was meant to read that "it just 15 stays as deleted"? 16 A. I think so. 17 Q. What did you understand Mr Simpkins to mean when he 18 wrote, "would you prefer that it just stay as deleted"? 19 A. Yeah, I'm not sure. I mean, to be honest, I'm not 20 really sure why he said that but, you know, I think I'd 21 interpret it in the same way that I guess anyone would,

could be retrieved?

which is that do you want me to not reveal it? I guess.

be concealing the existence of a deleted KEL, even if it

Q. Essentially, was he asking you whether or not he should

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- A. It certainly does sound like that. I don't really know
 what his intention is, to be honest.
- 3 Q. What did you make of that suggestion at the time?
- 4 A. I think that it -- I mean, I wouldn't agree with doing
- 5 that and I don't think I did at the time, and I think
- 6 that that we didn't follow or even discuss following
- 7 that proposal, as it were.
- 8 Q. Just going back, please, to your email, that you sent
- 9 him, beginning on the 26th, in that, you said it looks
- 10 like that particular KEL no longer exists. Do you know
- 11 how you established that, namely that the KEL no longer
- 12 existed?
- 13 A. So, again, as I said before, I would guess that was by
- 14 looking it up in the repository of KELs that I had on
- 15 the SharePoint site and possibly also looking in the SSC
- 16 website at the KEL repository. So the fact that it had
- 17 been deleted does mean that it would no longer exist if
- 18 you did a search in either of those places. You
- 19 wouldn't find it.
- 20 Q. By deletion, did you understand at that stage that we
- 21 were talking about data that was irretrievable?
- 22 A. I don't think that I was sure, because I think I was --
- as you can see here, that I wasn't even clear at that
- 24 stage whether they could be deleted or not. So I'm not
- 25 sure that I would have known what "deleted" meant,
 - 133
- 1 "I have managed to retrieve this from the deleted 2 Horizon KELs table."
- Then he proceeds to, in the body of the email he has
- 4 copied and pasted the information that he has
- 5 recovered --
- 6 **A.** Yes.
- 7 Q. -- in relation to that KEL. Now, so far as you're
- 8 aware, from where had Mr Simpkins retrieved this
- 9 information?
- 10 A. From something called the deleted Horizon KELs table
- 11 I mean, yeah, that's all I knew at that stage.
- 12 Q. Did you know where that table resided?
- 13 A. Not -- not from that email, no. I mean, I think I found
- 14 out later that it's somewhere within the SSC database.
- 15 Q. Was this the first time that you became aware that there
- 16 existed deleted Horizon KELs which could be retrieved by
- 17 Fujitsu?
- 18 A. Yeah, I think so.
- 19 Q. Were you concerned to discover that there existed
- 20 a repository of KELs of which you'd not previously been
- 21 aware?
- 22 $\,$ **A.** Well, I think the answer is yes and I think from -- in
- the same email chain, you can see me asking whether
- 24 we've told WBD that before and raising some issues
- 25 around the fact that we have now some -- effectively

- 1 necessarily. But you're right, deletion could be
- 2 deletion but retrievable or deletion but not
- 3 retrievable.
- 4 Q. But that's not something to which you addressed your
- 5 mind at the time, you don't think?
- 6 A. Not immediately.
- 7 Q. A short time later, so after confirming that he would
- 8 make some enquiries and querying with you whether he
- 9 should provide anything if he finds it, he writes to
- 10 confirm that he has, in fact, retrieved the details of
- 11 the deleted KEL; is that correct?
- 12 A. Yes, it looks -- that's what he says, yes.
- 13 Q. Could we please take a look at that email chain, which
- 14 is at FUJ --
- 15 A. Sorry, just one sec. So "I will see if I can dig out
- the deleted KEL details". So he's not, actually, at
- that stage saying that he has found it, I don't think.
- 18 Q. No, we're going to move on to another chain. It's
- 19 a different chain so we don't see that reference to
- 20 whether it should stay deleted?
- 21 A. Right.
- 22 Q. This is at FUJ00179940, please, on page 2. So this is
- 23 on the same day, about an hour later, after the email we
- 24 have just looked at. He says:
- 25 "Matthew,

134

- 1 some more KELs that we haven't previously referred to.
- 2 Q. We'll come to that. Just staying where we are for now,
- 3 it would have occurred to you, would it not, that the
- 4 previous assurance which you had given to Womble Bond
- 5 Dickinson about having provided all historic and current
- 6 KELs, was incorrect?
- 7 A. I'm not sure that it did occur to me immediately in the
 - context of the EDQ, no. I mean, this is like several
- 9 months later, isn't it?
- 10 Q. Sorry, not in the context of the EDQ but you were asked
- 11 by Womble Bond Dickinson to give a specific assurance --
 - 12 A. Oh, right, yeah.

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- 13 Q. -- that you had disclosed all historic and current KELs
- and, on the basis of what John Simpkins had told you,
- 15 you confirmed that was correct. I think you confirmed
- 16 that was correct?
- 17 A. Yes. Yes, correct. Yeah.
- 18 **Q.** Now, what I'm saying is, it would have occurred to you,
- 19 wouldn't it, that, if there existed deleted KELs which
- 20 could be retrieved, you had not, in fact, provided all
- 21 historic and current KELs to the Post Office's lawyers?
- 22 A. Correct, yeah. So again -- well, I mean I don't think
- 23 it occurred to me in terms of that statement but I think
- I go on to raise that question in this chain.
- 25 Q. We will come to it.

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- Α. 1 Yeah.
- 2 Q. Did you go back to Womble Bond Dickinson to notify them
- 3 that your earlier assurance about the disclosure of all
- 4 historic and current KELs was wrong?
- 5 A. Well, again, I think not immediately. But then, I think
- 6 we discuss it in this email chain and then I think
- 7 eventually we do go back and tell them that. Again,
- 8 I don't know about specifically referring back to that
- 9 email in which they asked that question and got that
- 10 response but I think we did provide them.
- Q. Well, let's look now at how the issue was handled by you 11
- 12 and your colleagues. We're on the same document,
- 13 please, at page 1. At the bottom of that page we see --
- 14 this is your email to Dave Ibbett. Could you just
- 15 confirm his role, please?
- 16 A. So Dave Ibbett was a Project Manager, a Fujitsu Project
- 17 Manager, who had been tasked with helping to project
- 18 manage this exercise, basically.
- 19 Q. He was someone with whom you worked; is that correct?
- 20 Correct, yeah. Α.
- 21 **Q.** So he was supporting you in the management of requests
- for information from the Post Office's --22
- 23 A. Correct, yes.
- 24 Q. There's also Pete Newsome and John Simpkins. So this is
- 25 following on from John's email to you; is that right?
- 1 possibility that you would not share the KEL and the
- 2 associated PEAKs with the Post Office's lawyers; is that
- 3
- 4 A. It is fair to say that. I mean, I -- I think when
- 5 I wrote this email, I was assuming that we were going to
- 6 share it, hence "when", and then I think I considered
- 7 that someone else may have a different view, bearing in
- 8 mind that Pete Newsome is, effectively, the manager of
- 9 this exercise, and he may have taken a different view.
- 10 So, in a way, it's not really my decision but I think
- 11 I'm pretty clear that it's going to happen, actually.
- So your evidence is, essentially, you're looking to Pete 12
- for direction on how to deal with it --13
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. -- did you consider that consider providing relevant
- 16 information to the Post Office was optional?
- 17 Α. Err --
- Q. Was it your own view that it was optional? 18
- 19 A. I don't think it was, no.
- 20 Q. You do express here some concerns that the existence of
- 21 deleted KELs appears to be inconsistent with information
- 22 you've already provided to the Post Office's lawyers; is
- 23 that fair?
- 24 A. Yeah, I think so.
- 25 Q. If we scroll up to the top of the page, please. We can 139

- A. I believe so.
- 2 Q. If we scroll down, please, sorry, slightly, we can see -- thank you. So you're forwarding John's email 3 4
 - now, copying in Pete Newsome and Dave Ibbett?
- 5 A. Yeah
- 6 Q. You say:

"Pete, in looking into Lucy Bremner's questions about whether there is a KEL for Callendar Square, John has identified two PEAKs which he believes describe the same issue, even if they were not raised in direct relation to that same branch, and from that a KEL, which has been deleted and was therefore not in the set of KELs that we have shared with [Womble Bond Dickinson].

John has managed to retrieve the content of the KEL as

15 shown in the email below. 16 "When (if?) I share this KEL, indeed the PEAKs since 17 they reference the KEL, I'll need to raise the subject 18 of there being KELs which have been deleted. Is that

20 are deleted KELs?

> "If we have to explain that then I suppose we need to know why; John, do you know the criteria? Was this a Horizon System only KEL that once fixed by S80, or once superseded by HNG-X, was no longer required?"

okay, have we previously mentioned to them that there

Now, here you appear to be considering the

138

- 1 see the first response you received to your query from
- 2 Pete Newsome. He says:
- 3 "Matthew
 - "I think we should send to [Womble Bond Dickinson] saying how we identified the KEL and that it was deleted from the database by John ..."
- 7 Sorry, presumably it should read 'but John'?
- 8 A. Mm-hm.
 - Q. "... was able to find a copy on a local drive.
- 10 "Pete."
- 11 So what Mr Newsome appears to say is, yes, we do
- 12 disclose the deleted KEL; is that fair?
- 13 A.
- 14 Q. But, by way of explanation for the late disclosure, he 15 suggests that you tell Womble Bond Dickinson that it was
- 16 found on a local drive?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Did you consider that statement to be true?
- 19 A. No, because I think John had -- I think in hits -- well,
- 20 in his email beneath this he had said that he'd found it
- 21 in the deleted table and I think I probably had
- 22 a discussion with him in which he said that it was
- 23 a table within the database. So that, to me, would
- 24 immediately sound like it wasn't a local drive but was
- 25 a table within the SSC website somewhere.

- 1 Q. From where do you think Mr Newsome obtained the
- 2 information that John had been able to find a copy on
- 3 a local drive?
- 4 **A.** I think -- well, I mean, I can only assume he's making an incorrect assumption.
- ${\bf 6} \quad {\bf Q}. \quad {\bf Do} \ {\bf you} \ {\bf think} \ {\bf it's} \ {\bf possible} \ {\bf that} \ {\bf that} \ {\bf was} \ {\bf simply} \ {\bf made} \ {\bf up}$
- 7 by Mr Newsome to avoid any further questions about
- 8 deleted KELs?
- 9 A. It's possible.
- 10 Q. Please could we look at the response you received from
- 11 John Simpkins to your query about why the KEL had been
- 12 deleted. This can be found in a separate chain, please,
- 13 at FUJ00179952.
- 14 Thank you. At the bottom of that first page,
 - please, we can see an email from John Simpkins dated
- 16 26 September, in which he says, in answer to your
- 17 question:

- 18 "Yes, I would expect that once S90 was released the
- 19 proved that this was fixed the KEL was deleted."
- 20 So, obviously, some grammatical errors there but 21 essentially saving that it was his expectation that it
- 21 essentially saying that it was his expectation that it
- 22 was deleted once the release was thought to have fixed
- the problem; is that fair?
- 24 A. Yes, well, he's saying he -- it looks like he's assuming
- 25 that. He doesn't know that for a fact but --
 - 141
- 1 why it was there; is that what you're asking?
- 2 Q. No, forgive me. I'm simply making the point that here,
- 3 a short time later, he's advancing a further
- 4 explanation.
- 5 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 6 Q. But forgive me, he's instructing you to give a different
- 7 explanation as to why the KEL had been -- as to why the
- 8 deleted KEL had been discovered.
- 9 A. Well, no, I'm saying that's too separate things though,
- 10 isn't it? So the reason it's been discovered is not the
- 11 same as the reason it was deleted.
- 12 Q. Forgive me.
- 13 A. Yeah, he's providing the reason why it was deleted, not
- 14 how or why it was found.
- 15 Q. But providing an explanation as to why it wasn't
- 16 disclosed in the first place; isn't that the
- 17 underlying --
- 18 A. Um, yeah, I guess so. It's -- yeah. I mean, the fact
- 19 that it was deleted is the reason that it wasn't
- 20 disclosed in the first place, not why it was deleted
- 21 though. I mean, why it was deleted, in some ways, could
- 22 be another reason, couldn't it? But it's connected but
- 23 it's not the same thing.
- 24 $\,$ Q. No, I agree with that. But it's all part of, is it not,
- an attempt to explain away why Fujitsu has discovered 143

- 1 Q. He's making an assumption?
- 2 A. Yeah.

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- 3 Q. Do you know why Mr Simpson would have been making
- 4 an assumption rather than knowing the reason for the
- 5 deletion of the KEL?
- 6 $\,$ A. I mean, I think unless somebody had made a note as to
 - why the KEL was deleted, then there wouldn't be any
- 8 other explanation recorded anywhere. So I think he
- 9 would just -- he's just kind of logically deducing that
- that is almost certainly the case, in his opinion.
- 11 Q. If we scroll up to the top of that first page, please,
- we now see a further instruction from Pete Newsome. So
- 13 very shortly after the email we looked at earlier, in
- which he suggested providing explanation about a local
- 15 drive. He now says:
- 16 "Matthew
- 17 "Include this as to why we deleted the KEL."
- Now, this explanation didn't rely on a purported
- 19 discovery of the KEL and a local drive but upon
- 20 an assumption that Mr Simpkins had made that the KEL had
- 21 been deleted; is that fair?
- 22 A. So that's two separate things, though, isn't it?
- 23 Q. Forgive me, I'm saying so we've moved on from the
- 24 original explanation, which was --
- 25 **A.** So one of them is how he found it and the other one was 142
- 1 a KEL that wasn't previously disclosed?
- 2 A. I guess so, yeah.
- 3 Q. This is the explanation which you provided to Womble
- 4 Bond Dickinson, is it not, when you handed over the
- 5 deleted KEL; do you recall that?
- 6 A. The explanation as to why it was deleted, I believe that
- 7 is what I told them.
- 8 Q. Can we look at FUJ00159985. Thank you. Your email is
- 9 at the bottom of page 1, on to page 2. Thank you. So
- 10 it's dated 28 September. You say:
- 11 "Lucy,
- 12 "We have locked into this, and it appears that the
- relevant PEAKs are [give the references] attached.
- 14 "The two related KELs were deleted, due to the fact
- that the S90 release was proven to have fixed the issue,
- and they so would not be included in the set of KELs
- 17 which you have.
 - "We have been able to retrieve the text from one [of] them [it should presumably read] however, as
- 20 attached [and you provide that as KEL JSimpkins338Q]."
- Now, in this email, you assert as fact that the two related KELs had been deleted because it was shown the
- 23 issue had been fixed by a software release, do you not?
- 24 **A**. Yes

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25 Q. You didn't know whether that was, in fact, the reason

1	why they'd	l been	deleted,	did	you?
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- 2 A. Well, I was given that explanation by John Simpkins, and
- 3 assumed, therefore, that it was true, since that was his
 - view, and I'm not sure what other explanation -- I mean,
- 5 yeah, I -- I'm not --
- 6 Q. Forgive me, the point I'm trying to make is that you had
- 7 an assumption that he'd made and you accepted that that
- 8 was an assumption and you assert it here as a fact?
- 9 A. Okay. Yes.

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- 10 Q. If you were being entirely accurate, you would have
- 11 said, "We don't know why they were deleted but we assume
- 12 it was because the problem had been fixed by a software
- 13 release", would you not?
- 14 A. I could have stated it in that way. I'm not sure that
- 15 it was clear to me how sure John Simpkins was of that --
- 16 his view. So, I mean, I -- if what I'm saying --
- 17 Q. If he wasn't sure if his view, how could you be sure --
- 18 A. Well, I'm not sure that I had any particular reason to
- doubt it but you're right though: maybe this is
- 20 overstated in terms of sounding like it's a 100 per cent
- 21 certainty.
- 22 Q. Were you hoping to shut down any further enquiries into
- 23 the existence of deleted KELs?
- 24 A. I don't think so, no. I mean, to be honest, I am not
- sure that I would have had any interest in doing that.
 - 145
- 1 the corresponding issues are fixed ..."
- 2 She then lists four questions. Firstly:
- 3 "Is that procedure a general rule?
 - "If so, is it enshrined in a formal process?"
- 5 Thirdly:

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- 6 "If so, which -- and do we have the corresponding
- 7 documentation?"
- 8 Fourthly:
- 9 "Are all deleted KELs available in a searchable
 - archive? I assume that text could, in principle, be
- 11 retrieved from other KELs."
- 12 She asked for an urgent response because they are
- 13 having a call with the experts that morning.
- 14 Now, you refer these queries to John Simpkins; is
- 15 that right?
- 16 A. I think so.
- 17 Q. It appears you carry out some research yourself into the
- 18 processes for deletion of KELs; is that right?
- 19 **A.** I think so.
- 20 $\,$ Q. On the basis of that research and the responses you
- 21 received from Mr Simpkins, you respond to Ms Bremner.
- We can see that response, please, at FUJ00160063, at
- page 2, please. So we see a list of the original
- 24 questions and your responses in bold; is that correct?
- 25 A. Correct, yeah.

- 1 Q. Do you think you were being entirely transparent in the
- 2 explanation that you gave?
- 3 A. I think possibly more information could have been given
 - but, I mean, to be honest, I think I thought I was being
- 5 helpful and providing them with an answer to the
- 6 question that they had given. I mean, I don't -- to be
- 7 honest, I just don't think -- no -- it's of no interest
- 8 to me to hide whether there were deleted KELs or not.
- 9 It makes no difference to me.
- 10 Q. Would you have been concerned, though, about the
- 11 reputation of Fujitsu and how it had handled the
- 12 disclosure of KELs to date?
- 13 A. Not really.
- 14 Q. Two weeks later, you receive a number of queries from
- 15 Womble Bond Dickinson about the deletion of KELs; is
- 16 that right?
- 17 A. I think so, yeah.
- 18 Q. Can we take a look at that email, please, at
- 19 FUJ00181400. Thank you. If we could scroll down,
- 20 please, to page 4. So this is an email of 11 October
- 21 from Lucy Bremner. She says:
 - "Matthew,
- 23 "We have sent the two KELs for Callendar Square to
- 24 our IT experts. They have come back with the following
- 25 questions for you relating to KELs being deleted when
 - 146
 - **Q.** In square brackets, you've written "Matthew Lenton" to
 - indicate you're the author of the text?
- 3 A. Yes

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- 4 Q. So you answer the first two questions in the
- 5 affirmative, that's correct?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. The third you provide some documentation that you've
- 8 managed to source; is that from Dimensions?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Finally, the fourth question, about whether or not
- 11 deleted KELs are searchable and can be retrieved, you
- 12 state:
- 13 "They are not text searchable in their current
- 14 location, but all deleted KELs can potentially be
- retrieved, although this would require additional time and effort to do, after which those retrieved would the
- and effort to do, after which those retrieved would then
 be searchable. It is believed that all deleted KELs are
- 18 still in the archive table."
- 19 Now, from where had you obtained that information?
- 20 A. Almost undoubtedly from John Simpkins.
- 21 Q. Did you make any specific enquiries of Mr Simpkins as to
- 22 whether or not all deleted KELs could in fact be
 - 23 retrieved?
 - 24 A. Well, I was going to say I think it transpires later on
- 25 that that's not correct and that there were deleted KELs

1 that were retrievable and deleted KELs that were not 1 "HNG-X [Horizon Online] deleted KELs -- 212." 2 2 retrievable. He goes on to say: 3 3 Q. Thank you. We will come on to that shortly. "Please note however that come KELs would have been 4 Now, I think within minutes of sending this response 4 deleted because they were wrongly raised as well as 5 to Womble Bond Dickinson, you receive a further email those out of date. So we cannot confirm that all the 5 6 asking you to confirm how many KELs have been deleted --6 information in these is valid, ie if the SMC raised 7 A. Right. 7 a KEL wrongly the SSC may well have deleted it as such. 8 Q. -- is that right? 8 Therefore I have reservations about supplying an export A. I think so. 9 9 of deleted KELs." 10 Q. We can look at that, please, FUJ00160063. I think that 10 What we appear to see here, do we not, is some may be where we are anyway. On the first page, please. 11 reluctance by John Simpkins to consent to the disclosure 11 12 12 Thank you. So she follows up with that query, which you of the deleted KELs; is that fair? 13 refer to John Simpkins, please, at FUJ00181400. Thank 13 A. Yeah, I mean, I'm not completely clear what he means 14 you. So, at the bottom of the first page, please, we 14 about reservations. I mean, I don't know whether he 15 can see your email to John Simpkins: 15 means reluctance to supply them at all or just those are 16 "John, do you know how many KELs have been deleted 16 his reservations, in that there may well be 17 to date? 17 a significant number of deleted KELs that are actually 18 not valid as KELs at all. I mean, I think I recall "That's [Womble Bond Dickinson's] question for now, 18 19 are you able to provide an answer please? 19 there was a fairly, fairly regular problem with SMC 20 "I think I know what's coming next." 20 raising KELs for which there were already KELs. So you 21 What did you mean by that? 21 would end up with a duplicate. And I think he's 22 22 A. Well, once we tell them, they'll ask for all of them. referring to those also being included in that set. 23 Q. We can see Mr Simpkins' response, in the middle of the 23 So I'm -- it's possible that his reservation is more 24 24 page, please, at 16.01. He says: about we can't just send the whole load over because 25 "Horizon deleted KELs -- [there are] 1,281. 25 some of them just simply aren't valid and never were. 149 1 Q. I think it transpires in early November, you do provide 1 appreciated." 2 a tranche of deleted KELs, 1,491, in response to their 2 We can see here you have again adopted the method of 3 request; do you recall that? 3 putting your responses in the body of the email in bold. 4 A. I believe so, yeah. 4 In relation to the KELs, you say several of them are 5 Q. Now, in early February 2019, you receive several queries 5 deleted, not deactivated, and they cannot be retrieved. 6 from Womble Bond Dickinson which were prompted by the 6 Now, that, of course, was different to what you'd 7 7 claimants' technical expert. Do you have any said previously, which was that you'd understood them 8 recollection? 8 all to be retrievable. 9 A. I'm sure I do. If you show me --9 A. Yes, although, as I say, later it transpired that some 10 deleted KELs were not retrievable. I'm not quite clear 10 Q. Yes, of course. whether this is before or after that statement. I mean, A. -- more specifically what we're talking about. 11 11 Q. That email is at FUJ00086758, please. Thank you, I think you can see from this that there's a kind of 12 12 13 page 3, please. If we could scroll down, please, to the 13 lack of knowledge on my part about whether -- about the 14 bottom of page 3, thank you, so this is 6 February from 14 status of deleted KELs. 15 Lucy Bremner, she says: 15 Q. If we go to page 2, please --16 "Matthew, 16 Forgive me, sir, I may have an erroneous reference. 17 Jason Coyne", who was the claimant's technical 17 In any event, I think we're due to give the transcriber 18 expert. Do you recall him as such? a break, so I wonder if we could, please, briefly break 18 19 A. Yes, yeah. 19 now, whilst I make sure I have the correct reference Q. "... has referred to a number of PEAKs/KELs in his 20 20 when we come back and I can take Mr Lenton to the 21 supplemental report that he states have not been 21 relevant email. 22 disclosed. Can you let me know why they are not in the 22 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly. When you say "briefly", do

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PEAK/KEL extracts that we have received from you? Is it

because they were all from the system 'PinICL'? If you

can provide any dates relating to them that would be

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you mean we take a 15-minute afternoon break or just --

MS HODGE: Yes, please. Our regular break, thank you.

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SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. So it's 2.50, so 3.05.

MS HODGE: Thank you sir, yes. 1 2 (2.50 pm) 3 (A short break) 4 (3.05 pm) 5 MS HODGE: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear us? 6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. 7 MS HODGE: Sir, thank you for the time. 8 The reference, please, is FUJ00086758. 9 Mr Lenton, you mentioned more than once in your 10 evidence there was some ambiguity in the terminology used but that you did clarify that in an email to Womble 11 12 Bond Dickinson. This is your email of the 13th -- well, 13 it's Ms Prime's email of 13 February. We can see at the 14 very top there you confirm that you've inserted your 15 comments into the body of the email --16 A. Yes. 17 Q. -- as you'd done on previous occasions. So if we scroll down, please, to Ms Prime's email, where we have her 18 19 questions and your answers in bold. The first related 20 to the PinICL system which was the predecessor to PEAK; 21 is that right? 22 A. Yes, that's correct. 23 **Q.** The second point relating to deleted KELs. She asks: 24 "... are [these] not retrievable? Or were [they] 25 provided to us on 5 November 2018 ..." 153 1 Q. You go on to confirm that that is the set of KELs that 2 had been provided to the Post Office's lawyers in 3 November 2018. 4 Then we have another category which you describe as 5 deactivated KELs. She says: 6 "... these were provided to us in the extract in 7 [March or November]?" 8 You say: 9 "These are KELs that have not been deleted into the 10 'deleted table' but are excluded from the SSC's default searches which focus on live KELs, but can be included 11 12 easily by changing the search criteria." They formed part of the original March batch, so 13 14 they were presumably the historic KELs that you did 15 provide in March 2018; is that correct? A. I believe so, yes. 16 17 Q. Then a fourth category is deprecated KELs, is that the 18 correct pronunciation? Yes. 19 Α. 20 Q. She said: 21 "... these were provided to us in the extract in 22 March 2018, or on 5 November 2018?" 23 So asking "Have we had them?" 24

"When a KEL is updated, the old version of that same

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1 So this is triggered by some confusion as to whether 2 or not deleted KELs were or were not retrievable? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. You explained that there are two categories. Firstly, deleted KELs that are no longer retrievable because 5 6 they've been completely deleted. You said: 7 "This was before the SSC started saving them into 8 a 'deleted table'." 9 I think you said in your evidence that that was not something you would approve of from a document 10 11 management perspective; is that correct? 12 Correct, yeah. A. 13 Q. You say: 14 "These cannot be provided, and if a KEL is referred 15 to by us as not being retrievable, and, I believe, all 16 KELs that are referred to in [the Claimants' expert's] 17 report as not having been disclosed, then they fall into 18 this category", so deleted KELs which you cannot 19 retrieve. 20 The other category of deleted KELs are those which 21 are retrievable due to being deleted into a deleted 22 table, to which Mr Simpkins originally referred you in 23 response to the Callendar Square bug query; is that 24 correct? 25 A. I believe so, yeah. 154 1 2

KEL is deprecated, so these are superseded versions of live or deactivated KELs. We have only provided the most recent versions, so we have not separately provided these superseded versions. Note that there are no deprecated versions of KELs in the category 2a", that being KELs which were deleted before to the introduction of the deleted KEL table and which fall within your definition of irretrievable; is that right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. The final category she has are live KELs. You confirm
11 these were provided in March and you confirm when she
12 says, "Are there any other ... KELs", no, all KELs are
13 covered by categories 2 to 5 above.

Now, the fourth category of deprecated KELs, this was another category of historic KELs which hadn't been disclosed; is that right?

A. So, rather than using the word "historic KELs", because
 that has possibly the implication that they're no longer
 current KELs, so deprecated KELs could be just
 superseded versions of any KELs that exist.

21 Q. So both current and historic?

A. Well, I'm assuming that deactivated KELs could be
 regarded as historic but, from what it says here there
 would be deprecated or superseded versions of those.

25 Q. Of the deactivated ones?

- 1 A. Yeah, as well as the live ones, yeah, of course.
- 2 Q. Now, as earlier iterations of either a current or
- 3 a deactivated KEL -- sorry, these were earlier
- 4 iterations, that's essentially the point you're making?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. They would have contained information relating to the
- 7 symptoms of the fault, it's underlying causes, the
- 8 solution and related PEAKs, would it not?
- 9 A. Possibly.
- 10 Q. Be consistent with what we see in other KEL documents?
- 11 A. Yeah. mm-hm.
- 12 Q. If they contained that information, would they not have
- 13 provided valuable evidence about the detection,
- 14 diagnosis, and remedial action which had been taken
- 15 previously in response to the --
- 16 A. Potentially.
- 17 Q. Possibly?
- 18 A. Yes. I mean, bearing in mind of course that the most
- 19 recent versions were provided.
- 20 Q. The current versions?
- 21 A. Yeah.

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- 22 Q. Now, I think the point you make later is that here in
- this email, perhaps not advertising, but you were
- 24 drawing to the attention of the Post Office's lawyers
- 25 that there is yet a further category which Fujitsu holds
- 1 relation to KELs ..."
 - That's the passage of course which we looked at
- 3 earlier. She said:
 - "Can you confirm that this is definitely the correct position ... We need to respond to Freeths ..."
- 6 Now, your response a little further up,
- 7 unsurprisingly, was that that was not entirely correct.
- 8 You say:
 - "The second sentence is not correct, [that being]:
 - 'The previous entries/versions of the current entries are no longer available'."
- 12 You say:
- 13 "You may recall that there are three status
- 14 categories of KEL: current, deprecated and deleted. For
- those that are current or deprecated, they have been
- 16 updated in such a way that previous content is not
- permanently overwritten, but instead a new version is
- 18 created, with the previous versions being retained and
- 19 accessible. For those that have been deleted, only the
- 20 last version at the point of deletion has been
- 21 retained."
- Now, you had disclosed a batch of deleted KELs in November, that's correct, isn't it? We've covered that.
- 24 **A.** Yes.
- 25 Q. But you hadn't disclosed any of the KELs falling into

159

- 1 which hasn't been disclosed?
- 2 A. Correct, yeah, and yeah, as I'm sure you're leading to
- 3 already, this is contrary to what was stated in the EDQ,
- 4 yeah.
- 5 Q. So we come, then, to a further query in late September
- 6 2019 and this relates to the accuracy of the Electronic
- 7 Document Questionnaire. Do you recall that being raised
- 8 with you by the Post Office's lawyers?
- 9 A. I do. It's -- did you just tell me the date just then
- 10 it
- 11 Q. This is late September?
- 12 A. Yeah, I mean, it was after this email, isn't it,
- 13 I believe?
- 14 Q. That chain, please, is FUJ00166835.
- 15 A. Yeah, so it's considerably after that last email,
- 16 I think, in fact, isn't it?
- 17 Q. Thank you. Pages 9 to 10. Bottom of page 9 on to
- page 10, please. Sorry, if we scroll down, please,
- 19 a little further, we'll have the original email from
- 20 Ms Bremner. Thank you. So that's 30 September 2019.
- 21 She says:

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- 22 "Matthew,
 - "Post Office is seeking to closed from its
- 24 Electronic Documents Questionnaire submitted back in
- 25 2017. It's seeking to rely on the following quote in
 - 15
- 1 the deprecated category?
- 2 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 3 Q. Do you recall how many deprecated KELs existed?
- 4 A. I believe a figure of something like 5,000.
- 5 Q. Could we, please, turn to FUJ00166835. Thank you. So
- 6 this is in early October. You've been asked to provide
- 7 an entirely refresh extraction of KELs; is that correct?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Here you provide a breakdown of the different
- 10 categories. We see there against deprecated KELs there
- 11 were 6,155; is that right?
- 12 A. Right.
- 13 Q. Does that sound correct?
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 Q. Is that the number of KELs which were disclosed by
- 16 Fujitsu after the conclusion of the Horizon Issues
- 17 trial?
- 18 A. That's the total number of new documents that were
- disclosed, yeah, because it says that there were 14,365
- disclosed, of which about 8,000/9,000, had already been
- 21 disclosed.
- 22 Q. I think you've accepted that these 6,155 documents might
- have provided valuable evidence about the detection,
- 24 diagnosis and remedial action taken to address known
- 25 errors in the system; is that right?

- Potentially. 1 Α.
- 2 Q. I'd like to move on to a new topic, please, which
- 3 relates to your knowledge of and information which you
- 4 provided about remote access. In your statement, you
- 5 say you were not aware until the Group Litigation that
- 6 Fujitsu staff had the ability to insert transaction data
- 7 into branch accounts without the express knowledge or
- 8 consent of the subpostmaster; is that right?
- 9 A. Correct. Yeah.
- 10 Q. It appears, from the documents we have, that this issue
- was brought to your attention in or around May 2018 11
- 12 because of a request for information made by the
- 13 claimants' technical expert; is that right?
- A. Right. I think so. 14
- Q. If we look, please, at FUJ00222620. Now, I think, 15
- 16 please, if we could scroll to the very bottom of that
- 17 document, we see the original request from Womble Bond
- 18 Dickinson. Thank you. So this is just for reference.
- 19 This was the genesis of the request that came in,
- 20 requests for information from the claimants' experts.
- 21 You were asked, were you not, to identify documents which were responsive to that request?
- 22
- 23 A. Yes.

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- 24 Q. One of the topics covered by the claimants' expert in
- 25 his request for information was remote access; do you
- 1 following page -- forgive me, and one on, please. Thank 2 you.
 - So the other questions relating to remote access 1.14 to 1.16. 1.14 states:
 - "Can it be described what privileges and capabilities administrators had in relation to branch remote access and the relevant processes and procedures?"
 - 1.15:
 - "Please describe how transaction amendments (including reversals and balancing transactions) can be identified for those which were not carried out by the SPM in the audit/transaction data/logs ..."
 - So if we can, please, briefly look at the comments on the followed page, these are comments from the Post Office's lawyers. J14 and J15 indicate their understanding that the query relates both to balancing transactions and privileged user access; do you see that?
- 20 Α. Mm-hm, yeah.
- 21 Q. Now, I think it's right, is it not, you took steps to
- 22 identify documents which you understood to be responsive

163

- 23 to those requests; is that right?
- 24 A. I believe so, yeah.
- 25 You also sought information from a subject matter

recall that? 1

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- 2 A. I believe so, yeah.
- 3 I wonder, please, if we could show the information 4
 - request, it bears the reference FUJ00222364. Thank you.
- 5 The relevant section relating to remote access, please,
- 6 is on page 2, under the heading "In relation to Issue
 - 7". Forgive me, this contains the comments. It will be the following page. Thank you.
- q If we scroll down, please, "In relation to 7", thank
- 10 you. So at question 1.13, the claimants' expert asked:
- 11 "When Fujitsu accessed branch accounts to modify or
- 12 insert data, can it be described what the need for that
- 13 access was and what modifications were performed? Can
- 14 it be confirmed how many times this occurred?"
- 15 Now, we can see some small boxes with the letters 16 and numbers J9, J10, J11. Do you recall what they were?
- 17 A. So I think these are comments by Jonathan Gribben from WBD. 18
- 19 Q. Thank you. So just dealing first with question 1.13,
- 20 essentially, what you're being asked there is what
- 21 records you hold or what records Fujitsu hold indicating
- 22 for what reason and how often Fujitsu had inserted data
- 23 into branch accounts; is that fair?
- 24 A. Right. Yes.
- 25 Q. Thank you. Could we scroll down, please, to the
- 1 expert, which, in this case, was Stephen Parker; is that 2 right?
- 3 A. Yes, I think so.
- 4 Q. Let's look briefly at that exchange, please. It can be
- 5 found at FUJ00222620. Thank you. Your email to
- 6 Mr Parker can be found at the top of page 2, please.
- 7 Thank you. It's dated 24 May 2018. You explain to him
- 8 the documents which you've attached to your email. They
- 9 comprised the request for information, which we've just
- 10 looked at, as well as a table of documents, that you'd
- 11 prepared that you understood to be responsive to the
- 12 request; does that sound right?
- 13 Α. Yes.
- 14 Q. You then say this, the third paragraph:
- 15 "Questions 1.13 to 1.16 all relate to issues around
- 16 remote access to the live system and corrections ...
- 17 Something I've tried to point out is that there are two
- 18 different processes both named 'Transaction
- 19 Correction' -- one is the TPS/POL Finance Systems
- 20 corrections generated wholly within POL which are
- 21 delivered via the file described in [you state the
- 22 reference], and I understand this happens regularly.
- 23 The other is the 'Transaction Correction Tool' which is
- 24 described in [you state document reference] which
- 25 happens very rarely (once?); this is where I'm getting

referred to SSC. Are you able to provide additional information in response to the questions in the comments labelled 'JONATHANG' for 1.13 to 1.16? Are there logs of it being requested, being done, and what is the procedure for authorising and doing it ..."

In that section we've just read, you identify two tools by which corrections can be made to branch accounts, the first is in the Post Office's back end accounting systems; is that correct?

- 10 A. I believe, so, yeah.
- 11 **Q.** The second being a transaction correction tool developedfor the use in Horizon Online?
- 13 A. Yes.

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- 14 Q. You don't make any mention there of privileged accessrights; is that fair?
- 16 A. I don't, no.
- 17 Q. Why is that?
- 18 A. Well, I'm not sure. I'm just simply not commenting on
- 19 it. I suppose it's sort of covered by the last sentence
- 20 in that paragraph in a way, since that includes asking
- 21 about the procedure for authorising and doing it.
- 22 **Q.** Were you aware at that stage of what those rights were
- and what they entailed?
- 24 A. I don't think so.
- 25 **Q.** You receive a response from Mr Parker on 25 May and, if 165
- 1 $\,$ Q. "These systems will contain full details of the required
- 2 correction, method of execution, approval, etc."
- Now, to which tools or methods of access did you understand Mr Parker to be referring here?
- 5 **A.** When he says "These systems", you mean?
- 6 **Q**. Yes?
- 7 A. So he's referring to MSC or OCP.
- 8 **Q.** But, specifically, MSC and OCP were not tools, were they, to insert data into a branch account?
- 10 A. Okay, so sorry, you're asking about --
- 11 Q. The method --
- 12 **A.** The methodology.
- 13 Q. -- of the record?
- 14 A. Okay, sure, um --
- 15 Q. To what method did you understand him to be referring?
- 16 A. So he's talking about the balancing transactions, so the
- 17 HNG-X tool, that is referred to, the second one referred
- to in my previous email. So he's saying, not the
- 19 POL-TC.
- 20 **Q.** You didn't understand him to be referring to privileged access rights?
- 22 A. He's not overtly referring to that, is he? But the ...
- 23 he's not but, again, I think it's kind of -- in his
- 24 mind, I'm sure it's contained in that last sentence
- where he talks about approvals, et cetera. So yeah.

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we scroll back to the top of the first page of this document, please, thank you. He says:

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"Starter for 10 as follows ..."

5 In response to that first query, question 1.13, he states:

"There is no functionality in Horizon for either a branch, Post Office or Fujitsu to modify or remove transaction data once it has been recorded in a branch's accounts. It is only possible to post auditable correcting transactions to a branch's accounts."

He then states:

"In the very rare circumstances where an accounting error cannot be corrected by POL's use of a TC [transaction correction, presumably] and it is necessary for support to make such a correction it has been subject to whatever change approval process is in use at that time. Currently MSC ..."

19 What is that referring to, please?

- 20 A. That's a system. It stands for Managed Service Change.
- 21 Q. "... latterly, OCP."
- 22 Which was?
- A. Operational Change -- I'm struggling to remember what
 the P stands for -- process. Proposal, sorry. That's
- 25 right.

166

- 1 He's not explicitly referring to it, though, I agree.
- Q. Did you make any further enquiries with him at thisstage, do you know?
- 4 A. I don't remember off the top of my head.
- 5 $\,$ **Q.** The issue of remote access arose again in January 2019,
- so quite some time later, when the Post Office's lawyers
- requested disclosure of logs relating to the auditing ofprivileged user access.
- 9 A. Right.
- 10 Q. Do you have any recollection of that?
- 11 A. I think so, yeah.
- 12 Q. If we could look, please, at FUJ00188147. Thank you.
- 13 Page 5 and on to page 6, we can see the original
- request, please. Thank you. So it arose in connection
- 15 with, I think on this occasion, the evidence of Torstein
- 16 Godeseth, and it was a query relating to managed service
- 17 change, which we saw referenced in Mr Parker's previous
- 18 email, and to what we call sign-off documents. What
- 19 were they, please?
- 20 A. Well, managed service change involves a method of
- 21 proposing and planning a change to a live system and
- then sign off means somebody approving it.
- 23 $\,$ Q. So it was suggested at the time these provided an audit
- 24 log of the use of privileged access; is that fair?
- 25 A. Correct, yeah. They're like a manual audit log though,

A. Mm-hm.

Q. -- five of which are from 2010. You're saying to

1 so somebody actually --1 2 Q. It requires an individual --2 3 A. Yeah, correct. 4 Q. Now, is it right you carried out some enquiries to 5 locate relevant logs of the type we see here, the 6 managed service change logs; do you recall doing that --7 A. I think so, yeah. 8 Q. -- searching the system, which produced only nine 9 positive results. 10 Err, yeah --Α. Q. If we scroll up please to page 3 --11 A. I think so, yeah. I think I recall this, yeah. 12 13 Q. Thank you. So you email Mr Parker, Mr Ibbett and 14 Mr Godeseth to say that you've, I think, run some 15 searches on the MSC data archive and this has 16 produced -- there are ten listed, you say, that match 17 the search that you've run, the last one being the only 18 MSC with APPSUP in its title? 19 A. Right. 20 Q. That being the Application Support privileged access; is 21 that right? 22 Α. Yeah, correct. 23 Q. You then cite one of the logs entitled "LIVE -- Remote 24 access to APPSUP database role from SSC users". You say 25 that one isn't relevant; that leaves nine examples --169 1 logs? 2 A. Yes, that's right, yeah, so -- yes, indeed. 3 Q. If we scroll down to the bottom of his email, he says: 4 "Not sure if this is an issue with the dataset or 5 the search method?" 6 That is to say he's not agreeing that nine could be 7 the right number --8 A. It sounds --9 Q. -- and he's querying why it is --A. Yeah. 10 Q. -- that your search has thrown up that number? 11 12 A. Yeah, mm-hm. 13 Q. I think you then carried out some further searches, is 14 that right, in which you established an additional 61 15 instances in which the privileged access rights have 16 been used; is that correct? 17 A. I think so, yeah. Q. When you referred those results back to Mr Parker, he 18 19 suggested again that that appeared to be low, did he 20 not? A. Yeah, he did, yeah. 21 22 Q. Could we please take a look at his response, and the 23 reasons which he gives, and that's at page 1, please, of

this document. It's in the middle of the page, please,

171

Mr Parker's email of 4 January. He says:

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Mr Parker, Mr Ibbett, Mr Godeseth, "Does that sound 3 4 realistically like it might be all there are?" So nine instances --5 6 A. Mm-hm, yeah. 7 -- of manually recording the use of the access right --8 Q. If we scroll up a bit, please. You have a response back 9 10 from Mr Parker, in which he says: 11 "For the use of APPSUP with full MSCs, that's 12 a reasonable number BUT I'm surprised that the search is 13 not throwing up any subtasks." 14 Can you translate that for us, please? 15 A. I think so, yeah, I think there's a concept within MSC 16 of having an individual MSC for a task or a change and 17 then there's also having -- I think it's called possibly a master MSC. So where it's effectively an MSC covering 18 19 off a whole series of separate but possibly identical or 20 similar tasks that are carried out under that 21 authorisation, I think. That's what it's referring to. 22 Q. He then cites an example of where he's found such 23 a subtask, is that right --24 I think that's right, yeah. A. Q. -- which hasn't been picked up by your search of the MSC 25 1 "It still seems low. The trouble is the systems 2 were not designed for this kind of retrospective 3 interrogation and just don't support it. There is no 4 tag on an incident or change control which classifies 5 the kind of remedial action needed, the description of 6 any remedial action can be in a number of places." 7 Then he cites two examples of how a user might have 8 recorded the use of the tool but not done so explicitly; is that fair? 9 A. Correct, yeah. 10 11 Q. He says: 12 "I think we need to give the claimants the results 13 of this search while: 14 "(a) Clearly telling them the criteria used to 15 16 "(b) Caveatting that we do not believe it is 17 complete and that it is not practical to return a complete list because they would require applying 18 19 a mark one eye ball to all 220,000 PEAKs." 20 What did you understand Mr Parker to mean by 21 applying a mark one eyeball to all 220,000 PEAKs? 22 A. I think he means that somebody is going to have to look 23 at literally each one of them to determine whether that 24 role was used in order to close out that PEAK or as part 25 of that PEAK. I mean, I think, generally, my 172 (43) Pages 169 - 172

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understanding of this is when he says there is no tag,
which classifies the kind of remedial action needed, he
means there isn't a tick box, for example, that says,
use APPSUP, tick, and therefore you'd be able to
retrieve them more easily knowing that it had been used.

- Q. So unless somebody went through each one of the PEAKs,you couldn't say definitively --
- 8 A. That's my understanding of what he's saying, yeah.
- 9 Q. -- how many times it had been used or why --
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. -- and what had been done with it?
- 12 A. Yes.

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13 Q. Three days later you respond to Mr Parker, it appears
 14 following a conversation with the Post Office's lawyers,
 15 and we see that, please, at the very top of this page.
 16 You say:

"Steve, I think you are right -- we haven't yet covered off the MSC question, despite what Jonny just said."

Can you confirm who the reference to Jonny is?A. Jonathan Gribben from WBD.

- 22 Q. You then say:
- "Below is where we are up to in the discussion. As
 he has said he is happy, shall we let it lie for a bit
 and see if it comes up again? Or shall we provide what

Parker, yeah, but I'm asking him to make the decision.

173

Q. Now, approximately two months later, you received
 a further query from WBD concerning the ability of SSC
 users to grant themselves privileged access without
 prior authorisation. Could we look at that, please, at
 FUJ00089798.

Thank you. It's on page 2, please. We can see the original request. So this one's from Andrew Parsons, a partner at Womble Bond Dickinson. He says:

"One follow-up question on APPSUP, which I think may be for Dave Haywood(??)"

Who was Dave Haywood, please?

- A. So he is the -- well, he was and is the Lead Security
 Architect at Fujitsu, for Post Office Account.
- 15 Q. He says:

"I have attached the relevant PEAK. Could Dave (or someone at [Fujitsu]) explain why it took 4 years for this issue to get resolved?

"We suspect that Cs [a reference to the claimants] will attack [Fujitsu] on this PEAK saying that [Fujitsu] knew SSC had more access permissions than they should have had and that [Fujitsu] were dilatory in fixing that issue. If there is an explanation for why it took so long that would be good? Or an explanation for why it doesn't matter that it took so long?"

175

we've worked out below?"

In his earlier email Mr Parker had stated that the results ought to be disclosed but that the disclosure should be accompanied by a caveat as to the scope of the searches that had been carried out; is that fair?

- 6 A. Yeah.
- Q. By contrast, here you're suggesting that it might be
 simply better to let it lie for a bit, in the hope that
 the issue goes away; is that fair?
- 10 A. I'm not sure I'm saying it might be better. I'm just
 11 offering him -- basically, I'm asking him to make the
 12 decision on what we do.
- 13 Q. Were you concerned that the response which Mr Parker had14 provided raised more questions than it answered?
- A. No, I don't think so. I mean, I must admit, the thing
 that is missing from this email that I don't recollect
 is what Jonny just said. So I'm assuming it's a phone
 call that we've just been involved with. So I don't
 know what was actually said and it could -- yeah, I just
 don't know.
- Q. The implication seems to be that he's not pressing youfor an answer?
- 23 A. It sounds like it, doesn't it? Yeah.
- 24 Q. So the opportunity is taken to let the issue slide?
- 25 **A.** I guess I'm offering that as a possibility to Steve 174

1 If we look at your response to that query, please,
2 on page 1 -- thank you -- so that's dated 8 March 2019.
3 You begin by clarifying what appeared to be some
4 contradictory statements that you and your colleague,
5 Mr Ibbett, had made; is that right?

6 A. Yes.

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7 Q. Then you go on to say this, this the second paragraph8 under points 1 and 2:

"The ability for SSC users to switch themselves into the APPSUP role without prior authorisation was removed from existing users in August 2016; as to the reasons why this took so long, we don't have an explanation for the delay between the recognition of the preference for removing the role from being a permanent role for SSC, and that change actually being executed. Two things to note about [the relevant PEAK] however are [firstly] that was not originally raised in order to cover off this particular issue, and that original purpose of the PEAK was indeed closed off, [secondly] that it appears that it was closed incorrectly, so that instead of it being routed to Unix DBA as suggested by the penultimate ended, it was instead closed. Following an audit in August 2016 a new PEAK was raised ... in order to follow

Finally you say:

176

up the task to remove the APPSUP role."

1	"As has been stated on previous occasions, even when
2	SSC had the ability to switch into the role themselves,
3	it was always a conscious decision to do so (so the role
1	was never a permanently applied state) and the switch
5	into it was always audited."

What did you mean when you said the switch into it was always audited?

- 8 A. Presumably it's recorded that they've used that9 permission or that role.
- Q. You had established, had you not, in your earlier
 discussions with Stephen Parker that you, in fact, had
 no way of accurately establishing how often the role had
 been used without reviewing every single PEAK?
- A. That sounds correct, yeah, although -- yeah. I'm not
 sure what happened in between that and this, so there
 may have been some other discussion about it.
- Q. But are you not here giving false assurance that the use
 of the right is fully audited and can be accounted
 for --
- 20 A. On the face of it, yes --
- 21 Q. -- when, in fact, you can knew that that wasn't the22 case?
- 23 A. I suppose so, yes.

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- Q. Now, you received a further query from Womble Bond
 Dickinson in early March 2019, concerning the accuracy
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- 1 end up probably going into the statement so, arguably,
- you could say that I did but, I mean, I wasn't actively
- 3 involved in actually deciding what they would say,
- 4 I don't think.
- 5 Q. I would like to ask you some questions about the wording
- 6 of a statement provided by Andrew Dunks in the Group
- 7 Litigation, please. Do you recall being asked to obtain
- 8 a witness statement for the Post Office's lawyers
- 9 concerning the extraction of audit data?
- A. So I must admit I didn't recall it until you disclosed
 the emails to me in the last couple of days.
- 12 Q. Do you know why the request was directed to you?
- 13 A. Not really, no. I mean, only in that many of the
- 14 requests did come through to me, and it's possibly just
- one that I was able to answer. I'm not quite sure now.
 Q. Do you recall providing a draft statement to Womble Bond
- 17 Dickinson, now that you've read those emails?
- 18 A. So the draft statement in this case, I believe, was the
- 19 standard ARQ witness statement, so it was effectively
- 20 like a templated statement used by the security
- 21 Operations Team.
- 22 Q. From where had you obtained that draft statement?
- 23 A. I think it was provided to me by Jason Muir.
- Q. Did you know by whom the standard form of words had beendrafted?

of the evidence provided by Stephen Parker; do you recall that?

- 3 A. Not immediately. But --
- 4 **Q.** That reference is FUJ00089798, please. Can we go to page 9, please.

Forgive me, sir, I think on this occasion I do have the wrong reference so if I have an opportunity I'll return to it but we'll leave the subject of Mr Parker's evidence for the moment, please.

10 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right.

11 **MS HODGE:** My next topic, please, is the preparation of witness evidence.

13 Please could you describe your role in the 14 reparation of witness statements provided by Fujitsu 15 employees?

A. My role. Yes. So similar to what we've seen in the
rest of the work that I did on this. It's largely
around assisting people with finding information,
answering questions or helping to answer questions or

finding information for -- to answer questions put byWBD.

21 7700.

Q. Do you recall whether you had input into the drafting ofstatements?

A. I don't believe that I did but there are questions that
 I'm asked which I then obtained information for, which
 178

1 **A.** No.

Q. Did you know in what context that statement had beenprepared?

4 A. If I didn't -- I may not have known at that time but,
5 I mean, since then, I do have an understanding of what
6 it's for but I can't recall whether that was the first
7 time that I was aware of it or not.

Q. Can we please look at some of the wording contained inthat statement at FUJ00160508. Thank you.

This is a copy of the draft statement which you provided to the lawyers of the Post Office; is that right?

13 **A.** Yes.

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14 Q. We can see it's dated 13 November 2018.

15 **A.** Mm-hm.

16 Q. So that's, I think, just the day before you provided it,so presumably you inserted that date?

18 A. I'm not sure. Possibly not.

19 Q. Just to orient ourselves, please, if we look at the20 first paragraph of the draft statement, it reads:

"I have been employed by Fujitsu Services Limited, on the Post Office Account, since 11 March 2002 as an Information Technology Security Analyst responsible for audit data extractions and IT Security. I have

working knowledge of the computer system known as 180

Horizon, which is a computerised accounting system used by Post Office Limited. I am authorised by Fujitsu Services Limited to undertake extractions of audit archived data and to obtain information regarding system transactions recorded on the Horizon system."

Now, the statement goes on to provide an explanation of the Horizon system, as well as what might be described as controls around the extraction of data; is that correct?

10 A. Right, I think so. Mm-hm.

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Q. The section of the statement I'd like to ask you about 11 12 can be found at the bottom of page 4, please, and on to 13 page 5. So the last two paragraphs read:

> "A request was received on 3 October 2018 and asked for information in connection with the post offices at Caddington, Spencefield, Newport and Fleckney. I undertook extractions of data held on the Horizon System and followed the procedure outlined above. I produced a CD containing the required data."

Now, was that information that you inserted, do you recall?

- 22 Α. No, I don't think so. So I think that WBD specified
- 23 what they were asking for and this was basically
- 24 inserted in order to provide the information requested.
- 25 Whether I inserted that in there or not, I don't know. 181
- 1 Q. It's at FUJ00160649, please. Thank you. If we could go 2 down to page 2, please. To the bottom of that page, 3 please. So here, this is just one example, but here you 4 say:
 - "Lucv.
- 6 "Section now reads as follows (and as attached)."
 - You proposed effectively some amended wording to the paragraph we just looked at:
 - "Does that need to be signed today, or can it be done on Monday?"
- Α. Right. 11
- Q. Now, was that redrafting done by you or by someone else? 12
- So I think it's at the -- I think either below this or 13 14 another email that specifies what it is that they're 15 looking for, so I think this is effectively just putting 16 into the statement what's being requested.
- Q. I think what -- I'm not suggesting that you were 17 18 necessarily making a decision as to what information
- 19 should be contained in it but you were actually doing
- 20 the drafting, is that fair --
- A. Um --21
- 22 Q. -- based on the information that you had been fed?
- 23 A. I must say it is not what I would refer to as "doing the 24 drafting" but, you know, I inserted some words into it
- 25 at somebody else's request, yeah.

1 It may well have been Jason Muir.

Q. It goes on to say:

3 "There is no reason to believe that the information 4 in this statement is inaccurate because of the improper 5 use of the system. To the best of my knowledge and 6 belief at all material times the system was operating 7 properly, or if not, any respect in which it was not 8 operating properly, or was out of operation was not such as to affect the information held within it." 9

10 What did you understand that statement to mean?

- 11 A. So my understanding of that is that it's referring to 12 the audit retrieval system.
- 13 When it refers to the system was operating properly? Q.
- 14
- 15 Q. You didn't understand it to be a generalised comment 16 about the integrity of the Horizon system?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. After providing this initial draft, you liaised with 19 Womble Bond Dickinson to clarify the wording of the 20 statement; do you agree with that?
- 21 A. I believe, so.
- 22 Q. You proposed some amendments?
- 23 Um --
- 24 Q. You can look at the email chain --
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1 Before we move on, please, to our final topic, at the 2 top of this page we have an email from you -- forgive 3 me, at the top of page 1 we have an email from you to 4 Ms Bremner, about the extraction -- forgive me, we can 5 see the middle of the page, 16 November 2018. You say:

"Lucy,

"Attached is the scan of the witness statement signed by Andrew Dunks, and the same in word format.

"Just to clarify, Andy has confirmed to me that the first retrieval was supplied to WBD on CD and to Gareth by loading to a laptop; the second request was supplied to Gareth on a CD, but not to WBD. So factually the statement is correct ..."

14 This is in relation to the method by which the data 15 was supplied.

- 16 A. Right.
- 17 Q. What I want to ask you is this: why was it that Gareth 18 Jenkins was being supplied with the audit data extracted in relation to the lead claimants? 19
- 20 A. I assume it's because he was being asked to carry out 21 some analysis on it.
- 22 Q. Thank you.

Final topic, please, before a couple of clarifications. You've indicated in your statement that the process of disclosure by Fujitsu was not supported

184

- by appropriate legal advice and oversight; is thatright?
- 3 A. In my opinion. Correct.
- 4 Q. Now, we've seen in the documents to which I've referred
- 5 you today that Chris Jay, a senior member of Fujitsu's
- 6 Legal Team, attended meetings and was copied into emails
- 7 to requests for information and to responses; is that
- 8 fair?
- 9 A. Yes. But I think a relatively small number, from what
- 10 we can see in many of the other emails that we've looked
- 11 at, he's not included.
- 12 Q. He was quite closely involved in the early stages of
- 13 disclosure; is that right?
- 14 A. In the early stages --
- 15 Q. Particularly --
- 16 **A.** -- more so.
- 17 Q. -- involving issues around the claimants' access to KEL
- 18 software and Fujitsu's intellectual property rights?
- 19 A. I think that's right. I think he was involved in the
- 20 discussion around the non-disclosure agreement, for
- 21 example, yeah.
- 22 Q. He continues to be copied into emails -- I accept not
- all emails, but he continues to be copied into emails
- throughout the period, does he not?
- 25 **A.** I'm not sure whether that's true. I mean, without 185
- 1 was an email where he said he was handing over to
- 2 somebody else, I think. So I can't quite remember the
- 3 name of the person but --
- 4 Q. Was the concern that you -- sorry, I interrupted.
- 5 A. Yeah, so I mean, as I say, I can't quite remember now
- 6 but, in some ways, that's actually almost, you know,
- 7 indicative of the fact that I don't think there was that
 - much oversight, is that I don't quite remember what
- 9 happened to him in the end and whether he was replaced
- by someone else. But I'm fairly sure that I saw
- 11 an email from him earlier in which he said he was
- 12 handing over to another person -- Julia someone,
- 13 possibly -- anyway.
- 14 Q. Was this a concern which you had at the time?
- 15 A. I think it's -- I think it was much less clear to me at
- 16 the time and I'm not sure that it particularly worried
- me at the time but I think, looking back on, that's
- 18 quite clear.

- 19 Q. What prompted you to look back on it, to conclude in
- 20 hindsight there wasn't sufficient advice and oversight?
- 21 A. I think particularly, for example, the amount of
- 22 oversight that there has been in dealing with this
- 23 Inquiry, for example, has been much greater than it was
- 24 over our interaction with WBD for the trial.
- 25 **Q.** How do you think you would have acted differently, had 187

- 1 looking at it and investigating it, I couldn't give you
- 2 a definite answer off the top of my head, but I -- my
- 3 impression is that he wasn't closely involved with the
- 4 process.
- 5 **Q.** Some --
- 6 A. Latterly, particularly.
- 7 Q. -- not all? Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you. He
- 8 was copied into some but not all, I think, is your --
- 9 A. That's my recollection and that's what I believe I see
- from emails I look at, including many of the ones we've
- 11 looked at here today and that you've shown me over the
- 12 last few weeks, yeah, correct.
- 13 Q. When you say that you feel that you weren't given
- 14 appropriate advice and oversight, is that specifically
- 15 directed at Mr Jay?
- 16 A. No, I mean, I don't think it would have mattered who it
- 17 was, but maybe the Fujitsu Legal Department generally.
- 18 So it's not about a specific person, it's about a --
- 19 **Q.** I didn't mean to imply it's personal but he obviously
- 20 had some oversight. You're saying it wasn't sufficient
- 21 oversight?
- 22 A. Um -- that's --
- 23 Q. So does responsibility for that fall on him, do you
- 24 think?
- 25 **A.** I don't know. I mean, I recall recently seeing there 186
- 1 you had better advice and oversight?
- 2 A. I think, probably, there would have been a lot more
- 3 resource, for one thing and, as I think I explain in my
- 4 witness statement, effectively, many of the people
- 5 involved in this were kind of doing it as well as their
- 6 normal day-to-day jobs. In fact, I don't think it was
- 7 really -- I suppose, probably apart from Dave Ibbett,
- 8 but even then I'm not sure about him, whether anyone was
- 9 actually doing it as their sole task.
- 10 And there would have been more resource, perhaps, in
- 11 terms of tools, and just the ability to actually do
- 12 greater amount of investigation and information
- gathering and to be sure that we had all of the
- 14 information that was available.
- 15 I mean, in some ways -- yeah. No. That's ...
- 16 Q. Thank you. I have some very short points of
- 17 clarification which I've been asked to raise and which
- 18 I'll do briefly now, if I may.
- 19 During and after the Group Litigation, did you
- 20 liaise with external lawyers other than Womble Bond
- 21 Dickinson?
- 22 A. After the Group Litigation? Um ...
- 23 Q. The reason I ask this specifically is --
- 24 A. In any context, do you mean?
- 25 Q. So did you receive and deal with the requests for

- 1 disclosure from a Scottish law firm known as BTO
- 2 Solicitors; do you have any recollection of that?
- 3 $\,$ A. Possibly. I vaguely think I've heard of them, so I may
- 4 have done but I don't recall.
- 5 Q. You're not able to provide any details in relation to
- 6 that disclosure?
- 7 A. Not without looking it up, potentially, no. I don't
- 8 remember that.
- 9 Q. Do you recall whether you disclosed any documents
- 10 directly to the Crown Office or the Procurator Fiscal
- 11 Service in Scotland?
- 12 A. I don't believe so. So I have been asked questions in
- relation to those bodies but via Peters & Peters,
- 14 I think, for Post Office.
- 15 Q. Whilst you were dealing with document disclosure in the
- 16 context of the Group Litigation, did you receive any
- 17 advice or instruction about retaining documents for any
- 18 of the following purposes: firstly, use by the Criminal
- 19 Case Review Commission?
- 20 A. Not directly no.
- 21 Q. Secondly, compliance with the ongoing duty of disclosure
- 22 in criminal proceedings, whether by the CPS or to --
- 23 A. No, I don't think so.
- 24 Q. Do you recall there being any discussions about
- documents which you provided to the Post Office's
 - 189
- 1 MR STEIN: Sir, I have one question for the witness and it
- 2 will take less than a minute.
- 3 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, well, that's easy.
- 4 MR STEIN: I hope so sir, in terms of a break, I have
- 5 a personal matter, that I need to deal with at 4.15, so,
- 6 even if there is going to be a break would you allow me
- 7 permission to ask that single question?
- 8 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Of course. We'll have that in a second.
- 9 Who is wanting to ask questions which will take longer
- 10 than Mr Stein's one minute-ish?
- 11 MS PAGE: I also would like to ask some questions, sir.
- 12 I could keep it to ten minutes.
- 13 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Anyone else?
- 14 MS OLIVER: Sir, yes, I would like to ask some questions, if
- possible. I can also keep it to ten minutes, please.
- 16 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. So we will have Mr Stein's minute
- or so now, then we will have a short break and then we
- 18 will have two 10-minute sessions. All right. I think
- that's reasonable, in all the circumstances.
- 20 Everyone at least content?
- 21 Fine
- 22 So, Mr Stein. Ask your questions and then we'll
- 23 have a short break.
- 24 Questioned by MR STEIN
- 25 **MR STEIN:** Mr Lenton, in my 60-second countdown, can I ask

- 1 lawyers being used in connection with any criminal
- 2 proceedings or appeals?
- 3 **A.** No.
- 4 Q. In your role as Document Manager, have you been asked to
- 5 locate and retain the scripts that were used by Fujitsu
- 6 helpline?
- 7 A. I have been involved in that question, yeah, but
- 8 I recall not being able to do that. So yeah,
- 9 unsuccessfully, if I was asked to be involved in it.
- 10 MS HODGE: Thank you, sir.
- 11 With the exception -- sorry, excuse me one minute.
- 12 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
- 13 **MS HODGE:** Forgive me, sir. With the exception of Stephen
- 14 Parker's evidence, that would conclude my questions.
- 15 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
- 16 MS HODGE: Some of the recognised legal representatives
- 17 would like to ask questions. I'm conscious of the time.
- 18 It's 4.00, sir, and I think we will need to give our
- 19 transcriber, one additional break, perhaps a short break
- 20 of ten minutes, so it's really a question of whether we
- 21 can get things wrapped up today within the time
- 22 available.
- 23 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, that's -- who wants to ask
- questions and how long are they going to take? Let's
- see where we are?

- 1 you just this: you've just been asked by Ms Hodge
- 2 questions that relate to the location and retention of
- 3 scripts --
- 4 A. Right.
- 5 Q. -- from the Fujitsu helpline. Your answer was you
- 6 recall not being able to do that. Why were you not able
- 7 to do that?
- 8 A. Because I wasn't able to locate them or find anybody who
- 9 knew where they were but I'm also aware of the fact that
- 10 I wasn't the only person asked that question and it was
- 11 also, fairly certain, investigated by some other people
- 12 in Fujitsu. So I didn't -- I mean, I don't think
- 13 I reached a definitive conclusion on it and others may
- 14 have done.
- 15 Q. Right, the others being?
- 16 **A.** Other people working for the Fujitsu Legal Team.
- 17 Q. Okay. Do you know their names?
- 18 A. Um, God, I do. What are their names? Um --
- 19 **Q.** To assist us, would you put that in writing and provide20 that answer to the Inquiry?
- 21 A. I can do.
- 22 MR STEIN: Thank you.
- 23 Thank you, sir.
- 24 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right, we'll resume again at 4.15, and we
- will aim to conclude by 4.35.

		The Fost o
,		HODOS. Therefore six
1		HODGE: Thank you, sir.
2	(4.0	(A chart break)
3 4	(4.4	(A short break)
5	•	5 pm) HODGE: Sir, can you see and hear us?
6		HODGE: Sir, can you see and hear us? WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thanks.
7		HODGE: I'm not sure who is going to go first.
8	WIO	Ms Page, thank you.
9		Questioned by MS PAGE
10	MS	PAGE: Thank you.
11		My first topic is short and I want to ask you about
12		your recollection to do with the providing of the
13		Jenkins reports on data integrity. In your witness
14		statement, you appeared to have guite a clear memory of
15		those reports and putting them on to your Dimensions
16		system; is that fair?
17	A.	Right, yes.
18	Q.	Is there a reason why, given that this goes back,
19		I mean, many years the first email correspondence is
20		from 2010 and, presumably, a little earlier when you
21		actually put them on the system is there any reason
22		why you can remember these reports so clearly?
23	A.	I think it really is because, obviously, subsequently
24		their significance has become much more apparent to me
25		but then, also, there's the limited number of times in
		193
1	_	technical.
2	Q.	Yes. All right. Thank you. Then, in that case, what
3		I'd like to move on to is the disclosure around remote
4		access. You've described how the disclosure process was
5		really iterative and responsive.
6 7	Α.	Yeah. But when it came to the issue of remote access, there
8	Q.	did come a time when it became quite a structured
9		approach, didn't it? With a long table, and various
10		different issues relating to it that you were responding
11		to?
12	Α.	Um yeah
13	Q.	We can come to it in due course.
14	Α.	I was going to say I'm not completely sure what you're
15		referring to but I think there was a I think you're
16		referring to there's an Excel file I think which has
17		effectively is a big table showing all the different
18		types of what could be regarded as remote access and who
19		would be able to do them, et cetera?
20	Q.	Yeah. All right
21	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Before you go any further, Ms Page, so
22		that I'm not being slow, we're talking about disclosure

relating to remote access in the GLO, are we?

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MS PAGE: Yes, that's absolutely right, sir. Sorry.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. That's fine.

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which we have provided them to Post Office, which we've 1 2 done on more than one occasion, I think, and in the fact 3 that there's only two of them, and there's one for each version of Horizon. So it's a kind of -- yeah. I mean, 4 5 that's it really. They're just quite unusual, as I said 6 earlier, in terms of the types of documentation that we 7 hold Q. Was there a sense that there was a concern around data 8 integrity and that these reports sort of highlighted 9 10 that and something, something around that? A. Well, clearly when you read them, then it's apparent 11 that someone at least does have some concern about it, 12 yeah, because that's clearly what they're about. 13 14 I mean, they're not very long, either of them, and they're clearly attempting to address a question --15 16 Q. Did you read them at the time? Do you have a memory of 17 18 A. I think I probably -- yeah, I think so. I mean, they're 19 only, like, six pages, aren't they, I think? 20 Q. Indeed and that might be why they stick out because they 21 are about these concerns; is that fair? 22 A. Possibly, and I think the other thing is that, unlike 23 many of the documents I see, they're actually just 24 written in kind of what you might call normal prose that 25 anybody might understand, rather than being highly 194 1 MS PAGE: So, as part of that process, you looked into the 2 history of the SSC team using what they call the change 3 control process, in order to record occasions when they 4 inserted transactions into branch accounts; do you 5 remember that? 6 A. Yeah, I'm not sure that I did personally but I might 7 have done some of the work contributing to that, yeah. 8 Q. All right. Well, let's look at a document. It's 9 FUJ00189522. If we can scroll to page 3 when it comes up, please. So on this page here, perhaps if we just go 10 11 up a little we can see what is going on. This is from 12 Steve Parker to you, 24 January, various other people 13 copied in, and he describes the -- it's sort of slightly 14 in shorthand but it seems that the subject is in 15 relation to Richard Roll, "Roll 2", and there seems to be a sort of a further subject heading in the sense that 16 17 18 "Review a sample of OCPs to give an indication as to 19 how frequently transaction data was injected." 20 A. Yeah. 21 Q. Then he addresses you: 22 "Matthew. 23 "Has become very difficult to provide. 24 "The original plan was to examine sample months of 25 change control data and produce rough figures. This led

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1 me to the realisation/remembering that support did not 2 use change control in the earlier years for [Business As 3 Usual] support actions. We relied on the audit trail 4 within the incidents (PEAKs) to document support 5 actions. We had auditability of the work done but no 6 change control entries. Reasoning behind this was: 7 implementing support actions ASAP, nobody around to sign 8 off overnight anyway, audit trail is enough where no 9 financial impact."

He then goes on to talk about trying to sample PEAK records.

12 A. Yeah.

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- 13 Q. So one of the reasons -- well, the reason behind this,
 14 not using the proper change control process, was
 15 evidently a sort of a needs must; is that fair?
- 16 A. It sounds like it, doesn't it? Yeah.
- Q. If we could please keep a sort of an eye on that wording and go to how it was then communicated by you in document FUJ00163098. This is quite a long email train.
 If we go down to, first of all, page 3, just to give us some location of where we are. So that email at the bottom, 24 January, from you to Jonathan Gribben, various other people copied in, including Gareth Jenkins
- and Andrew Parsons.
 This is the sort of table that I was talking about,
- 1 control in the earlier years. Do you think that was properly communicated?
 - A. I must admit, to me, I'm not sure if there's a big difference in those two things. I mean, it became apparent to us, looking at this question, as a result of Steve Parker remembering or whatever it was that he said.
 - Q. All right, well, let's go a little further down.

"We relied on the audit trail within the incidents (PEAKs) to document support actions. We had auditability of the work done but no change control entries."

Then:

"We assume that the reasoning behind this was to allow implementation of support actions ASAP, and the audit trail being good enough where there was no financial impact."

So that really is a slight softening, if you like, of the needs-must wording that we saw in Mr Parker's email; do you think that's fair?

- A. Well, possibly. I mean, the meaning is almost the same,I would have said, isn't it?
- Q. What we don't see there is the reference to there just
 simply being no one around on the overnight desk. There
 is still this attempt to assure and provide assurance,

it looks like it probably did come from Excel orsomething but it's --

- 3 A. Okay, it's not the one I was thinking of but, anyway.
- of disclosure that are being looked into. If we scroll all the way down, please, to page 10, we can look at the

Q. Right. Well, there's a long table with various aspects

- 7 bit which follows the email that we were just looking at
- 8 from Steve Parker. If we scroll a little further we can
- 9 see that chunk in the middle that says "Matthew Lenton"?
- 10 **A.** Mm-hm.
- 11 Q. The header there is the same as we saw in the email from
 12 Steve Parker, "Review a sample of OCPs to give
 13 an indication as to how frequently transaction data was
 14 injected", and then you've inserted the description but
 15 slightly different wording:

"This is proving difficult to provide [the same].

The original plan was to examine sample months of change control data and produce rough figures."

Then, slightly different:

20 "As Pete Newsome already discussed with you, this
21 led to it becoming apparent that support did not use
22 formal change control in the earlier years for [Business
23 As Usual] support actions."

So that's gone from Mr Parker saying that he actually remembered that they didn't use formal change 198

- but there is a sort of a softening; would you acceptthat or not?
- 3 A. Possibly. I mean, yeah.
- 4 Q. All right. Well, then just this: the answers that you 5 received from Mr Parker about what the SSC team were 6 doing and those needs-must actions that they were 7 taking, the wording that you've used was more or less 8 conveyed to Mr de Garr Robinson KC and that was in the 9 context of him having said that answers around this 10 issue and if it were true that the SSC were not using 11 change control processes, it would be "disastrous for 12 the case". I'll give the reference so that those

interested can look it up -- we don't need to go there
 now -- POL00416010.
 So, evidently, this answer was considered important

by the person in charge of the litigation. Was there
 ever any comeback, ever anything further to you, or
 anything that you know of to Mr Parker on this subject?

- 19 A. Not that I recall specifically, no.
- 20 MS PAGE: No. All right. Well, thank you very much,
- 21 Mr Lenton. Those are my questions.
- 22 A. Thank you.

24

23 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms Page.

Questioned by MS OLIVER

25 **MS OLIVER:** Thank you, sir. I ask questions on behalf of 200

1 Gareth Jenkins and I want to ask you some questions 2 about Fujitsu's work in the context of the GLO 3

proceedings, if I may.

You've been asked some questions earlier today about Mr Jenkins' role and you said, essentially, that there was a team of people who would help to analyse the information in order to answer questions from Womble Bond Dickinson --

9 A. Right.

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10 Q. -- and he was one of these people because of his longstanding expertise and knowledge in Horizon. 11

12 Α. Yeah.

13 Is that right; have I paraphrased that correctly? Q.

14 A. I think so, yeah.

Thank you. But you weren't told anything specifically 15 Q.

16 about his role, other than in those terms; is that

17 correct?

18 No, not really. I mean, obviously I knew him fairly Α.

19 well, in any case, so yeah, I mean, I just accepted that

20 that's what he was doing. He was analysing information

21 that we were providing to him when he was asked to.

22 Q. Does it follow that you weren't informed as to why

Mr Jenkins was not called as a witness in the GLO

24 proceedings?

25 A. I don't believe so no.

201

- 1 and KELs, answering questions from WBD on discrete 2 technical issues -- sorry, you're nodding.
- 3 A. Correct, yes.
- 4 Q. Thank you. Providing commentary on witness statements
- 5 and expert reports, such as the Coyne Report, the Jason
- 6 Coyne reports that had been served by the claimants in
- 7 the proceedings?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Preparing technical analysis of bugs, errors and defects
- that had been identified? 10
- Correct, yeah. 11 Α.
- 12 Q. And, indeed, commenting on the draft witness statements
- 13 that were produced by the Fujitsu witnesses who were to
- 14 be called by POL?
- A. Yes. I believe so. Yeah. 15
- Q. You, as you've said, identified six individuals who were 16
- 17 part of that team but I think you've made clear that
- that wasn't an exhaustive list? 18
- No, that's right. There were other people who also 19 Α.
- 20 worked on the Post Office Account who were consulted
- about various matters, correct. 21
- 22 Q. So is it fair to say that Mr Jenkins was one of a number
- 23 of Fujitsu personnel or, to use your phrase, a team of
- 24 people, who performed these tasks including commenting
- 25 on witness statements?

203

- Q. Were you ever told by WBD or POL not to direct queries 1
- 2 to Mr Jenkins unless this was unavoidable?
- 3 A.
- 4 Q. You've also been asked about why Mr Jenkins, who was not
- himself a GLO witness, was being asked to feed 5
- 6 information and evidence to individuals who were
- witnesses from Fujitsu --7
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. -- and I think Mr Godeseth was mentioned in particular
- 10 in the context of that question.
- Yeah. 11 Α.
- Q. I think your answer was that you would not necessarily 12
- 13 characterise it in that way; do you recall that?
- 14 A. Correct. Yeah.
- 15 Q. Was the position that there were multiple individuals
- 16 within Fujitsu who assisted the Post Office with
- 17 technical input into the expert and witness evidence
- 18 that transpired as part of the GLO proceedings?
- 19 Yeah, and, in fact, there were people in that immediate
- 20 virtual team who weren't witnesses, such as John
- 21 Simpkins and Mark Wright.
- 22 **Q.** Yes, indeed, within the six that you have identified.
- 23 A. Yeah.

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- 24 Q. Is this right: that these individuals were performing
- 25 tasks such as providing analysis on material like PEAKs
- 1 Correct. Yeah.
- 2 Q. Indeed, is this right: that it would have been
- 3 practically impossible for one person in Fujitsu to
- 4 perform that role because of its sheer scale but also
 - the multiplicity of expertise that it demanded?
- 6 A. That's correct. So I recall, for example, that I think
- 7 we'd split up all of the -- I'm trying to remember the
- 8 phrase that was used but all of the issues that came out
- of the supplemental report of Jason Coyne were split 9
- 10 among the members of that virtual team, yeah.
- 11 Q. You've identified one of the two examples I'm going to
- come to, the 22 bugs that Jason Coyne identified? 12
- 13 Right, and I think there your more than that originally,
- 14 actually that they were asked to analyse, yeah.
- 15 Q. Thank you. Before I come on to those examples: is this
- 16 also right: that this process that was going on within
- this team was collaborative; people were working 17
- 18 together on these tasks?
- A. Correct, yeah. 19
- 20 Q. I say it was collaborative, partly because there was
- 21 a fundamental principle of peer review within that team:
- 22 people would review each other's output?
- 23 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 24 Q. Also, there was sometimes something in the form of
- 25 a dialogue between people of different expertise within

1

Fujitsu. So, for example, someone might say this is

Steve Parker, Mark Wright, John Simpkins, Torstein

2		a question that's better placed within the SSC, it would	2		Godeseth and Mr Jenkins, effectively saying we need to
3		be forwarded to someone like John Simpkins, he would	3		divide up this list of bugs, each one needs a lead
4		feed back	4		person.
5	A.	Yes.	5	A.	Yeah.
6	Q.	and it would all enter the mix.	6	Q.	Do you recall that? There will then be a process of
7	A.	I think that's definitely true, yeah, because, I mean,	7		consolidation and peer review; do you recall that being
8		I think the issues items weren't just kind of randomly	8		the process?
9		divided up among people, they were depending on who was	9	A.	I believe so, yeah, and I believe that I actually
10		seen as on being more expert in that area, yeah.	10		tracked the progress on each of them, yeah. So yeah.
11	Q.	Thank you very much if we can go to two examples. I'll	11	Q.	I'm grateful. So you were effectively administering
12		take your example first, if I may, I think what you're	12		that process, were you?
13		referring to was the exercise that was conducted in May	13	A.	Helping to keep track of what was going on, yeah.
14		2019 of effectively dividing up the 22 or I think it	14	Q.	
15		then transpired 29 bugs that had been identified by	15		I suggest is indicative of this collaborative way of
16		Mr Coyne	16		responding to the GLO proceedings and, if we go to this
17	A.	Right.	17		document, please, it's FUJ00179541. Just while that is
18	Q.	amongst individuals within this team.	18		being brought up, this is in the context of Torstein
19		Right.	19		Godeseth's first draft statement in September 2018. If
20	Q.	Do you recall that?	20		we can go to the bottom of this chain, please.
21		Yes.	21		Thank you. Sorry, can we just go up a little bit so
	Q.	I'm not going to take you to the email, just because of	22		I can thank you very much, that's perfect.
23		time but, for everyone else's note, it's FUJ00081836.	23		So this is an email from you to Alan Holmes, Gareth
24		But do you recall an instruction from Pete Newsome,	24		Seemungal and Gareth Jenkins, copying in Pete Newsome
<u>-</u> . 25		which was communicated to the likes of Dave Ibbett,	25		and Dave Ibbett:
		205	20		206
				_	-
1		"Alan, Gareth S and Gareth J,	1	Q.	Thank you. If we can scroll up, then, please, to the
2		"Please see attached Torstein's draft witness	2		next email in the chain, so we see Alan Holmes provides
3		statement. He has asked that the three of you review it	3		a version of the document with comments and then, if we
4		and provide any feedback/clarifications."	4		scroll up, please. I think the two Gareths are being
5		Moving down:	5		asked to build on that as a base so add their comments
6		"Note that currently the draft has been provided to	6		in to Alan Holmes' document?
7		Torstein by WBD based on a previous statement with	7	Α.	Yeah.
8		yellow highlighted sections where WBD are asking	8	Q.	If we can go up then, please, an email from Gareth
9		specific questions and, as you can see, Torstein has	9		Jenkins:
10		made amendments as tracked changes, and added comments."	10		"I've just got back in.
11		If we go to the next email in that change, please,	11		"I'll certainly add to Alan's comments. Not sure if
12		thank you. The following day, 21 September, Pete	12		I can finish this afternoon depends how long it is.
13		Newsome says:	13		"I'll look after lunch".
14		"WBD have asked for a response today if at all	14		Then up please, Gareth Seemungal, I think, at this
15		possible.	15		stage, has added his comments so asks Gareth Jenkins:
16		"Let me know if you can't do this"	16		"Are you okay to build on top of this version
17		Just as a side note, was it often the case that	17		please?"
18		Fujitsu were being asked to respond to requests by WBD	18		Then, if we go up to the next email, please, from
19		within very tight and pressurised time frames?	19		Gareth Jenkins, later that same day:
20	A.	Yeah, that happens happened quite often, yeah.	20		"I've finally gone through it all. Attached is the
21	Q.	Thank you. Also, of course, this is an example, isn't	21		version with everybody's comments.
22		it, where technical input is being asked for but from	22		"There are a couple of my comments that suggest that
23		Alan Holmes and Gareth Seemungal, who aren't in your	23		Gareth S may like to add clarifications, but I see he
24		shortlist of six people?	24		had not picked up on those areas."
					·
25	A.	Correct, yeah.	25		Then the final email in this chain, from Gareth 208

1		Seemungal:	1	I have to admit I don't really recall the content of
2		"Gareth	2	that one.
3		"Responded to your questions attached."	3	So, certainly, in the case of this witness
4		The reason I suggest this might be typical is	4	statement, it was done like that but there were only
5		because what we see here is a multiplicity of	5	four witnesses, I think.
6		individuals commenting on a draft statement; is that	6	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Can I shortcut it, in terms of the two
7		right?	7	technical witnesses, Mr Godeseth and Mr Parker, it seems
8	A.	Certainly that's what there is here, yes.	8	clear from even this limited line of questioning that
9	Q.	Also, something of that dialogue that I mentioned	9	there was a good deal of collaboration before the
10		between the two Gareths, posing questions and answering	10	witness statements were finalised?
11		questions between each other?	11	A. Yes.
12	A.	That's true. Yeah.	12	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. I think you've made your point.
13	Q.	Would you have said that this process that we see here	13	MS OLIVER: Thank you, sir. No further questions.
14		with Torstein Godeseth's statement was relatively	14	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you. Right. Well, that brings the
15		typical of the way that Fujitsu worked on these draft	15	session to a close today.
16		witness statements?	16	Thank you very much, Mr Lenton, for your witness
17	A.	So, yeah, well I must admit I'm not quite so	17	statement and for answering the questions of a number of
18		I think in terms of I'm trying to think of how many	18	people throughout the afternoon. I'm grateful to you.
19		there were. So, obviously, this is Torstein's and then	19	So we'll break off now and resume again tomorrow
20		there was Steve Parker's. I mean, I assume that Steve	20	morning with Mr Parker sorry, Mr Parsons, not
21		Parker's was looked at in considerable detail,	21	Mr Parker. I shouldn't confuse those two people,
22		particularly by his SSC colleagues, and I think the Andy	22	I don't think.
23		Dunks witness statement we've already looked at and that	23	All right. Thanks very much.
24		was very short and was more or less pre-written, as it	24	MS HODGE: Good afternoon, sir.
25		were. Then I think the other one was Bill Membery and	25	(4.39 pm)
		209		210
1	((The hearing adjourned until 9.45 am the following day)		INDEX

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2			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

THOMAS MATHEW BEEZER (sworn)	1
Questioned by MR STEVENS	1
Questioned by MS PAGE	87
MATTHEW GUY LENTON (affirmed)	90
Questioned by MS HODGE	90
Questioned by MR STEIN	191
Questioned by MS PAGE	193
Questioned by MS OLIVER	200

14,365 [1] 160/19 'provide [1] 107/12 'Relevant [1] 114/10 **14.30 [1]** 115/24 MR STEIN: [4] 191/1 the [2] 32/20 159/10 **14th [4]** 65/16 66/17 191/4 191/25 192/22 66/18 77/23 'Transaction [2] MR STEVENS: [25] 164/18 164/23 **15 [2]** 51/13 51/17 1/3 1/5 1/9 1/13 41/21 **15 August [1]** 15/13 41/24 42/2 51/2 51/10 0 **15 March [1]** 52/20 51/12 51/20 51/24 008 [1] 42/2 **15 minutes [1]** 51/15 52/1 52/10 81/9 81/14 **15th [2]** 70/16 79/3 81/20 87/1 87/5 87/12 **1 16 [2]** 72/14 72/19 89/11 89/24 90/7 1 March [2] 36/9 37/6 16 March [1] 73/17 90/11 90/15 **1,281 [1]** 149/25 16 November [1] **MS HODGE: [15] 1,491 [1]** 151/2 184/5 90/19 90/21 90/25 **1-4 [1]** 129/23 **16.01 [1]** 149/24 152/24 153/1 153/5 **1.00 [2]** 51/18 52/2 **16th [1]** 70/19 153/7 178/11 190/10 **1.13 [5]** 162/10 **17 [1]** 84/19 190/13 190/16 193/1 162/19 164/15 165/3 17 November [1] 193/5 193/7 210/24 166/5 49/8 MS OLIVER: [3] **1.14 [2]** 163/4 163/4 17th [2] 77/24 79/3 191/14 200/25 210/13 **1.15 [1]** 163/9 **18 [4]** 34/12 34/13 **MS PAGE: [8]** 87/14 **1.16 [3]** 163/4 164/15 46/23 109/11 89/8 89/21 191/11 165/3 18 July [1] 14/23 193/10 195/24 196/1 **1.20 [3]** 90/12 90/14 **18 March [1]** 79/15 200/20 90/18 18 November [1] **SIR WYN WILLIAMS: 10 [4]** 158/17 158/18 16/10 **[47]** 1/4 1/6 1/12 166/4 198/6 18 years [3] 22/7 41/20 41/22 41/25 10 March [1] 56/9 36/23 40/13 51/4 51/11 51/15 10 November [1] 18/19 years [2] 7/4 51/25 52/7 80/25 81/3 18/16 81/6 81/8 81/11 81/19 **10 years [1]** 110/22 18ed [1] 46/2 87/4 87/10 89/9 89/12 **10-minute** [1] 191/18 **19 [1]** 89/13 89/14 89/19 89/22 **10.00 [1]** 1/10 **1987 [1]** 91/24 90/1 90/10 90/13 **10.18 am [1]** 116/2 **1996** [1] 5/4 90/20 152/22 152/25 **100 [1]** 145/20 **1998 [1]** 94/7 153/6 178/10 190/12 **11 [3]** 56/6 57/5 19th [1] 89/14 190/15 190/23 191/3 125/16 191/8 191/13 191/16 **11 March [4]** 54/13 192/24 193/6 195/21 56/8 56/11 180/22 2 February [1] 1/19 195/25 200/23 210/6 11 October [1] **2.1.2 [1]** 47/7 210/12 210/14 146/20 **2.47 [1]** 42/21 THE WITNESS: [2] **11,000 [1]** 35/22 **2.50 [2]** 152/25 153/2 81/15 90/6 **11.05 [2]** 51/5 72/14 **20 [2]** 75/23 97/17 **11.06** [1] 51/21 20 February [1] **11.20 [1]** 51/23 29/21 'but [1] 140/7 **11.50 [1]** 70/15 20 March [5] 79/16 'Callendar [1] 129/19 11th [3] 59/19 59/20 83/17 83/23 84/17 'contrition' [1] 74/8 60/24 84/25 'deleted [2] 154/8 **12 [5]** 1/1 3/5 7/8 2000 [1] 96/19 155/10 56/6 65/6 **2000s [1]** 9/6 'deleted' [1] 132/13 12 March [4] 58/7 **2002 [1]** 180/22 'executive' [1] 74/3 58/23 59/17 62/1 **2003 [2]** 5/6 14/23 'government' [1] 12 September [1] **2004 [2]** 15/2 42/15 74/1 126/6 **2005 [13]** 4/19 5/16 **'I [1]** 72/25 **12.21 [1]** 90/16 6/6 9/25 15/14 21/11 'I think' [1] 72/25 **12th [1]** 59/21 'inconsistency' [1] 13 February [1] 29/3 29/7 36/14 70/25 153/13 **2006 [19]** 4/19 26/13

13 June [1] 1/24

13 November [1]

13th [1] 153/12

14 [2] 28/19 56/13

14 March [1] 64/3

14 May [1] 91/5

93/1

2007/8 [1] 9/9

2007/8/9 [1] 9/9

144/10

180/14

'JONATHANG' [1]

'judiciary' [1] 74/3

'KELComplete' [1]

'PinICL' [1] 151/24

'Please [1] 123/25

165/3

121/14

193/20 **2013 [2]** 8/7 104/10 **2013/2014 [1]** 8/15 2014 [2] 8/7 8/15 2015 [1] 94/1 2016 [8] 53/23 94/1 99/2 100/8 100/21 **2017 [5]** 112/25 113/9 114/1 122/25 158/25 **2018 [16]** 120/16 121/7 123/4 123/21 131/7 153/25 155/3 161/11 164/7 180/14 181/14 184/5 206/19 2019 [20] 52/20 52/21 54/11 54/14 58/8 58/23 64/3 73/17 79/15 83/18 83/23 84/17 84/25 151/5 158/6 158/20 168/5 176/2 177/25 205/14 **2023 [1]** 1/24 **2024 [4]** 1/1 1/19 2/5 91/5 21 November [2] 16/21 24/3 21 September [1] 207/12 212 [1] 150/1 22 [2] 204/12 205/14 22 November [1] 10/19 **220,000 [2]** 172/19 172/21 **23 March [3]** 15/2 121/7 123/21 23 November [1] 21/11 **24 February [1]** 32/4 24 January [2] 196/12 197/22 **24 May [1]** 164/7 24 September [1] 128/3 25 May [1] 165/25 25 September [1] 131/7 **250,000 [4]** 18/23 26/11 26/17 29/1 29/2 31/22 34/8 35/20 26 September [1] 141/16 28/25 29/5 29/21 33/8 26th [1] 133/9 34/13 35/22 36/9 37/6 27 November [1] 37/24 38/8 42/3 43/17 49/1 44/11 46/2 46/15 92/3 28 November [1] 114/1

2008 [1] 94/1

2009 [2] 93/9 98/18 29 November [2] **2010 [3]** 98/18 170/2 46/15 47/13 2a [1] 156/5 3 October [1] 181/14 **3,500 [3]** 48/11 48/25 49/16 **3.05 [2]** 152/25 153/4 102/12 176/11 176/23 **30 [3]** 87/24 87/25 88/4 30 November [2] 113/9 117/14 30 September [1] 158/20 **32 [1]** 1/25 155/15 155/22 155/22 **35 [1]** 39/16 **36 [2]** 26/15 33/8 4 years [1] 175/17 **4,000 [1]** 118/10 **4.00 [3]** 70/16 72/19 190/18 **4.05 [2]** 42/22 193/2 4.15 [3] 191/5 192/24 193/4 **4.35 [1]** 192/25 **4.39 [1]** 210/25 **41 [1]** 2/8 **47 [1]** 109/11 5 November [2] 153/25 155/22 5 September [2] 42/3 44/10 **5,000 [1]** 160/4 **51 [1]** 91/10 **54 pages [1]** 91/7 **557 [1]** 87/24 6 December [2] 23/9 29/3 6 February [1] 151/14 6 September [1] 43/17 **6,155 [2]** 160/11 160/22 **6.2 [2]** 46/24 47/12 **6.2.4 [1]** 47/2 **60-second [1]** 191/25 **61 [1]** 171/14 **7 April [1]** 38/8 7 April 2006 [1] 37/24 7 February [2] 28/21 28 September [1] 7 November [1]

29 [1] 205/15

(54) MR STEIN: - 7 November

141/7 141/11 142/14 accountancy [1] 208/13 7 additional [6] 46/5 146/10 146/15 148/10 45/20 127/25 148/15 165/1 afternoon [9] 51/8 7 November... [1] 150/8 150/14 150/24 accounted [1] 171/14 190/19 90/19 90/25 115/24 35/22 151/11 152/13 152/13 177/18 Additionally [1] 4/11 152/23 153/5 208/12 8 157/13 160/20 160/23 accounting [9] 12/21 address [3] 112/22 210/18 210/24 161/4 165/21 167/10 13/11 13/22 37/16 160/24 194/15 afterwards [1] 11/8 8 March [5] 54/11 167/16 167/25 176/16 43/12 47/9 165/9 again [24] 10/18 **addressed [5]** 52/15 54/12 55/6 57/4 176/2 43/18 64/22 105/21 177/16 179/5 181/11 109/11 114/3 125/16 166/13 181/1 8 May [1] 2/5 182/16 184/4 186/18 accounts [12] 23/19 134/4 115/11 118/21 119/20 8,000/9,000 [1] 186/18 188/8 189/17 93/4 93/11 99/12 addressees [1] 36/10 119/23 121/6 123/11 160/20 189/24 193/11 194/12 99/15 161/7 162/11 addresses [1] 196/21 129/14 130/7 130/17 **8,300 [1]** 120/17 194/13 194/21 195/22 162/23 165/8 166/10 133/13 136/22 137/5 adhere [1] 96/13 **8.23 [1]** 62/1 197/10 197/25 200/5 166/11 196/4 adjourned [1] 211/1 137/7 152/2 167/23 82 paragraphs [1] 201/2 201/4 201/16 168/5 171/19 173/25 accuracy [2] 158/6 Adjournment [1] 202/4 203/21 177/25 90/17 192/24 210/19 9 above [4] 117/9 accurate [2] 45/3 administered [1] against [14] 10/1 127/19 156/13 181/18 16/16 16/19 18/23 145/10 99/21 9 April [1] 52/20 absolutely [17] 14/7 30/6 30/17 31/4 31/24 accurately [2] 45/6 administering [2] 9 March [1] 56/16 16/13 26/20 28/1 99/19 206/11 34/23 44/24 57/9 80/3 177/12 **9,000 [1]** 160/20 31/15 31/24 33/9 across [4] 20/13 40/9 administrators [1] 108/23 160/10 **9.45 [2]** 1/2 211/1 38/11 40/13 54/7 57/3 98/24 99/15 163/6 aggressive [2] 78/14 57/14 81/7 81/15 act [6] 75/5 75/11 admit [6] 114/24 85/23 83/15 89/17 195/24 79/20 80/14 80/16 174/15 179/10 199/3 ago [7] 7/4 18/16 ability [6] 57/12 academic [1] 91/21 80/21 209/17 210/1 20/8 22/14 36/23 60/7 161/6 175/3 176/9 accept [8] 8/13 23/21 admittedly [1] 22/14 125/20 acted [3] 6/12 8/12 177/2 188/11 35/8 35/10 50/17 agree [14] 21/24 22/1 able [21] 14/4 40/1 187/25 adopt [3] 35/5 72/4 acting [2] 4/22 18/11 115/21 185/22 200/1 23/25 32/6 45/4 45/13 45/5 65/5 87/19 105/6 75/7 accepted [6] 73/5 action [24] 10/11 adopted [1] 152/2 50/15 62/12 62/16 120/6 129/19 140/9 73/10 100/4 145/7 12/15 18/3 18/12 **ADR [2]** 45/21 46/7 62/20 133/4 143/24 141/2 144/18 149/19 160/22 201/19 18/15 18/19 19/3 19/9 advance [1] 52/2 168/1 182/20 165/1 173/4 179/15 20/6 20/20 21/2 21/8 access [39] 99/1 advancing [1] 143/3 Agreed [8] 3/6 3/12 189/5 190/8 192/6 26/9 27/4 27/15 30/19 advertising [1] 99/3 100/8 101/17 3/18 16/23 21/17 192/6 192/8 195/19 101/20 101/22 101/25 38/2 75/8 75/19 157/23 54/15 58/19 64/6 about [143] 3/3 4/2 4/17 4/20 7/10 9/19 102/2 102/11 105/5 157/14 160/24 172/5 advice [24] 57/16 agreeing [3] 45/16 105/11 105/13 105/16 172/6 173/2 57/19 57/20 57/20 90/9 171/6 18/14 20/6 20/21 106/10 161/4 161/25 actioning [1] 120/15 57/20 57/21 57/24 agreement [6] 7/19 21/24 23/4 23/22 162/5 162/13 163/3 58/3 59/13 63/23 actions [8] 22/11 7/19 7/22 7/24 8/3 24/10 24/11 24/14 163/7 163/18 164/16 197/3 197/5 197/7 64/24 66/1 72/6 72/7 185/20 26/9 28/23 29/14 165/14 167/3 167/21 198/23 199/10 199/15 73/5 73/10 80/7 80/17 ahead [2] 33/16 82/8 30/19 30/22 31/16 168/5 168/8 168/24 200/6 31/16 31/17 31/24 83/20 185/1 186/14 aim [1] 192/25 169/20 169/24 170/7 actively [1] 179/2 187/20 188/1 189/17 AI [1] 73/22 32/10 35/22 35/23 171/15 175/4 175/21 actual [1] 22/22 advise [5] 50/17 Al Cameron [1] 40/7 41/3 41/13 44/25 185/17 195/4 195/7 actually [37] 14/16 50/24 57/12 72/25 73/22 45/9 48/7 48/11 49/16 25/1 33/23 34/18 36/2 74/16 195/18 195/23 Alan [5] 206/23 207/1 51/18 53/18 54/17 55/2 55/5 55/16 57/25 accessed [2] 99/4 41/18 46/8 74/21 81/4 advised [1] 73/25 207/23 208/2 208/6 93/11 94/12 96/16 Alan's [1] 208/11 59/24 60/1 60/10 61/8 162/11 advisers [1] 72/25 98/5 98/7 100/9 advising [1] 77/20 **alarm [2]** 1/10 10/3 61/15 63/5 65/9 66/1 accessible [1] 66/7 66/11 69/1 69/3 159/19 107/17 109/19 118/2 advocacy [2] 63/9 albeit [1] 93/5 69/11 71/7 76/10 accommodate [1] 121/21 122/12 127/1 63/9 all [110] 6/23 7/15 134/16 139/11 150/17 8/20 9/4 9/12 12/7 87/10 advocate [1] 63/8 76/11 76/14 76/14 accompanied [1] 169/1 174/19 176/15 affect [1] 182/9 20/19 21/24 22/10 76/15 78/13 84/23 174/4 179/3 183/19 187/6 24/25 25/17 25/25 **affirm [1]** 1/21 85/19 86/3 86/11 188/9 188/11 193/21 affirmative [1] 148/5 26/19 27/13 27/21 accordance [1] 4/22 87/15 91/21 94/1 194/23 198/25 204/14 affirmed [2] 90/23 35/16 35/24 40/15 **account [31]** 45/19 94/11 94/18 96/21 47/10 93/5 93/12 206/9 212/8 41/24 46/10 46/12 98/11 98/12 98/15 93/17 94/6 94/20 acutely [1] 74/5 Africa [1] 61/17 46/12 48/13 49/4 103/8 104/4 105/7 add [5] 45/5 106/10 94/23 95/1 95/7 96/13 50/11 51/19 52/7 57/1 after [24] 24/5 26/4 105/9 106/4 107/22 98/18 99/11 99/17 208/5 208/11 208/23 29/3 43/17 44/22 57/6 57/10 58/21 109/8 110/22 111/10 101/15 101/17 102/6 added [4] 4/9 107/24 44/22 48/6 48/13 66/14 69/3 77/6 77/13 111/21 112/18 122/23 102/11 104/5 104/7 207/10 208/15 57/20 65/2 98/17 77/16 79/5 81/13 84/3 123/15 127/7 128/16 122/13 134/7 134/23 105/8 109/18 110/6 adding [1] 43/10 86/16 86/17 86/20 128/21 130/10 130/22 110/12 110/18 110/20 addition [7] 45/8 142/13 148/16 152/11 86/24 86/24 86/25 133/21 134/23 136/5 46/24 46/25 47/14 110/21 167/9 175/14 158/12 158/15 160/16 88/5 90/1 90/13 92/15 137/3 137/8 138/8 180/22 203/20 48/19 49/20 50/13 182/18 188/19 188/22 95/11 96/17 101/21

177/5 177/7 55/5 61/6 78/3 80/3 answering [5] 14/2 approving [1] 168/22 am [17] 1/2 7/14 178/19 203/1 209/10 193/24 194/11 198/21 approximately [4] all... [58] 102/2 107/7 51/21 51/23 70/21 210/17 199/5 118/10 120/17 124/16 110/19 114/11 121/1 72/5 79/6 82/6 87/15 **answers** [5] 111/15 appeal [8] 52/22 175/2 121/16 122/12 123/4 96/17 98/10 116/2 124/5 153/19 200/4 55/15 61/1 71/18 **APPSUP [7]** 169/18 124/1 124/14 127/2 124/2 129/18 145/24 200/9 71/21 72/2 72/3 79/25 169/24 170/11 173/4 127/16 135/11 136/5 181/2 211/1 175/10 176/10 176/24 anticipate [1] 52/1 Appeal's [2] 52/21 136/13 136/20 137/3 ambiguity [1] 153/10 anticipated [1] 4/13 52/25 April [4] 37/24 38/8 143/24 147/9 148/14 amended [2] 81/10 anticipation [1] 11/1 appealing [1] 61/9 39/2 52/20 148/17 148/22 149/22 183/7 any [97] 5/23 8/19 appeals [2] 87/17 **Architect [2]** 110/5 150/5 150/15 150/18 amendments [4] 8/25 9/12 13/19 14/11 190/2 175/14 151/24 152/8 154/15 73/12 163/10 182/22 24/21 27/11 27/14 appear [4] 71/9 architects [2] 104/7 156/12 164/15 170/4 207/10 30/17 32/17 34/17 125/24 138/25 150/10 111/1 172/19 172/21 178/10 37/16 40/23 41/2 **appeared [3]** 171/19 America [1] 61/16 **archive [3]** 147/10 182/6 185/23 186/7 among [2] 204/10 41/11 41/13 44/24 176/3 193/14 148/18 169/15 186/8 188/13 191/3 205/9 46/8 47/5 49/23 50/8 appears [13] 27/17 archived [1] 181/4 191/18 191/19 195/2 amongst [1] 205/18 53/4 54/3 58/1 61/7 37/1 43/11 46/6 83/19 are [146] 3/20 3/23 195/17 195/20 196/8 61/8 63/15 63/24 65/8 131/20 139/21 140/11 10/10 11/21 11/25 amount [2] 187/21 197/20 198/6 199/8 65/14 75/1 75/10 83/6 144/12 147/17 161/10 18/2 18/8 18/11 20/19 188/12 200/4 200/20 204/7 83/23 83/24 84/9 173/13 176/19 21/24 24/12 27/19 amounts [2] 42/24 204/8 205/6 207/14 84/11 85/15 85/24 appendices [1] 117/5 44/2 30/1 31/5 32/14 32/18 208/20 210/23 **Amy [8]** 55/18 61/24 85/25 86/8 86/17 appendix [3] 115/3 32/19 33/1 34/11 all' [1] 107/12 114/1 121/6 122/13 86/20 94/9 94/14 115/13 116/6 34/24 35/12 42/24 allegation [2] 34/15 123/3 123/25 124/4 94/16 98/14 98/14 applicable [3] 121/23 43/8 44/5 47/9 47/9 43/11 100/23 102/13 102/19 121/25 122/15 47/11 52/16 58/15 analogy [1] 45/1 alleged [1] 15/3 105/15 106/3 106/8 58/15 58/16 59/8 analyse [3] 111/17 application [39] 4/9 **alleys [1]** 44/16 60/24 64/15 64/19 201/6 204/14 106/12 107/20 108/9 6/3 22/9 23/10 24/14 **allow [2]** 191/6 analysing [2] 45/19 108/10 112/18 114/15 24/24 30/4 30/13 70/12 71/1 74/7 75/2 199/15 201/20 114/22 116/19 124/17 52/12 53/4 56/4 56/22 75/20 82/17 83/2 83/3 alluded [1] 6/2 126/2 130/21 141/7 57/12 58/6 60/3 60/5 87/25 89/8 89/15 92/7 analysis [4] 112/13 **almost [6]** 52/13 142/7 145/18 145/22 184/21 202/25 203/9 60/12 63/18 65/10 92/19 92/19 93/17 62/19 142/10 148/20 **Analyst [1]** 180/23 145/25 148/21 151/7 66/12 71/25 73/7 74/5 95/9 95/12 95/15 187/6 199/21 151/25 152/17 156/12 74/10 76/12 76/16 **Andrew [16]** 53/6 95/20 95/23 96/12 alone [1] 45/20 78/21 79/22 79/24 53/9 53/13 54/3 55/18 156/20 159/25 165/14 96/19 96/19 97/18 already [20] 3/25 61/24 69/17 70/9 168/2 168/10 170/13 82/7 83/8 83/25 85/3 97/20 97/24 98/9 99/4 17/13 17/25 26/11 70/15 72/13 73/17 172/6 182/7 188/24 85/20 86/4 86/9 86/21 101/8 101/10 101/12 26/15 30/8 39/13 77/25 175/8 179/6 101/17 103/15 103/25 189/2 189/5 189/9 89/16 169/20 48/24 64/14 70/24 184/8 197/24 189/16 189/17 189/24 applied [2] 80/8 107/6 110/10 110/19 75/4 75/16 104/6 190/1 193/21 195/21 112/5 114/8 114/9 **Andy [2]** 184/9 177/4 109/14 139/22 150/20 114/20 115/16 116/16 209/22 200/17 201/19 207/4 **apply [2]** 80/18 158/3 160/20 198/20 angry [1] 17/12 anybody [3] 41/10 131/20 117/6 119/19 121/22 209/23 **Anne [3]** 41/6 41/9 192/8 194/25 applying [2] 172/18 121/24 122/14 123/6 also [42] 2/14 13/10 41/14 123/24 126/24 129/19 anyone [8] 21/6 172/21 20/6 23/23 37/10 annoying [1] 82/24 47/20 47/25 48/3 48/7 appointed [1] 67/18 136/2 138/20 144/13 43/22 58/10 78/11 another [16] 18/8 132/21 188/8 191/13 147/1 147/9 147/12 appointment [3] 7/19 81/22 87/23 92/13 148/11 148/13 148/17 30/23 54/9 59/16 anything [19] 31/16 38/20 102/4 92/23 93/24 93/25 149/11 149/19 149/25 70/10 75/24 96/8 45/10 54/8 57/7 60/1 **appreciate** [2] 28/14 97/18 97/24 101/22 150/15 150/17 151/22 96/21 122/13 131/16 60/10 67/7 76/10 114/17 103/11 109/20 110/21 134/18 143/22 155/4 76/15 86/3 100/7 appreciated [2] 152/4 153/24 154/4 119/25 121/14 126/3 156/15 183/14 187/12 154/5 154/16 154/20 104/3 111/13 111/21 116/1 152/1 126/20 127/6 133/15 answer [36] 7/3 8/18 118/4 134/9 200/17 approach [13] 25/14 154/21 155/9 155/10 137/24 150/22 163/25 8/23 11/17 12/25 14/1 200/18 201/15 25/16 25/23 26/8 26/9 156/1 156/4 156/10 170/17 191/11 191/15 14/9 22/11 25/25 27/22 28/16 33/4 33/6 156/12 156/12 159/11 anyway [7] 29/11 192/9 192/11 193/25 30/20 47/22 54/8 63/10 90/8 112/19 159/13 159/15 162/17 71/16 77/15 149/11 202/4 203/19 204/4 74/17 89/5 111/18 187/13 197/8 198/3 195/9 163/15 164/17 164/20 204/16 204/24 207/21 123/15 124/2 124/3 appropriate [4] 99/24 165/1 165/3 169/16 anywhere [2] 45/10 209/9 124/13 126/15 129/15 170/2 170/4 170/20 142/8 109/3 185/1 186/14 although [12] 7/25 135/22 141/16 146/5 apart [1] 188/7 173/17 173/23 176/16 appropriately [2] 19/6 42/24 49/6 57/19 148/4 149/19 174/22 177/17 178/24 190/24 apologies [2] 115/21 95/15 96/9 73/24 116/15 117/18 178/19 178/20 179/15 125/21 190/25 192/18 194/21 **approval [2]** 166/17 128/19 148/15 152/9 195/23 197/21 198/5 186/2 192/5 192/20 apologise [2] 4/11 167/2 177/14 200/15 201/7 202/12 84/24 200/21 207/8 208/4 approvals [2] 92/24 altogether [1] 43/13 167/25 answered [2] 102/9 apology [2] 4/6 4/15 208/16 208/22 always [4] 8/21 177/3 174/14 apparent [9] 47/9 **approve [1]** 154/10 area [2] 98/25 205/10

105/15 106/15 112/16 104/14 135/15 195/8 202/5 204/14 207/3 164/8 175/16 183/6 207/14 207/18 207/22 184/7 207/2 208/20 113/4 135/8 135/15 199/4 areas [4] 6/1 110/24 208/5 209/3 135/21 161/5 165/22 because [87] 6/18 111/3 208/24 asking [22] 24/20 attaches [1] 70/9 180/7 192/9 7/13 11/18 12/6 15/3 aren't [4] 56/1 150/25 30/22 37/10 53/15 attaching [1] 69/20 away [6] 33/12 35/21 15/19 18/16 19/9 20/6 194/19 207/23 54/22 69/7 82/21 49/3 54/8 143/25 20/9 22/1 23/11 27/19 attachment [1] Argentina [1] 61/16 91/20 119/9 123/5 174/9 29/5 29/6 31/8 34/15 129/22 **arguably [1]** 179/1 123/25 132/23 135/23 attack [1] 175/20 35/4 39/1 39/6 40/1 arise [2] 118/12 В 143/1 149/6 155/23 attain [1] 99/1 40/19 43/6 44/4 48/21 130/7 bachelor's [1] 91/24 165/20 167/10 174/11 48/23 49/7 50/18 attempt [3] 35/19 arose [2] 168/5 back [30] 9/23 15/1 175/1 181/23 207/8 143/25 199/25 56/23 57/3 57/25 168/14 22/7 26/17 26/25 60/23 63/11 64/9 asks [3] 20/18 attempted [1] 115/6 around [22] 48/10 27/21 70/6 70/7 80/2 153/23 208/15 attempting [1] 65/21 69/13 70/4 60/25 64/14 71/1 71/4 90/11 109/4 115/23 194/15 71/17 72/6 72/9 75/13 aspect [2] 17/1 85/14 88/11 94/7 116/16 127/21 133/8 103/15 attempts [1] 27/1 82/22 86/15 88/14 118/12 135/25 161/11 137/2 137/7 137/8 aspects [2] 128/17 attend [5] 23/9 41/5 89/3 92/20 99/13 164/15 178/18 181/8 146/24 152/20 158/24 61/18 113/9 114/25 102/16 102/18 103/22 198/4 185/17 185/20 194/8 165/8 166/1 170/9 assert [2] 144/21 attendance [6] 2/13 108/5 111/19 112/9 194/10 195/3 197/7 171/18 187/17 187/19 145/8 21/11 28/7 36/18 118/2 118/13 122/3 199/24 200/9 193/18 205/4 208/10 37/24 41/15 122/19 127/11 127/15 asserted [1] 80/7 **ARQ [1]** 179/19 **background** [12] 5/3 attended [5] 36/15 128/24 128/25 130/4 assertion [1] 126/14 **arrogant** [1] 74/7 12/12 14/21 16/17 133/22 140/19 144/22 assertions [2] 4/20 83/20 113/15 117/16 **Arup [1]** 92/12 16/19 19/15 27/5 4/25 185/6 145/12 147/12 150/4 as [270] 31/25 44/24 54/10 assist [10] 2/16 attending [2] 1/15 150/24 151/24 154/5 **ASAP [2]** 197/7 37/19 56/22 61/12 70/5 91/22 156/17 160/19 161/12 39/18 199/15 bad [4] 18/5 18/24 172/18 182/4 184/20 61/13 71/8 113/11 attention [2] 157/24 ascertained [1] 27/6 27/7 113/24 125/11 192/19 192/8 193/23 194/13 161/11 10/23 Bajaj [1] 32/23 194/20 201/10 204/4 assistance [2] 37/11 audit [14] 15/2 **Ashwini [1]** 93/20 balance [1] 47/11 99/22 163/13 168/23 168/25 204/20 205/7 205/22 aside [19] 20/4 20/5 176/22 179/9 180/24 **balanced [3]** 30/17 209/5 assistant [2] 93/18 20/14 21/21 22/5 22/8 31/4 49/18 93/19 181/3 182/12 184/18 become [5] 21/7 22/17 24/13 24/24 balances [1] 42/21 assisted [2] 69/5 197/3 197/8 199/9 34/10 48/11 193/24 25/5 25/9 26/4 26/14 202/16 199/16 balancing [3] 163/11 196/23 26/23 27/20 29/11 163/17 167/16 **assisting [1]** 178/18 audit/transaction [1] becoming [1] 198/21 30/3 30/10 30/13 ball [1] 172/19 assists [1] 101/19 163/13 BEDs [1] 98/14 **ask [40]** 1/20 1/21 **barrister** [1] 63/9 auditability [2] 197/5 been [144] 3/25 4/15 associate [1] 16/5 1/25 2/6 4/2 23/18 base [1] 208/5 **associated** [1] 139/2 199/11 4/25 6/21 7/4 8/5 8/5 41/13 46/14 50/24 based [11] 8/2 13/11 9/18 10/12 12/7 13/21 assuage [1] 44/9 auditable [1] 166/10 72/17 83/17 87/15 20/22 20/24 32/24 17/22 20/7 20/9 21/20 assume [16] 27/8 audited [3] 177/5 87/18 89/8 91/1 91/10 33/4 71/21 86/18 27/16 45/1 45/3 64/25 177/7 177/18 24/19 26/15 36/11 94/18 96/21 110/11 88/15 183/22 207/7 67/2 84/9 118/21 auditing [1] 168/7 37/1 37/7 37/10 39/15 115/15 115/23 122/22 basically [10] 70/1 119/24 124/15 141/4 August [3] 15/13 39/18 41/7 42/4 43/18 123/6 123/9 149/22 145/11 147/10 184/20 176/11 176/23 92/9 92/20 104/23 44/25 48/1 48/14 49/2 179/5 181/11 184/17 199/14 209/20 110/2 116/17 127/3 50/11 55/4 55/18 Aujard [1] 8/6 188/23 190/17 190/23 137/18 174/11 181/23 assumed [2] 126/16 author [1] 148/2 58/17 59/11 59/19 191/7 191/9 191/11 basis [12] 12/2 24/21 61/8 64/14 65/20 145/3 authorisation [3] 191/14 191/22 191/25 45/23 51/16 60/21 assuming [5] 66/20 170/21 175/5 176/10 68/11 73/25 75/10 193/11 200/25 201/1 82/7 95/3 125/4 139/5 141/24 156/22 authorised [1] 181/2 85/17 86/6 87/1 87/19 asked [54] 23/17 126/14 127/14 136/14 authorising [2] 165/5 174/17 87/24 88/7 88/23 23/20 38/5 57/15 147/20 88/24 89/4 93/25 assumption [7] 165/21 69/23 84/7 86/5 87/8 bat [2] 30/20 74/17 130/11 141/5 142/1 authoritative [1] 96/18 99/21 100/5 87/9 100/17 103/8 142/4 142/20 145/7 52/14 batch [3] 126/16 100/12 100/17 100/18 104/10 104/17 105/13 145/8 available [8] 51/8 155/13 159/22 101/14 102/19 110/21 105/20 105/22 106/9 Bates [2] 87/17 88/5 51/10 119/19 120/8 111/16 116/18 117/10 assumptions [1] 106/24 112/6 112/11 **BDO [10]** 42/4 44/11 127/14 125/3 147/9 188/14 118/14 120/6 120/7 112/14 113/8 120/11 44/23 45/9 46/11 assurance [5] 136/4 190/22 121/24 122/10 123/16 120/25 125/20 129/18 47/20 48/3 48/7 48/9 136/11 137/3 177/17 129/3 129/6 129/14 available' [1] 159/11 130/13 136/10 137/9 48/12 199/25 avoid [4] 14/2 34/17 130/7 131/1 131/21 147/12 160/6 161/21 86/12 141/7 be [239] 133/17 135/20 137/17 assure [1] 199/25 162/10 162/20 178/25 bearing [4] 122/7 asterisk [1] 3/9 aware [27] 7/15 11/3 138/12 138/18 141/2 179/7 181/14 184/20 130/17 139/7 157/18 141/11 142/3 142/21 at [318] 11/10 11/15 13/9 188/17 189/12 190/4 bears [1] 162/4 attached [14] 69/18 49/25 50/4 53/3 56/3 143/7 143/8 143/10 190/9 192/1 192/10 **became [10]** 5/9 5/11 115/12 115/19 116/5 70/4 71/3 71/23 94/5 144/18 144/22 144/23 201/4 201/21 202/4 6/6 14/16 69/7 77/24 126/8 144/13 144/20 96/17 99/4 104/20 145/1 145/12 146/3

В been... [50] 146/10 149/6 149/16 150/3 151/21 154/6 154/17 155/2 155/9 156/15 157/14 158/1 159/15 159/19 159/20 160/6 160/20 166/9 166/16 170/25 171/16 173/5 173/9 173/11 174/5 174/18 177/1 177/13 177/16 179/24 180/2 180/21 182/1 183/22 187/22 187/23 188/2 188/10 188/17 189/12 190/4 190/7 192/1 201/4 202/4 203/6 203/10 204/2 205/15 207/6 **Beer [1]** 52/14 Beezer [11] 1/5 1/7 1/14 1/16 21/14 39/10 51/17 80/25 87/15 90/2 212/2 before [53] 1/9 4/2 6/3 9/9 10/11 24/18 24/23 26/13 27/5 28/11 35/23 38/13 41/4 41/7 44/23 45/21 46/25 48/15 51/6 51/8 51/10 51/18 55/6 70/16 72/17 72/19 73/18 73/19 74/15 90/5 92/3 92/14 93/8 93/10 93/24 96/19 99/3 102/14 104/8 108/10 127/9 132/6 133/13 135/24 152/11 154/7 156/6 180/16 184/1 184/23 195/21 204/15 210/9 began [1] 59/21 begin [3] 1/9 91/20 176/3 beginning [1] 133/9 begins [3] 62/12 62/16 62/20 behalf [3] 11/12 91/1 200/25 behind [3] 197/6 197/13 199/14 being [92] 11/4 12/2 12/5 12/10 15/24 17/15 17/19 19/14 23/11 25/7 28/23 29/13 31/16 37/18 43/1 43/12 45/2 45/9 45/25 54/19 57/7 61/1 63/3 63/6 63/12 68/24 75/10 75/11 81/10 84/10 88/11 88/19 89/1 93/10 100/4 100/16 103/16 103/24

104/10 105/2 111/1 112/11 112/14 112/16 112/20 113/4 113/11 122/4 129/18 131/23 138/18 145/10 146/1 146/4 146/25 150/22 154/15 154/21 156/6 158/7 159/9 159/18 162/20 165/4 165/4 165/11 169/17 169/20 176/14 176/15 176/21 179/7 183/16 184/18 184/20 189/24 190/1 190/8 192/6 192/15 194/25 195/22 198/5 199/16 199/24 202/5 205/10 206/7 206/18 207/18 207/22 208/4 belief [3] 3/22 91/18 182/6 believe [55] 6/12 7/25 11/14 14/18 14/24 15/1 15/4 16/12 21/9 24/18 31/25 40/12 40/15 40/18 41/10 63/19 63/19 67/17 67/20 73/24 77/23 88/21 99/20 106/24 109/18 112/8 113/17 124/24 125/4 126/12 126/20 128/2 129/1 138/1 144/6 151/4 154/15 154/25 155/16 158/13 160/4 162/2 163/24 165/10 172/16 178/24 179/18 182/3 182/21 186/9 189/12 201/25 203/15 **body [4]** 5/14 135/3 206/9 206/9 believed [2] 4/21 148/17 believes [2] 32/11 138/9 below [6] 124/3 124/6 138/15 173/23 174/1 183/13 beneath [1] 140/20 benefit [1] 109/12 **Bentley [1]** 24/16 best [11] 3/21 21/23 56/14 75/6 75/19 80/14 80/22 90/8 91/17 131/13 182/5 **better [4]** 174/8 174/10 188/1 205/2 between [24] 7/22 8/7 11/4 19/15 38/9 38/12 40/5 71/18 72/18 79/3 87/16 88/18 101/7 105/2 112/2 112/3 123/12 124/7 127/22 176/13 177/15 204/25 209/10 209/11

47/18 50/10 beyond [2] 69/1 76/17 **Booth** [1] 44/18 both [11] 26/5 34/6 bias [3] 61/6 78/3 80/3 big [5] 76/24 76/24 76/25 195/17 199/3 Bill [1] 209/25 bit [14] 13/1 58/24 69/12 78/11 84/5 97/10 122/6 122/7 125/14 170/9 173/24 174/8 198/7 206/21 bits [3] 67/11 77/7 110/13 black [2] 64/13 64/15 Blakey [4] 10/1 10/1 11/2 13/12 **blind [1]** 44/16 blocks [1] 77/5 blue [5] 59/13 64/13 64/13 64/17 87/19 blunt [1] 78/23 board [32] 40/9 63/20 65/18 65/19 65/22 65/25 66/4 66/6 break [17] 41/19 42/1 67/3 67/5 69/5 69/10 70/23 71/1 71/4 73/1 74/4 75/3 75/5 76/11 79/16 82/10 82/15 82/16 82/17 83/2 83/5 191/23 193/3 210/19 84/6 85/8 85/13 85/18 breakdown [1] 160/9 85/21 **Board's [3]** 65/14 67/8 86/9 Bob [4] 16/10 16/11 16/12 24/4 bodies [1] 189/13 152/3 153/15 bold [3] 147/24 152/3 briefed [2] 61/12 153/19 **Bond [69]** 5/6 5/8 5/9 5/11 5/11 5/16 5/18 6/4 6/4 6/12 6/18 8/10 163/14 164/4 188/18 8/13 10/7 12/9 12/14 15/5 15/9 16/5 21/6 25/12 26/6 28/8 38/19 40/17 48/3 48/7 48/8 53/20 54/16 55/1 55/10 55/12 55/16 56/23 57/2 73/7 81/1 109/2 109/5 113/8 114/2 115/2 120/11 120/17 120/25 121/6 121/9 123/22 124/13 136/4 136/11 137/2 138/13 140/4 140/15 144/4 146/15 149/5 149/18 151/6 153/12 161/17 175/9 177/24 179/16 182/19 188/20 201/8 **Bond's [1]** 57/20 bookkeeping [2]

110/1 114/13 156/21 163/17 164/18 bottom [23] 2/23 2/25 16/4 42/9 48/18 49/22 65/18 70/3 82/3 208/16 123/21 131/5 137/13 141/14 144/9 149/14 151/14 158/17 161/16 107/5 171/3 181/12 183/2 197/22 206/20 **box [1]** 173/3 boxes [1] 162/15 **brackets** [1] 148/1 **branch [12]** 131/10 131/14 131/15 138/11 **Byfleet [1]** 130/5 161/7 162/11 162/23 163/6 165/7 166/8 167/9 196/4 branch's [2] 166/9 166/11 51/2 51/22 152/18 152/18 152/23 152/24 153/3 190/19 190/19 191/4 191/6 191/17 breaking [1] 18/8 **Bremner [10]** 125/15 127/22 128/3 128/12 129/14 146/21 147/21 151/15 158/20 184/4 **Bremner's [1]** 138/7 brief [3] 62/4 69/4 83/17 61/14 **briefly [7]** 64/12 79/13 152/18 152/22 bring [11] 2/21 7/7 36/15 37/23 58/8 60/2 Callendar [11] 65/10 81/21 83/18 84/15 87/18 bringing [1] 32/24 brings [1] 210/14 **British** [1] 92/13 broad [3] 12/14 38/24 114/10 **broader [9]** 28/23 30/17 31/5 31/17 31/23 32/18 33/9 33/18 33/24 broadly [1] 53/2 **broken [2]** 70/5 70/6 brought [11] 11/4 17/15 17/19 17/22 56/22 57/7 84/1 108/23 130/5 161/11 206/18

BTO [1] 189/1 bug [6] 124/18 124/22 124/25 126/4 37/5 64/15 75/18 82/2 130/6 154/23 bugs [7] 97/8 97/12 97/20 203/9 204/12 205/15 206/3 build [2] 208/5 builds [1] 65/12 bullet [3] 64/23 65/22 **bundles** [1] 12/10 **burst [1]** 89/17 **business [3]** 12/5 197/2 198/22 **busy [2]** 70/6 70/18 but [239]

Caddington [1] 181/16 calculator [5] 44/7 45/2 45/4 45/10 45/14 call [44] 7/18 7/19 24/8 24/19 25/1 26/21 38/5 43/17 64/5 64/21 65/2 65/8 65/18 65/19 66/4 66/21 67/3 73/21 74/24 75/23 76/7 81/24 82/16 82/17 83/17 83/20 83/21 83/23 84/8 85/12 85/17 113/9 113/11 113/15 114/21 115/12 118/17 118/20 128/4 147/13 168/18 174/18 194/24 196/2 called [17] 1/20 4/14 4/15 9/22 12/16 15/8 48/11 66/24 66/25 69/7 69/8 93/20 93/23 135/10 170/17 201/23 203/14 124/18 125/21 126/11 127/23 128/5 129/1 129/16 130/18 138/8 146/23 154/23 calm [3] 17/17 85/16 85/25 came [12] 23/5 56/14

75/13 88/5 88/7

204/8

100/21 104/2 111/15

119/2 161/19 195/7

Cameron [1] 73/22

can [159] 1/21 2/21

12/25 16/18 16/19

18/14 18/16 24/10

25/10 25/25 26/3

28/14 29/16 31/16

3/7 3/13 3/19 7/7 10/1

174/5 126/24 153/11 182/19 C causes [1] 157/7 **character** [1] 103/19 carry [4] 23/17 52/11 causing [1] 30/1 characterisation [1] 184/9 can... [140] 32/3 33/3 147/17 184/20 caveat [1] 174/4 8/13 **clarifying [1]** 176/3 34/12 35/18 36/5 36/6 carrying [1] 57/17 Caveatting [1] characterise [2] 98/2 clarity [2] 34/20 95/7 36/25 37/16 37/18 case [87] 4/19 4/23 172/16 202/13 class [17] 3/11 13/24 37/23 42/2 42/8 42/20 6/1 6/7 6/25 9/25 Cavender [9] 56/9 13/25 18/3 18/12 characterised [2] 43/16 46/13 46/23 10/12 10/23 11/20 18/15 19/3 19/8 20/6 56/15 64/5 69/17 112/16 112/17 47/6 50/25 55/19 11/20 11/21 11/23 72/22 73/6 73/10 20/20 21/2 21/8 27/4 charge [2] 109/21 55/21 58/6 58/9 59/12 13/12 14/5 14/15 74/15 77/25 200/16 27/14 30/19 38/2 39/2 59/23 61/12 61/13 14/17 14/17 14/19 Cavender's [3] 72/13 chased [3] 12/5 classifies [2] 172/4 66/10 69/14 71/8 73/4 14/20 15/25 16/9 72/20 73/19 44/17 44/21 173/2 74/21 76/4 77/2 77/14 cc [3] 36/10 64/7 17/20 19/15 20/3 **chasing [1]** 125/24 clause [3] 3/5 3/10 79/19 80/25 82/2 21/25 22/11 22/24 64/9 3/10 **chat [1]** 62/1 83/18 84/14 86/14 23/6 23/24 24/11 CCRC [1] 88/1 **check [5]** 54/9 87/7 clauses [1] 3/5 87/10 88/6 89/9 90/19 25/24 26/6 27/18 **CD [3]** 181/19 184/10 89/24 108/18 126/13 clear [20] 17/20 90/20 94/20 95/19 28/20 28/23 29/10 184/12 checked [3] 108/8 19/14 25/11 32/25 96/3 97/10 107/5 30/2 30/9 30/15 30/25 74/9 75/18 81/12 cent [1] 145/20 108/12 125/7 107/20 109/11 114/19 84/24 117/23 127/15 31/9 31/21 31/21 central [3] 101/9 **checking [1]** 123/25 115/23 118/12 120/5 32/11 32/17 33/10 101/14 101/18 Chennai [2] 93/21 133/23 139/11 145/15 122/19 125/13 126/24 33/15 33/25 34/21 150/13 152/10 187/15 centre [1] 77/14 93/24 127/21 128/6 129/13 187/18 193/14 203/17 34/24 35/3 35/7 35/12 **CEO [1]** 125/22 **Cheryl [2]** 10/9 10/19 129/18 131/4 131/5 35/13 35/15 35/20 certain [9] 19/13 98/6 chipping [1] 87/20 210/8 131/25 132/10 132/11 clearly [10] 33/10 39/2 39/15 40/23 43/7 100/3 106/10 106/10 Chris [9] 8/6 112/3 133/23 134/15 135/23 44/15 47/17 48/6 53/6 110/12 110/24 111/3 113/19 113/20 114/3 39/17 41/9 92/17 138/2 139/25 141/4 53/9 53/17 54/23 80/2 114/7 117/17 121/7 103/15 172/14 193/22 192/11 141/12 141/15 144/8 88/12 89/6 99/7 certainly [14] 14/5 185/5 194/11 194/13 194/15 146/18 147/22 148/11 21/2 24/9 50/2 50/2 102/16 118/3 126/11 **chronology** [1] 29/19 client [18] 6/8 6/11 148/14 149/10 149/15 127/6 128/20 130/5 6/15 6/16 8/21 13/9 97/14 117/22 119/1 **chunk [1]** 198/9 149/23 151/22 151/25 142/10 164/1 177/22 133/1 142/10 152/22 **circulated** [1] 74/19 14/12 14/18 17/1 152/2 152/12 152/20 179/18 189/19 195/2 208/11 209/8 210/3 17/15 20/11 25/9 circumstance [1] 153/5 153/13 155/11 26/22 34/23 40/19 200/12 201/19 207/17 certainty [1] 145/21 25/19 159/4 162/12 162/13 cetera [7] 92/16 210/3 57/8 57/19 58/2 circumstances [5] 162/15 163/5 163/11 cases [10] 9/14 11/4 92/18 95/23 104/1 4/17 13/16 46/20 clients [1] 58/20 163/14 164/4 164/6 11/11 19/10 19/16 104/22 167/25 195/19 166/13 191/19 close [3] 39/7 172/24 165/7 168/13 170/14 28/16 35/6 38/10 chain [14] 37/1 cite [1] 169/23 210/15 172/6 173/20 175/7 38/22 50/4 125/11 134/13 134/18 cites [2] 170/22 closed [4] 158/23 177/18 177/21 178/4 cash [4] 23/19 42/18 134/19 135/23 136/24 172/7 176/19 176/20 176/22 180/8 180/14 181/12 45/19 47/10 137/6 141/12 158/14 civil [16] 5/20 6/20 **closely [3]** 109/18 182/24 183/9 184/4 Castleton [32] 4/11 182/24 206/20 208/2 10/20 11/4 12/24 13/3 185/12 186/3 185/10 190/21 191/15 4/15 6/1 6/7 6/25 7/11 208/25 13/9 13/16 13/20 14/3 CMS [1] 15/8 191/25 192/21 193/5 11/19 11/20 11/25 **Chair's [1]** 76/11 14/5 14/17 50/1 50/2 **Cohen [1]** 64/8 193/6 193/22 195/13 14/19 14/22 15/3 15/6 **Chairman [4]** 67/3 50/2 88/19 **Cole [1]** 37/10 196/9 196/11 198/6 15/11 24/20 30/6 73/22 74/5 75/4 claim [12] 10/21 13/4 collaboration [1] 198/8 200/13 205/11 31/19 32/11 32/20 challenge [1] 31/22 13/6 15/11 16/16 210/9 206/14 206/20 206/21 32/23 33/4 35/25 17/22 20/22 29/23 challenges [2] 4/9 collaborative [3] 206/22 207/9 208/1 37/21 39/2 40/23 30/6 31/2 32/19 32/24 204/17 204/20 206/15 28/16 208/8 208/12 210/6 41/23 41/25 45/18 collating [1] 27/19 challenging [1] 50/5 **claimant [2]** 88/3 can't [21] 6/23 7/20 45/22 46/2 48/6 49/5 **chambers [4]** 41/6 88/22 collation [1] 30/10 7/25 8/18 8/22 17/3 Castleton's [9] 19/15 41/6 41/9 41/14 claimant's [1] 151/17 colleague [1] 176/4 31/6 31/8 33/11 34/4 24/15 26/12 26/17 change [28] 23/19 **claimants [7]** 86/22 colleagues [4] 54/21 64/20 89/5 28/20 28/22 30/2 33/4 33/6 33/25 35/12 87/24 88/7 172/12 116/13 116/17 137/12 100/9 102/15 105/21 32/19 45/17 109/21 109/24 166/17 175/19 184/19 203/6 209/22 150/24 180/6 187/2 166/20 166/23 168/17 catch [1] 3/14 claimants' [7] 151/7 **colour [1]** 18/17 187/5 207/16 168/20 168/21 169/6 154/16 161/13 161/20 colours [1] 64/19 catch-up [1] 3/14 cannot [9] 7/12 29/13 **categories [4]** 154/4 170/16 172/4 176/15 161/24 162/10 185/17 column [2] 118/7 71/6 88/2 150/5 152/5 156/13 159/14 160/10 196/2 196/25 197/2 claims [8] 12/3 20/24 119/11 154/14 154/18 166/14 197/6 197/14 198/17 27/24 32/22 37/20 category [10] 154/18 come [36] 4/24 9/23 capabilities [1] 163/6 154/20 155/4 155/17 198/22 198/25 199/11 38/4 50/1 50/3 24/17 28/11 32/21 capture [1] 83/16 200/11 207/11 156/5 156/10 156/14 clarification [5] 94/8 48/6 59/16 60/20 63/7 capturing [1] 66/9 123/17 127/12 130/14 156/15 157/25 160/1 changed [1] 100/7 73/1 75/15 75/16 care [2] 40/20 78/23 Cath [2] 22/5 29/24 **changes [3]** 108/9 188/17 90/11 94/2 98/24 career [2] 5/21 78/16 cause [2] 42/23 109/22 207/10 115/23 117/23 119/3 clarifications [3] carried [5] 163/12 184/24 207/4 208/23 120/21 122/6 122/19 78/16 **changing [2]** 64/19 169/4 170/20 171/13 caused [1] 103/4 155/12 **clarify [5]** 11/25 123/14 127/11 136/2

C 129/20 134/10 137/15 91/17 100/1 108/15 138/4 206/24 complexity [1] 4/9 compliance [1] 149/6 150/5 153/14 138/14 159/16 191/20 cordial [3] 17/1 17/4 come... [12] 136/25 189/21 155/1 156/10 156/11 210/1 17/6 146/24 149/3 150/3 complicated [1] 159/4 173/20 contents [1] 3/20 core [3] 76/2 94/19 152/20 158/5 179/14 122/7 confirmed [4] 136/15 **contested** [1] 89/2 94/25 195/8 195/13 198/1 comply [1] 19/20 136/15 162/14 184/9 context [13] 27/21 correct [94] 5/5 28/9 204/12 204/15 **confirming** [1] 134/7 31/6 48/9 130/4 136/8 50/15 60/15 79/25 **composed [2]** 81/3 comeback [1] 200/17 136/10 180/2 188/24 86/11 91/8 91/9 92/2 81/4 **confirms** [1] 107/5 comes [3] 57/23 **conflicted** [1] 32/10 comprised [1] 164/9 189/16 200/9 201/2 92/6 93/3 93/7 93/15 173/25 196/9 202/10 206/18 94/15 94/17 95/13 compromise [1] confuse [1] 210/21 coming [5] 20/12 32/20 confusion [1] 154/1 **continues [2]** 185/22 95/20 96/1 96/11 97/6 51/7 78/2 89/11 185/23 97/25 98/1 101/2 **computer [3]** 37/15 connected [1] 149/20 contract [2] 3/9 40/6 47/8 180/25 143/22 101/3 101/13 102/1 comment [6] 26/9 connection [6] 9/16 102/22 103/3 104/16 computerised [1] contradictory [1] 44/2 44/13 44/23 71/19 130/5 168/14 181/1 176/4 107/16 109/8 117/8 57/18 182/15 concealing [1] 181/15 190/1 contrary [1] 158/3 117/18 120/18 121/3 commentary [1] conscious [3] 74/5 123/18 124/8 124/22 132/24 contrast [1] 174/7 203/4 contributing [1] concede [1] 89/4 177/3 190/17 127/2 128/1 130/3 commented [1] concept [4] 40/12 consent [5] 20/23 196/7 132/7 134/11 136/15 116/21 60/4 72/11 170/15 26/24 34/6 150/11 control [17] 92/4 136/16 136/17 136/22 commenting [4] 92/8 95/3 96/14 99/25 137/19 137/20 137/23 concern [7] 20/12 161/8 165/18 203/12 203/24 31/23 54/7 187/4 consider [8] 6/10 108/13 172/4 196/3 147/24 147/25 148/5 209/6 187/14 194/8 194/12 12/19 13/20 14/13 196/25 197/2 197/6 148/9 148/25 152/19 comments [19] 56/1 concerned [8] 31/20 99/24 139/15 139/15 197/14 198/18 198/22 153/22 154/11 154/12 70/1 70/4 115/24 31/24 43/3 43/5 96/13 140/18 199/1 199/11 200/11 154/24 155/15 155/18 116/16 119/12 153/15 135/19 146/10 174/13 considerable [1] 156/9 158/2 159/4 controlled [5] 95/3 162/7 162/17 163/14 96/20 99/4 101/9 159/7 159/9 159/23 concerning [5] 43/7 209/21 163/15 165/2 207/10 101/12 160/2 160/7 160/13 86/21 175/3 177/25 considerably [1] 208/3 208/5 208/11 179/9 158/15 **controls [1]** 181/8 161/9 165/9 168/25 208/15 208/21 208/22 concerns [20] 10/20 considered [2] 139/6 169/3 169/22 171/16 conversation [19] commercial [5] 6/14 20/6 30/17 31/5 31/16 14/18 19/6 19/7 23/21 172/10 173/10 177/14 200/15 54/1 54/2 109/21 31/17 33/5 33/9 33/19 considering [1] 24/5 32/8 43/21 58/7 181/9 184/13 185/3 109/24 33/24 43/22 44/9 55/4 138/25 59/4 59/8 59/9 59/14 186/12 201/17 202/14 Commission [1] 76/11 108/22 112/18 consistent [2] 38/3 59/18 59/23 60/13 203/3 203/11 203/21 189/19 204/1 204/6 204/19 112/23 118/6 139/20 157/10 60/17 69/3 77/6 common [16] 52/19 consolidation [1] 194/21 173/14 204/23 207/25 54/11 54/18 54/24 conclude [3] 187/19 206/7 conversations [8] **corrected [1]** 166/14 55/2 55/11 55/17 constantly [1] 119/14 58/5 60/18 60/20 61/7 190/14 192/25 correcting [1] 166/11 60/16 61/1 61/3 71/18 88/21 112/2 117/20 concluded [1] 44/14 consult [3] 106/3 correction [6] 2/24 80/1 85/23 86/2 86/12 conclusion [4] 47/7 164/23 165/11 166/15 116/13 122/16 127/17 106/19 80/4 160/16 192/13 consulted [4] 28/22 conveyed [2] 68/11 166/16 167/2 communicated [4] concrete [1] 63/24 29/13 116/17 203/20 200/8 Correction' [1] 74/14 197/18 199/2 conduct [2] 25/23 convicted [6] 12/21 164/19 **consulting [2]** 92/13 205/25 13/22 87/25 88/8 53/17 109/16 corrections [5] 2/19 communication [1] conducted [1] contact [2] 107/21 88/23 88/24 3/20 164/16 164/20 107/21 convictions [2] 88/4 165/7 205/13 129/13 communications [1] conducting [1] 7/1 contacted [1] 37/10 89/4 **correctly [3]** 92/20 117/25 conference [13] contain [5] 18/2 **convinced** [1] 44/5 100/17 201/13 companies [2] 92/4 21/14 27/17 29/3 97/13 98/14 98/19 Cooper [6] 67/2 correspondence [3] 92/15 29/10 37/24 38/2 79/6 67/14 67/16 67/21 167/1 10/13 19/24 193/19 company [4] 36/2 79/8 79/14 80/23 contained [14] 48/10 68/4 68/21 corresponding [2] 75/6 80/14 95/19 81/24 83/13 113/9 97/7 97/24 98/22 copied [16] 10/13 147/1 147/6 comparison [1] 45/1 107/24 121/1 122/9 16/18 37/6 56/17 confidence [2] 4/25 cost [5] 32/12 32/17 compendium [1] 126/15 127/2 157/6 107/2 114/6 118/1 35/8 45/20 45/24 48/23 79/17 157/12 167/24 180/8 121/7 125/17 135/4 confident [2] 4/20 costs [3] 33/25 34/7 competing [3] 71/1 50/12 183/19 185/6 185/22 185/23 46/7 71/3 71/7 186/8 196/13 197/23 could [97] 1/13 1/25 Confidential [1] containing [2] complete [3] 51/17 copy [14] 10/10 16/15 118/10 181/19 2/6 3/8 7/16 7/18 7/19 172/17 172/18 contains [5] 96/24 10/19 23/20 29/21 10/5 16/3 19/1 21/10 configuration [1] **completed** [1] 37/13 95/5 119/13 121/16 124/1 36/7 69/18 76/20 26/22 28/2 29/17 completely [6] 28/12 38/17 38/21 39/15 confirm [21] 113/18 162/7 84/19 91/4 129/6 34/14 127/15 150/13 115/16 115/18 120/25 contemporaneous 129/10 140/9 141/2 41/17 42/8 46/23 154/6 195/14 [2] 81/17 84/3 121/15 123/25 126/3 50/15 61/18 61/23 180/10 complex [1] 7/5 128/5 128/19 129/18 content [8] 74/14 copying [3] 10/16 63/8 63/9 64/1 65/17

36/15 38/7 89/9 95/24 29/3 29/6 36/14 76/6 159/18 C criminal [22] 5/23 102/3 102/14 131/10 decide [2] 52/4 could... [70] 66/16 6/18 6/19 6/20 6/22 146/12 149/17 150/5 105/18 66/19 69/16 72/12 6/23 6/24 11/1 11/5 158/9 180/17 decided [1] 79/1 73/13 73/15 73/15 11/16 12/11 12/21 dated [13] 1/24 10/19 deciding [1] 179/3 76/19 77/3 79/13 14/4 14/13 14/17 50/1 21/11 46/15 91/5 decision [11] 51/18 81/21 81/22 87/17 50/3 87/17 88/19 114/1 121/6 125/16 63/14 65/6 66/11 90/11 90/22 91/10 189/18 189/22 190/1 141/15 144/10 164/7 68/12 82/20 139/10 92/7 96/3 97/16 101/4 criteria [3] 138/22 176/2 180/14 174/12 175/1 177/3 106/4 109/10 113/18 155/12 172/14 183/18 dates [1] 151/25 113/24 114/21 115/15 criticising [1] 74/3 **Dave [13]** 10/7 10/14 decisions [1] 52/22 116/5 118/20 119/24 **criticism [1]** 76/4 10/16 10/18 137/14 declare [1] 113/1 121/15 122/14 122/15 137/16 138/4 175/11 dedicated [1] 97/3 **cross [1]** 33/13 123/25 126/2 126/3 Crown [1] 189/10 175/12 175/16 188/7 deducing [1] 142/9 132/25 133/24 134/1 **Cs [1]** 175/19 205/25 206/25 deemed [1] 122/17 134/13 135/16 136/20 currency [1] 53/21 **David [10]** 10/1 11/2 deep [2] 4/17 88/12 137/14 141/10 143/21 current [29] 36/16 56/9 56/15 64/5 69/17 default [29] 15/23 145/14 145/17 146/3 70/21 71/10 95/8 72/12 72/19 74/14 146/19 147/10 148/22 119/13 119/14 119/18 77/25 151/13 152/18 156/19 121/2 121/16 121/25 21/20 21/25 22/17 David Blakey [1] 156/22 160/5 161/16 122/1 122/9 122/17 10/1 23/10 23/22 23/23 162/3 162/25 168/12 123/2 123/5 123/7 Davidson [3] 105/9 24/24 25/5 25/8 25/13 demonstrated [1] 171/6 171/22 174/19 124/1 136/5 136/13 106/24 107/16 25/24 26/4 26/13 175/5 175/16 178/13 136/21 137/4 148/13 day [19] 26/16 26/25 26/20 26/23 27/6 179/2 183/1 191/12 156/19 156/21 157/2 42/19 51/16 54/6 54/6 27/23 27/25 34/22 195/18 197/17 157/20 159/10 159/14 54/7 54/7 62/23 66/18 155/10 couldn't [6] 49/14 74/23 93/13 134/23 159/15 defects [4] 97/9 50/13 78/23 143/22 currently [10] 18/2 180/16 188/6 188/6 97/12 97/20 203/9 173/7 186/1 18/5 20/25 88/1 88/2 207/12 208/19 211/1 **defence [10]** 15/13 counsel [9] 8/7 8/9 93/20 107/11 122/15 days [7] 43/17 48/15 15/16 15/24 31/23 23/4 23/6 25/11 59/24 58/1 59/3 61/11 166/18 207/6 34/15 45/25 111/11 74/1 83/3 85/15 custodians [1] 173/13 179/11 111/25 114/4 121/8 counsel's [1] 41/5 days' [1] 24/11 defend [1] 27/14 128/24 countdown [1] customer [1] 42/18 **DBA** [1] 176/21 defined [1] 96/25 191/25 **DCQC** [1] 64/5 definite [2] 26/5 counterclaim [9] de [1] 200/8 186/2 15/13 15/17 31/21 damages [1] 80/9 deactivated [6] 152/5 definitely [4] 26/23 33/11 34/8 35/1 35/20 data [48] 11/16 12/1 155/5 156/2 156/22 102/16 159/4 205/7 35/20 36/1 12/22 13/6 13/11 156/25 157/3 definition [2] 119/4 couple [4] 52/5 14/16 37/14 50/1 dead [1] 63/20 156/8 179/11 184/23 208/22 102/22 103/1 104/12 deadline [1] 15/17 **definitive [2]** 40/14 course [20] 1/12 4/24 104/14 105/1 105/5 deal [11] 2/21 38/2 192/13 9/23 14/6 34/5 42/2 106/5 106/16 106/20 38/3 52/9 79/12 97/15 definitively [3] 52/24 42/24 75/7 75/15 107/8 107/10 107/19 118/11 139/13 188/25 129/20 173/7 75/19 77/3 87/4 107/22 108/2 108/4 191/5 210/9 **degree [4]** 44/10 151/10 152/6 157/1 114/15 121/15 126/25 49/13 49/15 91/24 dealing [18] 4/23 157/18 159/2 191/8 133/21 161/6 162/12 6/25 13/4 27/23 31/8 delay [2] 115/21 195/13 207/21 162/22 163/13 166/9 38/1 38/10 88/12 176/13 court [5] 15/23 52/21 167/9 169/15 179/9 88/16 88/25 89/15 deleted [83] 129/3 52/25 72/3 114/8 180/24 181/4 181/8 90/3 99/15 103/9 129/6 130/8 131/1 cover [6] 41/12 51/6 181/17 181/19 184/14 117/5 162/19 187/22 132/5 132/10 132/11 58/22 69/12 79/13 184/18 193/13 194/8 189/15 176/17 196/19 196/25 198/13 dealings [1] 114/11 covered [6] 58/15 198/18 134/11 134/16 134/20 46/1 86/11 86/12 dealt [7] 87/8 89/1 156/13 159/23 161/24 data/logs [1] 163/13 99/11 103/12 109/14 135/1 135/10 135/16 165/19 173/18 database [12] 95/6 110/23 122/24 136/19 138/12 138/18 199/24 covering [1] 170/18 95/6 118/9 119/13 138/20 139/21 140/5 debarred [4] 48/14 Coyne [6] 151/17 122/9 123/2 123/7 48/25 49/12 49/14 140/12 140/21 141/8 203/5 203/6 204/9 126/22 135/14 140/6 debated [1] 100/3 204/12 205/16 140/23 169/24 debt [9] 7/5 11/7 12/3 142/7 142/17 142/21 **CPS [1]** 189/22 **databases** [2] 117/5 12/10 12/15 13/4 13/6 143/8 143/11 143/13 **CPview [1]** 76/3 117/7 15/6 17/22 143/19 143/20 143/21 crashing [1] 32/21 dataset [1] 171/4 144/5 144/6 144/14 debts [2] 11/12 12/5 created [3] 35/24 date [14] 29/6 36/9 **December [4]** 23/9 144/22 145/1 145/11

147/9 148/11 148/14 148/17 148/22 148/25 149/1 149/6 149/16 149/25 150/1 150/4 150/7 150/9 150/12 150/17 151/2 152/5 152/10 152/14 153/23 154/2 154/5 154/6 154/18 154/20 154/21 154/21 155/9 156/6 156/7 159/14 159/19 159/22 deletion [10] 130/10 130/24 133/20 134/1 134/2 134/2 142/5 146/15 147/18 159/20 17/11 18/5 18/22 20/4 delivered [1] 164/21 20/5 20/10 20/14 21/1 demanded [1] 204/5 demonstrable [1] 80/3 13/1 denied [1] 41/8 Department [1] 186/17 depending [1] 205/9 depends [1] 208/12 deprecated [11] 155/17 156/1 156/5 156/14 156/19 156/24 159/14 159/15 160/1 160/3 160/10 depth [1] 59/13 **deputies [1]** 110/3 **describe** [7] 7/16 17/14 94/22 138/9 155/4 163/10 178/13 described [12] 6/7 8/10 18/12 38/1 43/25 119/7 162/12 163/5 164/21 164/24 181/8 195/4 describes [2] 129/22 196/13 description [6] 8/25 118/7 131/11 131/17 172/5 198/14 design [3] 95/2 95/12 103/16 designed [1] 172/2 132/15 132/18 132/24 designs [1] 103/25 133/17 133/24 133/25 desire [5] 21/7 27/1 desk [3] 14/6 14/15 desperately [1] 24/2 **despite** [1] 173/18 141/12 141/19 141/22 detail [6] 14/20 50/8 55/24 88/25 104/22 209/21 details [8] 15/20 98/14 117/21 132/12 134/10 134/16 167/1

145/23 146/8 146/25

D details... [1] 189/5 **detection [2]** 157/13 160/23 determine [3] 105/11 110/15 172/23 determined [1] 111/16 determining [2] 111/4 111/25 developed [3] 36/5 118/14 165/11 developing [1] 77/23 diagnosis [2] 157/14 160/24 dial [1] 79/16 dial-in [1] 79/16 dialogue [2] 204/25 209/9 **Dickinson [46]** 5/9 5/11 5/11 5/18 8/10 8/14 21/6 48/8 53/21 54/16 55/10 55/13 55/16 56/24 57/2 73/7 81/1 109/2 109/5 113/8 114/2 115/2 120/11 120/17 120/25 121/6 121/9 124/14 136/5 136/11 137/2 138/13 140/4 140/15 144/4 146/15 149/5 151/6 153/12 161/18 175/9 177/25 179/17 182/19 188/21 201/8 Dickinson's [3] 6/4 123/23 149/18 did [117] 6/10 6/21 6/24 7/1 9/2 11/23 16/1 16/8 17/2 18/24 21/6 25/23 41/5 44/9 46/17 47/20 48/3 48/6 50/24 53/22 53/24 54/3 55/23 57/13 57/21 60/1 60/10 60/21 65/14 68/20 70/11 74/18 80/12 80/22 82/12 83/6 83/9 83/11 83/23 85/9 86/3 86/5 86/8 96/13 97/13 98/15 98/19 99/1 99/24 102/2 102/11 102/12 104/4 104/17 104/19 104/24 105/11 105/18 106/3 106/12 106/19 107/18 107/20 108/1 110/15 112/6 112/11 112/18 114/25 116/12 121/20 123/6 123/9 123/19 127/11 130/9 132/17 133/3 133/5 133/18 133/20 135/12 136/7 137/2 137/10 139/15 140/18 71/16 139/13

145/1 148/21 149/21 153/11 155/14 158/9 167/3 167/15 168/2 171/19 171/21 172/20 177/6 178/17 178/24 179/2 179/14 179/24 180/2 182/10 182/25 188/19 188/25 189/16 director's [1] 67/8 194/16 195/8 196/6 197/1 198/1 198/21 didn't [36] 6/17 6/19 6/20 19/7 24/21 34/16 disastrous [1] 46/8 49/20 49/22 50/7 50/22 53/3 64/20 68/25 98/24 103/12 108/19 116/8 116/22 116/25 120/12 124/24 126/17 130/13 133/6 142/18 144/25 167/20 179/10 180/4 182/15 186/7 186/19 192/12 195/9 198/25 difference [3] 124/12 146/9 199/4 differences [2] 42/23 47/10 different [20] 35/5 53/18 77/5 77/7 93/4 103/19 103/24 122/2 134/19 139/7 139/9 143/6 152/6 160/9 164/18 195/10 195/17 discontinue [1] 34/7 198/15 198/19 204/25 discover [1] 135/19 **differently [1]** 187/25 difficult [4] 34/3 34/9 196/23 198/16 difficulties [1] 27/11 difficulty [4] 38/15 54/24 57/8 68/15 dig [3] 46/8 132/11 134/15 dilatory [1] 175/22 diligent [1] 44/22 diligently [1] 44/17 **Dilley [15]** 16/5 21/13 26/11 29/20 30/8 32/4 33/14 36/11 37/2 38/12 38/19 42/3 44/18 45/3 48/5 Dilley's [6] 21/16 30/5 35/17 40/16 43/19 45/9 Dimension [1] 114/14 **Dimensions** [9] 95/6 96/17 96/18 103/17 105/20 106/13 107/25 148/8 193/15 direct [3] 109/2 138/10 202/1 directed [4] 34/14 110/16 179/12 186/15 direction [3] 20/19

directions [3] 115/4 115/13 122/8 directly [10] 99/10 102/7 102/10 103/10 108/2 108/5 112/8 127/18 189/10 189/20 123/12 124/6 **Director [1]** 67/18 directors [2] 65/9 75/11 **Directors' [1]** 83/24 200/11 disclose [1] 140/12 disclosed [22] 12/20 13/21 95/15 95/17 111/5 136/13 143/16 143/20 144/1 151/22 154/17 156/16 158/1 159/22 159/25 160/15 8/17 9/7 12/18 13/19 160/19 160/20 160/21 174/3 179/10 189/9 disclosing [1] 102/25 disclosure [20] 14/8 14/10 112/23 137/3 140/14 146/12 150/11 168/7 174/3 184/25 185/13 185/20 189/1 189/6 189/15 189/21 195/3 195/4 195/22 198/5 **discovered** [5] 12/16 13/17 143/8 143/10 143/25 discovery [1] 142/19 discrepancies [1] 15/3 discrete [2] 90/4 203/1 discursive [1] 84/10 discuss [9] 14/12 28/15 47/20 48/3 70/23 87/3 108/11 133/6 137/6 discussed [10] 16/18 31/11 47/11 47/23 50/23 83/12 114/23 115/12 123/10 198/20 discussing [5] 40/22 81/12 100/24 103/7 109/22 discussion [13] 38/12 41/7 65/8 73/25 169/6 172/16 174/12 75/10 84/2 86/20 110/17 129/8 140/22 173/23 177/16 185/20 discussions [5] 41/2 69/1 115/1 177/11 189/24 dismayed [1] 55/13 displayed [1] 33/10 **Disputes** [2] 54/1

54/2 dissuade [1] 45/22 distance [3] 7/3 25/5 28/14 distinction [3] 3/1 distinguish [1] 124/10 distraction [1] 2/25 **distraught** [1] 55/21 distributed [3] 54/10 54/19 95/15 disturbed [1] 17/10 divide [1] 206/3 divided [1] 205/9 dividing [1] 205/14 division [2] 99/10 99/16 **do [155]** 5/23 6/3 14/11 17/1 22/1 22/3 22/10 22/12 23/15 25/15 25/20 26/2 26/5 26/7 26/21 27/17 29/9 29/11 30/24 32/7 33/5 document' [1] 35/1 35/1 35/6 35/25 36/20 42/24 44/14 47/3 48/23 49/23 50/17 51/5 57/6 57/10 57/16 58/20 62/8 62/25 63/8 63/9 63/20 65/4 65/8 65/13 65/13 67/7 67/11 67/25 70/12 71/11 72/9 76/10 76/15 78/16 81/3 82/25 84/10 84/11 86/10 87/16 88/17 88/24 89/2 92/22 94/11 97/15 99/7 99/18 104/10 105/22 106/8 106/9 114/22 118/16 118/19 119/20 119/22 120/11 124/18 129/25 132/5 132/22 133/10 137/7 138/22 139/20 140/11 141/1 141/6 142/3 144/5 144/23 146/1 147/6 148/16 149/16 150/10 151/1 151/3 151/7 151/9 151/18 152/22 158/7 158/9 160/3 161/25 162/16 163/18 168/3 168/10 177/3 178/1 178/6 178/22 179/7 179/12 179/16 180/5 181/20 182/20 186/23 187/25 188/11 188/18 188/24 189/2 189/9 189/24 190/8 192/6 192/7 192/17 192/18 192/21 193/12 194/16 195/19

196/4 199/1 199/20 202/13 205/20 205/24 206/6 206/7 207/16 document [62] 3/3 12/19 13/1 13/20 16/2 28/3 28/10 28/12 36/7 49/10 49/12 64/12 73/12 76/22 84/14 92/4 92/8 93/2 93/8 93/10 93/16 93/17 94/6 94/19 94/23 94/25 95/21 96/14 98/4 98/6 99/25 100/11 100/14 100/15 100/17 101/1 101/7 102/4 102/20 110/25 114/15 115/9 116/5 116/9 120/10 131/2 137/12 154/10 158/7 161/17 164/24 166/2 171/24 189/15 190/4 196/8 197/4 197/19 199/10 206/17 208/3 208/6 114/10 documentation [14] 92/12 95/2 95/3 95/5 95/12 96/16 96/25 97/4 104/11 107/7 107/14 147/7 148/7 194/6 documents [63] 10/24 12/10 59/19 73/4 81/9 84/14 85/24 91/8 92/18 92/19 92/24 95/8 95/9 95/15 95/19 95/22 96/18 98/2 98/3 98/11 102/3 102/13 103/4 103/9 103/11 103/12 103/16 103/17 103/20 103/24 104/3 105/18 105/24 106/11 106/12 107/24 108/16 113/2 113/12 114/9 114/14 114/18 114/19 115/7 115/14 117/6 121/1 121/13 157/10 158/24 160/18 160/22 161/10 161/21 163/22 164/8 164/10 168/18 185/4 189/9 189/17 189/25 194/23 does [21] 45/10 47/1 61/13 65/4 65/25 70/24 72/8 77/1 78/9 102/12 117/19 133/1 133/17 160/13 164/12

170/3 183/9 185/24

doesn't [12] 45/10

83/14 120/8 124/11

130/16 141/25 174/23

68/18 72/7 74/18

186/23 194/12 201/22

D 183/10 183/12 189/4 duplication [1] 48/24 117/6 122/8 158/6 employees [4] 192/14 194/2 196/7 during [8] 8/10 9/11 158/24 105/15 112/1 113/15 doesn't... [2] 175/25 197/5 199/11 210/4 53/21 85/12 96/12 else [10] 47/25 67/7 178/15 197/16 100/13 118/17 188/19 80/19 86/3 119/9 double [5] 42/16 43/1 employment [1] 6/14 doing [27] 8/19 8/23 43/11 47/18 50/10 duty [12] 14/8 14/11 139/7 183/12 187/2 enclosed [1] 10/21 8/24 9/7 9/18 11/7 doubt [3] 48/1 88/3 75/5 75/9 75/11 79/20 187/10 191/13 encompass [1] 50/3 60/8 61/8 75/18 80/11 80/13 80/16 145/19 114/11 **else's [2]** 183/25 78/13 78/14 89/24 80/18 80/21 189/21 down [42] 3/4 3/8 205/23 end [9] 3/15 48/6 92/9 106/9 128/13 3/19 17/25 18/8 23/17 **elsewhere [2]** 118/24 79/18 87/2 107/18 133/4 145/25 165/5 Ε 150/21 165/8 179/1 37/4 44/17 44/21 119/2 165/21 169/6 183/19 each [13] 4/7 7/21 46/23 58/24 62/3 email [115] 10/5 187/9 183/23 188/5 188/9 38/21 42/16 47/11 64/22 64/23 65/17 10/17 10/21 11/14 ended [1] 176/22 200/6 201/20 109/13 172/23 173/6 16/4 16/20 27/5 29/20 engagement [3] 7/10 67/11 67/13 68/3 68/7 don't [142] 9/2 11/8 194/3 204/22 206/3 69/16 70/7 72/9 74/22 32/5 33/14 33/23 36/8 7/13 7/17 12/6 13/13 14/1 14/9 206/10 209/11 76/19 76/21 77/14 36/20 37/6 56/16 engaging [1] 34/17 15/20 18/20 19/13 earlier [22] 35/4 125/14 131/9 138/2 61/24 62/8 69/17 70/9 engineers [1] 92/13 21/9 23/13 23/15 36/17 38/1 59/11 145/22 146/19 151/13 71/9 72/13 72/18 **English [1]** 69/8 23/16 25/3 25/4 25/5 71/17 78/11 105/23 enough [5] 14/14 153/18 158/18 162/9 72/19 72/20 73/16 25/6 30/20 32/9 34/2 162/25 171/3 183/2 125/24 137/3 142/13 73/19 74/14 74/15 89/5 120/14 197/8 36/21 40/12 40/15 197/20 198/6 199/8 157/2 157/3 159/3 74/22 76/7 88/14 199/16 41/10 47/22 48/18 174/2 177/10 187/11 106/22 106/23 107/3 207/5 enquire [1] 68/20 50/2 50/22 50/22 51/1 193/20 194/6 197/2 down' [1] 32/21 114/1 115/10 116/2 enquiries [5] 134/8 51/14 55/8 55/24 198/22 199/1 201/4 download [1] 105/20 116/6 116/19 121/4 145/22 148/21 168/2 55/24 56/7 56/12 early [25] 9/2 9/5 9/6 downside [1] 32/12 121/5 122/13 122/20 169/4 57/13 60/13 60/18 9/24 10/14 22/9 25/12 122/24 123/3 123/21 **enshrined** [1] 147/4 dozen [1] 110/4 61/15 63/19 63/19 39/1 39/3 39/4 39/15 125/11 125/14 125/17 draft [29] 34/12 **ensure [3]** 20/18 64/9 64/10 65/16 71/2 42/9 43/23 51/19 52/3 126/8 127/9 127/18 41/17 46/13 46/15 95/14 96/9 71/5 71/7 72/2 72/21 58/5 61/7 90/9 102/20 128/16 133/8 134/13 47/13 48/12 48/17 **ensuring [1]** 95/2 73/24 74/17 74/18 151/1 151/5 160/6 49/10 54/10 54/18 134/23 135/3 135/13 entailed [1] 165/23 75/16 75/16 76/8 177/25 185/12 185/14 54/25 55/11 69/20 135/23 137/6 137/9 entails [1] 92/8 76/20 79/11 80/20 earner [1] 15/19 82/25 115/3 115/13 137/14 137/25 138/3 enter [1] 205/6 80/20 80/23 80/23 ease [1] 58/9 116/6 179/16 179/18 138/15 139/5 140/20 **entered [2]** 15/23 83/9 83/11 83/16 84/7 179/22 180/10 180/20 easier [1] 39/25 141/15 142/13 144/8 34/23 84/13 85/15 86/5 86/6 182/18 203/12 206/19 easily [2] 155/12 144/21 146/18 146/20 entire [1] 88/2 88/12 88/21 89/5 89/7 173/5 207/2 207/6 209/6 149/5 149/15 151/12 entirely [4] 145/10 94/9 94/15 95/21 easy [2] 38/23 191/3 209/15 152/3 152/21 153/11 146/1 159/7 160/7 100/23 105/6 106/8 edge [1] 74/7 153/12 153/13 153/15 entities [1] 36/3 drafted [3] 71/14 106/18 107/17 107/17 **EDQ [5]** 113/5 115/13 79/3 179/25 153/18 157/23 158/12 entitled [2] 119/11 107/18 107/23 108/10 136/8 136/10 158/3 drafting [6] 70/19 158/15 158/19 164/5 169/23 111/20 114/24 114/25 **EDQs [1]** 115/24 72/8 77/25 178/22 164/8 167/18 168/18 entity [1] 18/7 117/21 118/2 119/2 effect [7] 19/2 30/5 183/20 183/24 169/13 171/3 171/25 **entrenched** [1] 78/3 120/3 120/4 120/13 54/18 74/9 90/4 118/8 174/2 174/16 182/24 **drafts [1]** 107/13 entries [23] 42/19 126/12 128/11 129/8 drafts/WIP [1] 107/13 124/14 183/14 184/2 184/3 64/15 118/10 119/13 130/25 133/1 133/5 **effectively [19]** 5/14 187/1 187/11 193/19 draw [1] 77/14 119/18 119/19 120/17 133/22 134/5 134/17 17/15 53/6 73/11 197/19 197/21 198/7 120/20 120/24 121/2 drawing [1] 157/24 134/19 136/22 137/8 103/8 109/23 110/6 198/11 199/20 205/22 121/16 121/20 121/22 drawings [1] 92/16 139/19 145/11 145/24 111/7 135/25 139/8 206/23 207/11 208/2 122/10 122/10 123/3 drawn [1] 19/14 146/6 146/7 150/14 170/18 179/19 183/7 **dreadfully [1]** 48/13 208/8 208/18 208/25 123/5 123/7 124/18 165/14 165/16 165/24 183/15 188/4 195/17 dredging [1] 7/6 emails [16] 9/25 26/3 159/10 159/10 197/6 168/4 172/3 174/15 205/14 206/2 206/11 76/17 81/10 87/20 drifted [1] 89/18 199/12 174/16 174/18 174/20 drive [7] 14/22 140/9 effort [1] 148/16 101/10 114/13 117/20 entries/versions [2] 176/12 178/24 179/4 140/16 140/24 141/3 eg [1] 42/16 179/11 179/17 185/6 119/18 159/10 181/22 181/25 186/16 eg the [1] 42/16 185/10 185/22 185/23 entry [6] 42/16 43/1 142/15 142/19 186/25 187/7 187/8 egg [1] 32/21 185/23 186/10 43/11 47/18 50/10 driven [1] 71/20 188/6 189/4 189/7 either [18] 56/6 58/17 drives [1] 95/23 **embedded** [1] 8/11 119/11 189/12 189/23 192/12 61/15 68/19 76/19 **drop [1]** 9/10 **embryonic** [4] 18/3 envisaging [1] 20/2 199/23 200/13 201/25 106/1 107/2 107/18 19/3 19/8 38/2 dropped [1] 35/22 epic [1] 37/6 210/1 210/22 116/22 117/20 122/15 emphasising [1] due [11] 1/10 9/23 equally [1] 96/2 done [26] 7/12 44/12 125/7 130/15 133/18 20/17 42/23 54/13 95/11 equals [1] 59/1 44/24 46/18 48/21 157/2 166/7 183/13 75/15 78/3 144/14 employ [1] 92/21 eroded [1] 5/1 59/6 65/16 73/14 194/14 152/17 154/21 195/13 employed [4] 92/10 Err [2] 139/17 169/10 78/15 105/2 113/6 electronic [12] 42/13 **Dunks [3]** 179/6 93/8 93/10 180/21 erroneous [1] 152/16 123/23 127/18 153/17 44/6 45/2 45/4 45/9 184/8 209/23 employee [2] 112/10 **error [15]** 15/19 165/4 172/8 173/11 45/13 115/3 115/13 duplicate [1] 150/21 114/2 45/18 48/10 48/12

153/13 Ε 45/23 48/13 48/14 experience [3] 5/23 eyeball [1] 172/21 49/3 49/4 50/24 52/4 7/1 8/22 fed [1] 183/22 error... [11] 48/14 52/19 63/13 83/12 expert [40] 23/20 fee [1] 15/19 48/24 48/24 50/13 90/5 90/12 107/15 24/15 24/20 24/22 face [4] 61/22 61/22 feed [4] 112/11 84/19 98/3 98/4 80/7 177/20 109/1 109/13 112/1 37/11 37/15 37/19 112/13 202/5 205/4 112/24 118/6 120/5 112/12 112/19 139/12 39/5 39/7 39/11 39/14 faced [1] 4/10 feedback [1] 207/4 166/14 153/10 154/9 157/13 39/16 39/22 40/8 facing [1] 22/11 feedback/clarificatio errors [14] 45/8 fact [33] 19/9 22/20 160/23 168/15 178/1 40/10 42/5 43/22 ns [1] 207/4 46/24 46/25 47/3 47/5 26/10 34/10 38/25 feel [3] 19/19 32/10 178/9 178/12 190/14 45/20 45/21 45/23 48/19 49/20 80/1 97/8 39/19 43/10 45/8 202/6 202/17 46/5 46/7 48/14 48/17 186/13 97/12 97/20 141/20 84/12 92/22 103/6 evidential [1] 12/2 49/3 49/4 49/4 49/8 feeling [2] 70/22 160/25 203/9 106/18 112/9 130/17 49/23 109/3 111/3 71/10 evidently [2] 197/15 **Escher [1]** 131/18 133/16 134/10 135/25 **feels [1]** 75/6 200/15 151/7 151/18 161/13 **especially [1]** 63/1 136/20 141/25 143/18 felt [2] 63/21 71/24 161/24 162/10 164/1 **exactly [3]** 46/2 **essence** [1] 103/21 144/14 144/21 144/25 fence [1] 70/13 83/22 85/11 202/17 203/5 205/10 **essential** [1] 80/6 examine [2] 196/24 145/8 148/22 158/16 expert's [2] 40/2 **few [5]** 6/17 58/1 essentially [7] 177/11 177/21 187/7 58/11 60/6 186/12 198/17 154/16 127/20 132/23 139/12 **expertise [5]** 110/23 188/6 192/9 194/2 example [17] 6/22 **fiduciary [3]** 75/5 141/21 157/4 162/20 202/19 35/7 44/18 98/13 111/19 201/11 204/5 75/9 75/10 201/5 100/13 111/1 170/22 204/25 **factor [1]** 57/13 field [3] 37/15 92/4 established [4] 52/24 facts [1] 10/23 experts [5] 37/12 173/3 183/3 185/21 109/1 133/11 171/14 177/10 110/13 146/24 147/13 factual [1] 52/23 187/21 187/23 204/6 fielding [1] 109/22 establishing [1] factually [1] 184/12 205/1 205/12 206/14 161/20 figure [1] 160/4 177/12 207/21 explain [10] 69/6 failed [1] 15/16 figures [2] 196/25 et [7] 92/16 92/18 examples [5] 169/25 92/7 108/25 118/11 fair [30] 8/13 8/25 198/18 95/23 104/1 104/22 122/12 138/21 143/25 70/24 71/8 96/10 98/2 file [14] 10/25 15/16 172/7 204/11 204/15 167/25 195/19 101/12 109/5 116/12 164/7 175/17 188/3 205/11 23/13 23/13 30/9 et cetera [7] 92/16 125/25 139/3 139/4 Excel [2] 195/16 explained [3] 39/10 30/14 41/5 57/22 92/18 95/23 104/1 139/23 140/12 141/23 198/1 79/21 154/4 74/18 106/20 121/14 104/22 167/25 195/19 142/21 150/12 162/23 126/9 164/21 195/16 **exception [2]** 190/11 explanation [19] 44/4 etc [3] 70/25 131/11 165/15 168/24 172/9 190/13 47/3 140/14 142/8 filenote [1] 45/13 167/2 174/5 174/9 183/20 **exchange** [1] 164/4 142/14 142/18 142/24 film [1] 91/24 even [19] 9/13 18/5 143/4 143/7 143/15 185/8 193/16 194/21 final [8] 72/14 89/24 exchanged [1] 20/19 32/17 33/25 197/15 199/20 203/22 97/17 101/5 156/10 115/25 144/3 144/6 145/2 41/8 63/16 79/2 108/7 fairly [6] 98/23 **excluded [1]** 155/10 145/4 146/2 175/23 184/1 184/23 208/25 118/23 120/7 132/24 150/19 150/19 187/10 finalised [1] 210/10 175/24 176/12 181/6 **exclusive [1]** 99/25 133/6 133/23 138/10 192/11 201/18 excuse [1] 190/11 **explicitly [2]** 168/1 finally [4] 3/13 177/1 188/8 191/6 Falkirk [2] 125/21 **executed** [1] 176/15 172/8 148/10 176/25 208/20 210/8 **execution [1]** 167/2 131/15 **explore** [1] 96/24 Finance [1] 164/19 event [4] 41/8 58/1 fall [3] 154/17 156/7 **Executive [1]** 67/18 **exploring [1]** 52/23 financial [3] 80/5 114/14 152/17 186/23 **exercise [4]** 111/6 export [1] 150/8 197/9 199/17 eventually [1] 137/7 137/18 139/9 205/13 exposure [1] 24/11 falling [1] 159/25 find [10] 7/3 37/19 ever [8] 40/14 40/15 false [4] 12/21 13/10 express [4] 4/16 74/1 48/21 63/22 88/7 exhaustive [1] 41/10 48/18 86/6 13/22 177/17 203/18 139/20 161/7 131/12 133/19 140/9 200/17 200/17 202/1 familiar [1] 120/14 **exhibited** [3] 2/12 141/2 192/8 **expressed [2]** 43/22 every [3] 4/7 35/18 familiarity [2] 57/11 2/14 79/8 **finding [2]** 178/18 113/7 177/13 57/14 exhibits [1] 3/20 **expressly** [1] 71/10 178/20 everybody's [2] 70/6 family [1] 4/17 exist [5] 42/25 126/3 **extension** [1] 8/12 finds [1] 134/9 208/21 far [14] 7/14 14/10 126/17 133/17 156/20 extent [3] 12/18 fine [9] 5/15 81/11 everyone [2] 191/20 61/5 81/16 87/19 94/5 84/22 89/12 89/19 existed [8] 8/1 94/6 57/10 86/20 205/23 96/17 99/4 102/5 130/7 133/12 135/16 external [3] 37/11 152/25 191/21 195/25 everything [3] 11/20 105/15 106/14 107/20 210/12 135/19 136/19 160/3 37/15 188/20 26/21 89/25 107/25 135/7 existence [5] 34/5 externally [1] 96/6 finesse [1] 70/8 evidence [64] 1/16 fascination [1] 64/18 finish [3] 41/25 52/2 98/15 132/24 139/20 extract [4] 19/11 1/17 1/20 3/24 4/3 4/6 fault [1] 157/7 145/23 131/21 155/6 155/21 208/12 5/25 8/6 8/9 12/16 existing [1] 176/11 faults [1] 32/14 finished [1] 52/4 **extracted** [1] 184/18 13/17 17/6 20/22 favour [2] 30/5 31/19 exists [4] 94/14 **extraction** [4] 160/7 fire [2] 1/10 10/3 22/19 22/20 24/25 favourable [3] 29/24 firm [19] 6/21 6/23 129/15 132/4 133/10 179/9 181/8 184/4 27/19 27/22 27/25 7/13 8/20 16/17 18/8 30/12 45/3 **expect [3]** 119/25 extractions [3] 28/21 29/13 29/24 fear [1] 19/4 125/9 141/18 180/24 181/3 181/17 18/22 19/11 20/10 30/10 30/12 30/25 **February [11]** 1/19 expectation [1] **extracts** [1] 151/23 25/9 25/21 25/22 33/15 36/4 38/18 extreme [1] 37/8 28/21 29/5 29/21 141/21 32/25 34/22 35/13 38/21 38/25 40/1 31/14 32/4 42/14 37/16 37/25 80/4 **expected [1]** 102/8 eye [2] 172/19 40/22 41/13 42/5 42/22 151/5 151/14 **expensive** [1] 32/14 197/17 189/1

181/2 184/25 186/17 footprint [1] 10/15 FUJ00081836 [1] generated [4] 12/7 forceful [1] 19/1 205/23 190/5 192/5 192/12 12/22 13/6 164/20 firm's [1] 26/22 forcefully [1] 75/14 FUJ00086758 [2] 192/16 202/7 202/16 generates [1] 92/11 firms [3] 7/23 38/6 forefront [1] 88/20 151/12 153/8 203/13 203/23 204/3 generic [2] 40/4 38/10 forensic [2] 11/24 FUJ00089798 [2] 205/1 207/18 209/15 40/10 first [61] 1/18 2/22 44/23 Fujitsu's [7] 40/1 genesis [1] 161/19 175/6 178/4 2/24 3/21 3/25 7/7 forgive [16] 125/13 FUJ00156902 [1] 112/1 117/7 130/23 gentleman [1] 9/22 9/24 11/18 11/22 127/20 131/4 131/23 106/23 185/5 185/18 201/2 **get [45]** 20/4 20/14 11/24 12/1 13/25 FUJ00158114 [1] 142/23 143/2 143/6 fulfilled [1] 16/14 24/2 25/8 25/11 25/22 19/20 24/2 24/5 33/14 143/12 145/6 152/16 26/19 33/11 34/19 113/24 full [10] 1/13 14/14 40/1 41/19 56/3 56/6 FUJ00158115 [1] 162/7 163/1 178/6 19/23 19/24 20/1 24/6 34/20 35/1 35/25 56/17 56/19 56/21 184/2 184/4 190/13 91/2 105/6 167/1 38/24 39/18 39/21 116/7 58/11 59/9 59/12 form [5] 7/1 60/21 FUJ00159985 [1] 170/11 40/15 46/1 46/3 47/13 59/14 59/17 88/5 67/5 179/24 204/24 fully [5] 7/24 19/21 49/2 57/16 58/3 59/20 144/8 98/15 99/1 103/9 formal [7] 92/12 FUJ00160063 [2] 26/1 71/2 177/18 60/15 63/1 63/4 63/22 104/2 108/1 115/15 92/23 94/9 94/12 147/22 149/10 functionality [1] 66/14 67/21 68/15 118/6 131/4 131/5 147/4 198/22 198/25 68/21 68/25 77/2 FUJ00160508 [1] 166/7 135/15 140/1 141/14 format [1] 184/8 81/22 82/10 82/15 180/9 fundamental [1] 142/11 143/16 143/20 formed [4] 68/20 FUJ00160649 [1] 204/21 83/2 83/5 83/23 85/5 148/4 149/11 149/14 69/14 75/1 155/13 86/11 132/5 132/10 funders [1] 86/23 183/1 153/19 162/19 165/8 forth [1] 127/22 FUJ00163098 [1] further [32] 10/17 175/18 190/21 166/1 166/5 180/6 Fortunately [1] 64/1 197/19 26/25 29/19 34/16 gets [2] 23/15 122/6 180/20 184/10 193/7 forward [11] 21/4 FUJ00166835 [2] 36/14 36/25 46/9 getting [5] 20/5 55/20 193/11 193/19 197/20 22/10 23/23 26/8 32/6 158/14 160/5 50/18 57/1 58/24 68/12 115/22 164/25 205/12 206/19 34/21 39/11 57/25 65/17 87/6 124/16 Gideon [2] 64/7 64/7 FUJ00179541 [1] firstly [6] 6/1 122/24 66/3 71/21 86/14 141/7 142/12 143/3 206/17 Gillian [1] 10/1 147/2 154/4 176/16 145/22 149/5 157/25 give [20] 1/15 1/20 forwarded [1] 205/3 FUJ00179779 [1] 189/18 **forwarding [1]** 138/3 125/12 158/5 158/19 159/6 18/17 39/5 48/9 84/4 Fiscal [1] 189/10 found [20] 42/11 FUJ00179940 [1] 168/2 171/13 175/3 105/6 106/10 112/1 fit [1] 45/5 42/22 43/23 45/8 177/24 195/21 196/16 136/11 143/6 144/13 134/22 fits [2] 40/15 64/14 152/17 172/12 186/1 46/11 118/4 125/10 FUJ00179952 [1] 198/8 199/8 200/17 fitting [1] 131/13 125/13 127/5 134/17 141/13 210/13 190/18 196/18 197/20 five [4] 22/10 87/9 135/13 140/16 140/20 **FUJ00181400 [2]** 198/12 200/12 105/10 170/2 G 141/12 142/25 143/14 146/19 149/13 given [16] 12/4 20/20 fixed [10] 129/24 Gareth [33] 103/1 164/5 164/6 170/22 FUJ00188147 [1] 46/20 47/5 51/6 57/19 130/6 131/18 138/23 104/4 105/9 106/1 181/12 67/11 80/17 116/3 168/12 141/19 141/22 144/15 106/15 107/10 107/19 four [5] 2/18 84/5 FUJ00189522 [1] 125/2 136/4 145/2 144/23 145/12 147/1 107/21 110/7 111/10 116/3 147/2 210/5 146/3 146/6 186/13 196/9 fixes [1] 118/14 128/1 128/5 128/10 four hours [1] 116/3 FUJ00220950 [1] 193/18 fixing [1] 175/22 128/16 128/21 129/4 fourth [4] 39/9 121/4 gives [2] 131/13 flagging [1] 54/24 184/10 184/12 184/17 148/10 155/17 156/14 **FUJ00222364 [1]** 171/23 Fleckney [1] 181/16 197/23 201/1 206/23 **Fourthly [1]** 147/8 162/4 giving [4] 72/16 flesh [1] 19/11 frames [1] 207/19 FUJ00222620 [2] 206/24 207/1 207/1 72/23 90/5 177/17 flexible [1] 52/8 207/23 208/8 208/14 framework [3] 7/18 161/15 164/5 glaring [2] 48/10 floor [1] 127/18 208/15 208/19 208/23 48/12 Fujitsu [75] 37/13 7/22 7/24 flowing [1] 84/2 38/15 38/17 38/23 208/25 209/2 Fraser [5] 52/16 **GLO [18]** 4/10 6/3 focus [5] 5/25 40/2 38/25 39/4 39/6 39/10 Gareths [2] 208/4 52/17 52/18 52/24 53/3 53/7 53/12 54/17 44/20 46/4 155/11 209/10 54/10 39/11 39/15 39/19 54/17 55/10 56/23 focused [2] 20/9 21/1 free [1] 84/2 **Garr [1]** 200/8 39/21 40/23 41/3 57/11 57/14 89/2 follow [7] 89/19 41/11 44/5 92/3 92/14 **Gas [1]** 92/13 free-flowing [1] 84/2 195/23 201/2 201/23 102/12 126/5 133/6 gathering [1] 188/13 Freeths [1] 159/5 93/1 93/12 99/10 202/5 202/18 206/16 175/10 176/23 201/22 freezing [1] 44/19 101/7 101/24 105/2 gave [5] 83/20 global [3] 7/13 7/17 **follow-up [1]** 175/10 frequently [2] 196/19 109/4 110/15 111/4 111/23 124/3 124/13 8/3 followed [3] 84/10 146/2 112/3 112/10 112/20 go [66] 2/23 14/10 198/13 163/15 181/18 112/23 113/12 113/15 GC [1] 62/2 fresh [1] 88/6 15/20 16/3 17/25 following [14] 15/2 113/20 113/22 114/11 general [7] 8/7 8/8 Friday [2] 23/18 57/4 18/16 19/25 20/21 73/6 109/12 133/6 26/10 74/1 104/19 114/16 114/20 115/7 23/17 25/8 25/14 friend [1] 100/3 137/25 146/24 158/25 115/15 117/10 118/11 104/24 147/3 froing [1] 48/17 25/23 26/3 33/16 34/3 162/8 163/1 173/14 135/17 137/16 143/25 generalised [1] 34/19 37/4 42/8 46/7 front [3] 1/21 1/22 176/22 189/18 207/12 146/11 157/25 160/16 182/15 91/4 46/23 47/6 57/25 211/1 generally [10] 13/23 frustrated [5] 63/3 161/6 162/11 162/21 61/15 65/17 68/17 follows [7] 33/2 13/25 27/24 37/20 63/6 63/11 65/12 68/8 162/22 166/8 175/14 68/18 69/16 70/3 34/12 62/8 149/12 41/3 98/8 115/16 175/17 175/20 175/20 70/14 71/21 71/23 frustration [1] 63/14 166/4 183/6 198/7 116/25 172/25 186/17 **FUJ [1]** 134/14 175/22 178/14 180/21 72/9 73/4 74/22 76/2

60/7 61/5 61/15 62/20 hands-on [1] 20/2 107/22 108/9 108/19 G 128/25 130/19 137/9 208/10 64/23 68/4 68/25 handwritten [9] 2/13 109/17 109/20 109/23 go... [31] 82/2 82/8 **Government [6]** 66/5 71/23 71/24 72/17 58/8 58/12 77/2 79/9 110/6 110/6 111/7 83/1 83/4 85/2 85/2 66/14 67/19 67/23 73/13 74/14 75/9 81/17 81/24 84/3 111/18 112/9 112/11 87/18 122/12 136/24 68/23 68/24 75/16 77/22 78/11 84/16 115/20 117/25 118/23 137/2 137/7 152/15 78/16 79/1 86/19 88/7 Hanifa [1] 93/23 119/2 119/25 123/11 government's [2] 155/1 176/7 178/4 88/23 89/17 93/23 123/24 124/5 124/11 66/11 76/16 happen [3] 48/17 183/1 193/7 195/21 124/12 129/5 131/7 94/5 98/23 99/14 Grab [1] 62/12 64/20 139/11 196/10 197/18 197/20 Grabiner [19] 58/4 100/3 100/5 100/12 happened [10] 13/12 131/13 131/16 131/19 199/8 200/13 205/11 61/5 62/14 62/18 100/17 100/18 101/22 23/3 26/24 48/19 132/17 132/20 132/23 206/14 206/16 206/20 62/21 74/25 75/14 105/16 108/10 109/18 69/10 83/22 107/18 132/23 134/7 134/8 206/21 207/11 208/8 177/15 187/9 207/20 78/25 79/1 79/7 79/11 110/3 110/21 110/23 134/9 134/9 134/10 208/18 79/21 80/7 80/18 111/16 114/12 115/6 **happening [1]** 12/6 134/12 134/17 134/24 God [2] 55/25 192/18 83/19 83/20 83/21 116/18 117/13 117/20 happens [5] 23/2 135/3 135/3 135/4 Godeseth [10] 105/9 65/2 164/22 164/25 84/4 84/8 117/25 119/6 120/1 137/19 137/21 138/9 106/2 110/5 112/12 Grabiner's [2] 79/4 120/15 121/1 122/8 207/20 139/9 140/2 140/14 168/16 169/14 170/3 122/10 123/11 123/15|happy [4] 51/12 140/20 140/22 141/16 80/10 202/9 206/2 210/7 123/16 124/14 125/2 51/13 115/16 173/24 141/24 141/25 142/8 grammatical [1] Godeseth's [2] hard [7] 7/3 36/7 127/4 127/17 129/5 142/14 142/15 142/25 141/20 206/19 209/14 130/7 130/9 130/21 40/13 80/20 91/4 145/17 149/24 150/2 grant [1] 175/4 goes [13] 16/17 granted [3] 99/3 133/14 133/16 135/8 95/22 98/21 150/13 150/14 151/21 32/15 37/9 40/4 74/12 100/8 105/5 136/4 136/13 136/14 harsh [1] 69/24 166/2 166/5 166/12 107/8 115/20 150/2 grateful [4] 2/17 90/4 136/20 137/17 140/19 has [63] 1/18 3/25 167/5 167/22 167/25 174/9 181/6 182/2 170/10 170/22 171/3 206/11 210/18 140/20 140/21 141/2 4/24 4/25 14/20 25/21 193/18 197/10 141/11 142/6 142/20 27/9 28/6 30/7 34/10 171/18 171/19 171/21 greater [2] 187/23 going [72] 5/25 9/19 142/20 143/7 143/8 35/17 36/11 37/7 38/5 171/23 171/25 172/7 188/12 14/14 15/1 18/21 144/22 144/23 145/6 172/11 172/22 173/1 43/18 45/18 47/5 greatly [1] 115/25 19/12 20/13 20/15 145/12 145/18 145/25 48/11 48/14 70/24 173/2 173/24 173/24 Greg [1] 44/18 21/4 22/7 22/19 24/1 Gribben [3] 162/17 146/6 146/11 148/19 75/1 75/4 75/5 80/3 175/9 175/13 175/13 24/13 25/3 25/8 25/22 173/21 197/22 155/2 155/23 157/14 81/16 87/8 87/9 99/21 175/15 184/20 185/12 26/21 35/14 38/6 39/2 101/14 101/16 101/17 group [12] 52/15 159/22 160/20 161/6 185/19 185/22 185/23 39/10 39/13 40/10 53/21 53/23 88/3 162/22 163/6 173/5 101/20 107/10 117/10 185/24 186/3 186/7 45/20 52/12 52/23 173/9 173/11 174/2 88/22 108/22 111/12 131/16 134/10 134/17 186/19 187/1 187/1 54/6 54/18 54/20 161/5 179/6 188/19 174/5 174/13 175/21 135/3 135/4 138/9 187/9 187/11 187/11 56/10 60/6 60/16 188/22 189/16 175/22 176/5 177/2 138/12 138/14 143/25 196/13 196/17 196/21 62/23 62/25 64/4 66/3 guess [10] 9/8 9/8 177/10 177/10 177/11 151/20 156/10 156/18 197/10 198/24 199/6 66/15 68/15 68/17 177/12 178/22 179/22 111/7 122/14 132/21 159/20 166/9 166/16 201/10 201/20 201/20 68/18 69/9 71/21 79/6 132/22 133/13 143/18 179/24 180/2 183/22 169/15 171/11 173/24 201/21 205/3 207/3 82/16 82/17 83/1 83/3 144/2 174/25 186/20 187/14 187/25 208/23 177/1 184/9 187/22 83/4 83/4 86/2 86/13 188/1 188/13 197/5 187/23 193/24 195/16 he'd [2] 140/20 145/7 guessed [1] 106/19 87/15 91/20 96/21 guessing [1] 119/24 199/10 203/6 203/10 196/23 207/3 207/6 he's [30] 30/7 30/11 104/21 127/21 133/8 **GUY [3]** 90/23 91/3 205/15 208/24 207/9 208/15 51/10 55/25 112/4 134/18 139/5 139/11 212/8 hadn't [9] 21/20 hasn't [3] 123/24 112/13 112/14 113/22 148/24 172/22 179/1 134/16 141/4 141/24 28/10 28/11 44/12 158/1 170/25 190/24 191/6 193/7 Н 44/12 108/9 129/6 141/24 142/1 142/9 have [320] 195/14 196/11 204/11 habit [3] 59/6 64/20 156/15 159/25 143/3 143/6 143/13 haven't [4] 118/4 204/16 205/22 206/13 67/13 150/21 167/7 167/16 half [2] 110/3 113/25 120/6 136/1 173/17 gone [7] 11/19 57/9 **habitual** [1] 64/19 halfway [1] 64/23 having [13] 17/20 167/18 167/22 167/23 61/5 61/15 127/19 had [179] 2/14 4/13 hammer [2] 25/14 19/12 38/14 88/17 168/1 170/22 171/6 198/24 208/20 4/14 4/15 6/12 7/13 96/8 129/8 129/14 171/9 173/8 174/21 25/15 good [19] 1/3 1/4 8/3 8/21 9/12 9/16 hand [4] 30/24 31/4 136/5 147/13 154/17 185/11 41/18 44/7 51/2 51/20 9/19 10/15 11/12 33/14 33/18 170/16 170/17 200/9 head [3] 71/21 168/4 51/24 51/25 55/25 12/16 13/12 13/21 handed [2] 87/1 Hayward [1] 42/4 186/2 60/6 62/1 90/19 90/25 14/14 14/15 14/16 144/4 **Haywood [2]** 175/11 header [1] 198/11 131/17 153/5 175/24 15/23 18/20 20/7 handing [2] 187/1 175/12 heading [2] 162/6 199/16 210/9 210/24 20/10 21/14 24/8 187/12 he [144] 4/17 8/9 196/16 got [29] 18/22 22/6 24/17 26/11 26/15 15/13 16/5 16/5 16/8 hear [4] 54/21 90/19 handle [3] 20/25 30/13 35/1 35/2 39/13 31/21 31/22 33/9 102/21 104/2 16/14 25/13 30/16 153/5 193/5 39/17 41/9 41/22 33/14 34/22 39/15 49/6 49/7 49/8 51/8 handled [4] 15/8 heard [13] 8/6 23/11 44/10 51/6 55/25 40/19 42/4 44/14 20/17 137/11 146/11 53/14 53/16 54/1 30/7 32/2 37/25 54/16 57/18 59/19 63/1 46/11 48/6 48/14 **handling [2]** 12/15 61/15 61/18 64/10 54/20 61/5 79/11 90/7 63/13 64/2 65/22 70/7 48/24 49/2 49/7 49/8 21/7 67/18 70/9 74/15 75/4 98/17 120/7 189/3 70/8 85/15 86/15 50/9 54/5 54/16 54/20 75/6 104/6 104/6 hands [3] 20/2 36/2 hearing [6] 1/5 23/9 118/23 120/1 123/4 55/4 58/7 59/9 59/18 51/12 104/8 104/9 107/8 23/10 23/14 23/14

Н hearing... [1] 211/1 Heckford [4] 16/10 16/11 16/12 24/4 held [16] 35/24 35/25 95/12 102/13 103/17 103/20 106/15 107/22 113/3 113/12 114/19 115/7 115/14 127/23 181/17 182/9 Helen [2] 22/4 29/25 help [6] 65/21 106/22 110/12 111/17 115/25 201/6 helpful [3] 74/24 114/20 146/5 helpfully [1] 75/24 helping [3] 137/17 178/19 206/13 helpline [2] 190/6 192/5 hence [5] 4/16 57/7 72/7 80/4 139/6 her [11] 13/9 17/2 18/25 19/11 20/23 32/16 32/24 58/7 60/1 86/3 153/18 Herbert [3] 37/25 38/13 38/19 here [58] 3/14 10/5 12/9 13/14 18/12 18/21 20/13 22/7 24/1 24/14 24/20 26/18 30/11 33/10 33/23 34/20 35/12 38/24 39/17 40/8 40/16 46/4 62/23 66/8 73/16 76/24 86/2 95/10 100/24 101/11 103/7 110/19 111/9 114/1 117/4 119/17 123/3 133/23 138/25 139/20 143/2 145/8 150/10 152/2 156/23 157/22 160/9 167/4 169/5 174/7 177/17 183/3 183/3 186/11 196/10 209/5 209/8 209/13 herself [1] 78/1 hesitancy [1] 63/15 hesitate [1] 53/9 hide [1] 146/8 high [8] 46/20 50/7 78/6 78/15 78/17 85/16 103/25 109/21 high-level [1] 103/25 higher [1] 98/12 highlighted [6] 115/18 116/18 116/23 116/23 194/9 207/8 highly [2] 75/3 194/25 22/5 him [29] 37/4 56/17 Holmes [3] 206/23

104/8 108/5 108/6 108/8 108/11 108/18 119/5 123/21 128/18 129/9 133/9 140/22 151/18 164/7 167/15 167/20 168/2 174/11 174/11 175/1 186/23 187/9 187/11 188/8 200/9 201/18 201/21 himself [2] 56/5 202/5 hindsight [4] 39/6 39/8 63/10 187/20 his [49] 4/17 8/9 11/2 13/9 30/9 30/11 30/14 30/21 30/22 33/18 40/17 43/22 49/7 54/5 66/1 74/15 79/21 84/5 106/16 106/16 107/10 107/11 109/15 111/19 111/21 112/4 112/14 116/19 119/4 133/2 137/15 140/20 141/21 142/10 145/3 145/16 145/17 150/16 150/23 151/20 161/25 167/23 171/3 171/22 174/2 201/10 201/16 208/15 209/22 historic [18] 99/9 121/1 121/16 121/20 122/10 123/4 123/7 123/12 124/1 136/5 136/13 136/21 137/4 155/14 156/15 156/17 156/21 156/23 historical [2] 52/17 107/13 history [2] 44/16 196/2 hits [1] 140/19 **hm [16]** 93/7 97/1 97/1 107/4 123/1 124/9 140/8 143/5 157/11 163/20 170/1 170/6 171/12 180/15 181/10 198/10 **HNG [7]** 108/4 114/13 129/2 130/20 138/24 150/1 167/17 HNG-X [7] 108/4 114/13 129/2 130/20 138/24 150/1 167/17 Hodge [6] 52/5 90/7 90/24 91/1 192/1 212/10 Hoggard [1] 24/17 hold [4] 106/19 162/21 162/21 194/7 holds [3] 123/2 123/7 157/25 Hollingsworth [1]

Holmes' [1] 208/6 honest [7] 14/1 98/24 49/15 55/1 132/19 133/2 145/24 146/4 146/7 hope [3] 25/4 174/8 191/4 hoping [1] 145/22 Horizon [81] 4/21 11/16 12/2 12/4 12/8 12/17 12/22 13/7 13/11 13/18 18/4 19/17 20/18 20/22 20/24 27/9 27/11 27/24 28/17 30/18 31/5 31/17 31/17 31/22 32/1 32/12 32/24 33/5 33/18 34/15 37/20 38/4 40/6 | am [11] 7/14 70/21 40/11 41/3 42/10 42/12 42/18 43/10 43/13 45/2 47/17 50/1 50/6 50/10 50/20 54/13 56/24 57/3 57/5 | I appreciate [2] 63/2 102/22 108/3 109/8 111/20 113/2 114/12 114/16 118/12 4/2 72/17 89/8 91/1 122/18 124/7 124/7 129/2 130/1 130/18 135/2 135/10 135/16 138/23 149/25 150/1 160/16 165/12 166/7 181/1 181/5 181/7 181/17 182/16 194/4 201/11 Horizon IT [1] 41/3 hour [2] 57/24 134/23 **hours [1]** 116/3 house [1] 8/12 household [1] 6/15 how [53] 8/13 14/1 17/2 20/24 35/25 36/4 38/3 41/22 45/23 54/17 62/24 65/21 69/13 74/16 80/20 85/22 86/1 88/6 88/24 94/5 98/7 98/11 105/11 105/18 110/15 118/11 124/10 133/11 I believed [1] 4/21 137/11 139/13 140/5 | I can [17] 18/16 142/25 143/14 145/15 25/25 35/18 55/19 145/17 146/11 149/6 149/16 160/3 162/14 162/22 163/10 172/7 173/9 177/12 187/25 190/24 195/4 196/19 209/18 however [9] 4/23 32/16 37/14 115/23 125/22 131/12 144/19 150/3 176/16 **HSD [1]** 114/15

207/23 208/2

Hugh [5] 18/2 18/8 20/17 37/25 38/19 hypotheticals [1] 13/14 l accept [1] 185/22 I actually [3] 107/17 118/2 206/9 I added [1] 107/24 l agree [5] 23/25 45/13 50/15 143/24 168/1 I already [1] 104/6 I also [1] 191/11 72/5 79/6 82/6 87/15 96/17 98/10 129/18 145/24 181/2 I anticipate [1] 52/1 28/14 114/17 lask [12] 1/21 2/6 91/10 115/15 115/23 lasked [1] 125/20 I assume [9] 27/8 27/16 64/25 67/2 84/9 124/15 147/10 184/20 209/20 I been [1] 4/15 I began [1] 59/21 I believe [37] 6/12 7/25 11/14 14/18 14/24 15/1 16/12 24/18 31/25 40/18 67/17 67/20 77/23 99/20 109/18 112/8 113/17 125/4 126/20 128/2 129/1 138/1 144/6 151/4 154/15 154/25 155/16 158/13 160/4 162/2 163/24 165/10 179/18 186/9 203/15 206/9 206/9 55/21 59/12 86/14 90/20 132/11 134/15 141/4 152/20 191/15 192/21 193/6 206/22 208/12 197/18 198/13 208/12 | I can't [15] 6/23 7/20 7/25 8/18 8/22 17/3 31/6 64/20 89/5 100/9 102/15 105/21 180/6 187/2 187/5 I cannot [2] 7/12 71/6

I check [1] 54/9

huge [7] 35/24 48/10 | I clearly [1] 41/9

48/14 48/24 49/13

I come [1] 204/15 I commented [1] 116/21 I considered [1] 139/6 I consulted [1] 116/17 I copied [1] 37/6 I could [7] 1/25 26/22 87/17 118/20 119/24 145/14 191/12 I couldn't [1] 186/1 I cover [1] 41/12 I did [16] 6/24 9/2 18/24 41/5 57/13 74/18 83/9 83/11 104/19 114/25 123/9 133/5 178/17 178/24 179/2 196/6 I didn't [13] 19/7 50/7 50/22 68/25 98/24 108/19 116/25 130/13 179/10 180/4 186/7 186/19 192/12 I do [7] 47/3 94/11 151/9 158/9 178/6 180/5 192/18 188/23 191/25 200/25 I don't [113] 9/2 11/8 12/6 13/13 14/1 14/9 18/20 19/13 21/9 23/13 23/15 23/16 25/3 25/4 25/5 30/20 32/9 34/2 36/21 40/12 40/15 41/10 47/22 50/2 50/22 50/22 51/14 55/24 55/24 56/7 57/13 60/13 60/18 61/15 63/19 63/19 64/9 64/10 65/16 71/2 71/5 73/24 74/17 75/16 76/8 76/20 79/11 80/20 80/20 80/23 80/23 83/9 83/11 83/16 84/7 84/13 85/15 86/5 86/6 88/12 88/21 89/5 89/7 100/23 105/6 106/8 106/18 107/18 107/23 108/10 111/20 114/24 114/25 117/21 119/2 120/3 120/4 120/13 126/12 128/11 130/25 133/1 133/5 133/22 134/17 136/22 137/8 139/19 145/24 150/14 165/16 165/24 168/4 174/15 174/16 174/18 178/24 179/4 181/22 181/25 186/16 186/25 187/7 187/8 188/6 189/4 189/7 189/12 189/23 192/12 201/25 210/1 210/22 (67) hearing... - I don't

127/19 130/15 152/16 118/22 152/9 187/5 54/20 56/7 57/15 82/22 87/10 89/1 180/4 188/18 189/3 204/20 59/19 88/15 93/11 89/24 90/4 91/20 I doubt [1] 48/1 I see [9] 41/5 51/11 201/3 205/12 100/16 105/13 105/20 94/11 94/13 96/15 I drop [1] 9/10 I mean [75] 20/8 63/12 77/10 98/8 106/8 106/9 107/17 96/21 97/13 98/12 lever [4] 40/14 40/15 25/21 30/7 50/7 54/5 116/16 186/9 194/23 111/13 111/20 113/4 99/8 100/2 100/6 41/10 86/6 72/1 77/8 82/14 83/14 208/23 120/13 128/16 128/18 100/20 103/8 103/22 I expect [1] 125/9 85/11 97/14 98/8 I sent [2] 24/4 126/8 129/8 130/14 133/22 105/13 108/3 111/13 I explain [1] 188/3 98/22 100/6 102/15 133/22 139/5 145/2 112/4 112/8 112/15 I share [1] 138/16 I feel [1] 19/19 103/10 104/6 106/18 I shortcut [1] 210/6 146/4 148/24 179/15 112/16 116/24 116/25 I felt [1] 63/21 108/17 110/18 112/13 I should [4] 1/9 33/5 180/7 190/9 195/14 119/23 123/5 123/9 I find [1] 7/3 116/15 119/23 120/1 58/19 81/22 197/25 198/3 125/6 129/7 130/12 **I follow [1]** 89/19 120/6 128/15 128/25 132/19 132/19 133/24 I shouldn't [1] 210/21 I wasn't [11] 8/23 I found [1] 135/13 129/7 130/12 130/15 I simply [3] 48/18 84/12 98/25 104/19 136/7 136/18 139/11 I go [2] 122/12 130/16 132/19 133/4 63/3 74/18 142/23 143/2 143/9 112/8 113/6 120/14 136/24 135/11 135/13 136/8 I sit [1] 66/8 133/23 179/2 192/8 145/4 145/5 145/6 **I got [2]** 57/18 86/15 136/22 139/4 141/4 I spoke [1] 17/9 192/10 145/14 145/16 145/18 I quess [6] 111/7 142/6 143/18 143/21 150/13 150/23 151/9 I spotted [1] 116/19 I were [1] 84/9 122/14 132/22 143/18 145/4 145/16 145/24 I will [17] 9/8 9/16 152/10 156/22 158/2 I still [1] 83/1 144/2 174/25 146/4 146/6 150/13 I submitted [1] 4/12 19/22 20/9 46/18 164/25 165/18 165/18 I had [13] 4/13 4/14 150/14 150/18 152/11 | I suggest [2] 206/15 46/21 50/23 52/11 166/23 167/24 170/12 10/15 18/20 21/14 157/18 158/12 172/25 174/10 174/10 174/10 209/4 66/13 68/3 80/15 54/5 54/20 89/17 174/11 174/17 174/25 174/15 179/2 179/13 I suppose [12] 30/20 83/15 87/6 88/9 98/23 110/21 127/17 180/5 185/25 186/16 60/23 69/1 69/2 126/12 132/11 134/15 175/1 177/14 178/25 133/14 145/18 186/25 187/5 188/15 104/19 111/6 128/25 I wonder [2] 152/18 179/15 180/18 183/17 I hadn't [2] 28/10 192/12 193/19 194/4 129/5 138/21 165/19 185/25 187/10 187/16 162/3 28/11 194/14 194/18 199/4 188/8 190/17 192/9 177/23 188/7 I worked [1] 92/12 I have [35] 1/23 2/7 199/21 200/3 201/18 193/7 195/14 195/22 I suspect [15] 7/4 7/5 I would [34] 8/21 21/19 32/5 37/10 196/6 199/3 204/7 201/19 205/7 209/20 8/19 23/25 47/22 9/18 20/1 35/10 41/4 39/13 44/4 52/4 57/19 I mentioned [3] 59/21 66/2 76/8 76/9 41/8 41/16 44/25 48/1 204/11 205/22 206/11 64/18 70/5 72/21 101/19 105/23 209/9 77/5 98/17 112/2 65/16 74/19 80/20 209/17 209/18 210/18 73/25 87/1 90/7 93/18 97/22 100/7 103/12 I might [3] 77/2 112/5 119/23 125/6 I've [27] 12/13 25/25 115/12 117/18 120/2 108/17 196/6 I take [3] 41/12 55/4 108/10 108/18 110/25 36/23 39/17 41/9 125/22 131/9 131/12 50/11 56/21 59/19 I must [8] 61/7 71/5 62/8 111/2 112/15 112/22 135/1 150/8 152/19 114/24 174/15 179/10 I then [3] 102/17 118/22 119/25 127/5 63/13 64/11 70/6 175/16 178/7 180/21 183/23 199/3 209/17 178/25 206/14 127/7 128/20 130/25 72/21 76/13 78/15 180/24 188/16 189/12 I need [1] 82/15 133/13 141/18 145/25 78/15 86/6 87/19 I think [244] 190/7 191/1 191/4 I okay [1] 124/2 I thought [6] 19/5 179/5 183/23 191/14 99/20 101/20 120/4 210/1 44/2 59/14 70/6 78/24 199/22 130/12 164/17 185/4 I only [1] 36/21 I haven't [1] 120/6 I paraphrased [1] 146/4 188/17 189/3 208/10 I wouldn't [2] 22/1 I hope [2] 25/4 191/4 201/13 I told [1] 144/7 133/4 208/20 I inserted [2] 181/25 I pause [1] 122/19 I took [1] 123/10 I write [1] 36/14 lan [3] 37/25 38/13 183/24 I probably [7] 8/17 I turned [1] 68/4 I wrote [1] 139/5 38/19 I interrupted [1] 24/9 68/4 98/17 **I'd [16]** 4/5 4/11 4/13 **Ibbett [9]** 137/14 I understand [14] 187/4 5/3 48/23 94/18 100/6 137/16 138/4 169/13 123/19 140/21 194/18 2/17 2/23 3/10 3/16 I just [12] 8/1 25/6 I produced [2] 81/17 4/3 7/18 19/9 22/13 104/8 105/6 108/21 170/3 176/5 188/7 51/1 63/22 71/7 81/11 116/25 123/23 132/20 43/18 51/10 72/24 205/25 206/25 181/19 88/21 100/4 126/24 73/5 82/21 164/22 161/2 181/11 195/3 idea [5] 56/14 64/11 I propose [1] 1/11 146/7 174/19 201/19 I raised [1] 62/4 I understood [2] **I'II [14]** 1/20 2/21 5/13| 72/21 72/21 98/23 I knew [10] 18/25 I reached [1] 192/13 55/10 98/21 52/17 59/12 75/23 identical [1] 170/19 48/10 58/1 71/7 98/22 identified [10] 105/24 I read [2] 23/14 I undertook [1] 100/23 138/17 178/7 104/9 106/18 116/20 116/22 181/17 188/18 200/12 205/11 138/9 140/5 163/12 135/11 201/18 I really [2] 86/16 89/6 I uploaded [1] 123/22 208/11 208/13 202/22 203/10 203/16 I know [13] 20/9 204/11 204/12 205/15 I recall [8] 106/14 I vaguely [1] 189/3 **I'm [133]** 3/13 4/8 5/1 23/21 31/20 49/13 identify [6] 38/16 107/25 150/18 169/12 | I want [20] 6/4 9/24 5/2 5/25 7/5 12/24 57/25 72/6 72/7 75/13 186/25 190/8 200/19 14/19 24/6 24/7 52/11 12/24 14/2 16/13 23/2 94/2 109/7 161/21 78/22 102/5 108/6 204/6 58/5 58/8 69/12 75/15 23/2 25/3 25/7 25/22 163/22 165/6 120/13 149/20 ie [4] 32/14 32/21 76/2 79/12 81/20 28/1 30/22 39/1 39/2 I remember [4] 63/3 I look [2] 116/16 63/6 103/9 114/25 83/17 85/16 85/24 44/21 51/12 51/12 42/25 150/6 186/10 52/7 52/12 52/22 54/7 ie if [1] 150/6 I said [3] 18/24 122/22 184/17 193/11 I make [2] 51/4 133/13 194/5 201/1 56/10 56/17 56/18 ie it [1] 32/21 152/19 I saw [1] 116/21 I wanted [1] 63/7 60/24 62/24 62/24 ie that [2] 32/14 I may [17] 5/4 7/20 I say [12] 11/17 12/13 I was [41] 4/16 4/19 62/24 64/4 64/22 42/25 7/20 69/19 69/19 87/2 65/12 67/13 69/9 70/4 if [213] 24/7 50/15 100/20 4/21 8/19 11/6 26/21 106/18 123/9 125/6 70/4 74/19 76/8 78/12 immediate [2] 46/6 107/23 113/5 117/21 53/18 53/25 53/25

112/25 201/22 indeed [9] 69/10 interacted [1] 86/16 invite [1] 45/20 129/12 138/16 171/2 initial [7] 42/12 42/20 interaction [2] 38/9 inviting [2] 70/1 70/4 immediate... [1] 176/19 194/20 202/22 44/11 69/20 126/5 187/24 involve [1] 28/16 202/19 203/12 204/2 131/6 182/18 interchangeably [1] involved [25] 6/6 9/1 immediately [5] independent [13] initially [5] 15/8 43/3 5/13 21/7 25/12 32/7 37/18 134/6 136/7 137/5 39/7 39/14 39/22 93/4 124/21 126/6 interconnection [2] 40/19 40/22 41/2 140/24 178/3 39/24 40/2 40/8 40/10 injected [2] 196/19 53/11 53/13 56/18 61/2 71/17 imminence [1] 46/21 57/16 57/23 58/3 66/14 68/25 98/25 198/14 interest [4] 67/19 impact [4] 14/5 80/5 63/23 72/6 78/23 ink [2] 59/13 78/10 130/4 145/25 146/7 101/1 112/8 174/18 197/9 199/17 input [3] 178/22 179/3 185/12 185/19 index [1] 91/8 interested [2] 60/4 impartiality [1] 55/5 202/17 207/22 indicate [3] 42/25 200/13 186/3 188/5 190/7 impediment [5] **interests [3]** 75/6 148/2 163/16 190/9 inputs [1] 44/8 57/15 57/17 57/24 inquiry [25] 1/15 1/17 80/14 80/22 indicated [1] 184/24 involvement [7] 63/12 88/14 indicating [2] 52/8 2/16 3/24 4/13 4/25 15/24 24/3 24/18 53/4 internal [10] 16/12 implement [1] 162/21 5/8 8/6 11/7 14/20 20/13 45/13 55/1 62/24 66/11 108/22 109/23 indication [4] 42/11 28/4 28/6 28/11 30/7 92/25 95/25 97/18 involves [2] 92/23 implementation [3] 47/5 196/18 198/13 35/17 36/22 41/4 101/23 113/20 130/23 168/20 103/13 103/14 199/15 indications [3] 42/9 50/20 56/20 58/16 **internally [3]** 32/10 involving [1] 185/17 implemented [1] 43/23 47/8 81/16 90/5 91/2 102/17 114/13 irrespective [1] 35/8 118/15 187/23 192/20 indicative [2] 187/7 interpret [1] 132/21 irretrievable [2] implementing [2] 206/15 insert [3] 161/6 interpretation [1] 133/21 156/8 47/18 197/7 indirectly [2] 113/4 162/12 167/9 121/21 **irritation** [1] 20/12 implication [2] 113/5 inserted [9] 153/14 interrelationship [1] is [556] 156/18 174/21 individual [5] 8/4 162/22 180/17 181/20 88/18 is/was [1] 129/18 **imply [1]** 186/19 181/24 181/25 183/24 interrogation [1] 67/8 98/10 169/2 ish [1] 191/10 important [4] 20/20 196/4 198/14 170/16 isn't [20] 26/9 43/14 172/3 25/9 92/17 200/15 55/24 59/7 69/3 82/4 individuals [12] insight [3] 58/25 59/1 interrupt [1] 186/7 impossible [1] 204/3 38/17 38/20 109/7 84/21 98/4 125/5 61/11 **interrupted** [1] 187/4 **impression [12]** 60/9 109/13 110/9 111/23 insofar [2] 3/4 52/21 **intertwined [2]** 60/25 136/9 142/22 143/10 60/14 60/19 60/22 202/6 202/15 202/24 143/16 158/12 158/16 **instances** [2] 170/5 61/1 65/14 66/8 78/19 83/6 159/23 169/25 173/3 203/16 205/18 209/6 intervening [2] 9/4 171/15 83/24 84/4 86/15 inevitable [2] 72/10 instead [4] 108/20 57/4 199/22 207/21 186/3 159/17 176/20 176/22 interview [1] 11/2 86/13 issue [46] 32/22 34/4 improper [1] 182/4 instruct [6] 45/21 inflated [1] 34/25 into [52] 1/19 11/19 43/13 44/19 44/22 **improved [2]** 30/9 12/16 15/1 15/20 **info [1]** 124/3 63/5 63/7 63/14 63/22 44/22 44/22 47/14 30/14 inform [1] 114/8 78/25 17/22 19/4 31/6 34/10 50/9 50/18 53/19 56/4 inability [1] 62/4 37/6 44/8 44/15 45/12 56/4 58/22 62/4 66/5 information [79] 4/24 **instructed** [5] 11/11 inaccurate [1] 182/4 12/20 13/17 34/16 15/5 37/19 42/5 49/9 46/9 46/11 62/19 66/12 72/16 72/23 incident [4] 97/4 98/5 65/12 71/23 80/22 82/20 87/8 88/18 34/18 34/19 38/15 instructing [4] 59/24 98/13 172/4 38/18 39/21 42/13 96/18 107/19 129/1 97/15 103/10 105/4 62/18 63/4 143/6 incidents [7] 98/6 44/8 46/1 46/3 67/11 instruction [5] 57/17 130/20 138/7 144/12 129/2 129/2 129/15 98/8 98/10 98/12 70/5 74/19 79/2 88/9 62/21 142/12 189/17 145/22 147/17 153/15 129/19 129/23 130/18 99/15 197/4 199/9 89/5 94/10 109/1 205/24 154/7 154/17 154/21 137/11 138/10 144/15 include [3] 52/19 109/8 110/10 110/13 155/9 159/25 161/7 144/23 161/10 162/6 instructions [10] 79/16 142/17 110/16 111/17 112/11 4/22 33/1 34/11 69/14 162/23 167/9 176/9 168/5 171/4 174/9 included [7] 56/10 117/10 117/22 118/10 82/6 97/7 97/11 97/13 177/2 177/5 177/6 174/24 175/18 175/23 69/18 126/8 144/16 118/16 118/19 118/24 97/19 97/22 178/22 179/1 183/16 176/18 195/7 200/10 150/22 155/11 185/11 183/24 185/6 185/22 119/10 119/20 119/22 integrity [21] 19/16 issued [7] 15/11 18/3 includes [3] 124/11 120/1 124/6 125/21 28/17 40/11 43/13 185/23 186/8 196/1 31/21 33/8 33/10 126/10 165/20 126/2 126/10 126/13 44/5 50/5 50/21 196/4 198/5 202/17 33/11 34/25 including [7] 19/22 135/4 135/9 137/22 102/22 103/1 104/12 introduction [1] issues [50] 30/18 91/7 127/25 163/11 31/5 31/17 31/17 139/16 139/21 141/2 104/14 105/1 105/5 156/6 186/10 197/23 203/24 146/3 148/19 150/6 106/5 107/8 108/2 investigate [4] 42/23 32/18 40/3 40/4 44/17 inconsistency [2] 108/4 126/25 182/16 157/6 157/12 161/3 50/18 63/16 105/3 48/18 49/23 52/15 72/1 72/5 161/12 161/20 161/25 193/13 194/9 investigated [2] 60/7 52/19 54/11 54/13 inconsistent [2] 72/4 intellectual [1] 162/3 163/25 164/9 192/11 54/18 54/24 55/2 139/21 165/2 178/18 178/20 55/11 55/17 56/24 185/18 investigating [2] incorp [1] 3/9 178/25 180/23 181/4 intellectually [1] 60/11 186/1 57/2 57/5 60/16 61/1 incorrect [7] 50/14 181/15 181/20 181/24 11/19 61/3 63/2 71/18 79/12 investigation [2] 100/14 116/20 120/3 182/3 182/9 183/18 intended [1] 25/1 11/24 188/12 80/1 85/23 86/2 86/12 120/4 136/6 141/5 183/22 185/7 188/12 90/4 100/24 101/7 intense [1] 58/1 investigations [1] **incorrectly [2]** 120/8 188/14 201/7 201/20 intention [1] 133/2 104/20 103/7 107/22 108/2 176/20 110/23 112/14 118/12 202/6 interact [2] 18/24 investigators [1] incumbent [1] 50/17 informed [3] 19/21 59/21 10/24 135/24 147/1 160/16

issues... [6] 164/15 185/17 195/10 203/2 204/8 205/8 issuing [1] 20/21 it [657] it'll [2] 29/8 58/20 it's [129] 2/22 7/3 9/8 10/9 10/10 10/18 14/20 16/2 17/25 18/16 20/8 23/23 24/8 26/10 27/10 28/6 29/10 34/21 36/7 36/22 40/13 40/17 44/24 47/16 47/16 47/19 51/15 55/9 59/5 59/5 63/11 68/17 69/2 69/13 70/9 72/10 72/13 74/18 76/19 76/21 77/3 77/8 78/14 82/22 82/23 84/24 85/11 89/14 92/9 86/15 92/17 93/20 94/13 94/14 95/18 98/4 98/21 99/12 100/23 100/24 102/9 102/16 105/7 107/15 114/2 197/22 117/23 117/25 118/22 120/3 120/7 126/18 126/18 127/14 127/15 129/5 134/18 135/14 139/10 139/11 141/6 141/9 143/10 143/18 143/22 143/23 143/24 186/15 144/10 145/20 146/7 150/23 152/25 153/13 157/7 158/9 158/15 158/25 163/21 164/7 165/19 167/23 167/24 170/17 170/18 170/21 171/24 174/17 175/7 177/8 178/17 179/14 180/6 180/14 182/11 183/1 183/13 184/20 186/18 186/18 186/19 201/5 187/15 190/18 190/20 194/4 194/11 196/8 196/13 198/2 198/3 205/23 206/17 items [1] 205/8 **iterations [2]** 157/2 157/4 iterative [1] 195/5 its [10] 4/13 7/23 12/9 56/17 68/24 78/17 100/1 158/23 169/18 204/4 itself [5] 7/2 85/20 86/4 98/14 99/17 145/15 147/14 148/20 J10 [1] 162/16 149/13 149/15 149/16

J11 [1] 162/16

J14 [1] 163/16 **J15 [1]** 163/16 **J9 [1]** 162/16 James [7] 18/2 18/8 20/17 37/25 38/20 105/8 106/24 Jane [56] 8/8 58/6 58/23 59/9 59/18 59/22 60/1 60/10 60/22 61/7 62/2 64/4 64/5 66/2 66/9 66/13 66/23 67/12 67/25 68/6 69/9 70/11 72/6 72/18 73/13 73/16 75/22 76/10 77/1 77/1 77/5 77/6 77/6 77/9 77/9 77/10 77/13 77/21 78/1 78/7 78/12 78/14 78/16 78/18 78/19 79/17 82/3 82/4 82/12 82/19 82/23 83/7 85/2 85/9 86/3 Jane's [2] 69/19 86/7 January [8] 26/13 33/8 42/14 42/21 168/5 171/25 196/12 Jason [6] 151/17 179/23 182/1 203/5 204/9 204/12 **Jay [9]** 112/3 113/19 113/20 114/3 117/17 121/7 125/17 185/5 Jenkins [25] 103/1 105/9 106/1 106/15 107/21 108/2 109/14 110/7 111/10 112/6 128/1 128/10 184/18 193/13 197/23 201/1 201/23 202/2 202/4 203/22 206/2 206/24 208/9 208/15 208/19 Jenkins' [2] 104/4 Jennison [1] 24/16 jiggle [1] 51/16 **job [1]** 109/15 jobs [1] 188/6 jocular [1] 25/4 John [39] 22/4 29/24 37/10 99/21 110/1 120/22 123/10 123/17 123/22 125/7 127/7 127/12 127/17 129/14 129/17 131/6 132/2 132/9 136/14 137/24 138/8 138/14 138/22 140/6 140/19 141/2 141/11 141/15 145/2

150/11 202/20 205/3

206/1 John' [1] 140/7 John's [2] 137/25 138/3 joined [3] 5/6 38/13 93/1 joining [2] 92/3 98/17 joint [1] 40/18 Jonathan [3] 162/17 173/21 197/22 Jones [2] 22/4 29/24 **Jonny [3]** 173/18 173/20 174/17 jotting [1] 67/11 jottings [1] 77/8 journey [2] 11/22 61/9 JSimpkins338Q [2] 132/4 144/20 judge [7] 55/6 56/5 61/4 61/10 78/2 79/25 80/3 iudgment [48] 15/23

17/11 18/4 18/23 20/4 20/5 20/10 20/14 21/1 21/20 21/25 22/17 23/10 23/22 23/23 24/24 25/8 25/13 25/24 26/4 26/13 26/20 26/24 27/6 27/23 28/1 34/22 52/20 52/20 52/25 54/11 54/19 54/25 54/25 55/11 55/17 55/20 57/8 60/16 61/1 61/3 71/19 80/2 85/6 85/21 85/23 86/2 86/11 judgments [3] 25/5

52/16 52/19 Julia [1] 187/12 Julian [1] 32/4 July [3] 14/23 102/11

126/8 jump [1] 120/12 June [2] 1/1 1/24 June 2024 [1] 1/1 just [122] 6/2 7/20 8/1 10/6 11/25 14/21 16/18 21/23 25/6 25/24 26/10 27/3 29/4 32/18 35/3 37/20 39/8 41/12 43/25 44/6 48/9 50/11 51/1 51/6 58/9 58/22 60/20 62/2 62/9 185/17 63/13 63/22 69/12 70/14 70/16 71/7 72/19 73/18 75/9 76/7 81/11 81/24 84/24 87/1 87/2 87/7 88/21 89/9 89/24 91/20 94/8 97/10 100/4 100/23

104/8 105/13 106/22

109/10 110/17 113/7

115/9 116/3 116/10 117/4 117/9 120/3 120/7 125/11 125/13 126/24 132/12 132/14 132/18 133/8 134/15 134/24 136/2 137/14 142/9 142/9 146/7 150/15 150/24 150/25 152/23 156/19 158/9 158/9 161/18 162/19 164/9 165/6 165/18 172/3 173/18 174/10 174/17 174/18 174/19 179/14 180/16 180/19 183/3 183/8 183/15 184/9 188/11 192/1 192/1 194/5 194/23 196/10 197/20 198/7 199/23 200/4 201/19 205/8 205/22 206/17 206/21 207/17 208/10 Justice [6] 49/1 52/16 52/17 52/18 52/24 54/10

KC [3] 23/5 56/15 200/8 keep [6] 107/12 127/21 191/12 191/15 197/17 206/13 keeping [1] 127/3 **KEL [66]** 118/9 119/8 119/13 120/17 121/2 121/16 121/20 121/22 122/3 122/9 123/2 123/5 123/12 123/13 124/7 124/7 124/18 124/25 126/12 128/5 128/22 129/3 129/16 129/19 130/7 131/12 132/3 132/11 132/24 133/10 133/11 133/16 134/11 134/16 135/7 138/8 138/11 138/14 139/1 140/5 140/12 141/11 141/19 142/5 142/7 142/17 142/19 142/20 143/7 143/8 144/1 144/5 144/20 150/7 151/23 154/14 155/25 156/1 156/7 157/3 157/10 159/14 **KELJSimpkins338Q [1]** 131/20 Kelly [1] 73/22 KELs [106] 97/25 98/9 117/23 120/14 121/23 121/24 121/25 122/5 122/14 122/16 123/3 123/8 123/11

123/22 124/1 126/3

126/20 127/2 130/11 130/24 130/25 132/5 132/10 133/14 135/2 135/10 135/16 135/20 136/1 136/6 136/13 136/19 136/21 137/4 138/13 138/18 138/20 139/21 141/8 144/14 144/16 144/22 145/23 146/8 146/12 146/15 146/23 146/25 147/9 147/11 147/18 148/11 148/14 148/17 148/22 148/25 149/1 149/6 149/16 149/25 150/1 150/3 150/9 150/12 150/17 150/18 150/20 150/20 151/2 151/20 152/4 152/10 152/14 153/23 154/2 154/5 154/16 154/18 154/20 155/1 155/5 155/9 155/11 155/14 155/17 156/2 156/5 156/6 156/10 156/12 156/12 156/14 156/15 156/17 156/19 156/19 156/20 156/22 159/1 159/22 159/25 160/3 160/7 160/10 160/15 203/1 Kent [1] 91/25 kept [3] 19/21 58/25 92/20 key [6] 38/16 95/2 95/12 96/14 96/24 kind [27] 49/23 55/18 55/19 56/1 69/1 74/19

99/12 109/20 109/21 109/24 109/24 110/2 110/3 110/19 111/8 128/7 128/20 142/9 152/12 167/23 172/2 172/5 173/2 188/5 194/4 194/24 205/8 138/16 138/17 138/23 kitchen [2] 25/7 26/9 knees [1] 55/20

> knew [20] 14/16 18/25 48/10 50/7 58/1 71/7 86/7 88/21 98/22 104/6 104/9 106/18 110/22 116/20 119/6 135/11 175/21 177/21 192/9 201/18 knocking [1] 60/24 know [117] 7/21 8/1 11/8 11/22 13/13 14/1 14/9 19/7 19/13 20/1 20/9 23/5 23/13 23/15 23/16 23/21 24/10 25/6 25/6 30/20 31/20 32/9 34/16 44/15 48/18 49/7 49/13

49/15 49/20 50/3 50/7

82/16 83/2 83/5 210/8 121/23 121/25 121/25 K 159/20 165/19 167/24 lengthy [2] 79/12 169/17 179/11 181/13 116/10 lines [1] 3/4 122/3 130/21 132/4 know... [86] 50/22 186/12 **Lenton [16]** 51/7 link [1] 19/14 133/10 133/11 133/17 51/1 55/24 55/24 late [9] 26/24 48/13 51/19 90/22 90/23 list [8] 28/8 28/8 138/24 154/5 156/18 55/25 56/7 57/25 49/12 112/23 112/25 90/25 91/3 96/21 36/11 105/6 147/23 159/11 191/9 60/13 60/18 61/15 172/18 203/18 206/3 122/25 140/14 158/5 107/6 148/1 152/20 longstanding [2] 61/16 62/20 63/4 64/9 153/9 191/25 198/9 158/11 listed [2] 110/19 111/19 201/11 64/10 71/1 71/7 72/6 later [27] 9/3 26/3 200/21 210/16 212/8 169/16 look [57] 9/24 10/17 72/7 74/17 74/18 59/15 60/18 60/20 Lenton's [1] 90/11 listings [1] 47/4 14/19 16/2 20/16 75/13 75/16 78/22 63/8 64/17 72/3 74/22 less [5] 47/11 187/15 21/10 27/3 28/2 29/21 lists [1] 147/2 80/20 80/20 80/23 **literally [1]** 172/23 75/13 115/2 120/16 191/2 200/7 209/24 36/4 36/6 36/25 39/9 80/24 81/4 82/23 84/7 122/22 124/16 134/7 41/17 42/2 43/16 let [13] 11/10 13/3 **litigate [1]** 35/14 84/7 84/13 89/7 90/25 134/23 135/14 136/9 30/22 50/24 59/16 **litigation [26]** 5/20 45/15 46/13 58/5 58/7 92/18 95/19 95/21 143/3 146/14 148/24 70/22 123/23 128/6 6/14 6/20 7/2 7/11 61/9 61/9 64/22 66/18 99/7 99/18 102/5 152/9 157/22 168/6 151/22 173/24 174/8 9/11 9/16 9/17 25/1 69/15 97/16 100/11 104/4 104/17 108/6 173/13 175/2 208/19 174/24 207/16 26/18 27/2 35/6 52/15 100/19 106/22 116/5 110/21 111/2 111/23 latest [2] 95/7 108/8 let's [19] 9/24 13/25 53/21 53/23 86/22 116/16 117/4 117/9 112/6 112/11 120/2 latterly [2] 166/21 14/10 16/2 27/3 34/19 87/17 88/6 108/22 121/4 134/13 137/11 120/3 120/4 120/13 36/4 41/25 44/20 45/1 111/12 161/5 179/7 141/10 144/8 146/18 186/6 123/23 128/6 130/13 law [6] 5/23 7/23 14/8 45/2 46/4 51/15 121/4 188/19 188/22 189/16 149/10 161/15 163/14 130/19 130/25 132/20 137/11 164/4 190/24 164/4 168/12 171/22 71/18 79/25 189/1 200/16 133/1 133/10 135/12 lawyer [5] 8/21 59/7 196/8 199/8 little [12] 12/25 17/9 172/22 175/5 176/1 137/8 138/22 138/22 112/4 113/21 125/18 **letter [8]** 7/10 10/11 66/5 122/7 125/14 180/8 180/19 182/24 141/25 142/3 144/25 lawyer-client [1] 8/21 39/4 42/3 44/11 44/11 158/19 159/6 193/20 186/10 187/19 196/8 145/11 149/16 149/20 lawyers [23] 26/12 46/5 64/10 196/11 198/8 199/8 198/6 200/13 208/13 150/14 151/22 168/3 26/17 67/10 83/1 206/21 looked [19] 14/20 **letters [1]** 162/15 174/19 174/20 179/12 44/15 46/21 118/2 109/2 111/5 118/17 level [6] 46/20 50/7 live [7] 155/11 156/2 179/24 180/2 181/25 121/9 124/17 131/23 97/22 98/12 103/25 156/10 157/1 164/16 120/4 125/2 125/9 183/24 186/25 187/6 136/21 139/2 139/22 109/21 168/21 169/23 127/8 134/24 142/13 192/17 200/18 207/16 LLP [1] 42/4 155/2 157/24 158/8 159/2 164/10 183/8 liaise [1] 188/20 knowing [5] 20/8 163/16 168/6 173/14 liaised [1] 182/18 LN [1] 64/23 185/10 186/11 196/1 62/24 102/10 142/4 liaising [1] 108/1 179/8 180/11 188/20 load [1] 150/24 198/5 209/21 209/23 173/5 liaison [1] 101/1 looking [20] 23/23 190/1 loading [1] 184/11 knowledge [16] 3/22 lead [6] 19/22 24/25 lie [2] 173/24 174/8 local [9] 95/22 129/6 41/18 64/12 64/22 8/2 8/2 14/3 56/19 53/13 175/13 184/19 light [2] 4/24 29/24 129/10 140/9 140/16 71/2 95/23 100/10 88/10 88/12 91/18 like [55] 4/3 4/5 4/11 140/24 141/3 142/14 111/14 126/18 128/17 206/3 111/20 119/6 152/13 leader [1] 54/1 5/3 9/9 20/1 24/17 142/19 133/14 133/15 138/7 161/3 161/7 180/25 26/1 36/8 49/19 62/19 locate [3] 169/5 139/12 183/15 186/1 leading [1] 158/2 182/5 201/11 187/17 189/7 198/7 63/1 69/24 70/12 190/5 192/8 **Leads [1]** 110/1 known [17] 9/19 68/3 94/18 99/13 100/13 lean [1] 31/18 located [1] 114/10 199/5 71/6 94/13 95/6 98/3 103/25 108/21 109/16 location [4] 114/9 learn [1] 98/15 looks [6] 36/3 132/3 98/4 104/14 112/24 learned [1] 100/3 109/16 112/17 112/22 148/14 192/2 197/21 133/9 134/12 141/24 118/6 119/3 129/23 least [5] 7/12 12/1 119/4 120/9 123/24 198/1 locations [1] 113/1 133/25 160/24 180/4 47/17 191/20 194/12 125/3 126/1 132/3 locked [2] 34/10 **Lord [30]** 52/17 58/4 180/25 189/1 leave [2] 73/1 178/8 133/1 133/10 136/8 144/12 58/4 61/5 62/5 62/14 knows [2] 5/8 32/22 leaves [1] 169/25 140/24 141/24 145/20 log [5] 98/3 98/4 62/18 62/21 64/24 160/4 161/2 168/25 66/1 66/7 74/25 75/14 led [6] 15/24 67/25 118/6 168/24 168/25 82/12 85/9 196/25 170/4 174/23 179/5 logically [2] 130/16 77/22 78/24 78/25 labelled [1] 165/3 198/21 179/20 181/11 190/17 142/9 79/1 79/4 79/6 79/11 lack [2] 57/10 152/13 79/21 80/6 80/8 80/10 Lee [4] 6/1 6/25 191/11 191/14 194/19 logistical [1] 52/5 lacked [1] 50/20 14/19 45/17 195/3 197/16 198/1 **logistics** [2] 58/3 80/17 83/19 83/20 land [1] 14/8 left [7] 21/12 34/8 199/18 202/25 205/3 83/21 84/4 84/8 89/15 language [3] 11/22 36/9 64/4 64/22 83/21 208/23 210/4 logs [9] 112/24 Lord Grabiner [15] 85/16 85/19 114/15 163/13 165/3 84/8 likely [7] 102/15 58/4 61/5 62/14 62/18 laptop [4] 106/16 Legacy [3] 124/7 108/7 118/23 126/19 168/7 169/5 169/6 62/21 74/25 75/14 107/10 129/10 184/11 130/1 130/18 127/6 128/14 128/20 169/23 171/1 79/1 79/11 79/21 laptops [1] 106/20 83/19 83/20 83/21 legal [16] 36/3 52/14 likes [1] 205/25 long [17] 20/8 22/14 large [5] 24/9 61/3 52/23 60/8 80/7 80/18 limited [15] 8/9 17/14 22/15 35/17 41/24 84/4 84/8 92/11 92/15 114/17 80/22 94/16 113/22 27/23 27/25 37/7 Lord Grabiner's [2] 94/5 110/20 116/9 largely [1] 178/17 114/4 121/8 185/1 37/12 51/5 57/11 65/5 175/24 175/25 176/12 79/4 80/10 laser [1] 20/9 185/6 186/17 190/16 101/8 180/21 181/2 190/24 194/14 195/9 Lord Neuberger [6] last [15] 11/23 32/5 192/16 181/3 193/25 210/8 197/19 198/4 208/12 58/4 62/5 66/1 66/7 46/13 84/14 97/10 legally [2] 60/15 line [9] 2/25 3/15 longer [18] 41/22 77/22 78/24 120/2 128/4 158/15 86/11 33/1 77/14 82/10 94/14 112/10 119/19 Lord Neuberger's [1]

Lord Neuberger's... [1] 64/24 lose [2] 79/23 80/5 loss [4] 77/6 77/13 77/16 80/10 losses [1] 86/13 lost [1] 48/23 lot [7] 32/18 33/25 57/23 106/15 107/10 107/19 188/2 lots [3] 44/16 44/16 106/20 low [3] 97/21 171/19 172/1 Lucy [9] 125/14 126/7 128/8 138/7 144/11 146/21 151/15 183/5 184/6 lunch [4] 51/19 52/3 90/9 208/13 lurks [1] 34/24

M MacLeod [20] 8/8 58/6 58/24 59/10 59/18 60/1 60/10 63/15 64/5 67/12 67/25 72/18 73/17 76/10 77/21 82/4 82/12 83/7 85/9 86/3 MacLeod's [3] 60/22 78/20 82/19 made [31] 1/16 2/5 4/20 5/16 19/12 20/10 25/11 25/21 26/15 45/18 52/13 64/15 64/17 73/7 79/22 86/22 89/10 100/18 108/9 113/4 123/16 141/6 142/6 142/20 145/7 161/12 165/7 176/5 203/17 207/10 210/12 magic [1] 34/4 Mail [2] 18/6 18/7 mailbox [4] 101/9 101/14 101/18 101/24 main [1] 60/14 mainly [1] 103/6 major [1] 130/1 make [24] 2/19 4/4 4/14 7/10 35/7 38/20 51/4 51/18 52/13 65/5 68/1 82/12 116/8 133/3 134/8 145/6 148/21 152/19 157/22 165/14 166/16 168/2 174/11 175/1 makes [3] 63/10 117/3 146/9 making [14] 24/24 38/23 73/3 76/14

85/19 86/9 90/3 98/9 141/4 142/1 142/3 143/2 157/4 183/18 manage [3] 98/7 98/11 137/18 managed [7] 135/1 138/14 148/8 166/20 168/16 168/20 169/6 management [12] 29/10 53/20 54/23 95/5 97/4 97/8 97/12 97/19 97/21 98/13 137/21 154/11 manager [21] 93/2 93/9 93/11 93/16 93/17 94/6 94/19 94/23 94/25 99/25 101/1 102/4 102/21 109/16 109/24 109/25 131/2 137/16 137/17 139/8 190/4 Managers [1] 111/2 managing [1] 111/7 Mandy [37] 10/10 16/21 16/22 16/24 17/9 18/14 18/21 18/24 18/25 19/19 20/18 21/15 23/8 23/17 24/1 24/5 24/6 24/19 26/6 27/8 27/10 may [75] 2/5 3/16 5/4 28/14 29/5 29/20 31/11 31/20 32/5 33/9 34/19 36/9 37/4 38/5 38/9 38/13 47/24 48/2 50/23 Mandy's [1] 31/25 manual [1] 168/25 manually [1] 170/7 many [20] 6/13 8/11 20/24 32/2 64/18 73/21 100/5 110/25 149/6 149/16 160/3 162/14 173/9 179/13 185/10 186/10 188/4 193/19 194/23 209/18 March [49] 8/7 15/2 34/13 36/5 36/9 37/6 42/15 42/21 46/2 52/20 54/11 54/12 54/13 55/2 55/6 56/6 56/8 56/9 56/11 56/16 57/4 58/7 58/23 59/17 62/1 64/3 72/14 72/19 73/17 79/15 79/16 83/17 83/23 84/17 84/25 89/13 120/16 121/7 123/4 123/16 123/21 155/7 155/13 155/15 155/22 156/11 176/2 177/25 180/22 March 2004 [1] 42/15 March 2006 [1] 46/2

Marine [1] 14/22

mark [10] 73/13

99/21 110/1 125/7 127/7 127/17 172/19 172/21 202/21 206/1 mark-up [1] 73/13 Mason [1] 42/4 master [1] 170/18 match [1] 169/16 matching [1] 131/12 material [7] 12/12 53/4 59/18 124/22 127/25 182/6 202/25 materials [1] 127/22 **MATHEW [3]** 1/7 1/14 212/2 matter [11] 19/21 56/19 68/18 73/18 79/23 109/3 110/13 111/3 163/25 175/25 191/5 mattered [1] 186/16 matters [5] 8/4 20/17 52/5 70/22 203/21 Matthew [19] 90/21 90/23 91/3 107/6 114/7 121/12 125/19 131/8 134/25 140/3 142/16 146/22 148/1 151/16 158/22 166/3 196/22 198/9 212/8 6/21 7/20 7/20 7/25 8/5 8/5 9/18 9/23 14/12 21/1 30/21 30/21 35/13 37/16 40/5 41/18 42/25 44/15 68/11 69/19 69/19 72/3 76/9 79/25 87/1 87/2 91/5 93/9 94/2 95/23 96/15 96/24 97/14 100/15 102/9 102/17 106/18 112/9 114/17 123/9 125/6 125/20 125/23 127/8 127/19 128/14 128/18 128/19 129/3 129/5 130/15 139/7 139/9 149/11 150/7 150/16 152/16 159/13 161/11 164/7 165/25 175/10 177/16 180/4 182/1 188/18 189/3 192/13 201/3 205/12 205/13 208/23 maybe [7] 23/15 26/3 64/18 98/18 123/24 145/19 186/17 me [128] 4/20 7/16 9/8 9/20 10/16 11/10 11/20 11/21 13/3 18/17 19/2 19/4 19/4 20/9 20/9 20/12 22/2 24/1 24/4 24/5 25/7 26/1 28/10 28/12 28/13 30/23 36/22

36/22 36/23 40/12 40/24 41/14 50/24 59/15 59/16 60/23 63/11 66/8 66/24 67/10 67/12 67/12 68/2 68/6 68/6 69/2 69/9 72/7 78/17 80/25 81/5 81/7 82/6 82/24 84/6 84/14 85/17 87/6 101/19 101/21 102/8 102/19 104/8 105/22 111/9 115/23 117/19 117/23 117/23 119/1 120/6 123/11 125/13 126/2 127/19 127/20 128/6 128/15 128/20 131/5 131/23 132/22 135/23 136/7 136/23 140/23 142/23 143/2 143/6 143/12 145/6 145/15 146/8 146/9 151/9 151/22 152/16 158/9 162/7 163/1 178/6 179/11 179/14 179/23 184/3 184/4 184/9 186/11 187/15 191/6 193/24 197/1 199/3 207/16 mean [96] 7/16 20/8 50/7 54/5 61/13 65/25 72/1 77/1 77/8 78/9 82/14 83/14 85/11 97/14 98/8 98/22 100/6 102/15 103/10 104/6 106/18 108/17 119/23 120/1 120/6 120/8 121/20 128/15 128/25 129/7 129/10 132/17 132/19 133/4 136/8 136/22 139/4 141/4 142/6 143/18 143/21 145/4 145/16 145/24 146/4 146/6 157/18 158/12 167/5 177/6 179/2 179/13 180/5 182/10 185/25 186/7 186/16 186/19 186/25 187/5 188/15 194/4 194/14 194/18 199/4 199/21 200/3 201/18 201/19 205/7 209/20

meaning [3] 68/11 80/22 199/21 54/23 57/7 58/2 59/11 means [13] 64/9 66/20 67/22 90/13 120/9 121/22 121/24 127/3 150/13 150/15 168/22 172/22 173/3 meant [6] 49/4 49/5 49/10 49/11 132/14 133/25 89/9 93/18 94/1 101/9 mediate [1] 33/7 mediation [3] 26/12 102/10 102/17 102/18 26/16 104/21 meeting [15] 23/18 28/6 28/15 28/24 29/14 36/14 41/5 41/14 114/23 114/24 117/13 117/22 117/24 118/25 119/1 meetings [2] 2/14 185/6 member [3] 101/17 113/22 185/5 members [5] 54/16 99/5 106/3 110/12 204/10 Membery [1] 209/25 memorable [1] 103/23 187/17 190/11 190/13 memory [7] 7/6 12/13 15/1 41/9 103/5 193/14 194/16 mentally [1] 77/14 25/3 25/20 25/21 30/7 mention [2] 6/18 165/14 mentioned [10] 24/19 56/21 71/17 101/19 105/23 111/8 138/19 153/9 202/9 209/9 110/18 112/13 116/15 mentions [1] 116/19 merits [7] 22/17 24/11 27/18 30/9 30/15 83/7 83/24 130/12 130/15 130/16 message [1] 32/25 met [2] 41/9 44/4 133/17 135/11 135/13 method [7] 152/2 167/2 167/11 167/15 168/20 171/5 184/14 methodology [1] 167/12 149/21 150/13 150/14 methods [1] 167/3 150/18 152/11 152/23 Michael [3] 42/4 115/11 116/18 172/20 172/25 174/15 Microphone [1] 41/20 middle [8] 84/7 87/22 91/13 118/7 149/23 171/24 184/5 198/9 188/24 192/12 193/19 midway [1] 3/8 might [23] 31/23 35/5 39/5 51/16 59/11 63/7 71/22 77/2 88/15 106/22 108/17 160/22

М might... [11] 170/4 172/7 174/7 174/10 181/7 194/20 194/24 194/25 196/6 205/1 209/4 mind [16] 12/1 21/4 26/19 30/21 30/22 33/1 34/11 68/5 80/21 81/12 122/8 130/17 134/5 139/8 157/18 167/24 minds [1] 88/20 mine [1] 64/19 Minister [2] 73/22 75/4 minor [1] 118/12 minute [7] 81/4 152/23 190/11 191/2 191/10 191/16 191/18 minute-ish [1] 191/10 minutes [11] 51/5 51/13 51/15 51/17 73/18 75/23 87/9 149/4 190/20 191/12 191/15 misconceived [2] 39/6 39/16 missed [1] 125/22 missing [1] 174/16 mistake [6] 19/12 20/10 25/6 25/21 25/22 26/22 mistress [1] 4/8 mix [1] 205/6 mm [22] 93/7 94/11 95/17 96/15 97/1 97/1 107/4 108/14 112/13 123/1 124/9 131/24 140/8 143/5 157/11 163/20 170/1 170/6 171/12 180/15 181/10 198/10 mm-hm [16] 93/7 97/1 97/1 107/4 123/1 124/9 140/8 143/5 157/11 163/20 170/1 170/6 171/12 180/15 181/10 198/10 modifications [1] 162/13 modify [2] 162/11 166/8 Mohammed [1] 93/24 moment [3] 87/3 101/20 178/9 Monday [4] 57/5 67/3 82/17 183/10 money [1] 32/13 month [2] 35/23 42/19

months [8] 36/5 47/5 120/16 124/16 136/9 175/2 196/24 198/17 mood [2] 54/21 55/2 more [32] 7/5 20/20 21/7 26/1 40/4 44/13 55/20 55/21 57/18 58/1 74/4 83/3 93/16 108/18 128/20 136/1 146/3 150/23 151/11 153/9 173/5 174/14 175/21 185/16 188/2 188/10 193/24 194/2 200/7 204/13 205/10 209/24 Morgan [2] 23/5 23/5 morning [9] 1/3 1/4 41/19 51/24 51/25 70/17 90/5 147/13 210/20 most [6] 36/15 103/12 103/24 104/7 156/3 157/18 motivation [3] 60/11 60/15 86/9 motivations [3] 60/19 86/14 86/18 motive [1] 60/22 move [9] 14/19 34/21 51/2 74/21 108/21 134/18 161/2 184/1 195/3 moved [2] 19/6 142/23 moving [2] 32/6 207/5 **MP [1]** 73/23 Mr [120] 1/5 1/8 1/16 4/11 4/15 14/22 15/3 15/6 15/11 19/15 24/15 24/20 26/12 26/17 28/20 28/22 30/2 30/5 30/6 30/8 31/19 35/25 37/21 41/23 41/25 45/3 45/9 45/22 46/2 49/1 49/5 51/7 51/7 51/17 51/19 52/7 52/14 52/16 52/18 52/24 53/22 54/10 72/22 73/6 73/10 73/19 80/25 87/15 89/22 90/2 90/11 90/13 90/25 96/21 107/16 108/2 109/14 112/6 112/12 125/17 132/17 135/8 140/11 141/1 141/7 142/3 142/20 147/21 148/21 149/23 152/20 Mr Lenton's [1] 153/9 154/22 164/6 165/25 167/4 168/17 169/13 169/13 169/14 170/3 170/3 170/3

170/10 171/18 171/25

172/20 173/13 174/2 174/13 176/5 178/8 186/15 191/10 191/16 191/22 191/24 191/25 198/24 199/19 200/5 200/8 200/18 200/21 201/5 201/23 202/2 202/4 202/9 203/22 205/16 206/2 210/7 210/7 210/16 210/20 210/20 210/21 212/4 212/12 Mr Beer [1] 52/14 Mr Beezer [6] 1/5 1/16 51/17 80/25 87/15 90/2 Mr Castleton [16] 4/11 4/15 14/22 15/3 15/6 15/11 24/20 30/6 Mr Stein's [2] 191/10 31/19 35/25 37/21 41/23 41/25 45/22 46/2 49/5 Mr Castleton's [7] 19/15 24/15 26/12 26/17 28/20 28/22 30/2 Mr Cavender [3] 72/22 73/6 73/10 Mr Cavender's [1] 73/19 Mr Coyne [1] 205/16 Mr Davidson [1] 107/16 Mr de Garr [1] 200/8 Mr Dilley [2] 30/8 45/3 Mr Dilley's [2] 30/5 45/9 Mr Godeseth [5] 112/12 169/14 170/3 202/9 210/7 Mr lbbett [3] 169/13 170/3 176/5 Mr Jay [2] 125/17 186/15 Mr Jenkins [8] 108/2 109/14 112/6 201/23 202/2 202/4 203/22 206/2 Mr Jenkins' [1] 201/5 Mr Justice [2] 49/1 52/16 Mr Justice Fraser [3] 52/18 52/24 54/10 Mr Lenton [9] 51/7 51/19 90/25 96/21 152/20 153/9 191/25 200/21 210/16 90/11 Mr Newsome [3] 140/11 141/1 141/7 Mr Parker [17] 164/6 165/25 167/4 169/13

172/20 173/13 174/2 174/13 198/24 200/5 200/18 210/7 210/20 210/21 Mr Parker's [4] 168/17 171/25 178/8 199/19 Mr Parsons [2] 53/22 210/20 Mr Simpkins [5] 132/17 135/8 142/20 147/21 148/21 Mr Simpkins' [1] 149/23 Mr Simpson [1] 142/3 Mr Stein [1] 191/22 191/16 **MR STEVENS [6]** 1/8 51/7 52/7 89/22 90/13 212/4 **Ms [31]** 52/5 63/15 87/3 87/8 87/9 87/11 87/13 89/23 90/7 90/24 91/1 123/15 127/22 128/3 128/12 129/14 147/21 153/13 153/18 158/20 184/4 192/1 193/8 193/9 195/21 200/23 200/24 212/6 212/10 212/14 212/16 Ms Bremner [7] 127/22 128/3 128/12 129/14 147/21 158/20 184/4 Ms Hodge [6] 52/5 90/7 90/24 91/1 192/1 212/10 Ms MacLeod [1] 63/15 Ms Page [11] 87/8 87/9 87/11 87/13 89/23 193/8 193/9 195/21 200/23 212/6 212/14 Ms Price [1] 87/3 **Ms Prime [1]** 123/15 Ms Prime's [2] 153/13 153/18 **MSC [11]** 166/18 167/7 167/8 169/15 169/18 170/15 170/16 namely [1] 133/11 170/18 170/18 170/25 names [4] 37/16 173/18 MSCs [1] 170/11 much [18] 8/17 21/23 nature [3] 38/10 41/22 45/12 45/23 51/4 90/2 98/12 114/11 187/8 187/15 205/11 206/22 210/16 100/7 112/15 119/3

170/3 170/10 171/18

210/23 Muir [2] 179/23 182/1 multiple [3] 64/19 95/21 202/15 multiplicity [2] 204/5 209/5 music [2] 54/21 55/2 must [24] 11/14 12/7 19/20 24/19 29/9 32/16 32/25 39/18 41/6 57/13 57/24 59/19 61/7 71/5 84/10 114/24 174/15 179/10 183/23 197/15 199/3 199/19 200/6 209/17 mute [1] 41/21 muted [1] 41/20 mutual [1] 77/25 my [87] 3/16 4/6 4/6 4/6 4/17 4/22 4/25 7/6 7/13 8/22 11/6 11/10 15/1 20/12 20/12 20/13 24/2 24/5 24/18 25/21 25/22 26/19 26/22 26/22 27/25 28/7 30/8 30/14 31/25 32/5 37/6 44/2 47/4 52/8 55/25 56/19 57/20 59/8 59/16 60/8 60/13 60/18 62/24 66/8 68/4 70/4 70/21 76/21 78/12 78/16 80/21 81/12 85/11 86/10 86/15 86/24 87/2 88/10 90/25 94/25 99/6 99/8 100/3 105/7 116/15 121/21 126/14 139/10 152/13 167/18 168/4 172/25 173/8 178/11 178/16 182/5 182/11 185/3 186/2 186/2 186/9 188/3 190/14 191/25 193/11 200/21 208/22 myself [3] 3/14 78/12 116/24 name [7] 1/13 6/15 21/12 90/25 91/2

131/10 187/3 named [5] 6/17 111/23 121/14 131/14 164/18 113/18 192/17 192/18 narrative [1] 65/12 42/16 103/22 navigate [1] 14/4 near [1] 86/13 187/23 193/24 200/20 necessarily [8] 60/25

82/17 90/21 112/22 Ν necessarily... [4] 119/15 134/1 183/18 202/12 necessary [2] 87/23 166/15 need [39] 14/2 14/13 15/20 20/4 21/24 39/11 39/24 40/3 40/9 51/5 52/3 52/6 55/8 56/13 65/19 66/4 66/13 69/9 71/22 74/9 75/18 82/10 82/15 83/1 83/5 84/24 95/11 102/19 115/24 138/17 138/21 159/5 162/12 172/12 183/9 190/18 191/5 200/13 206/2 needed [4] 62/19 113/6 172/5 173/2 needs [6] 34/6 100/15 197/15 199/19 200/6 206/3 needs-must [2] 199/19 200/6 negative [2] 32/13 55/3 negotiation [1] 40/5 nerves [1] 17/17 nervous [3] 63/20 75/3 76/14 Neub [1] 58/25 Neuberger [10] 58/4 59/1 61/11 62/5 65/23 66/1 66/7 77/22 78/24 80/8 Neuberger's [1] 64/24 neutral [2] 72/8 76/18 never [9] 7/20 7/25 49/6 49/11 68/25 78/15 78/15 150/25 177/4 new [12] 7/22 28/12 36/22 40/12 57/21 57/23 108/21 131/18 159/17 160/18 161/2 176/23 Newport [1] 181/16 news [6] 18/5 18/24 27/6 27/7 68/14 68/17 Newsome [23] 109/15 111/7 112/3 113/19 114/3 117/16 117/20 118/21 119/25 121/8 125/17 137/24 138/4 139/8 140/2 140/11 141/1 141/7 142/12 198/20 205/24 206/24 207/13 next [14] 26/16 34/11

34/18 51/3 66/18

119/11 149/20 178/11 207/11 208/2 208/18 NHS [1] 93/12 night [1] 67/3 nine [4] 169/8 169/25 170/4 171/6 **no [144]** 5/24 6/23 6/24 8/19 9/15 11/6 12/13 17/24 18/16 21/19 21/22 22/1 22/11 27/1 28/8 28/18 28/25 29/15 31/20 32/14 33/7 33/7 36/19 36/21 37/22 40/12 40/14 41/1 41/4 41/9 45/25 47/5 48/1 48/9 48/16 48/21 48/22 49/22 49/22 54/6 54/9 55/4 55/7 57/6 63/17 63/19 63/23 64/11 65/11 65/16 67/10 68/23 72/21 72/21 76/4 76/13 76/18 79/22 82/21 82/21 82/21 83/9 83/14 83/16 84/2 84/2 84/24 85/21 87/6 93/18 96/15 101/19 105/17 106/6 106/14 106/18 107/17 107/23 112/10 **nothing [3]** 29/12 112/21 118/5 118/18 119/9 119/10 119/19 119/21 120/13 121/22 notify [1] 137/2 121/25 121/25 122/3 128/11 130/21 132/4 133/10 133/11 133/17 134/18 135/13 136/8 138/24 139/19 140/19 143/2 143/9 143/24 145/24 146/7 146/7 146/9 154/5 156/4 156/12 156/18 159/11 165/16 166/7 172/3 173/1 174/15 177/12 179/13 180/1 181/22 182/3 182/17 186/16 188/15 189/7 189/20 189/23 190/3 197/5 197/8 199/11 199/16 199/24 200/19 200/20 201/18 201/25 202/3 203/19 210/13 **nobody** [1] 197/7 nodding [2] 14/25 203/2 non [2] 67/18 185/20 non-disclosure [1] 185/20 Non-Executive [1] 67/18 none [1] 58/21 Nor [1] 50/15 normal [4] 48/16

92/11 not [276] note [68] 21/11 21/16 23/13 24/4 28/6 29/3 36/17 37/24 40/16 40/17 41/15 43/16 43/19 56/9 58/8 58/12 58/25 59/3 59/7 59/16 62/8 64/3 64/23 64/24 68/1 69/4 69/5 69/8 69/9 69/12 69/14 69/21 70/24 71/13 72/8 72/21 73/5 75/25 76/6 76/21 77/22 77/23 77/24 78/10 79/3 79/5 79/14 79/17 80/25 81/4 81/24 82/13 83/14 83/15 83/18 83/19 84/3 84/16 85/10 87/1 87/16 142/6 150/3 156/4 176/16 205/23 207/6 207/17 notebook [1] 58/13 **notepaper** [1] 81/1 notes [9] 2/13 2/13 2/15 59/5 59/6 59/8 79/9 81/17 82/2 57/25 58/19 noticed [1] 100/12 notion [1] 39/15 November [29] 10/19 16/10 16/21 21/11 24/3 26/11 26/17 31/12 33/7 35/22 46/15 47/13 49/1 49/6 49/8 93/1 112/25 113/9 114/1 117/14 122/25 151/1 153/25 155/3 155/7 155/22 159/23 180/14 184/5 now [95] 1/20 2/12 2/21 3/19 4/16 5/1 7/12 14/19 23/5 23/9 26/5 26/7 29/19 34/12 34/23 35/14 39/6 40/7 52/16 53/6 58/11 60/7 61/16 65/21 66/8 66/18 75/24 76/2 76/7 79/6 79/7 81/20 90/9 97/2 98/2 100/9 114/22 115/10 115/22 116/2 116/8 116/16 117/9 117/13 118/16 119/17 120/6 121/22 122/7 123/3 123/14 126/18 128/9 135/7 135/25 136/2 136/18 137/11 138/4 138/25 142/12 142/15 142/18 198/12

49/23 188/6 194/24

normally [2] 92/10

144/21 147/14 148/19 October [5] 8/7 149/4 149/18 151/5 152/6 152/19 156/14 157/2 157/22 159/6 163/21 167/3 169/4 175/2 177/24 179/15 179/17 181/6 181/20 183/6 183/12 185/4 187/5 188/18 191/17 200/14 210/19 nucleus [1] 57/2 number [22] 1/18 6/13 18/1 29/21 33/24 office [126] 6/1 6/5 66/5 84/21 112/24 116/13 146/14 150/17 151/20 160/15 160/18 170/12 171/7 171/11 172/6 185/9 193/25 203/22 210/17 number 1 [1] 29/21 number 2 [3] 18/1 33/24 66/5 numbers [3] 43/8 45/5 162/16 **numerous** [1] 28/7 **NVQ [1]** 94/13 O observation [1] 89/10 obsolete [3] 95/9 122/2 122/3 obtain [7] 22/19 39/24 40/9 102/11 106/12 179/7 181/4 obtained [10] 91/24

108/5 109/8 110/9 120/22 122/11 141/1 148/19 178/25 179/22 obtaining [3] 38/15 45/23 110/12 obviously [20] 31/8 40/19 59/6 64/10 81/3 88/5 92/10 92/14 103/7 103/11 104/25 110/21 110/22 116/2 117/4 141/20 186/19 193/23 201/18 209/19 occasion [4] 125/18 168/15 178/6 194/2 occasionally [1] 100/12 occasions [5] 28/7 109/20 153/17 177/1 196/3 occur [1] 136/7 occurred [5] 84/12 136/3 136/18 136/23 162/14 **OCP [3]** 166/21 167/7

167/8

OCPs [2] 196/18

104/10 146/20 160/6 181/14 off [18] 10/11 19/4 159/22 161/15 162/15 24/6 41/12 58/22 59/3 61/11 81/16 168/4 168/18 168/22 170/19 173/18 176/17 176/19 186/2 197/8 210/19 offer [3] 26/15 26/15 70/11 offering [2] 174/11 174/25 6/7 6/10 6/12 6/24 7/2 7/14 7/23 8/9 8/11 8/14 8/17 8/19 8/23 8/24 9/2 9/13 9/18 9/20 10/10 10/12 10/15 11/5 11/12 11/12 11/15 14/23 15/2 15/5 15/16 17/14 18/11 27/8 27/14 31/9 31/18 32/10 32/11 32/13 32/16 32/19 33/6 34/1 34/9 35/19 36/10 37/14 37/19 38/14 40/3 47/21 49/25 50/18 53/25 55/12 55/13 58/20 58/21 60/2 63/16 65/5 65/9 68/23 70/23 72/23 74/7 79/22 79/24 80/4 80/4 80/9 80/11 80/13 85/22 86/1 86/10 88/1 88/11 88/22 93/5 93/11 93/17 94/6 94/20 94/23 95/1 95/7 96/13 99/11 99/12 99/17 101/2 101/8 101/15 102/3 102/7 102/13 102/25 104/3 104/5 104/21 105/2 105/8 105/15 108/20 108/24 109/17 109/19 109/23 113/1 114/8 114/12 117/11 139/16 158/23 166/8 175/14 180/11 180/22 181/2 189/10 189/14 194/1 202/16 203/20 Office's [25] 17/17 28/16 29/23 60/11 109/2 111/5 111/11 111/24 115/3 118/17 124/17 131/23 136/21 137/22 139/2 139/22 155/2 157/24 158/8 163/16 165/8 168/6 173/14 179/8 189/25 offices [2] 109/20 181/15 official [1] 67/16

86/16 101/17 102/5 134/2 138/23 143/14 199/24 0 others [5] 88/17 103/6 104/25 105/8 146/8 148/10 148/22 108/23 114/6 192/13 oversee [1] 102/2 often [9] 17/2 92/21 106/9 107/24 110/9 150/15 152/11 152/23 192/15 oversight [14] 9/12 109/15 110/17 118/13 118/20 118/21 119/13 153/24 154/2 154/2 **otherwise [2]** 55/5 9/15 17/20 40/20 54/3 162/22 177/12 207/17 119/24 122/9 123/2 155/7 155/22 156/2 92/12 54/5 185/1 186/14 207/20 123/7 138/23 141/4 156/24 157/2 159/15 ought [4] 12/20 13/21 186/20 186/21 187/8 **Oglesby [2]** 22/5 156/2 159/19 166/10 161/7 161/11 162/11 105/11 174/3 187/20 187/22 188/1 29/25 169/8 169/17 179/13 162/21 166/8 166/8 ounce [1] 19/11 overstated [1] **Oh [3]** 55/24 55/25 192/10 194/3 194/19 167/3 167/7 170/16 our [31] 7/15 16/12 145/20 136/12 170/19 171/4 172/4 25/6 25/9 33/1 34/11 210/4 overstating [2] 19/8 okay [21] 10/17 operated [1] 8/14 172/24 173/9 173/25 34/23 41/19 42/12 19/10 39/13 39/14 54/22 175/16 175/24 177/9 42/20 45/19 57/20 overtly [1] 167/22 operating [3] 182/6 66/10 73/20 82/21 182/8 182/13 178/19 178/19 180/7 72/7 73/3 74/4 75/3 overwritten [1] 82/25 91/23 94/15 operation [3] 113/2 181/25 182/7 182/8 75/4 75/19 76/2 77/23 159/17 109/15 122/21 123/14 130/20 182/8 183/9 183/12 183/13 79/2 90/21 115/13 own [6] 27/5 73/1 124/2 138/19 145/9 operational [2] 189/10 189/17 189/22 115/21 126/21 128/4 86/7 99/14 119/4 167/10 167/14 192/17 190/2 191/17 192/8 146/24 152/24 184/1 130/21 166/23 139/18 198/3 208/16 198/1 199/6 200/2 187/24 190/18 owned [2] 99/16 Operations [1] **old [4]** 92/19 121/23 200/7 200/17 202/1 ourselves [2] 81/22 179/21 101/9 121/24 155/25 203/23 205/14 209/24 180/19 opinion [7] 50/14 **ownership** [1] 68/5 **OLIVER [2]** 200/24 74/2 112/14 120/15 oral [1] 90/5 out [53] 9/10 10/20 212/16 P 131/2 142/10 185/3 order [10] 19/24 13/14 14/7 16/17 34/4 on [391] page [101] 1/25 2/8 opportunity [5] 4/5 48/25 56/5 111/17 35/18 42/21 44/3 once [12] 26/6 33/10 4/16 5/1 174/24 178/7 172/24 176/17 176/23 45/18 48/18 48/21 3/8 3/15 7/8 16/3 33/11 41/10 138/23 181/24 196/3 201/7 49/22 52/16 57/17 16/20 24/23 25/10 optional [2] 139/16 138/24 141/18 141/22 58/4 58/15 59/6 63/23 28/19 29/17 32/3 36/6 organisation [3] 58/2 139/18 149/22 153/9 164/25 36/25 42/8 46/23 47/2 67/13 70/8 70/22 options [1] 73/2 92/10 101/24 166/9 47/6 55/9 56/13 69/15 or [177] 2/13 7/21 8/2 organising [1] 58/6 70/25 71/10 73/2 one [77] 2/22 16/12 69/16 70/3 72/12 12/16 12/19 12/21 orient [1] 180/19 74/12 79/7 80/9 87/19 19/20 24/16 28/8 73/16 76/20 76/22 13/9 13/10 13/17 orientate [1] 81/22 87/24 88/7 89/18 30/24 33/14 36/2 77/4 77/15 79/19 82/2 13/17 13/22 13/23 original [14] 95/17 95/24 103/4 120/3 36/22 40/15 41/17 84/21 87/8 87/9 87/11 14/12 14/13 14/17 125/12 126/16 126/22 120/12 132/11 134/15 44/20 48/10 50/12 142/24 147/23 155/13 87/13 87/19 89/23 21/6 21/18 24/17 135/14 147/17 150/5 51/6 56/7 59/11 59/12 158/19 161/17 168/13 91/10 91/13 94/22 24/25 26/8 27/8 27/11 163/12 164/17 169/4 59/13 59/15 60/14 97/16 101/4 109/11 27/23 29/11 31/4 175/8 176/18 196/24 170/20 171/13 172/24 64/4 70/23 72/9 77/2 113/25 121/5 123/20 33/12 34/6 35/5 37/11 198/17 174/1 174/5 182/8 77/8 83/17 87/8 93/16 125/13 131/4 131/5 37/16 37/18 38/3 originally [5] 99/9 184/20 194/20 204/8 95/11 95/14 95/25 131/25 134/22 137/13 42/19 43/10 45/1 126/9 154/22 176/17 outcome [1] 55/14 97/2 98/7 104/7 137/13 139/25 141/14 47/16 48/7 48/20 204/13 outcomes [2] 65/23 105/22 111/18 117/4 142/11 144/9 144/9 50/25 51/8 51/13 osmosis [1] 88/11 66/7 125/1 125/3 125/5 146/20 147/23 149/11 51/19 52/3 55/5 56/4 other [67] 19/16 31/4 outlined [1] 181/18 127/15 134/15 142/25 149/14 149/24 151/13 56/6 58/17 58/20 32/18 32/21 32/23 output [1] 204/22 142/25 144/18 161/24 151/14 152/15 158/17 60/17 61/15 61/18 33/18 36/23 41/11 outset [1] 4/6 163/1 164/19 167/17 62/20 63/16 64/11 47/5 50/4 50/19 53/11 158/18 162/6 162/8 outside [1] 101/24 169/17 169/23 169/25 163/1 163/15 164/6 65/10 66/12 67/8 53/13 58/20 76/13 outstanding [1] 172/19 172/21 172/23 166/1 168/13 168/13 70/12 71/24 73/18 88/15 88/18 92/24 125/23 173/6 175/10 179/15 169/11 171/23 171/24 76/11 76/19 77/20 93/25 96/5 99/12 over [30] 4/24 10/4 183/3 188/3 190/11 173/15 175/7 176/2 99/22 101/8 101/21 30/17 31/5 34/15 47/2 78/20 78/25 80/19 190/19 191/1 191/10 178/5 181/12 181/13 81/4 83/3 83/25 84/5 102/5 102/6 103/19 54/7 58/1 69/4 69/9 194/2 194/3 197/13 84/14 85/19 86/22 103/24 105/3 105/10 183/2 183/2 184/2 76/19 80/22 82/10 198/3 199/24 201/10 184/3 184/5 193/8 92/11 92/21 93/17 106/12 108/9 110/11 82/15 83/2 83/5 100/1 203/22 204/3 204/11 193/9 195/21 196/9 94/1 94/9 94/16 95/15 110/18 111/22 112/12 101/20 104/25 108/2 206/3 209/25 210/2 196/10 197/20 198/6 96/24 98/5 98/7 98/18 112/16 113/15 114/15 115/22 116/3 116/10 one's [1] 175/8 200/23 212/6 212/14 100/17 100/18 102/2 116/20 117/1 117/25 127/22 144/4 150/24 ones [6] 30/3 110/10 page 1 [9] 16/20 32/3 103/13 104/21 104/22 121/8 122/16 126/13 186/11 187/1 187/12 122/16 156/25 157/1 72/12 123/20 137/13 105/10 106/1 106/4 128/16 142/8 142/25 187/24 186/10 107/2 107/21 109/16 145/4 147/11 154/20 144/9 171/23 176/2 overall [2] 19/15 ongoing [1] 189/21 184/3 110/4 111/2 111/5 156/12 157/10 163/3 25/23 Online [4] 40/6 124/7 164/23 177/16 185/10 overcoming [1] 116/24 117/20 117/24 page 10 [2] 158/18 150/1 165/12 198/6 118/3 118/11 118/25 188/20 192/11 192/16 22/16 only [40] 3/4 22/10 120/9 125/7 127/7 194/22 196/12 197/23 overinflated [1] 36/1 page 18 [2] 46/23 35/21 36/21 36/23 109/11 128/14 129/11 130/11 201/16 203/19 209/11 overlap [3] 8/8 11/3 44/7 47/8 48/1 59/3 page 2 [11] 16/3 77/4 130/15 130/24 132/12 209/25 97/14 61/11 68/17 86/14 79/19 134/22 144/9 132/23 133/6 133/24 other's [1] 204/22 overnight [2] 197/8

176/16 176/19 176/23 118/23 120/8 157/23 19/6 19/8 39/17 41/8 P Parker's [8] 110/3 168/17 171/25 178/8 177/13 197/10 188/10 190/19 196/10 78/2 95/11 107/12 page 2... [6] 147/23 190/14 199/19 209/20 PEAK/KEL [1] period [10] 7/14 8/10 115/1 119/16 143/16 152/15 162/6 164/6 209/21 151/23 8/25 9/11 9/23 42/19 143/20 175/7 183/2 Parsons [11] 53/13 PEAKs [17] 97/25 89/14 96/12 110/20 placed [4] 4/18 12/24 page 3 [11] 28/19 53/22 55/18 61/24 98/22 98/23 100/11 185/24 96/18 205/2 29/17 42/8 70/3 94/22 69/17 70/15 72/13 114/15 138/9 138/16 periodically [1] 18/25 places [3] 95/22 101/4 121/5 151/13 73/17 175/8 197/24 139/2 144/13 151/20 permanent [1] 133/18 172/6 151/14 196/9 197/20 210/20 157/8 172/19 172/21 176/14 plain [1] 69/8 page 32 [1] 1/25 173/6 197/4 199/10 plan [6] 26/18 26/19 Parsons' [2] 53/6 permanently [4] 93/8 page 4 [7] 47/6 69/15 202/25 93/10 159/17 177/4 63/20 63/24 196/24 53/9 73/16 87/19 125/13 PEAKs/KELs [1] 198/17 Parsons's [2] 54/3 **permission [3]** 52/22 146/20 181/12 70/9 151/20 177/9 191/7 **planks [1]** 60/14 Page 41 [1] 2/8 part [28] 2/12 12/9 **Pearce [18]** 5/6 5/8 permissions [1] planned [1] 4/14 page 5 [5] 7/8 55/9 21/2 23/1 24/9 24/10 5/16 6/4 6/12 6/19 175/21 planning [1] 168/21 82/2 168/13 181/13 26/15 28/23 33/8 10/7 12/9 12/14 15/5 person [16] 44/7 play [2] 36/16 111/11 page **51 [1]** 91/10 34/12 34/13 39/16 15/9 16/6 25/12 26/6 53/14 57/7 61/13 playing [2] 3/13 21/2 page 6 [3] 36/25 46/2 73/25 77/15 28/8 38/19 48/4 48/7 61/14 61/19 62/7 please [196] 1/13 97/16 168/13 94/19 94/25 99/9 Pearce/Womble [1] 86/16 101/19 186/18 1/22 1/25 2/6 2/8 2/21 page 7 [1] 56/13 99/10 101/1 132/7 187/3 187/12 192/10 2/23 3/3 3/7 3/8 3/15 page 9 [3] 36/6 143/24 152/13 155/13 200/16 204/3 206/4 7/7 7/8 7/16 9/25 10/1 peer [3] 92/25 204/21 158/17 178/5 172/24 196/1 202/18 206/7 personal [3] 8/22 10/18 16/3 16/3 16/20 pages [5] 55/20 91/7 peeved [1] 18/22 203/17 186/19 191/5 20/1 21/10 22/3 25/10 116/10 158/17 194/19 Participants [1] 76/3 pen [5] 64/13 64/13 personally [6] 4/12 26/2 28/2 28/19 29/16 Pages 9 [1] 158/17 particular [10] 10/25 64/13 64/17 64/19 63/7 83/9 110/25 29/17 32/3 34/12 36/6 paid [1] 42/18 36/25 37/5 37/23 42/8 30/2 74/25 87/15 pens [1] 64/18 112/21 196/6 Panaech [4] 10/7 42/9 46/14 46/23 47/6 103/4 124/25 133/10 personnel [1] 203/23 penultimate [2] 10/8 10/9 10/18 145/18 176/18 202/9 58/10 61/23 64/1 64/3 10/22 176/21 perspective [2] panel [1] 7/23 particularly [7] people [57] 9/17 54/23 154/11 65/17 66/18 66/20 paper [1] 70/7 100/21 104/20 185/15 11/13 11/21 16/13 69/15 69/15 70/3 persuaded [1] 62/19 papers [3] 24/6 56/7 72/12 73/15 73/16 186/6 187/16 187/21 53/11 53/13 55/19 Pete [27] 109/15 56/8 209/22 70/8 79/2 88/11 88/15 111/7 112/3 113/19 74/21 76/5 76/5 76/19 para [1] 62/3 Particulars [1] 10/21 114/3 114/7 117/16 88/23 92/17 93/25 77/4 79/13 79/19 paragraph [20] 7/8 parties [4] 34/6 92/24 81/21 82/2 84/14 95/18 95/23 99/23 117/20 118/21 119/25 10/22 28/19 39/9 101/8 105/3 101/21 102/5 102/6 121/8 123/23 124/3 84/15 87/18 89/10 45/15 47/7 55/9 56/10 partisan [1] 71/2 102/6 102/7 102/9 125/17 125/19 137/24 90/22 91/2 91/10 56/13 72/14 87/22 partly [2] 89/3 204/20 105/7 105/8 105/10 91/22 92/7 94/8 94/18 138/4 138/7 139/8 94/24 97/16 101/5 105/14 105/22 106/10 139/12 140/2 140/10 94/20 94/22 97/16 partner [13] 5/16 109/11 164/14 165/20 142/12 198/20 205/24 97/17 101/4 106/23 5/18 8/20 9/11 9/15 106/19 110/4 110/18 176/7 180/20 183/8 110/19 111/8 111/17 206/24 207/12 108/21 109/10 109/12 9/20 10/13 17/19 paragraph 12 [1] 7/8 25/21 53/16 53/25 111/19 112/17 117/1 **Peters [2]** 189/13 112/22 113/24 113/25 paragraph 14 [2] 54/2 175/9 127/17 178/18 188/4 189/13 115/10 115/15 115/21 28/19 56/13 192/11 192/16 196/12 phase [4] 4/13 4/14 115/23 116/5 119/11 partner's [1] 54/9 paragraph 2.1.2 [1] 197/23 201/6 201/10 121/4 121/5 121/15 parts [3] 6/21 58/15 4/15 14/21 47/7 202/19 203/19 203/24 Phase 4 [3] 4/13 4/15 123/20 125/12 125/13 61/3 paragraph 47 [1] 125/14 126/2 126/5 pass [2] 102/8 104/2 204/17 204/22 204/25 14/21 109/11 passage [1] 159/2 205/9 207/24 210/18 **philosophy** [1] 91/25 127/20 129/13 129/20 paragraph 8 [2] 129/22 131/4 131/25 passed [2] 57/18 210/21 **phone [3]** 45/17 94/24 101/5 per [1] 145/20 102/17 85/12 174/17 133/8 134/13 134/22 paragraph 9 [1] 55/9 137/13 137/15 138/2 passing [2] 40/13 **perceived** [2] 61/4 phrase [4] 57/22 72/5 paragraphs [2] 2/1 44/13 61/4 203/23 204/8 139/25 141/10 141/12 181/13 perceiving [1] 62/25 **PIC [1]** 76/24 141/15 142/11 146/18 past [1] 89/4 paraphrased [1] 146/20 147/22 147/23 pasted [1] 135/4 perception [1] 74/6 pick [1] 45/17 201/13 149/10 149/11 149/13 paucity [1] 70/4 perfect [2] 29/17 picked [3] 88/9 Parker [27] 109/25 149/14 149/19 149/24 Paul [1] 11/1 206/22 170/25 208/24 164/1 164/6 165/25 pause [4] 10/3 26/5 perfectly [4] 102/9 picking [2] 25/12 150/3 151/12 151/13 167/4 169/13 170/3 87/5 122/19 104/9 108/7 127/4 151/13 152/15 152/18 88/15 170/10 171/18 172/20 pausing [2] 39/8 75/9 perform [1] 204/4 picture [9] 7/20 7/25 152/24 153/8 153/18 173/13 174/2 174/13 performed [2] 162/13 14/14 35/18 55/19 pay [4] 34/7 40/3 158/14 158/18 158/18 175/1 177/11 178/1 80/9 88/24 203/24 55/21 59/13 76/24 160/5 161/2 161/15 196/12 198/8 198/12 161/16 162/3 162/5 **PEAK [15]** 100/15 performing [1] 76/25 198/24 199/6 200/5 100/19 131/13 131/16 202/24 **pill [1]** 35/21 162/9 162/25 163/1 200/18 206/1 210/7 perhaps [10] 103/23 151/23 153/20 172/24 PinICL [1] 153/20 163/10 163/14 164/4 210/20 210/21 172/25 175/16 175/20 106/22 108/18 109/10 place [13] 7/13 7/23 164/6 166/2 166/19

21/10 27/8 27/14 28/16 P **prefer [3]** 51/13 **printed** [2] 37/1 POL00070496 [1] 29/23 31/9 31/18 132/12 132/18 76/20 please... [42] 168/12 preference [1] 16/3 32/10 32/11 32/13 prior [5] 6/25 54/18 168/14 168/19 169/11 POL00070850 [1] 32/16 32/19 33/6 34/1 176/13 75/11 175/5 176/10 170/9 170/14 171/22 37/23 34/9 35/19 36/10 prefers [1] 70/13 **Private [1]** 16/15 171/23 171/24 173/15 POL00070910 [1] 37/14 37/19 38/14 prejudice [1] 24/21 privilege [1] 58/17 175/5 175/7 175/12 40/2 47/20 49/25 preparation [3] 23/22 privileged [10] 16/15 29/16 176/1 178/4 178/5 50/18 55/12 55/13 POL00071202 [1] 112/19 178/11 48/22 163/18 165/14 178/9 178/11 178/13 58/20 58/21 60/2 prepare [2] 38/22 167/20 168/8 168/24 36/6 179/7 180/8 180/19 60/10 63/16 65/5 65/9 82/7 169/20 171/15 175/4 POL00081490 [1] 181/12 183/1 183/2 42/2 68/23 70/22 72/23 prepared [7] 10/24 privileges [1] 163/5 183/3 184/1 184/23 74/6 79/22 79/24 80/3 16/16 23/11 24/13 POL00119895 [1] **proactive [2]** 9/19 191/15 196/10 197/17 80/4 80/9 80/11 80/13 44/12 164/11 180/3 28/2 14/8 198/6 206/17 206/20 85/22 86/1 86/10 88/1 preparing [11] 23/14 POL00142517 [1] **probably [32]** 8/17 207/2 207/11 208/1 93/5 93/11 93/16 94/6 37/11 41/4 41/7 56/20 10/2 9/9 11/6 11/17 11/17 208/4 208/8 208/14 POL00142534 [1] 94/19 94/22 95/1 95/7 56/24 57/3 69/6 83/2 22/12 24/9 25/19 44/3 208/17 208/18 96/13 99/11 99/12 83/4 203/9 45/12 67/10 68/4 84/4 10/18 plough [1] 52/3 85/11 88/10 94/14 POL00330036 [1] 99/17 101/2 101/8 present [3] 41/6 plus [1] 111/9 101/15 102/3 102/7 93/13 101/11 98/17 99/22 100/2 74/21 pm [8] 70/15 90/16 102/13 102/25 104/3 106/1 108/3 112/2 POL00416010 [1] **presented** [1] 36/8 90/18 153/2 153/4 104/4 104/21 105/2 113/19 120/22 122/13 200/14 presently [1] 113/5 193/2 193/4 210/25 policy [1] 130/23 105/8 105/15 108/20 preserved [1] 92/19 123/19 140/21 179/1 **POID [1]** 10/24 pondered [1] 25/25 108/23 109/2 109/17 press [1] 82/25 188/2 188/7 194/18 point [59] 7/10 16/25 pondering [1] 86/6 109/18 109/23 111/5 pressed [2] 51/14 198/1 18/19 18/20 19/5 111/11 111/24 113/1 problem [11] 3/10 portrayed [2] 85/22 129/14 19/19 20/8 21/6 21/9 114/8 114/12 115/3 34/14 34/22 43/6 86/1 pressing [1] 174/21 23/4 23/12 24/22 27/3 117/11 118/17 124/17 posing [1] 209/10 43/25 47/16 131/10 pressure [2] 74/4 27/4 30/23 33/3 35/8 131/23 136/21 137/22 position [13] 19/11 86/22 131/17 141/23 145/12 40/14 41/14 45/9 34/1 49/21 52/14 139/2 139/16 139/22 pressurised [1] 150/19 45/18 46/3 48/11 52/23 65/15 72/4 155/2 157/24 158/8 problems [8] 27/11 207/19 48/25 49/2 49/16 presumably [24] 74/16 76/16 82/19 158/23 163/15 165/8 35/25 42/10 42/12 52/12 52/13 57/8 61/6 86/7 159/5 202/15 166/8 166/10 168/6 11/15 17/11 18/6 42/25 43/24 46/6 47/8 63/25 65/11 65/22 22/16 27/14 31/11 173/14 175/14 179/8 positive [4] 54/20 procedural [4] 71/20 68/4 70/25 71/20 72/2 54/20 54/21 169/9 180/11 180/22 181/2 58/25 59/3 62/5 64/17 71/22 72/2 72/10 75/13 80/12 80/15 181/15 189/14 189/25 possibility [4] 65/25 65/18 68/14 76/24 **procedure [5]** 98/13 81/20 83/3 86/8 88/13 66/6 139/1 174/25 194/1 202/16 203/20 107/12 117/13 124/2 147/3 165/5 165/21 98/9 104/2 107/6 possible [28] 16/16 post-post-set [1] 132/14 140/7 144/19 181/18 108/13 116/8 128/17 42/12 43/23 47/8 26/23 155/14 166/15 177/8 procedures [3] 97/23 129/1 143/2 145/6 180/17 193/20 132/7 163/8 47/16 47/19 55/14 potential [7] 18/12 153/23 157/4 157/22 65/23 66/7 73/8 102/9 18/15 21/8 27/4 30/19 pretty [4] 18/22 **proceeding [1]** 74/10 159/20 164/17 210/12 102/16 108/7 117/18 46/6 50/9 114/11 116/25 139/11 proceedings [24] 6/3 pointless [1] 48/22 117/19 117/25 118/23 potentially [7] 45/8 prevarication [2] 6/18 10/20 11/4 11/5 points [11] 21/24 127/4 128/25 129/3 56/4 114/9 148/14 63/5 63/21 12/22 19/23 20/22 64/23 79/13 83/16 34/4 34/25 42/6 53/3 129/5 130/16 141/6 157/16 161/1 189/7 previous [11] 95/8 94/8 115/18 116/14 141/9 150/23 166/10 **PR [5]** 77/11 77/12 119/18 136/4 153/17 53/7 54/17 57/11 116/18 129/23 176/8 191/15 207/15 77/16 78/11 78/14 159/10 159/16 159/18 57/14 88/19 189/22 188/16 167/18 168/17 177/1 possibly [22] 65/22 practical [1] 172/17 190/2 201/3 201/24 poison [1] 35/21 100/10 100/20 112/3 practically [1] 204/3 207/7 202/18 203/7 206/16 **POL [11]** 4/20 18/7 proceeds [1] 135/3 118/25 119/2 120/7 **practice** [3] 5/23 **previously [8]** 93/22 65/4 66/3 66/4 114/13 128/14 133/15 146/3 24/23 25/4 93/23 135/20 136/1 process [25] 14/4 164/19 164/20 167/19 156/18 157/9 157/17 practised [1] 5/20 138/19 144/1 152/7 77/25 88/1 95/2 95/12 202/1 203/14 170/17 170/19 179/14 practitioner [6] 12/24 157/15 96/24 98/3 98/4 98/6 **POL's [2]** 66/6 180/18 187/13 189/3 13/3 13/9 13/16 13/20 Price [1] 87/3 98/11 107/6 147/4 166/14 194/22 199/21 200/3 166/17 166/24 184/25 14/3 **primarily [1]** 5/25 **POL-TC [1]** 167/19 post [151] 6/1 6/5 6/7 pre [3] 54/24 55/2 **Prime [8]** 55/18 186/4 195/4 196/1 POL00006397 [1] 6/10 6/12 6/24 7/2 209/24 61/24 114/2 121/6 196/3 197/14 204/16 79/14 7/14 7/23 8/9 8/11 122/13 123/4 123/15 206/6 206/8 206/12 pre-8 March [1] 55/2 POL00022969 [1] 8/14 8/17 8/19 8/23 123/25 209/13 pre-Common [1] 73/15 8/24 9/2 9/12 9/18 processes [8] 97/15 54/24 Prime's [2] 153/13 POL00069612 [1] 9/20 10/9 10/12 10/15 97/23 103/14 130/10 pre-written [1] 153/18 43/16 147/18 163/7 164/18 11/5 11/12 11/12 209/24 principal [2] 95/25 POL00069955 [1] 11/15 14/23 15/2 15/5 **precision [1]** 8/19 110/10 200/11 46/14 15/16 17/14 17/17 processing [1] predecessor [1] principle [3] 96/14 POL00070480 [1] 18/11 26/23 26/23 153/20 147/10 204/21 102/24

118/24 119/5 119/22 queried [1] 116/23 R reason [22] 33/24 120/16 120/22 120/24 queries [4] 146/14 96/8 100/9 106/8 Procurator [1] raise [7] 14/12 46/7 121/1 123/11 124/21 147/14 151/5 202/1 108/11 118/22 122/2 189/10 100/15 116/14 136/24 125/8 126/9 126/19 query [11] 140/1 142/4 143/10 143/11 produce [3] 92/15 138/17 188/17 127/4 136/5 136/20 141/11 149/12 154/23 143/13 143/19 143/22 196/25 198/18 raised [18] 20/7 139/22 144/3 153/25 158/5 163/17 166/5 144/25 145/18 162/22 47/14 47/17 49/20 produced [9] 10/25 154/14 155/2 155/6 168/16 175/3 176/1 182/3 188/23 193/18 12/2 81/17 102/25 50/9 55/4 56/17 62/4 155/21 156/2 156/3 193/21 197/13 209/4 177/24 75/12 121/17 123/15 114/16 169/8 169/16 156/11 157/13 157/19 querying [2] 134/8 reasonable [2] 181/19 203/13 138/10 150/4 150/6 160/23 161/4 168/23 171/9 170/12 191/19 product [1] 131/18 158/7 174/14 176/17 174/14 178/1 178/14 question [40] 11/10 reasonably [1] 18/25 professional [1] 176/23 179/6 179/23 180/11 11/18 12/14 12/17 **reasoning [2]** 197/6 91/21 raises [1] 46/5 12/25 22/10 23/18 180/16 189/25 194/1 199/14 progress [3] 100/18 raising [3] 128/9 207/6 46/14 53/14 54/22 reasons [9] 35/4 107/13 206/10 135/24 150/20 provides [3] 95/6 59/17 80/21 83/17 50/11 58/18 71/22 project [3] 137/16 ran [1] 116/10 118/7 208/2 86/6 100/2 104/25 95/14 99/9 171/23 137/16 137/17 randomly [1] 205/8 121/17 123/15 126/14 providing [15] 176/11 197/13 promote [1] 72/11 range [1] 131/10 111/15 112/13 118/16 130/13 136/24 137/9 reassurance [1] 31/9 **prompted [3]** 100/10 rapidly [1] 57/16 119/20 139/15 142/14 141/17 146/6 148/10 rebooting [1] 23/19 151/6 187/19 rare [1] 166/13 143/13 143/15 146/5 149/18 162/10 162/19 recall [67] 7/12 18/14 rarely [1] 164/25 pronunciation [1] 179/16 182/18 193/12 166/5 173/18 175/10 25/15 28/14 29/13 rather [14] 22/17 155/18 190/7 190/20 191/1 201/21 202/25 203/4 31/8 31/16 32/7 33/3 **Proofs** [1] 38/21 25/1 70/23 97/22 proving [2] 32/13 191/7 192/10 194/15 36/20 37/18 59/23 **proper [3]** 8/21 86/19 99/16 103/15 108/15 198/16 199/5 202/10 205/2 65/8 66/10 67/7 67/25 121/23 122/4 128/21 197/14 questioned [13] 1/8 71/6 75/16 76/10 **publicity** [1] 35/5 129/2 142/4 156/17 properly [5] 4/22 76/15 78/10 102/24 87/13 90/24 100/6 **published** [2] 3/25 194/25 182/7 182/8 182/13 104/10 106/14 107/20 191/24 193/9 200/24 4/1 199/2 rational [1] 44/4 107/25 114/25 117/21 pulling [1] 20/19 212/4 212/6 212/10 property [1] 185/18 re [2] 2/18 85/21 purely [2] 27/23 212/12 212/14 212/16 118/16 119/20 124/19 proposal [2] 133/7 re-read [1] 2/18 27/25 125/20 128/9 128/11 questioning [1] 166/24 reached [1] 192/13 129/25 144/5 150/18 purported [1] 142/18 210/8 read [22] 1/19 2/18 propose [2] 1/11 purpose [9] 22/16 questionnaire [6] 151/3 151/18 158/7 2/25 3/11 3/16 11/6 79/12 159/13 160/3 162/1 45/5 52/18 60/8 95/17 115/4 115/14 122/8 21/23 23/14 34/2 proposed [2] 182/22 122/25 158/7 158/24 95/18 95/25 113/11 162/16 169/6 169/12 34/10 82/6 116/22 183/7 176/18 questions [50] 4/2 178/2 178/22 179/7 120/3 120/10 132/14 proposing [1] 168/21 5/3 39/12 41/13 84/5 179/10 179/16 180/6 purposes [5] 16/16 140/7 144/19 165/6 proposition [3] 35/10 33/13 52/17 96/5 87/2 87/6 89/8 91/1 181/21 186/25 189/4 38/24 56/4 179/17 181/13 194/11 91/21 94/18 111/15 189/9 189/24 190/8 189/18 proprietary [1] 118/9 194/16 111/18 138/7 141/7 192/6 200/19 202/13 pursue [6] 11/11 reading [9] 30/8 **prose [1]** 194/24 12/3 15/6 31/2 33/24 146/25 147/2 147/24 204/6 205/20 205/24 **prosecuted** [1] 11/13 30/14 30/23 45/12 78/20 148/4 153/19 163/3 206/6 206/7 210/1 **prosecutes** [1] 13/10 56/20 59/20 60/24 pursuing [6] 11/13 164/15 165/2 174/14 receipt [1] 42/17 71/5 71/8 prosecutions [3] 11/16 29/23 30/6 31/5 178/19 178/19 178/20 receipts [1] 101/7 reads [9] 62/19 83/19 11/16 12/11 14/13 178/24 179/5 189/12 31/19 receive [7] 46/17 prospects [1] 75/19 87/22 97/17 119/12 push [1] 72/8 190/14 190/17 190/24 146/14 149/5 151/5 **proud [1]** 6/16 121/11 125/18 180/20 191/9 191/11 191/14 165/25 188/25 189/16 **pushed** [1] 71/16 proved [2] 107/11 183/6 pushing [1] 70/23 191/22 192/2 200/21 received [17] 43/18 real [4] 46/1 65/22 141/19 put [15] 7/23 19/4 200/25 201/1 201/4 46/4 102/6 102/6 proven [1] 144/15 65/25 66/6 27/19 31/6 39/11 43/1 201/7 203/1 207/9 121/13 122/24 124/16 provide [33] 31/9 realisation [1] 197/1 43/12 45/25 74/4 209/3 209/10 209/11 131/6 132/9 140/1 38/17 42/5 102/12 realisation/remembe 86/22 88/13 105/20 210/13 210/17 141/10 147/21 151/23 105/13 108/20 109/4 ring [1] 197/1 178/20 192/19 193/21 quite [29] 7/3 19/1 175/2 177/24 181/14 112/6 119/9 124/17 realistically [1] 170/4 putting [6] 20/11 26/24 33/10 43/12 200/5 125/20 126/2 127/25 really [36] 12/24 19/3 44/3 57/23 63/6 22/18 84/21 152/3 receiving [1] 36/20 134/9 137/10 144/20 23/2 27/22 36/2 44/6 183/15 193/15 102/20 109/18 110/20 recent [3] 108/19 148/7 149/19 151/1 45/10 63/6 68/3 78/13 112/4 122/22 125/6 156/3 157/19 151/25 155/15 160/6 79/4 85/8 85/13 85/14 126/19 152/10 168/6 recently [8] 2/15 11/7 160/9 165/1 173/25 86/16 89/1 89/6 98/4 QC [3] 3/16 49/1 62/4 179/15 185/12 187/2 28/3 36/21 36/24 181/6 181/24 189/5 98/25 105/21 106/9 qualification [1] 187/5 187/8 187/18 75/24 76/4 186/25 192/19 196/23 198/16 114/24 119/24 132/20 94/12 193/14 194/5 195/8 recipient [1] 107/2 199/25 207/4 133/1 139/10 146/13 qualifications [3] 197/19 207/20 209/17 recipients [1] 115/11 179/13 188/7 190/20 provided [48] 37/14 94/9 94/16 112/5 quote [1] 158/25 recognised [2] 94/14 56/7 75/24 76/4 111/1 193/23 194/5 195/5 qualified [1] 5/4 quotes [2] 56/2 85/2 190/16 112/20 117/10 118/19 199/18 201/18 210/1 quantum [1] 80/9 recognises [1] 75/5

R recognition [1] 176/13 recollect [1] 174/16 recollection [10] 79/7 88/17 105/7 114/22 116/15 151/8 168/10 186/9 189/2 193/12 recommencement [1] 7/21 recommend [1] 71/11 recommendation [2] 70/11 73/3 recommendations [2] 23/4 70/21 recommended [1] 73/7 recommending [1] 74/15 reconstructing [2] 60/5 60/23 record [7] 1/19 98/5 98/7 102/19 127/3 167/13 196/3 recorded [6] 101/10 142/8 166/9 172/8 177/8 181/5 recording [1] 170/7 records [6] 47/9 67/2 92/19 162/21 162/21 197/11 recovered [1] 135/5 recovery [4] 7/5 11/8 12/10 12/15 recruited [1] 93/12 rectified [1] 25/22 rectify [1] 26/22 rectifying [1] 25/13 recusal [42] 4/8 6/2 9/3 51/3 52/12 52/20 53/4 56/10 56/14 56/21 56/22 57/12 58/6 60/2 60/11 61/2 63/1 63/18 65/10 66/12 71/19 72/11 73/24 74/2 76/11 76/16 78/20 79/22 79/24 80/6 80/8 80/11 80/13 80/19 82/7 82/20 83/7 83/25 85/3 85/24 86/21 89/15 recuse [4] 71/16 71/25 72/3 77/18 recused [1] 56/5 recusing [1] 61/10 red [1] 78/10 redacted [3] 58/16 58/17 58/24 redaction [1] 58/19 redactions [1] 58/21 redrafting [1] 183/12

refer [7] 40/4 52/18 70/19 97/2 147/14 149/13 183/23 reference [18] 1/18 28/20 131/14 134/19 138/17 152/16 152/19 153/8 161/18 162/4 164/22 164/24 173/20 175/19 178/4 178/7 199/23 200/12 referenced [1] 168/17 references [2] 131/16 144/13 referred [13] 38/14 62/1 114/4 136/1 151/20 154/14 154/16 154/22 165/1 167/17 167/17 171/18 185/4 referring [31] 10/11 23/8 28/15 49/16 61/18 62/14 62/17 64/7 64/24 65/19 76/7 81/23 81/25 95/20 98/11 101/11 126/25 137/8 150/22 166/19 167/4 167/7 167/15 167/20 167/22 168/1 170/21 182/11 195/15 195/16 205/13 refers [8] 36/17 38/12 43/21 43/25 46/24 69/4 73/21 182/13 reflect [4] 26/25 42/15 119/15 130/9 reflected [1] 117/19 refresh [2] 14/21 160/7 refusing [1] 52/22 regarded [2] 156/23 195/18 regarding [2] 85/6 181/4 regards [1] 128/7 regret [1] 4/17 regular [2] 150/19 152/24 regularised [1] 26/7 **regularly [3]** 17/3 98/24 164/22 regulatory [1] 6/22 reiterate [1] 4/6 rejected [1] 26/16 relate [7] 22/10 58/21 97/19 103/6 122/17 164/15 192/2 related [12] 38/4 100/11 100/23 103/10 103/13 124/6 126/12 130/19 144/14 144/22 153/19 157/8 relates [4] 114/16 158/6 161/3 163/17

189/8 193/22 196/5 relating [29] 7/10 9/25 18/3 19/16 20/17 204/7 40/5 97/8 97/11 remembered [1] 102/21 103/14 104/12 198/25 106/5 107/7 117/22 remembering [3] 124/18 124/22 124/25 26/10 197/1 199/6 126/10 130/10 146/25 remote [12] 161/4 151/25 153/23 157/6 161/25 162/5 163/3 162/5 163/3 168/7 163/7 164/16 168/5 168/16 195/10 195/23 169/23 195/3 195/7 relation [22] 18/4 195/18 195/23 18/11 30/2 37/20 remove [2] 166/8 52/15 53/22 108/15 176/24 114/12 119/7 130/23 **removed [1]** 176/10 135/7 138/11 152/4 removing [1] 176/14 159/1 162/6 162/9 163/6 184/14 184/19 repeat [2] 97/10 189/5 189/13 196/15 124/3 relations [1] 68/23 rephrase [3] 11/10 30/23 59/16 relationship [12] 6/5 7/15 8/18 8/22 9/10 replaced [1] 187/9 9/13 9/15 9/20 10/15 reply [2] 49/5 126/6 16/24 17/6 87/16 report [33] 11/2 16/8 relatively [4] 28/3 20/24 39/5 39/22 88/6 185/9 209/14 40/10 43/18 44/12 release [7] 130/1 130/2 131/10 141/22 46/13 46/15 47/13 144/15 144/23 145/13 47/20 48/3 48/7 48/9 released [1] 141/18 48/12 48/12 48/17 48/20 48/22 48/23 relevance [2] 58/17 49/4 49/8 49/24 50/9 130/21 relevant [23] 12/11 151/21 154/17 203/5 38/17 40/3 52/21 204/9 69/13 87/25 88/13 **reporting [4]** 97/8 105/25 106/16 113/2 97/11 97/19 97/21 114/9 119/16 125/11 reports [16] 23/20 127/23 139/15 144/13 24/15 24/20 24/22 152/21 162/5 163/7 37/13 102/25 103/15 169/5 169/25 175/16 103/25 108/3 108/4 176/16 193/13 193/15 193/22 reliability [2] 12/17 194/9 203/5 203/6 13/18 repositories [1] 97/2 relied [5] 11/15 12/22 **repository** [7] 95/4 96/8 96/22 99/14 42/6 197/3 199/9 relies [1] 13/6 represent [1] 67/18 reluctance [2] 150/11 150/15 representative [1] rely [3] 25/2 142/18 41/2 158/25 representatives [2] relying [1] 50/1 40/23 190/16 remain [2] 5/18 93/13 reputation [1] 146/11 remained [2] 48/20 request [20] 34/12 34/13 110/15 124/17 78/2 remedial [5] 157/14 125/24 151/3 161/12 161/17 161/19 161/22 178/17 160/24 172/5 172/6 173/2 161/25 162/4 164/9 164/12 168/14 175/8 remember [28] 12/7 17/3 22/6 40/17 44/10 47/22 50/22 50/25 184/11 63/3 63/6 71/5 87/24 requested [4] 165/4 88/6 100/9 103/9 168/7 181/24 183/16 105/21 114/24 114/25 requests [14] 19/19 127/16 166/23 168/4 102/2 102/7 102/21 187/2 187/5 187/8 109/1 109/3 125/12

137/21 161/20 163/23 179/14 185/7 188/25 207/18 require [3] 38/18 148/15 172/18 required [5] 113/1 114/8 138/24 167/1 181/19 requires [1] 169/2 research [2] 147/17 147/20 reservation [1] 150/23 reservations [3] 150/8 150/14 150/16 reparation [1] 178/14 resided [1] 135/12 resolved [2] 15/21 175/18 resource [2] 188/3 188/10 respect [4] 8/24 28/22 37/14 182/7 respective [1] 38/22 respond [5] 102/2 39/25 40/2 40/8 40/10 147/21 159/5 173/13 207/18 **Responded [1]** 209/3 responding [3] 20/11 195/10 206/16 response [28] 37/7 46/6 70/14 70/16 125/22 126/5 131/6 132/1 132/9 137/10 140/1 141/10 147/12 147/22 149/4 149/23 151/2 154/23 157/15 159/6 165/2 165/25 166/5 170/9 171/22 174/13 176/1 207/14 responses [5] 109/4 147/20 147/24 152/3 185/7 responsibilities [1] 40/20 133/14 133/16 135/20 responsibility [6] 12/19 13/19 14/11 53/16 95/1 186/23 responsible [4] 99/18 111/4 111/25 180/23 responsive [4] 161/22 163/22 164/11 195/5 rest [3] 56/23 116/22 result [1] 199/5 results [4] 169/9 179/12 181/14 183/25 171/18 172/12 174/3 resume [3] 90/14 192/24 210/19 retain [1] 190/5 retained [4] 95/9 96/9 159/18 159/21 retainers [1] 8/4

	 R	161/8 161/13 161/14	SA [2] 59/3 61/11	117/25 118/22 120/2	Scotland [1] 189/11
- [,		162/24 163/21 163/23		123/16 127/9 129/10	Scottish [1] 189/1
	retaining [1] 189/17	164/2 164/12 166/25	safety [1] 88/4	129/16 129/21 131/1	screen [3] 10/5 44/19
	retention [2] 130/23	168/9 169/4 169/19	said [59] 2/15 17/4	132/1 138/6 139/4	64/3
	192/2	169/21 170/7 170/23	17/13 18/24 23/22	140/11 144/10 148/24	screen-freezing [1]
	retrievable [11] 134/2 134/3 149/1	170/24 171/2 171/7	35/4 41/4 43/23 49/15	150/2 152/4 152/9	44/19
	149/2 152/8 152/10	171/14 173/17 176/5	60/17 66/10 67/2 67/7	152/22 154/13 155/8	screenshot [1]
	153/24 154/2 154/5	177/18 178/10 180/12	67/25 68/2 68/8 69/23	155/24 159/8 159/12	124/11
	154/15 154/21		73/6 75/4 75/21 76/10		scribbled [2] 59/5
	retrieval [2] 182/12	185/2 185/13 185/19	76/13 76/15 82/14	169/16 169/24 171/6	59/6
	184/10	191/3 191/13 191/16	82/15 82/18 84/5	173/7 173/16 173/22	scribbles [2] 76/8
	retrieve [5] 135/1	191/18 192/4 192/15	85/13 85/13 122/9	176/7 176/25 179/2	85/12
	138/14 144/18 154/19	192/24 193/17 195/2 195/20 195/24 196/8	123/2 125/4 128/4 132/6 132/20 133/9	179/3 182/2 183/4 183/23 184/5 186/13	scribbling [2] 67/13 68/3
	173/5	198/4 199/8 200/4	133/13 140/20 140/22	187/5 195/14 203/22	scripts [2] 190/5
	retrieved [11] 132/25	200/20 201/9 201/13	145/11 152/7 154/6	204/20 205/1	192/3
	134/10 135/8 135/16	202/9 202/24 202/40	154/9 155/20 159/3	saying [47] 11/23	scroll [27] 10/6 76/19
	136/20 147/11 148/11	204/2 204/13 204/16	173/19 173/24 174/17	11/25 19/2 20/13	76/21 123/20 125/14
	148/15 148/16 148/23	205/17 205/19 209/7	174/19 177/6 187/1	22/13 27/9 27/10 29/5	127/20 129/13 131/25
	152/5	210/14 210/23	187/11 194/5 199/7	30/7 30/11 33/21	138/2 139/25 142/11
	retrospective [1] 172/2	rights [5] 165/15	199/22 200/9 201/5	33/23 44/21 65/22	146/19 151/13 153/17
	return [2] 172/17	165/22 167/21 171/15		66/2 66/9 66/13 68/6	158/18 161/16 162/9
	178/8	185/18	sale [1] 42/17	69/9 71/9 72/5 76/17	162/25 166/1 169/11
	reveal [1] 132/22	Riposte [1] 130/19	salient [1] 83/16	77/20 82/22 82/22	170/9 171/3 196/9
	reversals [1] 163/11	risk [4] 16/12 70/25	same [28] 5/14 18/7	82/25 85/17 85/18	198/5 198/8 208/1
	review [13] 42/12	78/2 78/13	20/19 24/7 37/7 46/25 58/10 64/2 66/19	85/24 103/21 103/22 134/17 136/18 140/5	208/4
	42/20 47/4 115/16	risks [1] 74/10 RM [1] 18/5	84/15 89/14 105/22	141/21 141/24 142/23	search [9] 133/18 155/12 169/17 170/12
	116/9 117/1 189/19	Robinson [1] 200/8	115/11 126/20 132/21	143/9 145/16 167/18	170/25 171/5 171/11
	196/18 198/12 204/21	robust [2] 32/1 32/12		170/2 173/8 174/10	172/13 172/15
	204/22 206/7 207/3	robustness [1] 4/21	138/10 138/11 143/11		searchable [4] 147/9
	reviewed [2] 46/19 120/10	role [32] 16/14 20/2	143/23 155/25 184/8	206/2	148/11 148/13 148/17
	reviewers [1] 92/25	92/9 93/2 93/13 94/5	198/11 198/16 199/21	says [82] 2/24 3/4 3/9	
	reviewing [1] 177/13	94/19 94/23 94/25	208/19	3/15 10/22 18/1 20/16	
	reviews [1] 92/23	99/24 101/1 104/4	sample [5] 196/18	21/12 21/13 24/6	169/15 171/13 174/5
	Riby [1] 10/12	108/25 111/10 111/21		25/10 29/22 30/16	searching [1] 169/8
	Richard [3] 23/5 23/5	137/15 169/24 172/24 176/10 176/14 176/14		31/6 32/4 34/19 36/13 37/5 37/5 39/9 39/20	sec [1] 134/15
	196/15	176/24 177/2 177/3	104/8 127/18	39/23 40/8 42/10	second [26] 2/5 3/3 3/8 3/21 4/1 4/7 6/2
	Richardson [1] 9/22	177/9 177/12 178/13	saving [1] 154/7	43/21 44/1 45/15	21/12 55/8 65/22
	rid [4] 26/19 33/11	178/16 190/4 201/5	saw [8] 36/21 62/9	58/23 58/25 59/13	76/22 81/20 104/22
	35/1 35/25	201/16 204/4	78/11 116/21 168/17	61/12 62/11 64/4 64/7	107/5 113/25 115/17
	right [129] 2/23 10/4 11/5 11/14 16/4 26/14	roles [2] 109/14	187/10 198/11 199/19	64/23 65/4 65/18	126/9 153/23 159/9
	33/9 38/11 39/14	113/18	say [118] 1/9 3/5 5/1	67/14 67/21 70/10	165/11 167/17 176/7
	40/18 51/4 51/11	Roll [2] 196/15	6/6 6/23 7/11 8/21 9/5	72/15 72/22 73/21	184/11 191/8 191/25
	51/15 51/19 56/16	196/15	11/17 12/13 14/10	75/17 76/24 77/9	206/14
	56/25 57/15 63/13	room [2] 87/7 121/15	14/12 16/21 17/8	77/16 78/5 82/10	secondly [2] 176/19
	64/12 77/3 81/6 81/8	Rose [1] 29/25	19/19 19/25 20/21	84/16 85/2 100/15 123/4 128/3 131/7	189/21
	82/20 87/21 90/1 91/5	198/18	22/2 23/8 24/7 24/9 25/3 33/5 37/9 39/8	131/19 134/12 134/24	section [5] 47/12 162/5 165/6 181/11
	92/1 92/5 93/2 93/6	route [1] 72/9	43/2 50/13 50/15	140/2 141/16 142/15	183/6
	93/14 94/9 95/10	routed [41 176/21	50/22 53/2 54/20 55/9		section 6.2 [1] 47/12
	95/16 96/12 97/5 97/6	row [1] 118/6	55/23 56/10 56/12	155/5 156/12 156/23	sections [2] 116/23
	97/9 101/23 103/2 104/15 108/16 110/8	Royal [2] 18/6 18/7	57/19 58/19 59/12	158/21 160/19 166/2	207/8
	110/11 112/24 113/13	rule [1] 147/3	60/1 60/10 61/11 62/3	167/5 170/10 171/3	security [4] 175/13
	113/16 113/21 115/4	run [4] 53/12 91/7	62/16 63/23 64/20	171/25 172/11 173/1	179/20 180/23 180/24
	117/7 120/19 121/2	169/14 169/17	70/20 72/3 82/12 85/9	173/3 175/9 175/15	see [89] 2/1 9/3
	124/11 124/25 134/1	running [1] 49/3	86/3 94/24 95/10 97/7	196/17 198/9 207/13	16/10 16/15 16/18
	134/21 136/12 137/25		97/22 98/21 100/7	scale [2] 18/18 204/4	17/25 21/11 26/3
	145/19 146/16 147/15	S	100/20 100/23 101/5 102/15 102/24 107/9	scan [2] 115/9 184/7 schedule [1] 82/17	28/19 36/8 41/5 42/20 46/24 51/11 58/11
	147/18 149/7 149/8	S80 [1] 138/23	107/23 108/12 108/17		58/12 58/23 59/23
	153/21 156/8 156/16	SON [A] 129/24	110/8 110/10 113/5	Scheme [1] 104/21	62/2 63/12 64/22
	160/11 160/12 160/25	131/18 141/18 144/15			65/11 69/18 73/13
			<u>-</u> .		

2/25 3/2 3/5 3/11 3/16 199/24 S sent [24] 11/6 12/10 settlement [4] 27/1 12/13 19/23 24/4 35/19 87/23 88/14 33/5 38/16 42/15 **Simpson [1]** 142/3 see... [65] 77/8 77/10 since [17] 2/18 21/19 24/21 28/3 28/12 several [8] 2/13 93/4 42/17 42/20 45/5 81/23 82/3 83/18 36/11 36/22 36/23 117/5 120/16 130/20 45/16 58/19 60/2 31/11 32/5 86/5 94/7 84/16 87/7 90/19 42/13 42/13 70/15 136/8 151/5 152/4 63/16 65/10 72/24 96/19 99/20 101/20 91/13 98/8 107/5 73/6 73/13 74/15 80/2 Seymour [1] 49/1 72/25 73/2 74/16 80/8 121/24 127/18 129/4 116/16 116/22 118/3 102/17 115/2 126/8 shall [5] 26/5 26/7 81/22 83/25 84/10 138/16 145/3 165/20 120/4 127/11 129/22 132/5 133/8 146/23 86/21 91/4 91/7 91/13 100/7 173/24 173/25 180/5 180/22 131/4 131/5 131/25 sentence [6] 77/9 share [5] 106/16 106/4 110/16 131/20 single [4] 95/4 96/8 132/11 133/23 134/15 97/17 101/6 159/9 107/11 138/16 139/1 132/23 134/9 134/20 177/13 191/7 134/19 135/23 137/13 140/4 140/7 144/19 sink [2] 25/7 26/9 165/19 167/24 139/6 138/3 140/1 141/15 174/4 175/21 183/19 separate [8] 39/24 **shared [2]** 99/13 sir [41] 1/3 1/9 41/18 142/12 147/22 147/23 40/7 117/20 126/22 138/13 **shouldn't [5]** 84/11 41/21 51/2 51/12 149/15 149/23 150/10 141/12 142/22 143/9 84/20 89/6 131/1 51/20 51/24 52/10 shareholder [5] 152/2 152/12 153/5 170/19 67/22 67/22 68/16 210/21 81/9 81/14 87/1 87/6 153/13 157/10 160/10 separately [2] 118/25 68/22 68/24 **show [8]** 17/19 32/17 87/9 87/12 89/8 89/11 161/17 162/15 163/18 42/17 74/18 89/9 89/21 90/7 90/15 156/3 Shareholding [1] 168/13 169/5 173/15 67/19 94/20 151/9 162/3 90/19 90/21 152/16 September [15] 173/25 175/7 180/14 24/18 42/3 43/17 SharePoint [14] showed [1] 36/17 153/1 153/5 153/7 184/5 185/10 186/9 44/10 125/16 126/6 104/11 104/14 104/18 showing [2] 124/12 178/6 190/10 190/13 190/25 193/5 194/23 128/3 131/7 141/16 105/5 105/12 105/16 195/17 190/18 191/1 191/4 196/11 198/9 199/23 144/10 158/5 158/11 105/19 106/5 106/25 shown [4] 24/4 191/11 191/14 192/23 207/2 207/9 208/2 158/20 206/19 207/12 107/19 107/23 126/21 138/15 144/22 186/11 193/1 193/5 195/24 208/23 209/5 209/13 sequential [1] 49/11 126/24 133/15 **shows [1]** 28/10 200/25 210/13 210/24 seeing [2] 35/12 series [4] 79/23 81/9 sit [4] 1/11 53/22 shares [1] 106/20 **shut [1]** 145/22 186/25 she [59] 17/9 17/12 66/8 74/6 86/13 170/19 **sic [1]** 49/1 seek [3] 80/11 80/13 site [12] 102/14 19/1 19/2 19/8 19/10 side [2] 26/6 207/17 serious [1] 88/3 127/11 serve [1] 23/1 19/21 19/23 24/5 **Sight [2]** 104/22 104/11 106/10 106/25 seeking [4] 78/22 served [6] 15/11 31/23 32/22 62/12 126/10 107/7 107/19 107/24 130/14 158/23 158/25 sign [5] 38/23 54/21 15/13 15/24 49/6 49/6 62/16 62/19 62/20 123/23 126/21 126/24 seem [2] 101/11 168/18 168/22 197/7 203/6 67/2 68/2 68/20 69/2 127/1 133/15 117/19 server [2] 106/16 69/7 69/7 69/8 69/23 **sign-off [1]** 168/18 **sitting [2]** 55/19 seemed [4] 86/12 70/13 72/7 73/13 70/12 107/11 signature [4] 2/3 86/18 88/13 128/15 service [6] 111/2 74/12 78/22 78/22 2/10 91/14 91/15 **situation** [2] 34/3 seems [23] 12/9 166/20 168/16 168/20 78/23 78/24 79/1 79/4 signed [2] 183/9 34/9 12/12 20/3 69/4 70/12 six [9] 3/4 48/15 169/6 189/11 79/5 82/14 82/15 184/8 88/14 89/25 108/6 82/18 82/22 83/4 83/9 significance [1] services [3] 99/13 105/10 109/7 124/16 118/23 127/4 127/6 180/21 181/3 85/12 85/16 85/18 193/24 194/19 202/22 203/16 128/12 128/14 128/20 session [1] 210/15 86/5 101/20 128/14 significant [7] 6/8 207/24 129/3 129/23 130/12 6/10 6/15 17/14 43/13 six pages [1] 194/19 sessions [1] 191/18 128/18 146/21 147/2 130/16 172/1 174/21 **set [45]** 16/17 19/23 147/12 149/12 151/15 80/1 150/17 size [1] 40/15 196/14 196/15 210/7 19/24 20/1 20/4 20/5 153/23 155/5 155/20 signs [1] 54/21 **Slaughter [1]** 40/5 Seemungal [4] 20/14 21/20 22/5 22/8 156/10 156/11 158/21 similar [3] 38/10 **sledge [2]** 25/14 206/24 207/23 208/14 24/6 24/13 24/24 25/8 159/3 170/20 178/16 25/15 209/1 26/4 26/13 26/18 **She'll [1]** 85/13 **Simon [1]** 9/22 sledgehammer [4] seen [20] 7/20 8/1 26/19 26/23 27/20 she's [4] 66/24 66/25 25/23 26/8 26/20 **Simpkins [31]** 99/21 21/18 21/19 28/6 29/11 30/3 30/10 27/22 82/25 85/23 110/1 120/22 123/10 28/10 28/11 32/19 30/13 52/16 63/20 sheer [1] 204/4 123/17 125/7 127/7 slide [1] 174/24 32/25 36/24 52/6 65/19 70/22 71/10 short [14] 51/22 127/12 129/14 131/6 slight [2] 64/18 56/21 57/22 74/3 74/12 79/7 79/23 132/9 132/17 135/8 89/17 90/17 91/20 199/18 76/17 110/25 112/15 104/10 104/17 106/9 134/7 143/3 153/3 136/14 137/24 141/11 slightly [8] 10/6 178/16 185/4 205/10 106/25 125/2 125/8 188/16 190/19 191/17 141/15 142/20 145/2 69/16 70/13 103/11 send [4] 49/9 117/1 126/20 126/20 132/4 191/23 193/3 193/11 145/15 147/14 147/21 138/2 196/13 198/15 140/4 150/24 138/12 144/16 150/22 209/24 148/20 148/21 149/13 198/19 sending [2] 10/11 155/1 **shortcut** [1] 210/6 149/15 150/11 154/22 slow [1] 195/22 149/4 **shortfall** [1] 15/6 set-aside [1] 30/13 202/21 205/3 206/1 small [9] 42/24 43/8 senior [6] 57/7 104/7 Simpkins' [1] 149/23 | 44/3 47/10 48/19 94/8 sets [2] 10/20 35/18 shortfalls [1] 87/25 109/24 110/5 110/7 setting [6] 13/14 **shorthand [2]** 78/12 simply [21] 1/11 111/8 162/15 185/9 185/5 22/17 25/4 67/3 73/2 22/18 25/2 35/3 41/14 **SMC [2]** 150/6 196/14 sense [4] 63/11 107/7 shortlist [1] 207/24 48/18 63/3 70/22 150/19 117/3 194/8 196/16 snapshot [1] 49/18 settle [11] 33/12 shortly [9] 2/21 4/2 72/25 74/18 88/2 sensitive [1] 85/14 108/17 110/17 111/14 so [474] 33/21 34/5 35/2 35/3 29/3 89/11 94/3 98/17 sensitivity [2] 34/24 35/13 35/16 35/19 123/14 142/13 149/3 130/11 141/6 143/2 softening [2] 199/18 72/24 88/2 88/25 89/3 should [42] 1/9 1/24 150/25 165/18 174/8 200/1

78/17 S 109/16 109/16 116/24 specifications [1] standing [1] 27/21 119/4 119/6 120/9 92/16 stands [3] 3/24 **Stephen [24]** 16/4 software [4] 130/2 128/9 128/13 134/4 specified [1] 181/22 166/20 166/24 21/12 21/16 24/8 144/23 145/12 185/18 135/10 154/10 160/4 **specifies [1]** 183/14 start [6] 5/3 9/24 26/11 29/20 32/3 sole [1] 188/9 164/17 194/10 194/10 speculating [1] 129/7 13/25 51/19 54/13 33/14 35/17 36/11 solely [3] 99/5 speculative [1] 32/22 198/2 204/24 209/9 108/1 37/2 38/12 38/19 39/4 102/13 117/16 **sometimes [4]** 70/13 40/16 42/3 43/19 **speed [3]** 24/2 57/18 **started [6]** 50/19 solicitor [9] 5/4 5/21 44/18 48/5 109/25 110/11 118/12 204/24 59/20 53/23 57/6 102/21 10/7 10/14 12/14 14/7 somewhat [1] 103/23 Spencefield [1] 130/15 154/7 164/1 177/11 178/1 17/1 38/21 53/10 190/13 somewhere [3] 9/9 181/16 **Starter [1]** 166/4 solicitor's [2] 22/18 135/14 140/25 spent [1] 131/9 state [7] 1/13 36/16 stepped [1] 35/21 25/2 split [2] 204/7 204/9 91/2 148/12 164/21 steps [4] 19/22 69/11 **soon [1]** 73/8 Solicitor-client [1] sorry [34] 3/14 4/8 **SPM [1]** 163/13 164/24 177/4 106/3 163/21 17/1 5/2 11/10 17/25 23/3 spoke [2] 17/9 41/10 **stated [4]** 145/14 Steve [10] 110/3 solicitors [4] 18/9 27/10 29/1 30/22 33/6 spoken [8] 16/21 158/3 174/2 177/1 173/17 174/25 196/12 45/17 49/7 189/2 53/18 72/17 76/9 32/5 52/4 72/17 104/8 statement [75] 1/22 198/8 198/12 199/6 solution [2] 103/13 76/22 81/21 84/23 206/1 209/20 209/20 127/7 127/19 128/21 2/1 2/5 2/12 2/18 3/21 157/8 97/10 117/16 122/19 sporadically [1] 17/3 3/25 4/1 4/3 4/7 4/12 **STEVENS [6]** 1/8 some [90] 5/3 6/14 134/15 136/10 138/2 spot [1] 116/24 7/7 17/13 22/18 25/2 51/7 52/7 89/22 90/13 7/4 8/8 9/25 11/4 spotted [1] 116/19 140/7 157/3 158/18 35/17 43/2 53/2 55/8 212/4 11/11 12/12 13/14 166/24 167/10 186/7 56/12 79/8 85/25 91/5 stick [1] 194/20 square [13] 10/12 14/20 18/17 22/12 187/4 190/11 195/24 124/18 125/21 126/11 91/7 91/11 91/14 still [16] 23/11 34/8 24/25 34/4 34/20 38/9 203/2 206/21 210/20 127/23 128/6 129/2 91/17 94/21 94/24 34/24 47/14 47/16 42/11 42/25 43/23 sort [14] 34/2 63/24 129/16 130/18 138/8 97/3 100/14 101/5 49/2 83/1 83/5 89/14 48/9 49/2 53/12 56/7 64/13 84/4 88/17 146/23 148/1 154/23 102/24 108/25 109/7 96/19 96/20 121/22 57/1 58/5 59/18 60/6 125/23 148/18 172/1 89/17 165/19 194/9 Square' [1] 129/19 109/10 112/7 116/8 63/21 79/25 88/7 SSC [34] 96/22 97/4 116/14 120/2 136/23 196/13 196/16 197/15 199/25 91/20 94/2 94/8 94/18 197/17 197/25 200/1 140/18 152/11 161/4 97/18 98/16 99/3 99/5 **stopped** [1] 9/7 97/14 104/25 109/20 sorted [1] 34/23 99/9 99/18 99/25 179/1 179/6 179/8 store [1] 104/11 111/23 121/8 122/22 106/4 109/25 110/2 179/16 179/18 179/19 stored [10] 96/17 **sought [2]** 123/17 123/17 124/21 127/11 179/20 179/22 180/2 163/25 119/5 120/1 120/21 97/20 101/10 105/18 127/21 127/25 129/7 sound [5] 133/1 122/16 128/21 133/15 180/9 180/10 180/20 106/4 107/8 113/13 131/9 132/6 134/8 140/24 160/13 164/12 135/14 140/25 150/7 181/6 181/11 182/4 114/14 114/20 129/10 135/24 135/25 136/1 182/10 182/20 183/16 storing [1] 107/18 154/7 165/1 169/24 139/20 141/20 143/21 sounding [1] 145/20 175/3 175/21 176/9 184/7 184/13 184/24 Stoy [1] 42/4 147/17 148/7 150/10 176/14 177/2 196/2 188/4 193/14 206/19 **sounds [11]** 51/20 straight [3] 30/20 150/25 152/9 153/10 102/15 102/18 119/4 200/5 200/10 205/2 207/3 207/7 209/6 52/3 74/17 154/1 162/15 168/6 121/3 123/24 126/1 209/22 209/14 209/23 210/4 strategy [11] 28/23 169/4 169/14 171/13 171/8 174/23 177/14 **SSC's [2]** 126/22 210/17 32/6 35/6 36/5 38/3 176/3 177/16 179/5 197/16 155/10 **statements** [23] 1/16 38/3 38/16 45/16 180/8 182/22 183/7 source [2] 120/5 SSC-specific [1] 10/25 22/4 22/6 22/8 45/22 46/8 75/3 183/24 184/21 186/5 148/8 97/18 24/12 30/1 30/12 streams [2] 6/13 6/17 186/8 186/20 187/6 sources [1] 106/12 staff [3] 95/19 110/18 33/15 38/22 39/18 strikes [1] 120/6 188/15 188/16 190/16 **South [2]** 61/16 161/6 90/3 111/24 124/21 **structure** [2] 53/20 191/11 191/14 192/11 stage [35] 6/11 11/3 128/1 176/4 178/14 61/17 68/6 194/12 196/7 197/21 178/23 203/4 203/12 19/14 21/20 25/12 Southampton [1] **structured** [2] 65/21 201/1 201/4 27/8 27/15 28/21 39/1 203/25 209/16 210/10 53/25 195/8 somebody [17] 92/9 spanning [1] 114/13 39/3 49/25 54/4 56/18 states [5] 117/9 struggle [2] 67/21 92/21 93/20 93/23 speak [8] 20/18 48/7 60/3 60/10 65/14 151/21 163/4 166/6 68/21 102/16 109/17 119/5 51/9 51/16 65/23 66/1 66/10 66/13 66/15 166/12 struggling [1] 166/23 119/9 120/1 120/7 67/8 71/3 77/22 78/19 status [2] 152/14 66/7 86/15 stuck [1] 79/24 142/6 168/22 169/1 82/19 83/6 98/20 159/13 speaking [3] 48/1 **studies [1]** 91/25 172/22 173/6 183/25 102/20 130/22 133/20 statuses [1] 122/14 66/2 67/12 stuff [2] 9/19 83/1 187/2 133/24 134/17 135/11 stay [3] 132/12 **spec [1]** 37/11 **stuffed [1]** 19/3 someone [14] 14/15 specific [10] 8/4 165/22 168/3 208/15 132/18 134/20 subject [13] 3/19 35/3 81/3 84/20 88/24 13/23 97/18 98/10 staged [1] 63/10 90/8 103/1 109/3 **staying [1]** 136/2 137/19 139/7 175/17 100/9 115/18 136/11 110/13 111/2 138/17 stages [5] 22/9 39/5 **stays** [1] 132/15 183/12 187/10 187/12 steer [1] 72/23 148/21 186/18 207/9 65/4 185/12 185/14 163/25 166/17 178/8 194/12 205/1 205/3 Stein [3] 191/22 196/14 196/16 200/18 specifically [16] 9/13 stake [1] 32/18 something [32] 92/21 92/22 107/16 191/24 212/12 stamp [1] 42/17 submitted [2] 4/12 24/17 25/3 29/9 49/5 111/13 111/21 117/6 stand [1] 103/4 Stein's [2] 191/10 158/24 49/19 62/25 68/24 standalone [1] 49/11 121/17 130/25 137/8 191/16 subpostmaster [4] 70/7 71/6 80/19 88/19 151/11 167/8 186/14 **standard [2]** 179/19 step [7] 26/25 34/11 4/8 14/22 32/24 161/8 100/13 100/25 102/17 54/8 78/6 78/14 78/15 subpostmasters [8] 188/23 200/19 201/15 179/24

150/15 138/23 151/24 153/20 9/11 9/16 9/17 10/14 44/13 47/11 70/23 S supplying [1] 150/8 160/25 164/16 166/20 15/8 20/13 54/1 54/1 76/13 93/16 97/23 subpostmasters... [8] support [20] 22/8 168/21 169/8 180/25 54/2 54/5 54/6 55/1 99/16 103/15 106/12 12/20 13/10 13/21 24/13 27/20 30/3 181/1 181/4 181/5 55/11 55/13 56/23 108/15 111/22 121/23 13/23 13/23 32/22 30/13 85/24 97/4 181/7 181/18 182/5 57/3 83/4 85/15 92/21 122/4 128/21 129/2 50/5 108/23 99/13 111/24 166/16 182/6 182/12 182/13 99/13 110/1 111/8 142/4 153/9 156/17 subsequently [5] 5/8 169/20 172/3 197/1 182/16 193/16 193/21 111/16 113/22 179/21 174/14 175/21 187/23 15/5 15/21 42/5 197/3 197/4 197/7 185/6 192/16 196/2 188/20 191/2 191/10 system-wide [1] 193/23 198/21 198/23 199/10 118/14 200/5 201/6 202/20 194/2 194/25 201/16 subsite [1] 127/1 203/17 203/23 204/10 204/13 199/15 **systems [6]** 37/15 **substance [3]** 21/25 supported [1] 184/25 164/19 165/9 167/1 204/17 204/21 205/18 thank [124] 1/9 1/15 23/24 71/13 167/5 172/1 1/17 1/24 2/8 3/7 3/19 supporting [2] teams [2] 6/22 substantial [2] 80/6 111/11 137/21 110/14 3/24 4/5 7/9 10/6 10/9 112/24 suppose [12] 30/20 technical [11] 92/11 16/20 29/16 29/17 substantive [4] 22/24 tab [1] 25/13 60/23 69/1 69/2 92/15 151/7 151/17 51/4 51/20 52/10 24/3 68/25 72/14 table [17] 35/18 104/19 111/6 128/25 161/13 195/1 202/17 61/21 65/17 69/15 substantively [1] 117/9 118/6 135/2 129/5 138/21 165/19 203/2 203/9 207/22 69/16 74/22 76/23 86/17 135/10 135/12 140/21 177/23 188/7 210/7 79/19 81/14 82/2 87/5 subtask [1] 170/23 sure [64] 12/24 16/13 140/23 140/25 148/18 technology [2] 94/10 87/12 87/14 89/8 **subtasks** [1] 170/13 154/22 156/7 164/10 28/1 39/1 44/21 63/13 89/21 89/23 90/2 90/6 180/23 success [1] 75/20 195/9 195/17 197/25 87/10 89/1 94/4 94/11 90/7 90/15 90/20 telephone [4] 21/14 successful [1] 7/22 198/4 94/13 96/15 96/23 43/17 66/20 72/18 90/21 91/20 93/1 such [23] 4/25 10/13 table' [2] 154/8 97/13 97/21 99/8 tell [12] 19/4 45/19 93/13 94/2 94/15 17/23 28/15 74/5 100/2 100/6 100/20 155/10 59/11 59/15 80/25 94/22 97/24 98/15 92/23 95/4 95/14 96/7 tag [2] 172/4 173/1 105/13 108/3 111/13 82/6 85/15 109/12 100/22 106/23 107/20 98/12 105/8 112/12 take [33] 4/5 6/19 108/1 108/21 110/8 112/4 112/9 112/15 137/7 140/15 149/22 115/22 127/17 150/7 6/20 14/8 26/7 32/25 116/25 116/25 123/1 158/9 113/25 115/10 117/2 151/18 159/16 166/16 38/21 39/11 41/12 121/5 121/13 122/7 123/9 125/6 130/12 telling [4] 67/12 69/2 170/22 182/8 202/20 41/19 45/10 51/12 132/19 132/20 133/22 77/21 172/14 123/20 125/12 125/15 202/25 203/5 51/13 51/15 51/17 133/25 136/7 145/4 128/3 129/13 138/3 tells [1] 98/7 **sufficient [4]** 14/3 55/4 62/8 66/2 66/4 141/14 144/8 144/9 145/14 145/15 145/17 templated [1] 179/20 116/12 186/20 187/20 78/17 90/9 106/3 145/17 145/18 145/25 tempo [4] 78/6 78/15 146/19 149/3 149/12 suggest [6] 30/24 121/4 134/13 146/18 151/9 152/19 158/2 78/17 85/16 149/13 151/12 151/14 37/16 96/7 206/15 152/20 152/23 171/22 152/24 153/1 153/6 165/18 167/14 167/24 temporarily [1] 93/5 208/22 209/4 190/24 191/2 191/9 153/7 158/17 158/20 171/4 174/10 177/15 ten [8] 51/5 51/12 suggested [5] 26/12 205/12 205/22 179/15 180/18 185/25 73/18 105/7 169/16 160/5 161/18 162/4 142/14 168/23 171/19 taken [10] 3/19 19/22 187/10 187/16 188/8 190/20 191/12 191/15 162/8 162/9 162/19 176/21 58/13 73/12 74/16 188/13 193/7 195/14 162/25 163/1 164/5 tended [1] 13/18 suggesting [4] 31/2 80/15 139/9 157/14 164/7 166/2 168/12 196/6 199/3 208/11 tenders [1] 7/22 33/16 174/7 183/17 160/24 174/24 168/14 169/13 175/7 Surely [1] 73/2 tense [1] 101/11 suggestion [1] 133/3 taking [4] 4/16 5/1 surprise [1] 55/1 tenure [1] 102/20 176/2 180/9 183/1 suggests [3] 11/20 60/21 200/7 **surprised [1]** 170/12 term [3] 25/15 92/8 184/22 188/16 190/10 39/5 140/15 Talbot [17] 10/10 suspect [17] 7/4 7/5 114/10 192/22 192/23 193/1 suitable [1] 37/17 16/22 16/24 18/14 193/8 193/10 195/2 8/19 23/25 47/22 termed [1] 7/24 **summaries** [1] 42/14 21/15 23/8 23/17 27/9 59/21 66/2 76/8 76/9 200/20 200/22 200/23 terminology [3] **summarise** [1] 115/6 27/10 28/15 29/20 122/6 123/14 153/10 77/5 98/17 112/2 200/25 201/15 203/4 summarising [2] 31/11 31/20 36/9 37/4 terms [25] 5/13 26/14 112/5 119/23 125/6 204/15 205/11 206/14 47/7 115/14 38/13 47/24 206/21 206/22 207/12 130/15 175/19 38/18 38/24 53/20 summary [2] 7/1 talk [3] 55/14 75/9 suspended [1] 15/3 95/19 96/16 103/23 207/21 208/1 210/13 109/5 197/10 104/19 104/24 109/19 switch [4] 176/9 210/14 210/16 Summerhayes [1] talking [16] 9/5 24/14 177/2 177/4 177/6 109/22 111/6 111/14 thanks [5] 73/21 32/4 30/19 32/23 33/13 sworn [3] 1/7 90/22 111/22 113/7 130/25 89/19 132/3 193/6 superseded [8] 95/8 40/7 53/18 59/24 61/8 136/23 145/20 188/11 210/23 212/2 122/4 123/13 138/24 98/12 128/16 133/21 191/4 194/6 201/16 symptoms [2] 98/5 **Thariq [1]** 93/23 156/1 156/4 156/20 151/11 167/16 195/22 209/18 210/6 157/7 that [1274] 156/24 197/25 system [47] 4/21 test [6] 1/10 10/3 that I [3] 128/15 supplemental [2] 132/21 187/10 12/17 12/23 13/7 talks [1] 167/25 22/17 35/7 35/14 151/21 204/9 task [4] 70/7 170/16 13/19 18/4 19/17 103/25 that's [140] 10/4 supplemented [1] 176/24 188/9 23/19 27/9 27/12 10/16 11/24 12/6 **testers [1]** 100/15 tasked [1] 137/17 32/12 32/20 37/13 testing [1] 100/13 16/13 16/22 17/11 supplied [5] 131/21 tasks [4] 170/20 18/6 19/5 20/5 20/12 41/3 42/10 42/15 text [5] 64/14 144/18 184/10 184/11 184/15 202/25 203/24 204/18 147/10 148/2 148/13 42/16 43/6 44/6 50/6 20/14 23/2 23/3 23/9 184/18 TC [2] 166/14 167/19 than [33] 22/18 25/2 50/10 50/20 114/15 26/14 28/10 29/17 supply [2] 120/20 team [39] 6/20 8/12 118/14 122/1 128/24 32/18 35/6 36/23 30/5 31/24 34/23 38/6

125/2 127/19 131/22 42/11 43/6 44/3 44/16 170/17 193/25 194/3 77/5 77/7 85/14 92/18 T 131/23 132/5 137/2 46/1 47/16 48/16 194/3 195/16 198/4 96/9 97/22 128/24 that's... [118] 38/11 137/7 137/10 138/19 48/22 49/22 50/4 199/3 156/18 168/25 183/14 39/6 39/14 40/12 142/25 144/7 144/19 50/19 53/9 53/11 thereby [1] 38/23 194/5 194/13 194/14 40/18 43/12 45/3 51/2 146/5 149/22 149/22 53/12 55/14 57/4 57/6 therefore [13] 42/18 194/15 194/18 194/23 53/14 56/16 56/19 150/15 150/25 151/25 58/15 58/23 59/11 80/6 88/2 96/3 100/16 they've [2] 154/6 56/20 57/9 57/14 152/4 152/7 154/7 60/8 60/21 60/24 63/5 125/2 126/16 126/21 177/8 58/22 60/5 60/8 60/16 155/23 172/14 172/23 63/15 63/19 63/21 130/6 138/12 145/3 thing [7] 34/19 71/4 60/18 61/18 62/5 64/5 173/5 189/3 192/8 63/24 64/11 65/8 71/1 150/8 173/4 127/15 143/23 174/15 64/14 64/24 65/18 193/15 193/21 194/1 71/9 71/23 71/24 72/5 these [45] 22/9 27/24 188/3 194/22 66/5 66/8 66/14 66/14 194/3 194/11 194/14 75/9 75/10 75/10 42/24 43/8 44/25 47/3 things [13] 44/25 67/14 68/2 69/5 69/10 194/16 195/19 206/10 76/22 77/24 78/1 78/2 52/9 58/12 59/7 63/8 52/9 54/6 67/12 68/6 72/1 72/4 72/4 76/4 themselves [4] 79/21 80/10 80/12 69/1 76/8 85/24 87/20 92/23 103/25 116/20 78/10 78/17 79/5 109/19 175/4 176/9 80/18 84/2 84/5 84/7 103/4 103/14 104/3 142/22 143/9 176/15 79/15 81/11 81/12 177/2 84/9 84/11 84/12 110/8 117/6 123/6 190/21 199/4 82/4 82/18 83/22 then [115] 3/7 5/11 84/20 86/20 88/22 147/14 150/6 153/24 think [309] 84/20 85/16 86/2 think' [1] 72/25 6/7 7/11 8/3 9/3 16/2 91/13 93/16 93/25 154/14 155/6 155/9 86/16 87/21 89/12 23/4 23/17 23/20 24/6 95/11 96/19 96/25 155/21 156/1 156/4 thinking [3] 35/13 89/19 93/18 96/15 32/3 32/20 36/10 97/14 97/17 97/18 156/11 157/3 160/22 44/25 198/3 102/15 103/8 110/11 36/25 38/18 40/1 40/4 99/20 101/5 101/21 162/17 163/15 167/1 third [5] 3/15 45/15 116/11 120/19 122/22 167/5 168/23 193/22 41/25 47/6 51/17 102/18 103/20 104/25 62/2 148/7 164/14 124/11 127/2 129/7 51/19 52/11 58/4 105/21 108/18 111/23 194/9 194/21 201/10 **Thirdly [1]** 147/5 130/1 130/14 131/2 202/24 203/24 204/18 this [431] 58/24 58/24 61/11 114/4 116/24 118/20 134/4 134/12 135/11 61/12 61/23 62/9 64/1 119/7 121/14 122/14 209/15 THOMAS [3] 1/7 1/14 142/22 143/9 148/5 64/13 65/4 68/14 69/4 124/24 125/1 125/3 they [109] 3/23 4/9 212/2 148/25 149/18 153/22 70/9 70/14 70/19 125/4 126/12 128/5 8/11 9/17 12/16 12/18 thorough [1] 68/21 157/4 158/20 159/2 70/22 78/5 79/15 128/22 129/4 129/15 14/10 14/14 18/7 thoroughly [1] 18/24 159/23 160/2 160/18 79/22 80/2 80/10 129/18 135/15 135/19 18/11 24/18 30/3 39/5 those [79] 2/15 2/19 166/20 166/24 170/11 82/10 83/20 84/8 85/5 136/19 138/8 138/18 42/4 42/24 43/23 44/5 2/21 3/20 9/2 10/14 170/21 170/24 171/2 89/18 90/2 100/14 138/19 141/20 142/7 44/11 44/12 44/14 11/16 12/11 13/16 171/23 173/8 176/2 48/20 49/8 50/3 55/23 14/4 21/24 22/7 24/20 100/19 102/7 102/17 143/1 146/8 148/25 180/16 185/19 185/25 103/8 111/16 116/19 149/25 150/16 150/19 57/21 57/21 60/4 30/1 30/12 35/6 36/5 186/9 186/9 186/22 116/20 116/24 125/9 150/20 153/10 153/14 65/10 71/20 72/9 74/2 38/20 44/2 48/19 187/6 187/17 188/15 126/22 127/5 128/3 49/22 52/19 52/22 154/4 156/4 156/12 75/1 75/7 76/13 76/14 190/23 191/3 191/19 156/23 157/25 159/13 76/17 86/14 92/21 130/20 131/19 135/3 55/18 56/1 56/1 58/16 194/5 194/13 195/24 137/5 137/6 138/21 160/10 160/10 160/19 95/20 99/11 99/14 61/2 79/2 86/17 87/25 195/25 198/24 199/20 88/4 89/8 92/7 92/14 139/6 142/7 147/2 162/20 164/17 165/3 101/12 102/8 103/6 201/20 203/19 204/6 148/16 154/17 155/4 165/14 166/7 169/16 103/10 103/11 103/17 92/17 94/2 98/2 101/9 204/23 205/2 205/7 155/17 158/5 158/9 170/4 172/3 173/1 103/19 103/23 108/6 101/24 105/13 105/22 206/22 209/8 209/12 164/14 166/12 168/22 173/3 175/23 177/15 108/7 108/8 110/2 108/5 109/3 109/12 theft [3] 12/21 13/10 169/23 170/17 170/22 178/24 181/25 182/3 110/3 110/10 113/13 109/13 111/13 111/18 13/22 186/25 187/7 187/20 171/13 172/7 173/22 114/20 115/6 122/3 111/18 111/22 116/21 their [27] 12/5 38/22 176/7 178/25 180/5 187/22 188/2 188/10 122/15 123/24 124/14 118/1 120/20 120/21 44/6 44/11 44/12 188/8 191/17 191/17 189/24 191/6 193/18 125/9 125/9 127/8 120/24 133/18 148/16 44/13 44/14 49/20 191/22 193/25 194/11 193/21 194/8 194/8 127/18 128/17 133/24 150/5 150/15 150/22 55/20 60/14 60/19 195/2 196/21 197/10 195/7 195/15 196/15 137/9 138/10 138/17 154/20 156/24 159/15 73/1 99/14 106/20 197/18 198/14 198/19 198/11 199/16 199/23 144/16 145/11 146/6 159/19 163/12 163/23 109/14 109/19 113/18 199/13 200/4 205/15 146/24 147/12 148/13 165/22 171/18 179/17 199/23 199/24 200/1 118/13 148/13 151/2 206/6 206/14 208/1 200/13 200/16 201/5 150/4 151/22 151/24 189/13 193/15 199/4 163/16 188/5 188/9 208/3 208/8 208/14 202/15 202/19 203/19 152/5 153/24 154/17 200/6 200/12 200/21 192/17 192/18 193/24 208/18 208/25 209/19 204/13 204/20 204/24 155/13 155/14 157/6 201/16 204/15 208/24 208/5 209/25 206/6 208/22 209/8 157/12 157/12 159/15 210/21 them [72] 5/13 9/14 209/19 209/20 210/4 162/16 164/8 165/23 theory [2] 42/15 though [11] 46/4 18/23 20/18 34/4 129/5 210/9 167/9 168/19 172/18 116/10 122/22 128/12 38/23 39/12 42/23 there [201] 6/17 6/21 there's [41] 3/9 4/3 175/21 179/3 181/23 142/22 143/9 143/21 45/18 45/19 45/21 13/1 13/19 14/7 14/18 7/24 13/3 14/11 16/4 190/24 192/9 194/19 145/19 146/10 168/1 50/7 55/19 57/1 57/9 16/10 16/19 17/25 19/3 19/14 27/4 28/8 194/20 194/20 196/2 168/25 67/13 68/7 70/23 23/8 23/13 26/4 26/18 28/20 30/11 30/24 196/3 198/25 200/6 thought [18] 19/5 71/16 72/8 98/24 26/19 26/23 26/25 34/25 36/8 36/10 39/3 204/14 205/9 33/3 34/3 40/14 40/15 102/8 102/10 103/8 52/5 56/16 65/25 66/6 they'd [2] 44/23 27/1 27/11 29/6 30/1 44/2 59/14 61/17 65/9 103/22 105/20 105/21 31/20 32/14 32/18 68/14 82/3 82/16 145/1 70/6 78/24 83/7 83/9 108/9 110/4 113/11 33/3 33/8 34/24 35/21 84/19 87/6 87/7 87/22 they'll [1] 149/22 122/23 128/15 128/18 120/22 120/23 122/4 36/10 38/9 39/3 39/8 103/23 106/8 127/21 they're [20] 34/2 141/22 146/4 123/24 124/21 124/24 39/13 39/14 41/6 137/24 152/12 170/15 39/13 60/25 67/11 thread [1] 128/16

193/25 54/8 72/3 totally [1] 99/8 85/6 85/8 85/14 85/18 trying [13] 14/2 18/2 timetable [1] 51/7 touch [1] 27/17 85/22 86/1 threatened [1] 20/20 timetabling [1] 52/1 towards [2] 74/8 82/3 24/2 34/17 35/3 35/7 under [8] 19/19 42/9 three [9] 30/12 47/4 timing [7] 62/2 69/2 **TPS [1]** 164/19 59/20 74/7 131/9 63/2 88/1 110/4 162/6 47/9 84/5 89/17 69/3 69/11 69/12 **TPS/POL [1]** 164/19 145/6 197/10 204/7 170/20 176/8 118/20 159/13 173/13 70/15 74/20 trace [1] 120/5 209/18 underlined [1] 82/3 207/3 turn [38] 1/21 1/25 tip [1] 80/22 track [2] 131/9 underlying [2] three-week [1] 89/17 2/6 3/7 3/8 3/13 3/14 title [2] 109/15 206/13 143/17 157/7 through [17] 1/11 169/18 tracked [2] 206/10 6/4 10/2 16/19 24/23 undermine [1] 13/18 34/3 35/16 35/24 today [13] 1/5 1/15 25/10 28/19 29/16 207/10 undermined [1] 39/12 43/1 43/12 5/18 5/25 82/16 trail [4] 197/3 197/8 29/17 32/3 36/6 42/8 13/17 50/11 67/21 68/15 115/25 183/9 185/5 199/9 199/16 44/3 46/23 52/11 underpinned [2] 12/5 77/7 77/13 77/16 186/11 190/21 201/4 train [2] 50/19 197/19 61/23 64/1 72/12 14/17 127/21 173/6 179/14 207/14 210/15 73/15 73/15 76/4 understand [34] 2/17 training [2] 94/10 208/20 together [1] 204/18 94/16 76/19 77/3 79/6 79/19 2/23 3/10 3/16 4/3 throughout [6] 5/20 toing [1] 48/16 tramlines [1] 21/12 81/20 91/10 101/4 7/18 19/9 22/13 43/18 7/14 35/16 101/14 told [24] 18/14 24/5 109/10 113/24 131/4 45/25 51/10 58/16 tranche [2] 56/8 185/24 210/18 27/3 31/16 49/7 55/16 151/2 160/5 72/24 73/5 74/25 throw [1] 88/3 77/1 77/5 77/6 77/9 turned [4] 12/1 58/3 80/12 82/21 98/19 transaction [13] throwing [1] 170/13 77/10 107/16 111/10 42/14 42/16 42/19 68/4 80/21 101/23 104/24 113/12 thrown [1] 171/11 111/13 111/20 113/6 47/4 114/14 161/6 113/20 114/19 121/20 turning [1] 55/20 Thursday's [1] 132/17 133/20 164/22 123/24 124/24 128/12 163/10 163/13 165/11 turns [1] 29/12 115/12 135/24 136/14 144/7 166/9 166/15 196/19 two [45] 1/16 5/25 167/4 167/15 167/20 tick [2] 173/3 173/4 201/15 202/1 198/13 19/9 24/10 38/5 38/10 172/20 182/10 182/15 tight [1] 207/19 **Tolhurst [1]** 73/22 43/17 60/24 61/2 194/25 transactions [9] time [102] 4/19 8/14 Tom [13] 21/14 25/11 62/23 63/10 64/23 42/22 43/10 101/10 understandably [1] 8/18 8/20 8/25 9/23 163/11 163/18 166/11 77/5 79/13 84/14 90/3 17/9 39/10 43/22 44/2 11/18 11/22 12/1 12/6 90/3 102/25 108/3 45/16 67/2 67/14 167/16 181/5 196/4 understanding [22] 12/15 14/6 16/5 18/7 67/14 67/16 67/21 transcriber [2] 113/15 116/10 124/10 18/18 18/20 24/10 18/21 19/1 19/6 19/7 68/4 68/20 152/17 190/19 138/9 142/22 144/14 28/7 30/8 31/25 32/1 20/8 21/18 22/14 144/21 146/14 146/23 tomorrow [2] 65/6 transcribing [1] 2/15 56/14 69/13 80/17 22/15 32/13 37/18 210/19 transcript [1] 58/9 148/4 154/4 164/17 86/8 86/10 86/18 99/6 41/11 41/18 41/19 translate [1] 170/14 165/6 172/7 175/2 99/8 130/9 130/22 tone [3] 85/6 85/14 44/9 48/2 48/16 48/22 163/17 173/1 173/8 85/21 transparent [1] 146/1 176/15 181/13 191/18 49/22 51/2 51/14 too [5] 20/1 39/7 transpired [4] 125/1 194/3 199/4 204/11 180/5 182/11 53/12 56/3 56/19 understood [7] 53/1 45/12 61/5 143/9 152/9 202/18 205/15 205/11 208/4 209/10 56/21 57/6 58/10 took [12] 19/6 19/7 transpires [2] 148/24 210/6 210/21 55/10 68/5 98/21 58/11 59/4 59/17 41/8 53/12 59/4 115/1 151/1 152/7 163/22 164/11 two pages [1] 116/10 63/11 63/11 63/15 123/10 163/21 175/17 treat [2] 5/13 35/14 two paragraphs [1] undertake [1] 181/3 66/19 70/18 71/24 175/23 175/25 176/12 trepidatious [2] 60/5 181/13 undertook [1] 181/17 76/8 79/1 84/6 84/15 tool [3] 165/11 76/13 two-staged [1] 63/10 undoubtedly [1] 86/19 98/21 99/20 167/17 172/8 trial [19] 11/1 35/23 type [1] 169/5 148/20 101/14 104/20 106/17 **Tool' [1]** 164/23 46/21 47/10 48/15 typed [5] 2/15 64/2 unfairness [4] 71/20 106/21 107/22 110/20 tools [4] 165/7 167/3 49/18 54/13 55/2 76/5 79/8 84/19 71/22 72/2 72/10 110/22 112/10 112/18 167/8 188/11 55/11 55/17 56/24 types [4] 35/6 110/23 unfamiliar [1] 92/7 113/22 116/13 119/7 57/2 57/5 63/2 77/12 194/6 195/18 top [14] 36/8 37/2 unfavourable [1] 119/16 120/14 120/24 115/10 139/25 142/11 77/16 80/1 160/17 typical [2] 209/4 55/12 122/22 122/23 123/6 153/14 164/6 166/1 187/24 209/15 unilaterally [2] 33/12 128/10 129/4 130/10 trials [3] 78/3 79/23 168/4 173/15 184/2 **typing [1]** 87/20 34/7 130/13 130/19 131/9 184/3 186/2 208/16 86/13 **Unique [1]** 1/18 133/3 133/5 134/5 topic [11] 11/19 51/6 tried [4] 33/7 35/16 **University [1]** 91/25 134/7 135/15 143/3 UKGI [2] 67/16 73/25 60/7 87/23 108/21 83/15 164/17 **Unix [1]** 176/21 148/15 153/7 166/18 112/22 161/2 178/11 **ultimately [1]** 111/6 trigger [1] 14/7 unknown [2] 84/6 168/6 168/23 180/4 um [14] 94/11 95/17 184/1 184/23 193/11 triggered [1] 154/1 84/6 180/7 187/14 187/16 104/6 117/15 127/10 topics [4] 60/24 61/2 triviality [1] 118/13 unless [6] 33/12 34/5 187/17 190/17 190/21 143/18 167/14 182/23 34/6 142/6 173/6 63/8 161/24 trouble [1] 172/1 194/16 195/8 205/23 183/21 186/22 188/22 true [10] 3/21 91/17 Torstein [9] 105/9 202/2 207/19 192/18 192/18 195/12 unlike [1] 194/22 106/1 110/5 168/15 96/15 116/11 140/18 timed [1] 116/2 206/1 206/18 207/7 145/3 185/25 200/10 unavoidable [1] unlikely [2] 75/7 timeline [2] 10/17 202/2 207/9 209/14 205/7 209/12 102/18 26/14 unbelievably [1] Torstein's [2] 207/2 truly [1] 5/2 unpack [2] 12/25 times [9] 7/15 10/14 truth [1] 91/14 44/17 209/19 13/3 32/2 61/17 100/4 total [2] 42/20 160/18 try [8] 33/21 34/19 uncertainty [1] 132/6 unrelated [1] 100/25 162/14 173/9 182/6 uncomfortable [6] totality [1] 88/10 35/2 45/22 46/3 49/2 unsafe [1] 89/4

U unsuccessfully [1] 190/9 unsure [2] 70/21 74/20 unsurprisingly [1] 159/7 until [7] 37/12 53/4 94/1 102/11 161/5 179/10 211/1 untutored [1] 73/1 unusual [3] 78/17 103/11 194/5 unwelcome [1] 68/17 up [89] 2/22 3/14 7/7 10/6 19/3 24/2 25/13 28/11 36/15 37/23 45/5 45/17 54/24 55/9 56/13 57/18 57/23 58/8 59/20 65/19 67/3 70/14 73/1 73/13 75/13 75/16 77/2 79/23 81/21 81/22 83/18 84/15 87/18 users [4] 169/24 88/9 88/15 89/11 100/21 104/10 104/17 using [9] 25/15 54/8 106/9 106/25 107/7 107/18 109/10 113/24 115/9 119/3 123/20 125/24 126/5 127/20 usual [5] 1/10 24/23 127/21 129/13 130/5 131/25 133/14 139/25 usually [1] 17/22 141/6 142/11 149/12 150/21 159/6 169/11 170/9 170/13 170/25 171/11 173/23 173/25 vacated [1] 23/15 175/10 176/24 179/1 vague [1] 98/23 189/7 190/21 196/10 vaguely [1] 189/3 196/11 200/13 204/7 valid [5] 120/9 122/4 205/9 205/14 206/3 206/18 206/21 208/1 208/4 208/8 208/14 208/18 208/24 update [1] 100/18 updated [7] 79/16 100/16 100/17 119/14 121/24 155/25 159/16 updates [2] 100/12 110/25 upload [1] 123/16 uploaded [3] 121/14 123/22 126/20 **upon [2]** 20/12 142/19 **upstairs** [1] 104/8 urgency [2] 20/11 62/25 urgent [6] 55/14 63/2 63/12 82/22 115/22 147/12 us [25] 36/15 40/17 42/13 49/7 49/9 65/21 69/7 70/11 71/2 90/19

107/11 107/12 109/12 111/15 118/20 153/5 153/25 154/15 155/6 155/21 170/14 192/19 193/5 197/20 199/5 use [21] 5/13 25/18 32/1 37/12 49/14 95/4 165/12 166/14 166/17 168/24 170/7 170/11 172/8 173/4 177/17 182/5 189/18 197/2 198/21 198/25 203/23 used [21] 12/2 68/9 94/13 96/3 97/3 101/14 118/11 153/11 171/16 172/14 172/24 173/5 173/9 177/8 177/13 179/20 181/1 190/1 190/5 200/7 204/8 useful [2] 96/4 100/19 user [3] 163/18 168/8 172/7

175/4 176/9 176/11

92/17 92/18 95/18

25/4 197/3 198/23

156/17 196/2 197/14

utterly [1] 44/5

200/10

150/6 150/18 150/25 valuable [2] 157/13 160/23 various [18] 2/13 92/3 93/25 95/22 99/15 99/22 105/1 105/3 110/13 110/14 111/1 112/14 122/14 195/9 196/12 197/23 198/4 203/21 vastly [1] 34/25 vein [1] 9/10 veins [1] 34/2 verbatim [5] 56/1 59/5 59/7 81/15 83/15 version [22] 64/2 70/10 76/5 79/15 92/18 95/20 96/20 108/13 108/17 108/19 119/14 119/15 122/17 123/13 131/18 155/25 159/17 159/20 194/4 208/3 208/16 208/21 versions [18] 2/14

95/7 95/9 95/22 108/8 wanted [23] 4/14 119/18 121/23 122/4 156/1 156/3 156/4 156/5 156/20 156/24 157/19 157/20 159/10 159/18 very [42] 17/14 18/5 20/2 26/16 27/6 27/7 34/11 34/18 36/21 41/24 42/24 47/10 51/4 55/12 74/9 75/18 wants [4] 20/24 72/6 76/3 80/1 89/2 90/2 98/9 112/23 114/10 116/9 116/9 127/6 142/13 153/14 161/16 78/17 164/25 166/13 173/15 was [519] 188/16 194/14 196/23 wasn't [45] 8/17 8/23 200/20 205/11 206/22 9/20 26/18 43/10 207/19 209/24 210/16 43/12 44/13 47/17 210/23 via [4] 101/9 131/10 164/21 189/13 view [32] 3/16 3/17 29/23 30/5 30/9 30/11 30/14 31/18 32/16 33/18 44/14 60/2 62/20 67/5 67/8 68/20 71/13 73/2 78/1 78/3 78/20 79/4 79/21 80/10 86/3 108/13 139/7 139/9 139/18 145/4 145/16 145/17 views [9] 67/9 71/1 71/4 71/7 75/1 78/4 78/23 78/24 83/24 vigorous [1] 89/3 virtual [3] 111/8 202/20 204/10 Vishian [1] 93/20 visibility [1] 86/24 visit [1] 38/20 voices [3] 57/22 57/23 84/6 volume [2] 92/20 114/17 volumes [2] 92/11 92/15 waiting [3] 82/23 128/4 128/18

walk [1] 33/12 want [39] 6/4 9/8 9/24 14/19 18/17 22/1 24/6 24/7 46/8 52/11 57/21 58/5 58/8 65/4 65/13 66/1 66/6 69/12 70/11 71/2 72/7 72/9 74/2 75/7 75/15 76/2 79/12 81/20 83/17 83/18 85/15 85/16 85/24 88/24 122/22 132/22 184/17 193/11 201/1

25/14 34/16 34/18 34/21 35/19 38/9 63/7 63/22 69/7 78/24 79/2 79/4 79/5 79/17 81/11 86/10 108/19 109/23 wanting [3] 49/2 100/11 191/9 74/12 190/23 warned [1] 78/7 warning [2] 78/12 63/24 64/10 68/14 83/12 84/2 84/12 98/25 99/10 104/19 108/18 112/8 113/6 116/9 120/14 125/1 125/3 125/8 126/15 132/4 133/23 140/24 143/15 143/19 144/1 145/17 177/21 179/2 186/3 186/20 187/20 192/8 192/10 203/18 waters [1] 14/4 wavelength [1] 69/19 way [35] 15/1 25/7 30/23 34/17 35/16 35/24 52/8 62/22 63/2 67/10 68/19 69/11 70/23 72/9 77/7 77/13 77/16 84/7 88/1 89/3 100/5 100/23 112/16 140/14 145/14 159/16 165/20 177/12 198/6 202/13 206/15 209/15 195/22 ways [5] 8/11 129/7 143/21 187/6 188/15 **WBD [23]** 111/16 112/5 117/21 118/24 119/25 125/8 126/19 127/4 135/24 162/18 173/21 175/3 178/21 181/22 184/10 184/12 187/24 202/1 203/1 207/7 207/8 207/14 207/18 WBON0001499 [1] 69/15 WBON0001511 [1] 87/18

WBON0001734 [1]

WBON0001735 [1]

WBON0001737 [1]

58/10

58/10

81/23 WBON0001739 [1] 61/23 45/25 57/21 58/2 63/3 WBON0001745 [1] 64/1 WBON0001747 [2] 3/3 64/2 WBON0001749 [1] 66/19 WBON0001751 [1] 2/22 WBON0001752 [2] 3/7 66/20 WBON0001776 [1] 81/21 WBON0001792 [1] 84/15 WBON0001795 [1] 84/16 53/6 53/9 54/22 63/20 WBON0001888 [1] 3/13 WBON0001899 [1] 76/5 WBON0001900 [1] 76/6 we [429] we'd [5] 18/22 33/7 46/2 77/22 204/7 we'll [19] 42/1 51/2 51/17 51/18 52/3 58/11 58/12 59/16 60/20 66/18 122/6 123/14 136/2 158/19 178/8 191/8 191/22 192/24 210/19 we're [26] 1/5 1/10 2/17 9/5 11/23 15/1 20/13 22/7 24/14 33/13 35/14 51/14 61/8 61/9 66/3 82/23 130/12 132/21 139/10 83/1 84/24 100/24 103/7 115/9 134/18 137/12 151/11 152/17 we've [24] 16/18 17/13 24/8 32/2 35/1 35/2 43/25 44/10 61/5 65/21 76/17 135/24 142/23 159/23 164/9 165/6 174/1 174/18 178/16 185/4 185/10 186/10 194/1 209/23 weakness [1] 32/17 website [14] 4/1 96/22 97/3 97/7 97/24 98/16 98/19 99/1 99/3 99/19 100/1 100/8 133/16 140/25 Wednesday [2] 1/1 116/3 week [3] 89/17 115/2 128/4 weekend [3] 57/4 69/5 69/10

104/17 105/18 105/24 108/1 108/12 111/14 114/16 115/6 116/6 202/16 202/20 203/13 W 106/15 108/6 108/8 113/5 116/16 117/25 116/18 118/10 118/13 203/16 203/19 203/20 weeks [2] 146/14 109/13 110/1 110/2 120/10 120/10 126/19 123/2 123/4 124/13 203/24 205/9 207/23 186/12 110/19 111/10 111/14 126/19 129/10 132/17 125/4 126/10 126/21 who's [1] 88/24 welcome [1] 68/14 112/1 112/25 113/3 138/16 139/4 139/6 126/24 129/22 131/14 whoever [1] 78/25 well [90] 5/8 13/3 131/16 131/17 131/20 whole [7] 23/24 113/8 113/8 113/12 144/4 146/25 152/20 13/25 17/2 18/18 113/13 115/2 116/3 152/22 155/25 156/11 132/22 134/4 134/13 32/20 78/16 117/1 18/25 20/16 21/23 118/1 120/11 120/24 162/11 167/5 168/6 135/16 135/20 136/4 122/3 150/24 170/19 27/3 32/8 33/23 35/13 122/17 127/18 128/4 171/18 173/1 177/1 136/19 137/9 138/9 wholly [1] 164/20 36/4 39/25 41/25 138/11 138/18 140/22 whom [7] 109/7 128/13 128/17 132/7 177/6 177/21 182/13 44/20 45/1 46/4 50/2 133/7 133/21 135/19 186/13 193/20 194/11 141/16 142/14 142/24 110/9 110/15 118/19 52/2 59/16 66/2 72/3 136/10 138/10 139/5 195/7 195/8 196/3 144/3 144/17 147/6 119/22 137/19 179/24 74/6 75/15 76/9 78/22 144/14 145/10 145/11 196/9 201/21 148/16 149/12 150/20 why [60] 6/10 7/12 79/6 79/16 87/10 90/2 145/22 146/1 146/8 where [38] 2/24 151/6 152/7 153/20 10/12 10/16 22/2 36/7 93/6 95/9 96/15 99/12 148/25 149/1 149/1 11/11 35/7 37/5 40/7 154/18 154/20 154/22 43/5 53/9 60/22 61/8 100/20 101/8 102/5 150/4 150/20 150/25 41/6 50/4 53/22 56/17 155/4 155/11 156/6 61/8 62/21 68/20 69/2 103/6 103/6 103/22 151/6 151/24 152/10 89/1 95/11 109/11 156/7 156/15 157/14 75/18 86/10 99/7 104/9 104/25 108/6 113/13 114/20 122/10 100/8 100/20 104/17 153/24 154/2 154/2 157/25 158/1 159/2 116/21 117/17 120/13 155/6 155/14 155/21 123/6 135/8 135/12 160/15 160/20 161/2 106/7 112/6 112/11 123/9 125/6 127/8 136/2 141/1 148/19 156/6 156/11 157/3 161/3 161/22 163/12 120/3 128/23 130/14 127/19 128/19 135/22 157/19 157/23 160/11 149/11 153/18 164/25 163/22 164/1 164/8 132/20 138/22 141/11 136/22 137/5 137/11 164/9 164/20 164/23 142/3 142/7 142/17 160/15 160/18 160/19 166/13 167/25 170/18 140/19 141/4 141/24 161/5 161/21 161/21 170/22 173/23 179/22 164/24 165/7 166/22 143/1 143/7 143/7 143/9 145/2 145/18 161/22 162/13 162/16 187/1 190/25 192/9 167/3 168/17 169/8 143/13 143/14 143/15 148/24 149/22 150/4 163/12 165/22 165/22 197/8 197/21 199/16 170/2 170/10 170/25 143/20 143/21 143/25 150/7 150/16 153/12 167/8 167/8 168/19 207/8 207/22 144/6 145/1 145/11 171/14 171/15 171/23 156/22 157/1 164/10 172/2 174/13 175/22 whereas [4] 74/7 172/4 173/2 174/13 151/22 165/17 171/9 165/18 168/20 175/13 181/23 183/17 183/19 98/6 98/10 103/14 175/10 178/25 178/25 173/9 175/17 175/23 181/7 182/1 188/5 188/5 189/15 190/5 whether [56] 12/19 180/10 181/1 182/7 175/24 176/12 179/12 190/23 191/3 194/11 192/6 192/9 195/10 13/20 23/18 42/19 184/14 185/4 187/11 184/17 192/6 193/18 196/8 197/13 198/4 198/7 200/5 200/6 48/20 50/20 51/18 187/14 188/17 188/17 193/22 194/20 201/22 199/8 199/21 200/4 200/10 200/10 201/21 52/2 60/2 60/17 61/18 189/25 191/9 194/1 202/4 200/20 201/19 209/17 63/16 65/9 66/12 67/7 202/1 202/6 202/15 194/1 195/16 198/7 wide [1] 118/14 210/14 202/19 202/24 203/13 70/12 74/25 78/20 205/25 206/14 wider [3] 20/6 21/7 went [6] 50/12 78/25 203/13 203/16 203/19 83/25 96/24 100/2 whichever [1] 51/13 33/4 119/23 119/24 125/9 203/20 204/9 204/14 100/17 100/18 117/24 while [6] 75/4 81/12 will [83] 4/1 7/4 9/3 173/6 9/8 9/16 19/22 20/9 204/17 205/9 206/11 118/3 120/5 120/25 115/9 125/20 172/13 were [210] 4/18 5/16 206/12 207/18 209/19 126/3 128/5 128/22 206/17 23/19 26/3 26/21 6/16 8/24 9/1 10/21 209/25 210/4 210/10 129/1 129/15 132/23 32/17 32/20 32/21 **whilst [5]** 63/10 10/23 11/3 11/7 11/10 133/24 134/8 134/20 81/15 83/14 152/19 39/21 39/24 39/25 weren't [11] 9/13 11/11 11/13 11/15 28/22 34/16 36/18 135/23 138/8 144/25 189/15 40/1 40/3 40/8 42/23 12/10 17/15 18/7 22/5 84/11 107/15 186/13 146/8 148/10 148/22 Whitaker's [1] 11/1 44/3 46/13 46/18 22/7 25/11 25/12 201/15 201/22 202/20 150/14 152/11 152/13 White [1] 24/16 46/21 50/23 52/1 27/11 30/3 31/8 32/7 205/8 154/1 172/23 178/22 who [74] 8/6 9/21 52/11 57/22 59/5 33/8 39/10 40/19 65/11 65/20 66/3 66/4 West [1] 130/5 180/6 181/25 185/25 12/15 13/21 16/11 40/22 41/2 41/13 43/2 23/5 37/16 38/17 44/7 66/6 66/13 67/21 68/2 187/9 188/8 189/9 Wharton [2] 115/11 43/5 44/3 44/16 44/17 189/22 190/20 47/23 54/17 55/16 68/3 73/24 74/1 74/2 116/19 44/22 45/8 48/25 49/3 74/4 74/6 74/10 79/22 what [217] which [155] 6/2 7/8 63/4 63/5 63/8 63/9 49/8 49/25 50/3 50/4 what's [12] 12/6 9/1 15/24 16/18 17/1 63/14 63/21 68/4 80/2 80/5 80/5 80/9 50/4 50/5 50/12 50/19 18/11 23/3 30/22 18/23 18/23 26/24 73/13 80/3 81/4 84/8 80/15 81/16 82/7 53/2 53/11 53/12 34/14 38/6 51/7 79/4 31/2 31/18 34/5 35/24 88/11 88/23 88/25 82/14 82/15 83/15 54/17 55/13 55/21 86/2 97/24 149/20 36/1 36/7 36/15 40/2 92/7 93/19 93/21 84/3 85/13 85/17 87/6 56/3 56/22 56/24 57/1 93/24 93/25 99/18 183/16 42/22 48/11 49/1 56/6 88/9 89/11 90/13 60/4 63/4 63/20 68/8 101/17 101/19 104/6 whatever [5] 8/2 35/5 57/6 57/16 58/15 107/11 114/11 119/15 68/24 69/14 71/3 104/9 105/5 105/11 122/19 126/12 127/11 52/7 166/17 199/6 58/16 58/25 70/24 71/21 73/12 76/7 whatsoever [1] 12/13 71/19 76/2 81/10 105/21 105/22 105/24 132/11 134/15 136/25 76/13 76/14 77/20 when [66] 4/23 6/6 87/16 95/5 96/12 106/24 109/13 109/17 149/3 162/7 167/1 77/20 77/23 79/17 8/24 9/7 9/13 11/6 96/22 97/2 97/20 110/22 110/23 111/2 175/20 190/18 191/2 81/12 81/24 84/5 84/9 11/16 19/5 24/3 24/5 98/13 99/10 100/11 111/4 111/25 114/3 191/9 191/16 191/17 85/18 86/14 88/11 28/12 28/25 36/21 101/15 101/24 103/25 120/20 120/22 137/17 191/18 192/25 206/6 88/22 89/4 93/8 98/23 52/4 56/3 57/5 59/21 104/11 105/18 105/24 151/17 173/20 175/12 willingness [1] 52/8 99/3 99/9 100/8 62/16 64/7 86/20 89/9 107/10 108/22 110/23 186/16 190/23 191/9 **WIP [1]** 107/13 102/13 103/10 103/16 wired [2] 25/7 62/24 93/1 98/10 98/15 99/1 111/25 113/2 113/7 192/8 193/7 195/18 103/17 103/19 103/23 100/16 103/8 104/2 113/12 114/9 114/11 201/6 202/4 202/6 wish [1] 73/4

98/6 99/11 99/14 73/20 76/22 77/13 131/12 157/25 173/17 W won't [1] 76/3 wonder [2] 152/18 99/16 100/7 101/23 78/8 84/20 85/1 86/25 you [899] wished [1] 27/14 you'd [12] 2/14 4/3 162/3 102/8 103/12 105/15 89/20 91/6 91/12 within [35] 8/11 Woodward [2] 10/9 105/24 108/7 108/10 93/10 96/7 96/11 99/6 26/1 46/4 59/17 10/15 15/8 55/16 10/19 108/12 108/18 110/8 101/3 104/6 106/1 126/16 135/20 152/6 86/24 96/17 99/18 word [7] 32/1 52/13 110/8 110/11 110/17 107/1 108/10 108/17 152/7 153/17 164/10 102/7 104/21 105/7 52/13 68/9 80/15 110/25 111/2 111/17 110/6 110/11 113/23 173/4 109/4 110/15 111/4 156/17 184/8 111/21 112/15 112/22 116/15 117/12 117/18 **you'll [2]** 2/1 71/23 119/1 126/16 127/1 114/20 116/12 118/21 wording [9] 25/18 121/3 122/5 124/12 you're [48] 1/20 135/14 140/23 140/25 179/5 180/8 182/19 118/22 119/3 119/5 127/1 128/14 130/3 10/19 14/25 16/18 149/4 156/7 164/20 183/7 197/17 198/15 119/25 120/20 120/21 130/12 130/14 130/16 20/2 22/13 22/19 27/3 170/15 182/9 190/21 199/19 200/7 122/16 125/24 127/5 131/3 132/19 135/11 34/7 35/7 37/24 40/7 197/4 199/9 202/16 41/21 45/12 49/15 words [6] 19/2 27/5 127/7 128/20 130/7 135/18 136/12 136/17 202/22 204/16 204/21 88/18 122/16 179/24 130/20 130/25 132/12 136/22 137/1 137/20 53/15 54/22 59/23 204/25 205/2 205/18 62/25 68/17 68/18 183/24 132/18 132/21 133/13 138/5 139/24 142/2 207/19 work [48] 4/13 6/13 133/17 133/25 134/7 143/13 143/18 143/18 70/1 82/21 94/5 95/10 without [11] 20/22 6/14 6/14 6/14 6/17 136/3 136/3 136/18 144/2 145/5 146/17 98/9 103/20 105/15 24/21 79/24 102/10 107/2 134/1 135/7 6/19 6/21 6/22 6/23 139/1 140/23 141/18 147/25 150/13 151/4 119/9 161/7 175/4 6/24 8/20 8/23 8/24 142/3 142/9 144/16 151/19 154/12 154/25 138/3 139/12 143/1 176/10 177/13 185/25 9/2 9/7 9/10 9/18 145/10 145/13 145/25 157/1 157/1 157/11 145/19 148/2 157/4 189/7 12/10 17/2 21/4 44/12 146/10 148/15 148/16 157/21 158/2 158/2 158/2 162/20 167/10 WITN00530100 [1] 44/14 44/24 45/14 150/3 150/21 151/25 158/4 158/12 158/15 170/2 174/7 186/20 94/21 48/21 54/3 54/5 54/6 154/10 156/24 157/6 160/2 160/19 161/9 189/5 195/14 195/15 WITN09510100 [2] 54/7 54/9 64/4 87/19 157/8 157/12 172/18 162/2 163/20 163/24 203/2 205/12 1/18 7/8 93/12 97/7 97/11 175/24 179/3 179/5 165/10 167/25 168/11 you've [41] 1/16 2/18 witness [55] 1/22 2/5 97/13 97/18 97/22 183/23 186/16 187/25 168/25 169/3 169/7 6/2 6/17 19/2 22/6 4/7 4/12 7/7 10/25 98/25 105/1 107/13 188/2 188/10 190/14 169/10 169/12 169/12 24/4 44/15 63/1 64/2 17/13 22/4 22/6 22/8 118/11 178/17 196/7 190/17 191/6 191/11 169/22 170/6 170/8 68/8 76/6 79/8 85/15 22/18 22/19 24/12 197/5 199/11 201/2 191/14 192/19 195/19 170/15 170/24 171/2 96/25 101/15 109/14 24/25 25/2 30/1 30/12 worked [15] 54/17 199/22 200/1 200/11 171/10 171/12 171/17 113/7 128/12 139/22 33/15 35/17 38/22 92/3 92/12 93/4 94/1 201/6 202/12 204/2 171/21 171/21 172/10 148/1 148/7 153/14 39/18 43/2 53/2 55/8 99/20 101/15 101/20 204/22 205/2 205/3 173/8 174/6 174/19 160/6 160/22 164/8 56/12 85/25 90/3 205/6 209/13 101/21 109/17 109/18 174/23 175/1 177/14 169/14 169/17 179/17 90/21 90/22 91/5 177/14 182/14 183/25 184/24 186/11 192/1 137/19 174/1 203/20 wouldn't [11] 22/1 101/4 111/24 112/1 185/21 186/12 187/5 209/15 98/14 101/25 102/18 195/4 198/14 200/7 112/7 112/19 178/12 working [10] 9/14 117/23 125/10 130/6 188/15 190/7 190/8 201/4 202/4 203/16 178/14 179/8 179/19 133/4 133/19 136/19 194/4 194/13 194/18 203/17 204/11 210/12 16/24 57/1 92/14 184/7 188/4 191/1 109/19 110/4 129/4 142/7 195/6 195/12 195/20 your [150] 1/13 1/17 193/13 201/23 202/5 2/3 2/10 2/12 2/18 180/25 192/16 204/17 196/6 196/7 196/20 wrapped [1] 190/21 202/17 203/4 203/12 197/12 197/16 200/3 3/21 3/21 3/24 4/2 works [2] 93/21 Wright [6] 99/21 203/25 207/2 209/16 93/24 110/1 125/7 127/8 201/12 201/14 201/19 5/20 7/7 8/2 12/1 209/23 210/3 210/10 worried [1] 187/16 202/21 206/1 202/11 202/14 202/19 14/13 15/24 16/20 210/16 worry [1] 19/16 write [2] 36/14 71/6 202/23 203/11 203/15 16/24 17/6 17/13 witness's [1] 94/20 worth [2] 24/11 26/10 writes [1] 134/9 204/1 204/10 204/14 18/18 21/2 22/19 witnesses [9] 22/22 writing [2] 68/7 would [163] 8/3 8/12 204/19 204/23 205/7 24/23 27/5 27/22 24/25 38/25 112/12 205/10 206/5 206/9 28/21 29/13 31/18 8/21 8/25 9/12 9/18 192/19 202/7 202/20 203/13 10/12 12/18 14/2 14/5 written [7] 1/17 62/21 206/10 206/10 206/13 35/12 36/4 41/12 43/2 210/5 210/7 14/6 14/7 14/18 17/22 64/14 108/6 148/1 207/20 207/20 207/25 44/9 50/24 51/12 Womble [47] 5/11 20/1 21/18 21/24 194/24 209/24 208/7 209/12 209/17 52/19 53/2 55/8 56/12 5/18 6/4 40/17 48/8 56/14 57/10 57/11 23/21 24/9 25/18 wrong [11] 14/17 year [1] 7/21 53/20 54/16 55/1 31/18 35/8 35/10 23/2 49/12 49/13 years [19] 6/13 7/4 58/5 58/8 58/9 58/25 55/10 55/12 55/16 39/11 40/14 41/4 41/8 49/15 55/25 61/4 82/6 9/3 9/4 9/5 9/24 18/16 61/24 63/13 63/14 56/23 57/2 57/20 73/6 41/14 41/16 43/15 116/24 137/4 178/7 22/7 36/23 40/13 60/6 69/14 69/17 69/20 81/1 109/2 109/4 44/25 45/4 45/14 100/5 110/22 130/20 70/14 70/16 71/10 wrongly [2] 150/4 113/8 114/2 115/2 45/24 46/19 47/23 150/7 175/17 193/19 197/2 71/13 72/18 78/19 120/11 120/17 120/25 48/1 48/17 48/18 wrote [3] 39/4 132/18 198/22 199/1 79/7 79/8 80/17 82/25 121/6 121/9 123/22 48/20 49/23 50/19 139/5 83/12 91/2 91/4 91/10 yellow [3] 58/15 124/13 136/4 136/11 54/9 55/18 63/23 115/18 207/8 91/14 91/18 91/21 137/2 138/13 140/4 65/16 68/5 68/21 93/19 94/19 94/23 yes [270] 140/15 144/3 146/15 yeah [164] 9/6 11/14 74/19 74/24 75/7 yes/no [1] 63/23 97/2 99/24 101/1 149/5 149/18 151/6 13/8 23/25 31/1 33/20 101/4 102/3 102/20 76/17 77/10 80/20 yesterday [2] 52/14 153/11 161/17 175/9 36/12 44/21 53/18 88/3 88/23 89/3 94/15 102/24 103/5 107/15 79/11 177/24 179/16 182/19 61/25 66/17 66/24 yet [8] 18/3 44/14 95/10 95/14 95/25 108/22 108/25 108/25 188/20 201/7 71/12 71/15 73/20 96/2 96/8 97/22 98/2 75/1 76/3 108/19 109/7 109/10 109/13

Υ		
your [62] 115/24		
115/25 116/8 116/13		
118/17 123/20 125/22		
126/5 126/15 127/14 130/22 131/2 131/25		
132/6 133/8 134/4		
137/3 137/12 137/14		
139/12 139/18 140/1		
141/11 141/16 144/8		
147/24 149/15 152/3 153/9 153/12 153/14		
153/19 154/9 156/7		
159/6 161/3 161/4		
161/11 164/5 164/8		
170/25 171/11 176/1		
176/4 177/10 178/13 184/24 186/8 190/4		
191/22 192/5 193/12		
193/13 193/15 202/12		
203/23 204/13 205/12		
207/23 209/3 210/12 210/16		
yours [1] 58/13		
yourself [3] 20/3		
123/6 147/17		
Z		
zero [2] 42/20 57/24		
zip [1] 126/9		
		(89) your - zip