1		Thursday, 13 June 2024	
2	•	45 am)	4
3		BLAKE: Good morning, sir, can you see and hear me?	(
4		R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.	4
5	MR	BLAKE: Thank you very much. This morning we're going to	ţ
6		hear from Mr Andrew Parsons.	-
7	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.	
8		ANDREW PAUL PARSONS (affirmed)	6
9 10	мр	Questioned by MR BLAKE	1
10 11		BLAKE: Thank you. Can you give your full name, please? Andrew Paul Parsons.	1
12		Mr Parsons, you should have in front of you a bundle	1
13	ω.	containing your witness statement. Is that witness	1
14		statement dated 17 April 2024?	1
15	Α.	It is.	1
16	Q.	It is a very lengthy witness statement, 557 pages in	1
17	<b>_</b> .	length. Could I ask you to turn to the final	1
18		substantive page, page 557. Is that your signature?	1
19	Α.	Yes.	1
20	Q.	Can you confirm that that statement is true to the best	2
21		of your knowledge and belief?	2
22	Α.	It is.	2
23	Q.	Thank you. That statement has the Unique Reference	2
24		Number WITN10390200 and that will be uploaded on the	2
25		Inquiry's website in due course. That sits alongside	2
		1	
1		involved in the Castleton case. Was that something you	
2		were aware of when you qualified?	2
3	Α.	I was aware of the Castleton case.	:
4	Q.	Your main involvement in Horizon, I think, was from	4
5		April 2013; is that correct?	ţ
6	Α.	That's correct.	6
7	Q.	When you first started working on those Horizon related	-
8		matters, as a senior associate, who did you report to	8
9		within Bond Dickinson?	{
10	A.	Gavin Matthews.	1
11 12	Q.	Thank you. In terms of the Post Office, who were your	1
12 12	A.	main points of contact at that stage? Initially it was Rodric Williams and then later Susan	1
13 14	А.	Crichton.	1
14	Q.	What was your view as to their competence and abilities?	י 1
16	Q. А.	They both seemed like experienced in-house lawyers.	1
17	Q.	I'm going to start today by taking you to the Helen Rose	1
18	પ્ય.	Report. That can be found at POL00022598, please. This	1
19		is a report that's well known to the Inquiry but I'll	1
20		take you very briefly to a couple of key paragraphs in	2
20		that report. The date of that is 12 June 2013, so soon	2
22		after your Horizon work began, and it's an investigation	2
23		into the Lepton branch.	2
24		If we could turn over the page, the subpostmaster in	2
25		this case had denied carrying out a transaction and	2
		3	

1		1,172 exhibits, comprising 18 substantive bundles of
2		exhibits.
3		There's a large amount of paperwork today. I'm not
4		going to take you to hard copies I'm going to try to
5		deal with it all on screen but I will be taking
6		a note of my own in relation to a few matters as we go
7		along.
8		You are currently a partner at Womble Bond
9	_	Dickinson?
10	Α.	Yes.
11	Q.	You began your career there as a trainee, I think, in
12		2006 when it was Bond Pearce; is that correct?
13	A.	Yes.
14 15	Q.	You qualified in September 2008 and joined the Southampton office?
15 16	A.	Yes.
17	Q.	You became a senior associate in 2012?
18	Q. A.	Yes.
19	Q.	You became a partner in 2016?
20	Q.	Yes.
21	Q.	We know from Phase 4 of this Inquiry that Bond Dickinson
22	<b>.</b>	was involved in civil actions against subpostmasters
23		from the early time when you were qualified as
24		a solicitor, so the early years of your qualification.
25		We heard from, for example, Stephen Dilley who was
		2
1		there was an investigation. Helen Rose has written this
1 2		there was an investigation. Helen Rose has written this report. If we scroll down, there's a section on
		there was an investigation. Helen Rose has written this report. If we scroll down, there's a section on reviewing the data. She says there:
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Α.

> Q.

Α. 

reviews ..."

Q. Thank you:

spot reviews; is that correct?

a potential issue at some stage.

to the spot reviews.

office doesn't feature as part of our Second Sight spot

Just pausing there, by this stage, so summer of

2013, I think you were involved in those Second Sight

I was assisting Post Office with drafting the responses

"... but the subject matter is Horizon (and indeed Credence) related. Could I ask that you consider the

report and feed any comments back as it could be

"In summary, the specifics concern a 'system

reversal' of a transaction following a system failure. This is normal practice, but the Horizon logs (and

Credence logs) indicate that the reversal is an

'existing reversal', implying that the reversal was manually entered by the clerk/subpostmaster.

"I think there's a remote possibility that this

1		"I know you are aware of all the Horizon integrity
2		issues and I want to ensure that the ARQ logs are used
3		and understood fully by our operational teams who have
4		to work with this data both interviews and in court."
5		If we scroll over the page she makes some
6		recommendations.
7		"Recommendations
8		"I do believe that the system has behaved as it
9		should and I do not see this scenario occurring
10		regularly and creating large losses. However, my
11		concerns are that we cannot clearly see what has
12		happened on the data available to us and this in itself
13		may be misinterpreted when giving evidence and using the
14		same data for prosecutions."
15		Now, you've set out in your witness statement why,
16		in your view, this wouldn't have changed the picture
17		very much. I think it's paragraph 84 of your witness
18		statement, I don't need to take you to it.
19		We can see that this report was sent to you. Could
20		we please turn to POL00190324. We have an email at the
21		bottom of the page, please, from Dave Posnett to Rodric
22 23		Williams. He says as follows:
23 24		"Rodric, "Please find associated a report from our fraud
24 25		analyst, Helen Rose, in respect of Lepton SPSO. This
20		5
1		3 July 2013 and he save:
1		3 July 2013, and he says:
2		"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give
2 3		"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today."
2 3 4		"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today." He attaches there the Helen Rose Report.
2 3		"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today." He attaches there the Helen Rose Report. I think you've said in your statement that you don't
2 3 4 5	А.	"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today." He attaches there the Helen Rose Report. I think you've said in your statement that you don't recall receiving the report; is that correct?
2 3 4 5 6	A. Q.	"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today." He attaches there the Helen Rose Report. I think you've said in your statement that you don't
2 3 4 5 6 7		"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today." He attaches there the Helen Rose Report. I think you've said in your statement that you don't recall receiving the report; is that correct? I don't recall receiving the report, no.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today." He attaches there the Helen Rose Report. I think you've said in your statement that you don't recall receiving the report; is that correct? I don't recall receiving the report, no. Looking at this email, it is likely that you did receive the Helen Rose Report on 3 July Yes.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A. Q. A.	"Andy can you take a look at this so you can give me an overview on the phone sometime today." He attaches there the Helen Rose Report. I think you've said in your statement that you don't recall receiving the report; is that correct? I don't recall receiving the report, no. Looking at this email, it is likely that you did receive the Helen Rose Report on 3 July Yes. and it is likely that you considered its contents? Correct.
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could be a problem in terms of using the data for evidence/prosecution purposes, but nevertheless it is still a possibility. Myself or Helen are happy to talk through anything that requires explanation." If we scroll up to the top of the first page, please, we can see Rodric Williams sends it to you on 6
that time it was the 14 bug or referred to the number 14 because of the number of branches that it was known to have affected; is that correct? Correct.
Could we please look at POL00296703. If we start at the
bottom of the first page, we can see an email from Ben
Thorp, was he in the Post Office Legal team?
He was a secondee from Bond Dickinson to the Post Office
Legal team.
Thank you. In fact, that's how he introduces himself at
the beginning of this email. He says:
"By way of a very brief introduction, my name is Ben
Thorp. I am a Bond Dickinson secondee (from the
Newcastle office) currently working with Rodric Williams
in [the Post Office's] Legal Team for the next few
weeks.
"We have received the attached query from business
regarding historical issues a very limited number of
branches had with Horizon. [The Post Office] intends to
refund any losses caused by these issues, but not seek
to recover any gains.
"Could you please review the letters and let Rodric
and me have any comments you may have, particularly in
the context of the spot reviews?
"If you would like to discuss anything arising from 8
(2) Pages 5 - 8

1		your review, please do give either Rodric or me a call."	1
2		If we scroll up we can see your response. You say:	2
3		"Ben, Rodric	3
4		"To be honest, I don't quite follow the logic of	4
5		Andy Winn's letters (I suspect this is just me and that	5
6		this just makes expect sense to the subpostmasters!).	6
7		"The risk here is that disclosing any form of	7
8		an error in Horizon could become problematic if it ends	8
9		up in the hands of the [Justice for Subpostmasters	9
10		Alliance]. However, we have no real option but to	10
11		disclose this issue and make right the error with the	11
12		[subpostmasters] that have been [affected]. To do	12
13		otherwise, risks damaging [the Post Office's]	13
14		credibility on Horizon and severe criticism from the	14
15		Fed.	15
16		"My [suggestion] therefore is to make sure that we	16
17		fully understand the root cause of this error before	17
18		going public. Hopefully, this will give us a good	18
19		explanation as to why this one error does not undermine	19
20		our general view that Horizon is otherwise robust.	20
21		"With that in mind, are you happy for me to speak	21
22 23		to Simon Baker/Andy Winn to get some more	22
23 24		background/technical details?"	23 24
24 25		You say there "Hopefully, this will give us a good explanation as to why this one error does not undermine	24 25
25		9	25
1		was that something you were aware of, that the business	1
2		was that something you were aware or, that the business wasn't happy with certain language?	2
3	Α.		3
4	7.1	language. I think it's a fairly ordinary thing for	4
5		lawyers to do to soften wording in letters.	5
6	Q.	You say:	6
7	ч.	"I don't think we should apologise in the letters.	7
8		I know this sounds hard but in apologising we are	8
9		admitting some degree of culpability. I think we should	9
10		maintain a more cold, procedural approach to correcting	10
11		what is effectively an accounting irregularity."	11
12		Is that, again, something you did, your own	12
13		initiative without instructions on that particular	13
14		matter?	14
15	Α.	These are my recommendations to Post Office.	15
16	Q.	You then say:	16
17		"In some circumstances it appears that [an] error	17
18		caused a transaction record from a former	18
19		[subpostmaster] at a branch to be carried over into the	19
20		records of a later [subpostmaster] at the same branch.	20
21		In my view this is a dangerous admission, as the	21
22		complete separation between [subpostmaster] records is	22
23		a cornerstone principle of ensuring Horizon's integrity.	23
24		Although this has happened and is completely	24
25		explainable, I don't think we ever want to expressly	25
		11	

Q. Can we please turn now to POL00144848. So letters by this stage had been drafted and sent to you for review. You are now responding to Rodric Williams and you say: "I've reviewed the [subpostmaster] letters. I've attached mark-ups of the two letters which show the suggested amendments that should be made across all the letters." You set out in bullet points the various amendments that you've made. The first: "To insert an opening paragraph that explains [the Post Office's] investigation and highlights the fact that we have sought to protect [subpostmasters] from any harm in the interim period. "To remove the word 'problem' and to replace with the dramatic word: 'issue'." Just pausing there, was that your own initiative; 10 document this." Are you saying in that final bullet point that it's such an important issue for Horizon that you don't think that it should be documented? A. I'm talking here in the context of these letters, which are individual letters to go to individual subpostmasters. Q. Why wouldn't you want to expressly document something that is the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity? **A.** We're talking here about these particular letters. This isn't advice to suggest that the whole issue should not be documented. Q. Why wouldn't you want to document it in those letters? A. Because each letter was individual to each branch. Each one was customised, so it dealt with the issue in that individual branch. Q. Why wouldn't it matter? Why would you be concerned about expressly documenting something? Is it because you would be concerned about disclosure, for example, in other cases? A. Disclosure of this issue may have come out anyway because the issue was documented in other documents. What I'm talking about here is the individual letters, each one was customised to each individual subpostmaster to reflect their position and how it had impacted on 12

our general view that Horizon is otherwise robust"; were

you concerned, on reading that, that it was a possibility that that general view could have been

A. At this stage, I didn't understand the nature of the error in hardly any detail. I was also only about two months into working for Post Office in earnest, so my understanding of Horizon was pretty limited, so I wanted to understand more information before forming that view.

undermined?

1		them.
2	Q.	I'm not too sure how that answers the question that I've
3		just asked though, which is about disclosure in other
4		cases. Were you concerned that, by documenting it in
5		these particular cases, it would then be on record to be
6		disclosed in other matters? Was that a concern that you
7		had that is expressed in this bullet point?
8	Α.	If it had been documented in those letters then, yes, it
9		would have been disclosable in other matters but my
10		point being is there would have already been in
11	_	existence documents about this issue.
12	Q.	Was a concern that you had that, if you documented it,
13		it would then become disclosable in other matters?
14	Α.	I don't believe I gave it that level of thought.
15	Q.	You were, at this time, summer of 2013, concerned about
16		expressly documenting matters relating to Horizon
17	•	integrity?
18 19	Α.	Again, this is in the context of letters to individual
20		subpostmasters. It's not a general observation on how
20 21	Q.	Post Office should document problems in Horizon. Can we please look at the letters. Can we turn to
21	Q.	POL00144849. Thank you. These are your amendments to
23		the letters. This is to a subpostmaster and it says:
23 24		"I am aware that you have communicated previously
25		with our Current Agents team in relation to
20		13
1		Then we see you've changed the word "problem" to "issue"
1 2		Then we see you've changed the word "problem" to "issue" and you've struck out the words "by the former
2		and you've struck out the words "by the former
		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in
2 3		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of
2 3 4		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in
2 3 4 5	А.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts
2 3 4 5 6 7		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time.
2 3 4 5 6	A. Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 7	Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the subpostmaster or not.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the subpostmaster or not. So why strike it out?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A. Q.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the subpostmaster or not. So why strike it out? Because I didn't think it was relevant to this
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. A.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the subpostmaster or not. So why strike it out? Because I didn't think it was relevant to this particular subpostmaster.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. A.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the subpostmaster or not. So why strike it out? Because I didn't think it was relevant to this particular subpostmaster. It's not because you didn't think it was relevant. We
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the subpostmaster or not. So why strike it out? Because I didn't think it was relevant to this particular subpostmaster. It's not because you didn't think it was relevant. We can go back to those bullet points if you want but you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q. A.	and you've struck out the words "by the former subpostmaster"; is that because, as you identified in that previous email, that, at the cornerstone of ensuring Horizon's integrity, was the separation between subpostmasters accounts That's what I understood at the time. and, thereby, by removing reference to the former subpostmaster, it would not be clear to the person reading this letter that that strict division between subpostmasters' accounts had not, in fact, functioned on that occasion? I think it would have been possible for the subpostmaster to have worked that out because it mentions 2010; "TP8" is trading period 8, so they would have known whether that happened whilst they were the subpostmaster or not. So why strike it out? Because I didn't think it was relevant to this particular subpostmaster. It's not because you didn't think it was relevant. We can go back to those bullet points if you want but you said, in that final bullet point, that:

on IT Inquiry 13 June		uiry 13 June 2024
1		2 unexplained discrepancies that have impacted your
2		branch. Thanks for alerting us to the issues."
3		So this is a letter where someone has already made
4		a complaint and it's responding to their specific
5		complaint?
6	A.	That's what I understood, yes.
7	Q.	You've added this. You've added:
8	-	"In light of these discrepancies, Post Office has
9		thoroughly investigated your branch's records and,
10		whilst undertaking this investigation, we have ensured
11		that any known discrepancies have not been charged to
12		your account. I write now to confirm the outcome of our
13		investigations."
14		What was the thorough investigation that had taken
15		place?
16	Α.	This was information provided to me by Andy Winn of Post
17		Office.
18	Q.	This was your insertion into a draft letter. What
19		investigations had you carried out that the Post Office
20		had thoroughly investigated the branch's records?
21	Α.	I had personally not carried out any investigations.
22	Q.	Were you, nevertheless, comfortable in inserting that
23		addition?
24	Α.	Those were my instructions from Andy Winn.
25	Q.	"I can confirm", and then you speak about the gains.
		14
1		a cornerstone principle of ensuring Horizon's integrity.
2		Although this has happened and is completely
3		explainable, I don't think we ever want to expressly
4		document it."
5		Surely, by removing reference to "by the former
6		subpostmaster", you're making it less clear that that
7		separation had been violated?
8	Α.	l accept that.
9	Q.	If we scroll down, please, and, again, strike out the
10		word "problem", replace it with "issue", and then strike
11		out the apology at the end?
12		What was the problem, legally, with making
13		an apology?
14	Α.	I think sometimes apologies can be interpreted as
15		admissions and it's not I think it's pretty common
16		for lawyers to in letters, to consider whether the
17		apology is appropriate or not.
18	Q.	Post Office were, in this case, making an admission,
19		weren't they?
20	Α.	Yes.
21	Q.	There had been an issue or a problem, it had been
22		corrected and this was notification to the subpostmaster
23		that that had been corrected. What was the problem in
24		this particular asso of applaciaing for that?

- 24 this particular case of apologising for that?
- 25 A. In my view, it leads people to consider that there was, 16

# The Post Office H

1		as I say, an admission of legal fault when, in fact,	1		wi
2		Post Office's view is, yes, there had been a problem but	2	Α.	Ιc
3		it was being corrected through proper channels.	3		thi
4	Q.	Was that something you did regularly on behalf of the	4		a
5		Post Office?	5	Q.	W
6	Α.	It would depend on the circumstances.	6		the
7	Q.	Are there other letters where you would have removed	7	Α.	Be
8		apologies?	8		the
9	Α.	Possibly.	9	Q.	Di
10	Q.	Could we please look at POL00144850. This is the other	10		as
11		attachment. This is the other amendment, made very	11	Α.	١d
12		similar amendments. If we scroll down we can see	12	Q.	Fc
13		reference to that "thorough investigation".	13		ha
14		Do you see, in terms of the thorough investigation,	14		"in
15		is it likely that, in fact, the investigation was only	15		qu
16		in relation to this particular issue that had been	16	Α.	Ιc
17		identified, the 14 bug?	17		be
18	Α.		18	Q.	Ca
19	Q.		19	Α.	l tl
20		relation to these subpostmasters' branches investigating	20		in۱
21		their branch records, any wider than the identified	21	_	Wa
22		issue in this particular case?	22	Q.	Sc
23	Α.		23	_	in۱
24	Q.		24	Α.	Co
25		though a thorough investigation has taken place that is 17	25	Q.	Ca
1 2		same day, 27 June 2013, POL00144864. I think it's the bottom email on that page. You email Rodric Williams,	1 2		sa Of
3		you say:	3		
4		"Rodric	4		un
5		"As discussed, please find attached a version of the	5		bra
6		letter for those [subpostmasters] who are currently not	6		
7		aware of the situation."	7		the
8		So there were letters going out to those who had	8		un
9		actually made specific complaints, those who knew about	9		kn
10		the investigation, and then a third set of matters which	10		ac
11		was to those who weren't already aware of the situation;	11		in۱
12		is that correct?	12		
13	Α.	I can't now recall what that was a reference to.	13		an
14	Q.	Well, looking at this email, does it seem as though	14		
15		there was a further set of letters to the subpostmasters	15		do
16		who were not currently aware of the situation?	16	Α.	lt a
17	Α.	My recollection is there were two versions of the	17	Q.	Tŀ
18		letters, one for those who had suffered a loss, and one	18		ind
19		for those who had suffered a gain. I don't recall	19	Α.	M
20		whether there was a third version for another category.	20	Q.	Yo
21	Q.	Okay, well, let's have a look at the draft letter that's	21		let
22		attached to this tell that's sent in your name on	22		av
23		27 June 2013. That is at POL00144854. This is the	23		pa
24		letter that was attached to your email. If we scroll	24	Α.	Co
25		down, we can see it's informing a subpostmaster and it 19	25	Q.	Do

loriz	uiry 13 June 202		
	1		wider than simply one particular issue?
	2	Α.	I can see how someone could read it that way but I also
	3		think it's read in the context of looking at
	4		a particular issue.
	5	Q.	' Where does it explain that a particular issue has been
	6		thoroughly investigated?
	7	Α.	Because it's targeting those specific discrepancies in
	8		the accounts.
	9	Q.	Did you draft it intentionally so that it was ambiguous
	10		as to what the investigation had been into?
	11	Α.	l don't believe so.
	12	Q.	For example, why wouldn't it have said, "The Post Office
	13		has thoroughly investigated this issue"? It says,
	14		"investigated your branch's records". It's drafted in
	15		quite a wide way, would you accept that?
	16	Α.	I can see how you could read it that way. I don't
	17		believe I gave it that level of thought at the time.
	18	Q.	Can you see how the recipient may well read it that way?
	19	Α.	I think they would have recognised that this was
	20		investigating a particular discrepancy and that's what
	21		was being investigated.
	22	Q.	So it wasn't your intention to suggest a broader
	23		investigation than, in fact, had taken place?
	24	Α.	Correct.
	25	Q.	Can we please turn to POL00144864. We're still on the 18
	1		says, "Branch discrepancies at", and it names the Post
	2		Office:
	3		"You may have been aware of 2 small value
	4		unexplained discrepancies that have impacted your
	5		branch.
	6		"In light of these discrepancies, Post Office has
	7		thoroughly investigate your branch's records and, whilst
	8		undertaking this investigation, we have ensured that any
	9		known discrepancies have not been charged to your
	10		account. I write now to confirm the outcome of our
	11		investigations."
	12		It refers to a small value declaration that was
	13		amended.
	14		Looking at this, is this something you recall now;
	15		does this assist?
	16	Α.	It appears that the first paragraph has been changed.
	17	Q.	This isn't a change; this is one that you sent
	18		independently.
	19	Α.	Mm.
	20	Q.	You said, "Please find attached a version of the
	21		letter", so it's a further letter to those who weren't
	22		aware and it refers specifically to an issue in their

ware and it refers specifically to an issue in their

- particular Post Office, doesn't it?
- Correct.
- Do you think it's fair to say that a reader of this 20

		The Post Office Hor
1		letter will be under the impression that, in fact, there
2		are two small-value discrepancies and that this is
3		effectively a business as usual type correspondence, no
4		explanation, for example, of it affecting other
5		branches?
6	Α.	I couldn't comment on whether this was a business as
7		usual type correspondence for Post Office to send.
8	Q.	You were drafting the letters?
9	Α.	Mm-hm.
10	Q.	You were assisting the Post Office drafting the letters?
11	Α.	(The witness nodded)
12	Q.	If you were to read this and you're a subpostmaster, do
13		you think you might get the impression that you were the
14		only one affected by this discrepancy?
15	Α.	You might get that impression.
16	Q.	Do you think you might get the impression that, in fact,
17		it's only two small-value discrepancies that have
18		occurred?
19	Α.	In that branch, yes.
20	Q.	But you wouldn't have known about other branches, would
21		you?
22	Α.	Correct.
23	Q.	Again, was that the intention of this correspondence: to
24		suggest to the recipient of the correspondence that it
25		was only them that was affected and that it wasn't a big
		21
1	Q.	So the correspondence we saw before about the two
2	-	small-value unexplained discrepancies. Alongside those
3		small-value discrepancies, there were large ones?
4	Α.	That's my yeah, my distant understanding is there
5		were some larger ones, yes.
6	Q.	"However as it was any a few branches, Chesterfield
7	<u> </u>	didn't see the pattern in the errors for over 12 months.
, 8		It was only as more issues were raised and no individual
9		branch-by-branch explanation could be found, that
10		someone (not sure who) realised that it could be

- 10 someone (not sure who) realised that it could be
- 11 an error in Horizon affecting multiple branches. 12 "I presume that it then took time to engage Fujitsu;
- 13 investigate the technical causes and determine the
- 14 effect of the causes; etc."
- 15 So this is a bug that occurred in 2011 that was only 16 realised 12 months later; is that right?
- That was -- I think that was my understanding at the 17 Α. 18
- time, based on what Andy Winn had told me. Q. We're now in 2013, summer of 2013, and you say you 19
- 20 presume it took time to engage Fujitsu, so
- a considerable further period has taken place before 21
- 22 subpostmasters have received any correspondence on the
- 23 issue or received that correspondence explaining the 24 issue?
- 25 That's my presumption at the time, though I just would Α. 23

deal? 1

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3

- A. I don't believe that was the intention. Q. Why in that correspondence not say to the recipients
- "You are one of a number of branches that have been 4 5 affected by this issue"?
- 6 A. I don't believe we just -- I gave that any consideration 7 and the instruction was to draft a letter that was
- 8 focused on each individual branch and explain their 9 position.
- 10 Q. Can we please turn to POL00144871. Same day, another email between you and Rodric Williams. The bottom email 11
- is Rodric Williams to you saying: 12
- 13 "When We discussed this yesterday, you mentioned 14 this might have been kicking around for [circa]
- 12 months. 15
- 16 "Can you give me a couple of bullet points on when
- 17 this first came up and what [the Post Office] did next?" 18
  - If we scroll up, we see your response. You say:
- 19 "Rodric
- 20 "The issue manifested in around 2011 and those
- 21 [subpostmasters] that suffered sizeable errors (ie ones 22
- that were easy to spot) reported the issue immediately." 23
  - Pausing there, so there were subpostmasters who
- 24 experienced sizeable errors? 25 Α. Yes.

22

1 note that my understanding of this bug is it's nature 2 was that it was annually reoccurring. So it would only 3 come up once a year, which was part of the context of 4 this. 5 Q. So it had happened twice before it was actually spotted? 6 A. Correct. 7 Q. You say there: 8 "I presume that it then took time to engage Fujitsu; 9 investigate the technical causes", et cetera. 10 Were you aware of the extent to which Fujitsu had 11 been investigating the causes? 12 A. Not at this time. 13 **Q.** So, again, if we refer back to those letters that I took 14 you to, where you referred to a thorough investigation, 15 in fact, you personally weren't aware of the extent of 16 the investigation? 17 A. I was working on the instructions provided to me by Andy 18 Winn. Did you question those instructions? 19 Q. 20 Α. I remembered speaking to Andy Winn and discussing the 21 matter but, beyond that, I can't remember the details of 22 those conversations. 23 Q. So we're still in the summer of 2013, you now, by this 24 stage, know that there was this bug, not just that 25 subpostmasters' records couldn't be kept separate from 24

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8 **A.** 9 **Q**.

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19 **A**.

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18 **A**.

19 **Q**.

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"Other than the Castleton and Misra, we are not

"However, this is based on anecdotal discussions

Just pausing there, who had you spoken to inside

"Please bear in mind that we have handled [hundreds] of

cases over the last 5-10 years for [the Post Office] so (absent a case-by-case review) it's impossible to say

for certain that no [subpostmaster] alleged a Horizon

2 years has involved an allegation that there is

"We are however confident that no case in the last

Just pausing there, the first paragraph that I took

aware of any litigation that has involved an allegation

of an actual bug in Horizon.

inside Bond Dickinson."

a specific flaw in Horizon."

you to refers to an actual bug.

Bond Dickinson?

A. I don't recall.

bua

1		a successor subpostmaster but it was also a bug that
2		went on for a year without anyone noticing and took even
3		more time to resolve; is that right?
4	Α.	Correct.
5	Q.	So summer 2013, I'm going to put new evidence of
6		suspense bug, you were concerned about its implications
7		for accounting integrity
8	Α.	Correct.
9	Q.	and you had, in an email raised concerns about
10		documenting that?
11	Α.	I'd raised concerns about documenting it in these
12		specific letters, not generally.
13	Q.	Can we please turn to POL00407496, please. Still in the
14		summer of 2013, 1 July 2013 now. Could we start on the
15		second page, the bottom of the second page. An email
16		from Simon Baker to Rodric Williams:
17		"Rod
18		"It would be helpful if we can show that Horizon
19		bugs were discussed openly in our court cases.
20		"We know that the Falkirk bug was discussed in the
21		Misra case, can you find out if there are any other
22		examples where bugs have been discussed in court."
23		That request is ultimately sent to you, and we can
24		see that and your answer, on page 1. So if we go to the
25		top of page 1, we can see, you say:
		25
1	Α.	I don't think I meant any difference between those two
2		phrases.
3	Q.	Well, you were aware that, in that time, subpostmasters
4		had been raising problems with Horizon and that they
5		couldn't necessarily pinpoint that to a specific or
6		actual bug?
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	"There are a number of cases handled by our paralegal
9		team that have been put on hold because
10		[a subpostmaster] has alleged problems with Horizon."
11		So there are also some that are now on hold because,
12		I think, Second Sight are investigating?
13	Α.	Correct.
14	Q.	"These cases are suspended pending Second Sight Report.
15		It may be that on closer inspection these cases reveal
16		a specific complaint about an error in Horizon however
17		we would need to undertake a deeper review of each case
18		to determine this.
19		"On Castleton:
20		"I have spoken to the lawyer had a conducted this
21		litigation which took place in 2007."
22		Can you assist us who it was that you spoke to?
23	Α.	I can't recall but I believe it would have been Stephen
24	_	Dilley. "The case was principally about accounting records
25	Q.	

27

Mm-hm. Q. At the third paragraph, we're talking about a specific flaw. Were those words quite carefully chosen, in that what you're saying here is an actual bug that has been referred to, for example, by name or that is known about, rather than, for example, a wider problem with Horizon? 26 the Horizon challenges by Castleton were generally uncoordinated and piecemeal. It should be borne in mind that Castleton was unrepresented so there was no logical attack on Horizon." You say: "I'm still looking to Misra and will report back soon." So can I add here to my list of things in summer of 2013 that you knew about the Castleton case; you knew in broad terms, although not the specifics, about the Misra case; and you knew that other cases were on hold because of Horizon challenges? A. I think the other -- I knew both about those cases, and I think the other cases were generally all paused because the Second Sight work was going on. Q. You knew that they were paused because they were raising concerns about the integrity of the Horizon system? That's what it says there but I can't recall that now. The second Sight Interim Report is then 8 July 2013. I'm going to take you very briefly to that report. The Inquiry has seen it many times. It is POL00099063. Thank you. If we turn to page 6, please. We see there the bugs that are referred to as "defects" in the Second Sight Report. The first is the receipts and payments mismatch problem impacting 62 branches. The second is 28 (7) Pages 25 - 28

emails you and she says:

"Andy -- we received a letter from the [it should be 'CCRC', Criminal Cases Review Commission] yesterday

1		the local suspense account problem, that's the 14 branch	1
2		issue that you had already been dealing with?	2
3	Α.	I'd been drafting the letters on.	3
4	Q.	Yes. 6.10, there's also another bug, I think that's the	4
5		Callendar Square/Falkirk bug. It says:	5
6		"POL has informed us that it is disclosed, in	6
7		Witness Statements to English Courts, information about	7
8		one other subsequently-corrected defect or 'bug' in the	8
9		Horizon software."	9
10		That was, in fact, the issue that you were looking	10
11		into on behalf of Rodric Williams, wasn't it; you were	11
12		looking into whether there were other bugs that had been	12
13		disclosed in court cases?	13
14	Α.		14
15	Q.	Misra was one you were going to come back to him on;	15
16		presumably you did come back to him on Misra?	16
17	A.	Yes, I believe we had someone review the case.	17
18	Q.	Because I am going to add, we're in the summer of 2013,	18
19		8 July, at least three bugs known to you?	19
20	A.	I knew of three bugs at that time.	20
21 22	Q.	Yes. Cartwright King's advice on Gareth Jenkins now.	21 22
22		That was dated 15 July 2013. You've dealt with it in	22
		your witness statement, paragraph 87. Could we please	
24		start with WBON0000133. If we can start on page 4,	24
25		please, bottom of page 4, 16 July 2013. Susan Crichton 29	25
1		"I do also have concerns from a civil point of view	1
2		over a couple of statements in the draft response."	2
3		So this is the draft response to the Criminal Cases	3
4		Review Commission that had been drafted by Cartwright	4
5		King. He says:	5
6		"In particular, where it states:	6
7		"'He has done so both to [the Post Office] and, in	7
8		expert witness statements and oral evidence, to the	8
9		court. In particular he has: attested to the presence	9
10		of defect detection and rectification systems; the	10
11		robustness of the prosecution audit trail; and stated	11
12		that, in his expert opinion, Horizon accurately records	12
13		and processes all information submitted into the system.	13
14		The Second Sight Interim Report demonstrates that this	14
15		was not the case'."	15
16		So that's there a reference to Gareth Jenkins, isn't	16
17		it?	17
18	Α.	Yes.	18
19	Q.	Yes. Your supervising partner there is raising	19
20		a concern about that being included in the letter to the	20
21		Criminal Cases Review Commission?	21
22	Α.	Yes.	22
		He says:	23
23	Q.	The says.	20
23 24	Q.	"I consider this to be unhelpful, given that the	23
	Q.		

	which I have asked Cartwright King to review. Their
	advice feels odd to me as if given on a take it or leave
	it basis and I am not comfortable that's particularly
	useful in this context. Could we discuss, I am happy to
	go to another firm that specialises in criminal law or
	a barrister, somehow it feels as if there is a conflict
	here which I am not sure I understand."
	Over the page to page 3, please. There's advice
	given by Gavin Matthews. So he was your supervising
	partner, was he, at this stage?
Α.	Correct.
Q.	He says:
પ્ય.	"I know that you are with Simon and Andy today so
	I have taken an initial look at this for you."
	So on 16 July, is "Andy" a reference to you? Were
	you meeting with Susan Crichton on 16 July?
A.	I think that is a reference to me but I don't recall
Α.	that meeting.
Q.	He says:
α.	"I agree with you that I would expect the advice to
	[be] more prescriptive, ie you need to say this in
	response. 30
	problems with Horizon.
	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters
	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message
	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they
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	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your
А.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination
A. Q.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware
	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email.
Q.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware
Q. A.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware I was aware of
Q. A.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware I was aware of not just from this email but perhaps from
Q. A. Q.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware I was aware of not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or
Q. A. Q.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware I was aware of not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or I don't believe before this point my firm had any
Q. A. Q.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware I was aware of not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or I don't believe before this point my firm had any involvement in the criminal side, so there may have been
Q. A. Q. A.	"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters (criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides? I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware I was aware of not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or I don't believe before this point my firm had any involvement in the criminal side, so there may have been no conversations before this email was sent.
Q. A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters</li> <li>(criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides?</li> <li>I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware</li> <li>I was aware of</li> <li> not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or</li> <li>I don't believe before this point my firm had any involvement in the criminal side, so there may have been no conversations before this email was sent.</li> <li>So, from this point on, the approach of your firm was,</li> </ul>
Q. A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters</li> <li>(criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides?</li> <li>I was copied to this email.</li> <li>Yes, so you were aware</li> <li>I was aware of</li> <li> not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or</li> <li>I don't believe before this point my firm had any involvement in the criminal side, so there may have been no conversations before this email was sent.</li> <li>So, from this point on, the approach of your firm was, and the advice to the Post Office was, that "We need to</li> </ul>
Q. A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters</li> <li>(criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides?</li> <li>I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware</li> <li>I was aware of</li> <li> not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or</li> <li>I don't believe before this point my firm had any involvement in the criminal side, so there may have been no conversations before this email was sent.</li> <li>So, from this point on, the approach of your firm was, and the advice to the Post Office was, that "We need to coordinate more between the criminal and the civil</li> </ul>
Q. A. Q. Q.	<ul> <li>"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters</li> <li>(criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides?</li> <li>I was copied to this email.</li> <li>Yes, so you were aware</li> <li>I was aware of</li> <li> not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or</li> <li>I don't believe before this point my firm had any involvement in the criminal side, so there may have been no conversations before this email was sent.</li> <li>So, from this point on, the approach of your firm was, and the advice to the Post Office was, that "We need to coordinate more between the criminal and the civil side"?</li> </ul>
Q. A. Q. Q.	<ul> <li>"It shows the need for all [Post Office] letters</li> <li>(criminal and civil) to contain a consistent message so that the right hand and the left hand know what they are each doing." Were you aware that that was the advice from your firm: that there needed to be greater coordination between the criminal and civil sides?</li> <li>I was copied to this email. Yes, so you were aware</li> <li>I was aware of</li> <li> not just from this email but perhaps from conversations with your supervising partner or</li> <li>I don't believe before this point my firm had any involvement in the criminal side, so there may have been no conversations before this email was sent.</li> <li>So, from this point on, the approach of your firm was, and the advice to the Post Office was, that "We need to coordinate more between the criminal and the civil side"?</li> <li>I think that is an early comment from Gavin, which will</li> </ul>

a criminal lawyer and he suggests that they get advice 32

1		from a criminal barrister.	1
2	Q.	Can we turn, please, to the first page. There's another	2
3		email from Gavin Matthews. You were presumably at this	3
4		stage very much aware of the Gareth Jenkins issues	4
5		because you were meeting Susan Crichton that very day?	5
6	Α.	I think I had been informed a few days earlier that	6
7		there was something to do with Gareth Jenkins but	7
8		I wasn't fully aware of the issues until I received	8
9	_	a copy of the advice from Cartwright King.	9
10	Q.	Thank you. We will go through that advice shortly.	10
11		Gavin Matthews emails Susan Crichton and says:	11
12		"Susan	12
13		"thought I would give you my preliminary views on	13
14		this pending our call"	14
15		Were you involved in a call on that day? I know you	15
16		met her, I think, on the 16th. Do you recall a call the	16
17		next day?	17
18	Α.	No. At this time, I was mainly focused on looking at	18
19 20		the response to Second Sight, because their report had	19 20
20 21	~	just been published.	20 21
21 22	Q.	"1. [The Post Office] needs to look at the response to	21
22		the CCRC in the context of the overall strategic advice	22
23 24		received from [Cartwright King] (including their advice regarding [Gareth Jenkins/Fujitsu]).	23 24
24 25		"2. If [the Post Office] suffers losses directly	24 25
25		33	25
1		Clarke Advice on Gareth Jenkins, entitled	1
2		"Prosecutions Expert Evidence". Could we please	2
3		start on page 5, paragraph 14, "Expert evidence relied	3
4		upon by [the Post Office] in prosecuting offences":	4
5		"For many years both [Royal Mail Group] and latterly	5
6		[the Post Office] has relied upon Dr Gareth Jenkins for	6
7		the provision of expert evidence as to the operation and	7
8		integrity of Horizon."	8
9		So you were aware at this stage that the Post Office	9
10		had been relying on Gareth Jenkins for a number of years	10
11		to provide expert evidence?	11
12	Α.	That's what I took from this advice, yes.	12
13	Q.	Paragraph 15:	13
14		"Dr Jenkins had provided many expert statements in	14
15		support of [the Post Office and Royal Mail Group]	15
16		prosecutions"	16
17		So lots more than one, a number of different expert	17
18		statements, is that what	18
19	Α.	That's what it says there.	19
20	Q.	Was that your understanding?	20
21	Α.	Yes, having read those words.	21
22	Q.	Thank you. Could we turn to page 13, please. We have	22
23		the conclusion, paragraph 37:	23
24		"What does this all mean? In short, it means that	24
25		[and that should read 'Gareth Jenkins'] has not complied	25
		35	

referable to [Gareth Jenkins'] failure to comply with his obligations as an expert witness, there are 3 potential entities against whom [the Post Office] may have an action -- [Gareth Jenkins, Fujitsu and Cartwright King] ... "4. Given that [Cartwright King] are potentially liable to [the Post Office] for any failure on the part of [Gareth Jenkins/Fujitsu], I do think it would be sensible to get a criminal QC to oversee the strategic advice being given [Cartwright King] -- I'm not saying that [Cartwright King] have definitely done anything wrong but they may have done and are trying to blame [Gareth Jenkins/Fujitsu] so it is very important to check that their tactical approach is now overseen by someone completely unbiased." We will see, in due course, that advice is sought from that criminal QC. We'll look at that advice. Could we please, first though, turn to WBON0000770. If we scroll down slightly, we can see that Martin Smith sends Susan Crichton the Simon Clarke Advice on Gareth Jenkins and, if we scroll up, please, we can see that Susan Crichton sends you that advice and that's that same day, 17 July 2013. Can we please turn to the Advice and that is POL00006357. This is Cartwright King's advice, the 34 with his duties to the court, the prosecution or the defence." Paragraph 38: "The reasons as to why [Gareth Jenkins] failed to comply with this duty are beyond the scope of this review. The effects of that failure however must be considered. I advise the following to be the position: "[Gareth Jenkins] failed to disclose material known to him but which undermines his expert opinion. This failure is in breach of his duty as an expert witness. "Accordingly [his] credibility as an expert witness is fatally undermined; he should not be asked to provide expert evidence in any current or future prosecution." If we scroll over the page, please. We see there that first bullet point on the page, it says: "... not least by reason of [Gareth Jenkins'] failure, material which should have been disclosed to defendants was not disclosed, thereby placing [the Post Office] in breach of their duty as a prosecutor. "By reason of that failure to disclose, there are

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convicted status."

a number of now convicted defendants to whom the existence of bugs should have been disclosed but was not. Those defendants remain entitled to have disclosure of that material notwithstanding their now

1		The next bullet point:
2		"Further, there are also a number of current cases
3		where there has been no disclosure where there ought to
4		have been. Here we must disclose the existence of the
5		bugs to these defendants where the test for disclosure
6		is met."
7		A very serious advice, one that you presumably took
8		very seriously at that time?
9	Α.	I read it but this was within the remit of the criminal
10		lawyers to deal with.
11	Q.	It's not just dealing with the existence of bugs, that
12		we've already seen you were aware of throughout the
13		summer of 2013 but, by now, potential miscarriages of
14		justice. Was that not something that played on your
15		mind at all?
16	Α.	It was a serious matter but it looked like to me it was
17		being addressed by Cartwright King and then subsequently
18		Post Office understood the seriousness, which is why
19		they brought in Brian Altman.
20	Q.	There were the subpostmasters who had been convicted on
21		the back of that evidence. Presumably, irrespective of
22		your day job, you were concerned about that?
23	Α.	I could see the seriousness of the matter.
24	Q.	
25		motion a number of different actions, one of which is 37
		51
1	Α.	
2		was said and so I suspect some of the context or wider
3 4		language used has been lost somewhere. I don't think it
-		would be unsurprising for me to have given Post Office advice on what its civil disclosure duties might be, and
5		advice on what its civil disclosure duties might be, and
6 7		that's what's haing given there
	0	that's what's being given there.
Q	Q.	Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't
8 9	Q.	Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's
9		Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't?
9 10	Q. A.	Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't? This is talking about the fact that in civil rules of
9 10 11		Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't? This is talking about the fact that in civil rules of disclosure are attached to documents, which is
9 10 11 12	A.	Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't? This is talking about the fact that in civil rules of disclosure are attached to documents, which is information that's recorded.
9 10 11		Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't? This is talking about the fact that in civil rules of disclosure are attached to documents, which is
9 10 11 12 13	A.	Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't? This is talking about the fact that in civil rules of disclosure are attached to documents, which is information that's recorded. Can you see that it might be interpreted as advice that
9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q.	Do you see the civil disclosure duty to be, if it isn't produced, it's then available for disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't? This is talking about the fact that in civil rules of disclosure are attached to documents, which is information that's recorded. Can you see that it might be interpreted as advice that people shouldn't be writing things down? No.
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39

mq	
	this regular call regarding Horizon issues. Do you
	recall those regular calls?
Α.	I recall the calls as a concept. I don't recall any of
	the individual ones.
Q.	Here we have the first of those, which was presumably
	significant in the sense that it was the very first.
	19 July 2013, you are named as an attendee; do you
	recall attending that first regular call?
Α.	I don't recall attending that call but I have no reason
	to doubt that I was there.
Q.	There are two entries from you that are recorded in
	these minutes. Can we please look at the first, which
	is on page 2. It says:
	"Andrew Parsons Commented on the need to limit
	public debate on the Horizon issue as this may have
	a detrimental impact on future litigation."
	Over the page, please, to page 4, second entry on
	page 4:
	"Andrew Parsons Stated all lists and
	spreadsheets should be sent to Rosie Gaisford for
	[collection].
	"Spoke about emails, written comms, etc If it's
	produced it's then available for disclosure, if it's not
	A. Q. A.

produced it's then available for disclosure, if it's not then technically it isn't."

Is that accurate?

24

25

1	a contemporaneous piece of advice from Cartwright King,
2	it's what we know as the "shredding advice" or what's
3	been referred to as the "shredding advice", disclosure,
4	the duty to record and retain material. Over the page,
5	please, it summarises the information that's been given
6	to Mr Clarke. It says:
7	"At some point following the conclusion of the third
8	conference call, which I understand to have taken place
9	on the morning of Wednesday, 31 July, it became unclear
10	as to whether and to what extent material was either
11	being retained centrally or disseminated."
12	If we scroll down, please, to point (iii) he
13	summarises the various bits of information that he has
14	received, and he says:
15	"Advice had been given to [the Post Office] which
16	I report as relayed to me verbatim:
17	"If it is not minuted it's not in the public domain
18	and therefore not disclosable.
19	"If it's produced it's available for disclosure
20	if not minuted then technically it's not'."
21	Again, those are the words, in effect, that we saw
22	in those minutes a moment ago. This is
23	a contemporaneous document. It was drafted/written on
24	2 August 2013. That sounds very much like the advice
25	that's attributed to you in that first meeting; do you 40

1		agree with that?	1		advised
2	Α.	No, I think the wording is different between the two	2		could ha
3		documents and, as I say, I didn't produce those minutes,	3		be takin
4		and I didn't approve those minutes. I don't thin Simon	4		from Ca
5		has been accurately recorded in them. To be clear,	5		said sor
6		I never advised Post Office that they should not minute	6	Q.	That ca
7		those calls and, until the suggestion that there was	7		gave ad
8		some connection between what I had said and this advice	8		things d
9		was raised in this Inquiry, I had no idea that there was	9	Α.	No.
10		any connection with anything I'd done.	10	Q.	Could w
11	Q.	There is a body of evidence that the Inquiry has seen	11		we're go
12		that suggests that your advice to the Post Office was	12		now, I w
13		not to keep a paper trail?	13		it. If we
14	Α.	I disagree. I did not advise Post Office against	14		time, Ju
15		minuting those meetings.	15		Crichtor
16	Q.	There is some evidence that you advised caution in	16		"An
17		minute taking; do you agree with that?	17		to go to
18	Α.	In the context of this, I did not advise Post Office not	18		issue. I
19		to minute those calls.	19		Υοι
20	Q.	Do you think that those who were present at meetings	20		"Th
21		with you could have got the impression, from the advice	21		Office's]
22		that you were giving at those meetings, that they should	22		It's very
23		be careful about writing things down?	23		strictly r
24	Α.	I think they would have got the impression that they	24		look bad
25		would be subject to disclosure duties, which is what I'd 41	25		guilt/cor
1		"I'd be happy to have one of our insurance lawyers	1		AIG that
2		to look over the D&O policy to see if [the Post Office]	2		privilege
3		is required to notify the insurers. If not, then we	3		[the Fre
4		might want to hold fire on this.	4		Are
5		"I would recommend tweaking the first paragraph.	5		the Pos
6		The current version suggests there are problems with	6	_	down, th
7		Horizon when at present there are no systemic	7	Α.	In the co
8		problems to report."	8	_	were tal
9		Over the page, please, can we go to page 1, there	9	Q.	My ques
10		comes a time when you've spoken to the lawyers who	10	_	"Have y
11		looked over the D&O cover. You say as follows:	11	Α.	In which
12		"I've spoken to one of our insurance lawyers	12	Q.	"not to
13		[regarding] the D&O cover."	13		2013, pi
14		It is the last three paragraphs I want to look at,	14		attribute
15		you say:	15	Α.	In which
16		"The risk of notification is that it would look bad	16		question
17		for [the Post Office] if it ever became public knowledge	17	~	of the m
18		that [the Post Office] that notified its insurer.	18	Q.	So you
19		"To reduce this risk, it is recommended that the	19		period c
20		rather than sending a formal written notification, [the	20		commu
21		Post Office] speaks to Chartis (renamed AIG) and	21		their ins
		verbally notifies them so as not to leave a paper trail.	22		but, for
22			23		VOU TEC
22 23		In our experience, AIG may be prepared to accept			you, reg
22		a verbal notification. "[The Post Office] should make expressly clear to	24 25	А.	wrong, a

n IT	' Inq	uiry 13 June 202
1		advised them. Had I said something to the effect that
2		could have been interpreted to mean that they shouldn't
3		be taking minutes, I would have expected Martin Smith,
4		from Cartwright King, who was on those calls, to have
5		said something, and nothing was said.
6	Q.	That can come down. Thank you. Do you think that you
7		gave advice to the Post Office that they shouldn't write
8		things down because they would be disclosable?
9	Α.	No.
10	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00145716. This is an issue
11		we're going to come back to but, given your answer just
12		now, I would like to give you the opportunity to address
13		it. If we start on page 4, please, around the same
14		time, July 2013, 24 July, the bottom of page 4, Susan
15		Crichton emails you and says:
16		"Andy could you take a look at this draft letter
17		to go to our insurance broker regarding the Horizon
18		issue. I have not looked at it."
19		Your response is above, you say:
20		"The letter does nothing more than put [the Post
21		Office's] insurers on notice of the Horizon issues.
22		It's very bland. My only hesitation is whether it is
23		strictly necessary to do. From PR perspective, it would
24		look bad if this got into the public domain sign of
25		guilt/concern from the Board.
		42
1		AIG that the notification is subject to litigation
2		privilege (this should help protect disclosure under
3		[the Freedom of Information Act])."
4		Are you not there, in July 2013, giving advice to
5		the Post Office that they shouldn't write something
6		down, that they should communicate it only verbally?
7	Α.	In the context of this insurance point but, earlier, we
8		were talking about the minutes of those calls.
9	Q.	My question was much broader earlier. I said to you
10		"Have you ever advised the Post Office"
11	Α.	In which case
12	Q.	"not to write something down", and here we are, July
13		2013, precisely the same period in which that advice is
14		attributed to you, doing exactly that, aren't you?
15	Α.	In which case, I apologise because I misunderstood your
16		question. I thought you were asking it in the context
17		of the minutes of the Horizon call.
18	Q.	So you are accepting that, in July 2013, at the same
19		period of time you did advise the Post Office not to
20		communicate in writing to their insurer, not to notify
21		their insurer, because that would become disclosable
22		but, for some reason, the minutes that are attributed to
23		you, regarding very similar advice, that those are
24		wrong, are they?

- wrong, are they?
- 25 A. I don't accept it was very similar advice. The advice 44

1

1		that was recorded in those minutes, which, as I said,
2		they're not verbatim minutes and I'm not sure of their
3		accuracy, simply records the position that documents
4		need to be disclosed if they're created.
5		This is talking about a different matter, which is
6		communications with the insurance company and, actually,
7		ultimately, off the back of this, a written notification
8		was provided to the insurers.
9	Q.	Yes, but your advice in July 2013, the same period in
10		which this first Horizon weekly call is taking place,
11		was "Don't notify something because it will be
12		disclosable". Isn't that the advice you are giving in
13		relation to minutes on the 19 July 2013?
14	Α.	No. They are two separate pieces of advice in different
15	~	contexts where I say different things.
16 17	Q.	They are remarkably similar though, aren't they?
17 18	Α.	No, I don't believe they are. I think the first one is
10		talking about the disclosability of documents. It doesn't say anything in that minute about me saying that
20		minutes should not be kept or documents should not be
20		produced. And then, we're now ten days later, talking
22		in a different context about insurance issues.
23	Q.	But it's the same point: that if you write things down
24	-	about Horizon, about problems with Horizon, it might
25		become disclosable.
		45
1		describing the creation of new documents by my client
2		which are then potentially disclosable. The use of this
3		word suggests to me that the note is not an accurate
4		record of precisely what was said."
5		So I'll just repeat the words that are in the
6		minutes. It spoke about:
7		" emails, written comms, etc.
8		"If it's produced, it's then available for
9		disclosure. If it's not, then technically it isn't."
10		Your explanation in your witness statement is "That
11		doesn't sound like me, I don't use the word 'produced'
12		in that context"; is that right?
13	Α.	I generally don't. I consider it in the context of
14		running productions of documents.
15	Q.	That's quite an elaborate explanation, isn't it, that's
16		set out at paragraph 105?
17	Α.	No, I think it's also reflecting if you look at the
18		minute, it's clearly a short <i>précis</i> of what was said.
19 20		It doesn't stand to be a verbatim minute and, therefore,
20		I think there is probably some inaccuracy in the minute
21 22	0	taking. Your basis for saving that the minute is inaccurate is
22	Q.	Your basis for saying that the minute is inaccurate is, amongst other things, that you don't use that word in
23 24		that context?
25	Α.	Amongst other things but, also, reading the minute as
		47

- A. But that's correct.
- 2 **Q.** You shouldn't do that?
  - **A.** Apologies, that is correct.
- 4 Q. That is correct?
- 5 A. Well, that is the state of the law, if you write
- 6 documents down you create documents, they can become7 disclosable.
- 8 Q. Therefore, you shouldn't create such documents?
- 9 A. I disagree.
- 10 Q. But that is, in fact, what you're advising in relation11 to the insurance?
- A. As I say, it depends on the context in which thequestion is put.
- Q. Okay, let me take you to your explanation in your
  witness statement. So it's WITN10390200.
- 16 Thank you, it's page 64, paragraph 105. You say as17 follows:
- 18 "I do not understand the reference to 'produced' in
- 19 the comment that is attributed to me. The word
- 20 'produced' is not a word I would ordinarily use in this
- 21 context. I think of the word 'produced' in the context
- 22 of running a 'production' of documents from a data room
- (which is a technical eDiscovery process), which arethen given to the other side in civil litigation as part
- 25 of disclosure. I would not use this word when
  - 46

1		a whole, I think it's obvious that it's not a verbatim
2		minute.
3	Q.	Can we please turn to FUJ00081921. The context of this
4		email does not matter for now, it's a 2019 email, but
5		let's just have a look at that middle email. It's
6		an email from you. You say, as follows:
7		"Pete, Matthew, Dave
8		"As part of the Court process, the experts on both
9		sides have to meet to try to agree a joint statement on
10		the key issues in the case. This has resulted in them
11		producing 4 Joint Statements. These statements are
12		produced without the involvement of the legal teams,
13		hence why we haven't sent these over to [Fujitsu] for
14		comments before now."
15		Could we turn, please, to POL00253345. Thank you.
16		Another email from you, again context doesn't
17		matter. Turn over to the third page, please. There are
18		points there:
19		"The draft order also sets out our proposed
20		directions to the March 2019 trial. These split out
21		into four phases"
22		Then we look at Phase 3:
23		" the experts produce their principal reports
24		into Horizon."
25		"Phase 4 supplemental reports are produced in 48

# The Post Office Horizon

1		light of anything coming out [of] the Common Issues	1
2		trial."	2
3		Can we please turn to POL00000444. It's coming up.	3
4		Your witness statement in the Alan Bates case, fourth	4
5		witness statement, if we scroll down. Can we please	5
6		turn to page 24, bottom of page 24 of your witness	6
7		statement in those proceedings, paragraph 117. In the	7
8		second half of that paragraph, if we scroll down	8
9		slightly, you say:	9
10		"To attempt to locate all of the training materials,	10
11		Post Office would need to contact all trainers since	11
12		2000 to understand what materials were produced and	12
13		where they were kept."	13
14		That's a witness statement to the court verified by	14
15		a statement of truth. Do you want to revisit that part	15
16		of your witness statement in these proceedings which	16
17		said that the word "produced" is not a word that you	17
18		would use in that kind of a context?	18
19	Α.	I think my statement says I would not ordinarily use	19
20	-	this word. I clearly have used that word on occasion.	20
21	Q.	Do you, therefore, want to revisit whether that minute	21
22		reflects the advice that you gave to the first of those	22
23		meetings, that, if it's produced, it's available for	23
24		disclosure; if it's not, then technically it isn't?	24
25	Α.	I still believe that that minute is not a full and 49	25
1 2		wasn't a name you mentioned at the beginning. He was a criminal lawyer at the Post Office	1 2
2	Α.	Yes.	2
4	Q.	and you're now liaising with him:	4
5	ч.	"Please find attached a draft holding letter to go	5
6		to the [Criminal Cases Review Commission]. This letter	6
7		probably needs to go from Paula.	7
8		"This letter just holds the current position until	8
9		we have spoken to Brian Altman tomorrow."	9
10		Brian Altman, criminal counsel, so we're now	10
11		liaising with Post Office's criminal lawyer, and making	11
12		reference to criminal counsel who is going, please,	12
13		advising on the Cartwright King processes, et cetera.	13
14	Α.	Yes.	14
15	Q.	Could we, please, have a quick look at that letter.	15
16		It's POL00099346. So this wasn't just a holding letter	16
17		in the sense of "We'll get back to you". There is some	17
18		substance in the response. Could we scroll down,	18
19		please. This is 23 July, you're meeting Brian Altman	19
20		the next day and it's in reference to the Criminal Cases	20
21		Review Commission, who wrote to the Post Office we've	21
22		seen that letter:	22
23		"This letter briefly explains the background to the	23
24		matters raised in your letter and steps currently being	24
25		taken by [the Post Office]. I anticipate being able to	25
		<b>F</b> 4	
		51	

IT	Inq	uiry 13 June 2024
1		accurate record of what was said in that meeting.
2		I think you only have to read the minute to realise it's
<u>~</u> 3		not a verbatim record.
, 1	Q.	Is it still your position, therefore, that you didn't
+ 5	α.	advise caution in relation to the creation of minutes
5		because of their potential disclosure?
, 7	Α.	I did not advise Post Office against minuting those
3		meetings.
9	MR	<b>BLAKE:</b> Thank you, sir. I think that's an appropriate
0	WIIX	time for our first morning break.
1	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: All right. Yes. What time shall we
2	UIIX	resume?
2	MP	<b>BLAKE:</b> 11.05.
4		WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, 11.05 it is.
5		BLAKE: Thank you.
6		56 am)
7	(10.	(A short break)
8	(11	06 am)
9	•	<b>BLAKE:</b> Thank you, sir. Can we please move on to
0	WIIX	WBON0000777. We're still in July 2013, 23 July. If we
1		scroll down to the bottom of that first page, you are,
2		by this stage, involved in corresponding with the
3		Criminal Cases Review Commission. You say:
4		"Susan, Jarnail"
5		So now Susan Crichton and now Jarnail Singh, that
		50
1		provide you with a more detailed response by the end of
<u>2</u>		this week."
3		That's because you're going to have a discussion,
, 1		I think, with Brian Altman and, hopefully, send
5		a further letter; is that right?
5	Α.	That was the intention.
, 7	Q.	Yes
3	ω.	"At the centre of [the Post Office's] business is an
9		IT system known as Horizon. The system is used by over
0		11,000 subpostmasters As you will be aware, [the
1		Post Office] has commissioned an independent firm of
2		forensic accountants (called Second Sight) The aim
2		of this report is to highlight any issues in Horizon
4		"This month Second Sight released an Interim Report
<del>-</del> 5		highlighting a number of issues that required further
-		
6 7		investigation but also reached the interim conclusion that there were no systemic problems with Horizon.
_		"The data stored on Horizon is sometimes used by
8 9		
_		[the Post Office] in the prosecution of criminal
0 1		offences Historically [the Post Office] was a division of the Royal Mail Group, however Post Office
		a division of the royal wall Group, however Fost Office

separate and unrelated organisations. Prior to separation it was [Royal Mail Group] who conducted the

was separated out ... on 1 April 2012 and each became

prosecution of criminal offences committed by 5

1		subpostmasters and/or their clerks, however
2		post-separation [the Post Office] assumed the role of
3		prosecutor.
4		"We are now looking at Second Sight's findings in
5		detail and are also investigating whether those findings
6		have an impact on any historic or ongoing prosecutions.
7		I hope to be able to send you a more comprehensive
8		response on these matters by the end of this week."
9		That letter ultimately went out.
10		Sir, I'm not going to take the witness to that
11		letter but, for your record, it is POL00116112. There
12		is then a further letter that is sent, again for your
13		record POL00297998.
14		So I'm going to add to my list of things that
15		happened in the summer of 2013 that, by that stage, you
16		were also liaising with the CCRC on Post Office's
17		behalf.
18	Α.	•
19		drafted this one or I drafted this one letter, which
20		I think is a holding letter, sets out some very basic
21		background information. Other than that, we were
22	~	bringing in Brian Altman to advise on the CCRC approach.
23	Q.	
24 25		the CCRC. You were corresponding or were drafting correspondence to the CCRC?
25		53
1	010	WWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW
1	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Who actually instructed Mr Altman; was it
2	SIR	the Post Office Legal team directly or was it Bond
2 3	_	the Post Office Legal team directly or was it Bond Dickinson, or was it somebody else?
2 3 4	Α.	the Post Office Legal team directly or was it Bond Dickinson, or was it somebody else? It was Bond Dickinson.
2 3 4 5	A. SIR	the Post Office Legal team directly or was it Bond Dickinson, or was it somebody else? It was Bond Dickinson. WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Fine, thanks.
2 3 4 5 6	A. SIR	the Post Office Legal team directly or was it Bond Dickinson, or was it somebody else? It was Bond Dickinson. WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Fine, thanks. BLAKE: In fact if we turn to WBON0000393, at the bottom
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. SIR	the Post Office Legal team directly or was it Bond Dickinson, or was it somebody else? It was Bond Dickinson. WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Fine, thanks. BLAKE: In fact if we turn to WBON0000393, at the bottom of the page we see Mr Altman, on 2 August, so shortly
2 3 4 5 6	A. SIR	the Post Office Legal team directly or was it Bond Dickinson, or was it somebody else? It was Bond Dickinson. WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Fine, thanks. BLAKE: In fact if we turn to WBON0000393, at the bottom of the page we see Mr Altman, on 2 August, so shortly thereafter, sending Gavin Matthews, who was your
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I accept that I drafted this one letter. 1 Α. 2 Q. That is correspondence, isn't it? Yes. 3 Α. Q. Yes. Okay, and you were also, by that stage, liaising 4 5 with criminal counsel to take matters forward? 6 Α. We were acting as a conduit, so that Post Office could 7 get advice from criminal counsel. 8 Q. You were meeting with Brian Altman, discussing matters 9 relating to the Criminal Cases Review Commission with 10 Brian Altman; weren't you? 11 A. If we're talking July and August, I'm not sure if I ever 12 actually met Brian in that period. 13 Q. Okay, let's turn back to that email, the covering email, 14 WBON0000777. It's the bottom email, you say: 15 "Please find draft holding letter ... "This ... just holds the current position until we 16 17 have spoken to Brian Altman tomorrow." The suggestion being that there was going to be 18 19 a meeting with Brian Altman the next day. 20 A. There was. I just can't recall whether I attended it or 21 not. 22 Q. Okay. So July 2013, corresponding with CCRC, and 23 coordinating with Brian Altman KC? A. I would say that we were acting as a conduit for Brian's 24 25 advice. 54 1 If we scroll over the page, the Inquiry has been

2	through this but I will just highlight a few matters
3	that are raised in those observations. Thank you. He
4	sets out there that he understand the terms of reference
5	are as follows. The first:
6	"To prepare by 5 August an interim review of
7	Cartwright King's current process
8	"(2) To review, and advise [the Post Office] in
9	writing on [a number of matters]."
10	The first is:
11	"Its strategy and process for reviewing past and
12	current criminal prosecutions in light of Second Sight's
13	Interim Report and/or the role of Gareth Jenkins and his
14	impact on any possible appeals;
15	"b) Its response to the [Criminal Cases Review
16	Commission]."
17	So that is the further letter, further to your
18	holding letter:
19	"c) The identification of any flaws in the process
20	of, or from the evidence arising from, the review of
21	a statistically significant number of past prosecutions
22	in which Horizon has been an issue in the proceedings."
23	Then we have a third there:
24	"To review, and, if appropriate, to recommend
25	changes to, the existing investigations and conduct of 56

1		future prosecutions by [the Post Office], including, if
2		appropriate, the investigative/prosecutorial role being
3		undertaken by another authority"
4		If we scroll down and over to page 3, please, we can
5		see there is a footnote at the bottom of page 3 and he
6		says as follows, footnote 4:
7		"It is for [the Post Office] and those instructing
8		me to determine whether or not it is only the efficacy
9		(ie effectiveness) of past prosecutions etc that I am
10		being asked to consider with the Board, or in fact the
11		potential safety of past convictions following [the Post
12		Office] prosecutions (ie whether, in my judgment, the
13		Court of Appeal is likely to 'think that the conviction
14		is unsafe': section 2 of the Criminal Appeal Act). This
15		is an important distinction. If it is the latter then
16		the appropriate term is 'safety of past convictions'.
17		I note in this regard of paragraph 24 of Simon Clarke's
18		Ishaq case review", et cetera.
19		I don't need to read any more of that. But he says
20		there:
21		"It is for the Post Office and those instructing me
22		to determine."
23		So it seems as though Bond Dickinson weren't just
24		providing a conduit but it was certainly Brian Altman's
25		understanding that Bond Dickinson at least had some
		57
1		observations.
1 2		observations. "Simon's and my view is that he shouldn't report on
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2		"Simon's and my view is that he shouldn't report on
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on I1	「 Inq	uiry 13 June 2024
1		input on the scope of that instruction. Would you
2		accept that?
3	Α.	At this time, I was primarily focused on dealing with
4		the response to Second Sight. This work was being
5		conducted by Gavin Matthews and Simon Richardson, so
6		I find it difficult to comment on exactly what the role
7		was. My understanding was that we were a conduit for
8		his advice.
9	Q.	Well, looking at this, does it seem as though, does it
10		appear to you, that, in fact, it was more than just
11		a conduit?
12	Α.	It appears from those words that that's what Brian
13		understood.
14	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00021980. An email from
15		Gavin Matthews, so your colleague is here advising on
16		the terms of reference:
17		"Dear All
18		"Please find attached two separate terms of
19		reference for Brian Altman QC as amended in response to
20		his observations document which I also attach for ease
21		of reference.
22		"Please note that [the Post Office] needs to decide
23		on the issue of whether he is to be asked to report to
24		the Board on the efficacy or safety of past
25		prosecutions see footnote 4 on page 3 of Brian's 58
1		instructed by Post Office.
2	Q.	A barrister is instructed to carry out work. Here we
3		have a firm to solicitors who are instructing him,
4		advising on whether a criminal KC/QC looks into the
5		safety of convictions. That's what's happening here,
6		isn't it? A fair reading of this email: the instructing

firm is advising on whether a criminal silk is looking

- into the safety of convictions or not? 8 9 A. I accept that that email expresses a view on that
- 10 question.

- Q. Is it that difficult to accept what I'm saying in that 11 12 respect?
- I think the context is really important, that we were 13 Α.
- 14 instructing Brian largely because it made it
- 15 administratively more easy for Post Office, and I don't
- 16 think Post Office were expecting Gavin, Simon or I to
- 17 give them any advice on criminal law, because they knew
- 18 we weren't criminal lawyers. And I think that context
- 19 is really important. I think Susan would that have
- 20 had -- probably Susan, in the context here -- would have
- 21 read that as a practical view but I don't think she
- 22 would have been led by the advice she was getting from 23 WBD on criminal matters.
- 24 Q. They're the instructing firm and they are there, very
- 25 senior partners -- so Gavin Matthews and you have Simon 60

1		there, who, as we know, went on to become the Chair	1		review all past prosecutions each time a disclosable
2		by that stage, 2013, was he a particularly senior	2		issues arises?"
3		partner within the firm	3		Certainly, Rodric Williams, by 20 August, seemed to
4	Δ	I think he was the client relationship partner for Post	4		think that you were a contact point for advising on the
5		Office.	5		terms of reference or assisting with the amending the
6	0	giving a view as to whether Mr Altman should be	6		terms of reference.
7	ч.	reporting on the safety of past convictions?	7	Δ	I my distant memory is Gavin might have been on leave
, 8	Δ	I accept they were giving a view but I think the context	8	Π.	for a few days.
9		of what we were doing is very important.	9	Q.	-
10	Q.	Can we please turn to POL00298417. You're copied into	10	Ψ.	were working on issues relating to Second Sight, having
11	-	this email that we've just been looking at and, now, if	11		been copied in to previous correspondence about Brian
12		we scroll down, we're at 20 August 2013 and Rodric	12		Altman's terms of reference, you are now a sole point of
13		Williams is, in fact, now corresponding with Susan	13		contact relating to those terms of reference?
14		Crichton and you. So Gavin Matthews is not a recipient	10	Α.	-
15		of this email. Rodric Williams says as follows:	15		Yes. But you are in the "To" column?
16		"All,	16		I am. Rodric would have known me more than he knew
17		"I would like the [terms of reference] to include	17		Simon, which would have explained why he addressed it to
18		that [Brian Altman QC] consider and advise on how we	18		me and only copied Simon.
19		satisfy the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure	10	0	So can I add to my list of the summer of 2013 that, by
20		when 'issues' with Horizon will continually be it	20	Ψ.	August 2013, you were involved with Brian Altman QC's
21		raised."	21		terms of reference?
22		So he asks a series of questions that he would like		Α.	
23		Brian Altman to be looking into. By way of example, we	23		is that I had very little involvement in the terms of
24		can look at the third bullet point:	24		reference but I note that these documents were only sent
25		"Is there anything we can do to limit the need to	25		to me a couple of days ago and I've not had
		61			62
1		an opportunity to go back and check the position.	1		up to Brian and answers back down again. On occasion,
2	0				
	Q.	It wasn't so long ago. Are you able to recall, the	2		I can see that views will have been expressed on points
3	Q.	It wasn't so long ago. Are you able to recall, the summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms	2 3		I can see that views will have been expressed on points but I think, again, the context is really important.
	Q.				
3	Q.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms	3		but I think, again, the context is really important.
3 4	ų.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something	3 4	Q.	but I think, again, the context is really important. Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I
3 4 5		summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that	3 4 5	Q.	but I think, again, the context is really important. Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.
3 4 5 6		summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to?	3 4 5 6	Q. A.	but I think, again, the context is really important. Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers. Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting
3 4 5 6 7		summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at	3 4 5 6 7		<ul><li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li><li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li><li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li></ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8		summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference	3 4 5 6 7 8		<ul><li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li><li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li><li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li><li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing</li></ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9		<ul><li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li><li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li><li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li><li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we</li></ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10		<ul><li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li><li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li><li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li><li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li></ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q. A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q. A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	A. Q. Q.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think</li> </ul>
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure? I wasn't that close to the issues to have identified those points. Do you think that your firm were competent enough to be	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think that's something they could have advised on?</li> <li>I don't personally I can't speak for Simon and Gavin but I wouldn't feel comfortable advising on that.</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q. A. Q.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure? I wasn't that close to the issues to have identified those points. Do you think that your firm were competent enough to be dealing with issues relating to the prosecutor's duty of	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	A. Q.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think that's something they could have advised on?</li> <li>I don't personally I can't speak for Simon and Gavin but I wouldn't feel comfortable advising on that.</li> <li>I can see a view may have been offered but, ultimately,</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q. A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure? I wasn't that close to the issues to have identified those points. Do you think that your firm were competent enough to be dealing with issues relating to the prosecutor's duty of disclosure? As I said, we were acting as a conduit. So I would have expected these types of issues to have been passed back	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think that's something they could have advised on?</li> <li>I don't personally I can't speak for Simon and Gavin but I wouldn't feel comfortable advising on that.</li> <li>I can see a view may have been offered but, ultimately, I think all questions were deferred to Brian to consider.</li> <li>What's the difference between a view of a lawyer and</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure? I wasn't that close to the issues to have identified those points. Do you think that your firm were competent enough to be dealing with issues relating to the prosecutor's duty of disclosure? As I said, we were acting as a conduit. So I would have expected these types of issues to have been passed back to Brian for him to consider.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think that's something they could have advised on?</li> <li>I don't personally I can't speak for Simon and Gavin but I wouldn't feel comfortable advising on that.</li> <li>I can see a view may have been offered but, ultimately, I think all questions were deferred to Brian to consider.</li> <li>What's the difference between a view of a lawyer and advice from a lawyer?</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A. Q. A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure? I wasn't that close to the issues to have identified those points. Do you think that your firm were competent enough to be dealing with issues relating to the prosecutor's duty of disclosure? As I said, we were acting as a conduit. So I would have expected these types of issues to have been passed back to Brian for him to consider. What does a conduit involve, though? I mean, is it	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think that's something they could have advised on?</li> <li>I don't personally I can't speak for Simon and Gavin but I wouldn't feel comfortable advising on that.</li> <li>I can see a view may have been offered but, ultimately, I think all questions were deferred to Brian to consider.</li> <li>What's the difference between a view of a lawyer and advice from a lawyer?</li> <li>I think one of them is offering perhaps some pragmatic</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Q. Q. A. Q. Q.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure? I wasn't that close to the issues to have identified those points. Do you think that your firm were competent enough to be dealing with issues relating to the prosecutor's duty of disclosure? As I said, we were acting as a conduit. So I would have expected these types of issues to have been passed back to Brian for him to consider. What does a conduit involve, though? I mean, is it simply a post box; is it something more than that?	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	A. Q. A. Q.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think that's something they could have advised on?</li> <li>I don't personally I can't speak for Simon and Gavin but I wouldn't feel comfortable advising on that.</li> <li>I can see a view may have been offered but, ultimately, I think all questions were deferred to Brian to consider.</li> <li>What's the difference between a view of a lawyer and advice from a lawyer?</li> <li>I think one of them is offering perhaps some pragmatic thoughts, as opposed to definitive advice on the</li> </ul>
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. Q. A. Q. A.	summer of 2013, receiving an email relating to the terms of reference for Brian Altman? Is that likely something that you would have been receiving and something that you likely would have given an answer to? I would have been copied in on various emails but, at this time, the work around Brian's terms of reference was being led by Gavin and Simon and not me. Would you have read this email? Yes, I suspect I would have read it. Would you have been aware that the Post Office wanted to change the terms of reference to look at the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure? I wasn't that close to the issues to have identified those points. Do you think that your firm were competent enough to be dealing with issues relating to the prosecutor's duty of disclosure? As I said, we were acting as a conduit. So I would have expected these types of issues to have been passed back to Brian for him to consider. What does a conduit involve, though? I mean, is it	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A. Q.	<ul> <li>but I think, again, the context is really important.</li> <li>Post Office were fully aware that Simon, Gavin and I were not criminal lawyers.</li> <li>Do you think it is right for your firm to be assisting in something that is outside of their competence?</li> <li>It is outside of our core competence but instructing counsel is something we understand and, of course, we have the context of the whole situation, being involved on the civil side.</li> <li>So if your firm were involved in advising on whether Brian Altman's terms of reference should include the prosecutor's continuing duty of disclosure, do you think that's something they could have advised on?</li> <li>I don't personally I can't speak for Simon and Gavin but I wouldn't feel comfortable advising on that.</li> <li>I can see a view may have been offered but, ultimately, I think all questions were deferred to Brian to consider.</li> <li>What's the difference between a view of a lawyer and advice from a lawyer?</li> <li>I think one of them is offering perhaps some pragmatic</li> </ul>

	_				
1	Q.	How would a client distinguish between pragmatic	1		at
2		thoughts and actual legal advice?	2		
3	A.	By the nature of the way it's given.	3		no
4	Q.	What do you mean by that?	4		Ŀ.,
5	Α.	If we go back to the last email, what you've got is	5		bo
6		an email that something that says something to the	6		pa
7		effect I haven't got it in front of me now that	7		in
8		says these are Simon's and Gavin's views and couple of	8		а
9	~	bullet points.	9		
10	Q.	Do you think that nuance is understood by clients?	10		th
11	Α.	I think it would have been understood by Post Office,	11	Α.	11
12	_	yes.	12		Se
13	Q.	I said I'd come back to the insurance notification issue	13	_	th
14		and I'm going to turn to that now but it's POL00021991.	14	Q.	T
15		Now, it's that bottom email that I'd like you to	15		le
16		look at but you can ignore the date there, because we're	16		ha
17		still, actually, in the summer of 2013, is the document	17		
18		that I want to take you to. You're forwarding this	18	_	do
19		particular document to David Oliver and Chris Aujard on	19	Α.	Ju
20		12 March 2014.	20	_	dı
21		We can see there you're attaching a number of	21	Q.	Н
22		different documents. One is a settlement presentation,	22	_	a
23		and we'll come to that settlement presentation, and you	23	Α.	10
24		say:	24		1-
25		"This presentation is for a talk I gave to what was 65	25		dı
1		insurers of those issues that are set out in this note.	1	Q.	W
2		I don't think it actually gives advice, say, on the	2		Ρ
3		merits of the position or what needs to happen next, or	3		а
4		things like that, which you would traditionally expect	4	Α.	lt
5		to see in a piece of legal advice.	5		in
6	Q.	If you were the insurer and you saw "Bond Dickinson" on	6	Q.	lt
7		the top right-hand corner, you saw "Confidential &	7	Α.	l t
8		Legally Privileged, Common Interest Privilege,	8		de
9		Litigation Privilege", was it not designed to look like	9		С
10		legal advice?	10	Q.	0
11	Α.	I don't believe it was designed to look like legal	11	Α.	Ν
12		advice.	12	Q.	Y
13	Q.	What do you mean by common interest privilege there?	13		а
14	Α.	In the sense that, if there was a claim against Post	14	Α.	T
15		Office, which was an insured claim, then there may be	15		do
16		a common interest between Post Office and its insurers.	16		al
17	Q.	So the common interest there is between the Post Office	17	Q.	С
18		and the insurer?	18		th
19	Α.	That's what that reference was, from memory.	19		in
20	Q.	And was that designed to ensure that this document was	20		th
21		not disclosable because it was covered by common	21		th
22		interest privilege between Post Office and its insurer?	22		th
23	Α.	We considered that question and, on balance, I think we	23	Α.	T
24		thought it probably was privileged communication in its	24		tu
25		nature to the insurers, but it could be challenged.	25		se
		67			

zon IT	[ Inq	uiry 13 June 2024
1		at the time the Sparrow steering group."
2		But it's the third one that I want to take you to
3		now "Insurances risks note":
4		"This note had the dual purpose of advising the
5		board (its contents were later reflected in a Board
6		paper) and acting as notification to [the Post Office's]
7		insurers hence why this doesn't look like
8		a traditional piece of legal advice."
9		You refer there to the contents being reflected in
10		the Board paper. Did you see the Board paper?
11	Α.	I have looked at that sentence again and I think that
12		sentence is wrong because I can't find any record of
13		that paper going to the Board.
14	Q.	Thank you. It doesn't look like a traditional piece of
15		legal advice. That's your words. Let's turn to it and
16		have a look at it. POL00021996.
17		So why do you say in that covering email that it
18		doesn't look like a piece of legal advice?
19	Α.	Just because of the way it was drafted. This note was
20		drafted to notify Post Office's insurers.
21	Q.	How would legal advice act as notification to
22		an insurer?
23	Α.	I don't think I'm suggesting that I that it was.
24		I what I'm trying to say here is this note was
25		drafted for the purpose of notifying Post Office
		66
1	Q.	Was one of the reasons for adding "Common Interest
2		Privilege" at the top there to try and cover it in
3		a blanket of privilege?
4	Α.	It was to indicate that we thought there was common
5		interest privilege might apply to this document.
6	Q.	It doesn't say might be common interest privilege?
7	Α.	I think it's just a heading to a document. It's
8		designed to indicate to the reader that this document
9		could attract common interest privilege.
10	Q.	Or "is considered to attract common interest"?
11	Α.	No
12	Q.	You wouldn't add it if you'd didn't think there was
13		a reasonable argument
14	Α.	That's fair. At this point, my view is I thought this
15		document would attract common interest privilege but we
16		also thought that could be challenged later.
17	Q.	Can we please scroll down this document. We saw earlier
18		that email about concerns you had about notifying the
19		insurer in writing that it could become disclosable. So
20		the reason behind this being in the form that it is is
21		that that was an attempt to cloak it in privilege,
22		thereby not disclosing it?
23	Α.	The whether or not of the document is privileged
24		turns on its nature and the purpose for which it was
25		sent. I think lawyers, where they think a document is

(17) Pages 65 - 68

1	privileged, will often mark them as privileged but	1		drafted as a notification to the insurer, my
2	marking a document as privileged doesn't make it	2		understanding is, when you notify insurers, and I got it
3	privileged.	3		this understanding from one of the insurance partners,
4 <b>Q</b> .	But you intended to be covered by privilege. As in,	4		is that the forms of privilege that might apply are
5	this letter, if it's not advice, if it's not legal	5		litigation privilege and common interest privilege.
6	advice, it could have been written by the Post Office	6	Q.	It says at the top of "Confidential & Legally
7	and sent to the insurer?	7		Privileged", doesn't that cover all forms of legal
8 <b>A</b> .	It could have been written by the Post Office, yes.	8		privilege?
9 <b>Q</b> .	It has been disguised here as Bond Dickinson advice,	9	Α.	I think you're reading too much into those words.
10	covered by legal privilege, with the intention that,	10	Q.	Let's have a look at what it says, if we scroll down,
11	should somebody ask the insurer for a copy or should the	11		"Risks to Post Office", page 2, please, "Prosecutions &
12	Post Office be asked for a copy, they could say it was	12		Convictions":
13	legally privileged?	13		"As noted above, where circumstances warrant, Pos
14 <b>A</b> .	Would you mind scrolling back up to the top of the	14		Office prosecutes subpostmasters who have acted
15	document, please? So the top of this document refers to	15		criminally. The basis of these prosecutions is often
16	common interest privilege and litigation privilege. It	16		found in the transaction records recorded in Horizon.
17	doesn't refer to legal advice privilege.	17		As a result of Second Sight's investigation/Interim
18 <b>Q</b> .	Yes. Common interest privilege.	18		Report, Post Office is reviewing all its criminal
19 <b>A</b> .	Mm.	19		prosecutions over the last three years to identify any
20 <b>Q</b> .	What's the point you're making: that because it doesn't	20		cases where a conviction may be unsafe.
21	say, "Legal advice privilege" that means that it's not	21		"In particular, the expert evidence of one of Post
22	legal advice?	22		Office witnesses, Dr Gareth Jenkins of Fujitsu, may have
23 <b>A</b> .	So I think your suggestion was that we were dressing it	23		failed to disclose certain historic problems in the
24	up as legal advice to try to get it under the banner of	24		Horizon system. Under the criminal prosecution
25	privilege. That wasn't what we were doing. This was	25		guidelines Post Office has an obligation to disclose,
	69			70
1	(even retrospectively) this previously undisclosed	1		our broker, under cover of the following email.
2	information to subpostmasters' defence counsel. Post	2		"'Mark, Richard,
3	Office is required to make these retrospective	3		"Please find attached a note from our solicitors
4	disclosures where the additional information	4		outlining the risks presented by the recent
5	(ie Dr Jenkins' knowledge of historic, but now resolved,	5		investigation into "Horizon" IT system used in Post
6	(			
•	problems with Horizon) may have undermined a prosecution			Office branches' "
7	problems with Horizon) may have undermined a prosecution case or assisted with [the] accused's defence "	6		Office branches'." So the proposed notification to the insurers is that
7 8	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."	6 7		So the proposed notification to the insurers is that
8	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in	6 7 8		So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks.
8 9	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins	6 7 8 9		So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice,
8 9 10	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence.	6 7 8 9 10	Δ	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it?
8 9 10 11	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence. Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the	6 7 8 9 10 11	A.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice.
8 9 10 11 12	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence. Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	А.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds
8 9 10 11 12 13	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence. Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver?	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers.
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A</b> .	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence. Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver? He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13	A. Q.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q</b> .	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence. Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver? He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office. So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper?
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q</b> .	<ul> <li>case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."</li> <li>Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in</li> <li>cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins</li> <li>has provided evidence.</li> <li>Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the</li> <li>version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and</li> <li>who was David Oliver?</li> <li>He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.</li> <li>So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.</li> <li>But I want to look back now at the drafting process for</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done.
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A</b> . 15 <b>Q</b> . 16	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence. Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver? He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office. So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification. But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q</b> . 16 17 18	<ul> <li>case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."</li> <li>Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence.</li> <li>Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver?</li> <li>He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.</li> <li>So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.</li> <li>But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric</li> <li>Williams to you and he says:</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to add that level of privilege over it, wasn't it?
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q.</b> 16 17 18 19	case or assisted with [the] accused's defence." Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence. Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver? He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office. So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification. But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric Williams to you and he says: "Andy,	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to add that level of privilege over it, wasn't it? I'm not sure I gave it that level of thought as to
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q.</b> 16 17 18 19 20	<ul> <li>case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."</li> <li>Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence.</li> <li>Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver?</li> <li>He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.</li> <li>So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.</li> <li>But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric</li> <li>Williams to you and he says:</li> <li>"Andy,</li> <li>"Please find attached the 'Horizon Risks' document,</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to add that level of privilege over it, wasn't it? I'm not sure I gave it that level of thought as to whether it would come from Post Office or from Womble
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q.</b> 16 17 18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."</li> <li>Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence.</li> <li>Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver?</li> <li>He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.</li> <li>So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.</li> <li>But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric</li> <li>Williams to you and he says:</li> <li>"Andy,</li> <li>"Please find attached the 'Horizon Risks' document, which I have amended following input from Cartwright</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q. A.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to add that level of privilege over it, wasn't it? I'm not sure I gave it that level of thought as to whether it would come from Post Office or from Womble Bond Dickinson.
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q.</b> 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."</li> <li>Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence.</li> <li>Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver?</li> <li>He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.</li> <li>So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.</li> <li>But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric</li> <li>Williams to you and he says:</li> <li>"Andy,</li> <li>"Please find attached the 'Horizon Risks' document, which I have amended following input from Cartwright</li> <li>King on the criminal law risks. Can you please check</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to add that level of privilege over it, wasn't it? I'm not sure I gave it that level of thought as to whether it would come from Post Office or from Womble Bond Dickinson. We saw that you gave it quite a lot of early thought
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q.</b> 118 19 20 21 22 23	<ul> <li>case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."</li> <li>Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence.</li> <li>Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver?</li> <li>He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.</li> <li>So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.</li> <li>But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric</li> <li>Williams to you and he says:</li> <li>"Andy,</li> <li>"Please find attached the 'Horizon Risks' document, which I have amended following input from Cartwright King on the criminal law risks. Can you please check that it will still serve the purpose of notifying</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A. Q. A.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to add that level of privilege over it, wasn't it? I'm not sure I gave it that level of thought as to whether it would come from Post Office or from Womble Bond Dickinson. We saw that you gave it quite a lot of early thought about problems that it would cause if it were disclosed.
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 <b>A.</b> 15 <b>Q.</b> 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>case or assisted with [the] accused's defence."</li> <li>Reference there to prosecutions and convictions in cases relating to Gareth Jenkins or where Gareth Jenkins has provided evidence.</li> <li>Could we please turn to POL00040025. So that's the version that you sent colleagues or Chris Aujard and who was David Oliver?</li> <li>He was part of the Mediation Scheme team at Post Office.</li> <li>So you sent that in March 2014, as the notification.</li> <li>But I want to look back now at the drafting process for that document. We have here an email from Rodric</li> <li>Williams to you and he says:</li> <li>"Andy,</li> <li>"Please find attached the 'Horizon Risks' document, which I have amended following input from Cartwright</li> <li>King on the criminal law risks. Can you please check</li> </ul>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A.	So the proposed notification to the insurers is that it's a note from our solicitors outlining risks. I mean, that sounds quite a bit like legal advice, doesn't it? I think it I don't believe we considered it advice. I drafted it simply to set out the facts and backgrounds for the insurers. Why couldn't you have drafted it on a piece of paper to be sent by the Post Office on their own headed paper? We could have done. Again, I'll go back to it. Surely the purpose was to add that level of privilege over it, wasn't it? I'm not sure I gave it that level of thought as to whether it would come from Post Office or from Womble Bond Dickinson. We saw that you gave it quite a lot of early thought

(18) Pages 69 - 72

1		why?	
2	Α.	Not in terms of who I don't believe I did, in terms	
3		of who would write the note. I think it was just that	
4		we were in the position to write it. We wrote the note	
5		and, as it marked at the top, we considered it could be	
6		subject to common interest privilege and litigation	
7		privilege.	
8	Q.	"Can you please share this with our insurers so they	
9		are aware of the circumstances which could potentially	
10		give rise to claims against the policies we have with	
11		them, preserving so far as possible, the legal privilege	
12		attaching to the note'."	
13		Doesn't the fact that it came from you strengthen	
14		the claim for legal privilege and wasn't it intended to	
15		do so?	
16	Α.	On the first of your points, I guess there is something	
17		in the fact that lawyers are considering legal risks	
18		that makes it more likely that litigation is in	
19		contemplation, which is one of the grounds you need to	
20		claim litigation privilege. I don't recall any	
21		discussion around whether the note should come directly	
22		from Post Office or from my firm in the context of	
23		making it more or less privileged.	
24	Q.	I mean, isn't really what's going on here that the	
25		notification to the insurers is being covered in LPP in 73	
1		I don't and I accept that "Please find attached	
2		a note from our solicitors", I think that probably	
3		fairly describes what that document was.	
4	Q.	Okay. POL000	
5		WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry, Mr Blake. Before we go any	
6		further it may be that I'm being a bit slow but I just	
7		want to understand the drafting process. The document	
8		which was well, let me just ask the direct question:	
9		who, so far as you are aware, Mr Parsons, produced the	
10		very first draft of that document?	
11	Α.	I created the first draft.	
12		WYN WILLIAMS: You did?	
13	A.	Yes.	
14		WYN WILLIAMS: Right. So then the sequence was that you	
15	0	sent it to Mr Rodric Williams, who amended it, as I've	
16		understood what's being said here, with the help of	
17		Cartwright King in particular, so far as it related to	
18		the criminal law risks? Yeah?	
19	Α.	That's my best recollection, yes.	
20		WYN WILLIAMS: Well, that's what this appears to say,	
20 21	Sil	this email.	
21	Α.	Yes.	
		WYN WILLIAMS: Which is what I was checking.	
23	Sil	So the part of the document which deals with Gareth	
23 24			
23 24 25		Jenkins, this is what I was coming to, was that	

order to	prevent it	from	beina	disclosed?
	p		~~~	

- **A.** I accept that we were asserting legal privilege over
- this document, yes.
- **Q.** For that purpose?
- 5 **A.** Yes.
- Q. So that it wouldn't be disclosed?
- 7 A. Correct.
- **Q.** In fact, although the draft email suggests that it's
- a note from our solicitors, we can see there that it is
- 0 not only Bond Dickinson who are inputting but Cartwright
- 11 King and also Post Office themselves.
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 **Q**. So to suggest that it was simply a note from the
- solicitors, that wouldn't be right, would it? I mean,
- 15 the impression given in that draft covering email is
- 16 that "This is something we've received from Bond
- 17 Dickinson, here you go, here's a piece of legal advice
- 18 we've received". But, in truth, it was a document in
- 19 which a number of different people had input into, which
- was put on your headed paper, in order to cloak it withlegal privilege.
- A. We -- as I say, it was draft as a notification to the
   insurers to give them the factual information to assess
  - whether there was insurance cover. I accept that we
- 25 considered that communication to be privileged. But 74

1	something which was in your original draft or was that
2	something which was added by Cartwright King/Mr Rodric
3	Williams?
4	MR BLAKE: Sir, before Mr Parsons answers that, could I take
5	you to the attachment to this email, because that
6	actually does address this issue or it may assist
7	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Sorry, Mr Blake.
8	MR BLAKE: Not at all.
9	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I appreciate I was butting in but I just
10	wanted to get this sequence right in my mind.
11	MR BLAKE: Could we please look at the attachment, it's
12	POL00040026 and perhaps when this comes up, could we
13	also have it side by side with the version you sent
14	around in 2014, that's POL00021996. I can make very
15	clear, the version you sent around in 2014, in fact, was
16	not the version that was sent to the insurers
17	A. Mm-hm.
18	<b>Q.</b> and we're going to see the difference between them.
19	So if we could turn to the second page of both of them
20	to the section on "Risks to Post Office", please. Thank
21	you. So they're very similar on the first paragraph,
22	although there's the difference is that there's now
23	reference or sorry, in the Cartwright King version
24	that was sent to you, it refers to 1 January 2010,
25	rather than over the last three years. So that's

5

1		a change. The more significant change is in that second
2		paragraph. The version on the right-hand side says:
3		"Post Office has an obligation to consider whether
4		further disclosure should be made to defendants. It is
5		of concern to Post Office that the expert evidence of
6		one prosecution witness, Dr Gareth Jenkins, of Fujitsu,
7		may have to failed to disclose certain problems in the
8		Horizon system potentially relevant to a case."
9		A case.
10		The left-hand version says quite a lot more about
11		Gareth Jenkins and is perhaps more accurate. It says:
12		"In particular, the expert evidence of one
13		[prosecution] witness, Dr Gareth Jenkins of Fujitsu, may
14		have failed disclose certain historic problems in the
15		Horizon system."
16		It also says:
17		"Post Office is required to make these retrospective
18		disclosures where additional information may have
19		undermined a prosecution case or assisted with
20		an accused's defence."
21		It doesn't refer there to a single case. The one on
22		the right-hand side very clearly gives the impression
23		that it's only one case that is affected. Do you recall
24		that insertion?
25	Α.	Just to check, my version is the one on the left?
		77
		77
1		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody
1 2		
		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody
2		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial
2 3		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial Risks Division:
2 3 4		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial Risks Division: "Dear Sir/Madam,
2 3 4 5		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial Risks Division: "Dear Sir/Madam, "Please find attached details received of a new D&O
2 3 4 5 6		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial Risks Division: "Dear Sir/Madam, "Please find attached details received of a new D&O matter for your consideration. The notice concerns
2 3 4 5 6 7		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial Risks Division: "Dear Sir/Madam, "Please find attached details received of a new D&O matter for your consideration. The notice concerns challenges which have been made to the accounting system
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial Risks Division: "Dear Sir/Madam, "Please find attached details received of a new D&O matter for your consideration. The notice concerns challenges which have been made to the accounting system used in the Post Office Network to monitor sub post
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		POL00112856. So this is the notification from somebody called Stuart Corney who was partner, Claims, Financial Risks Division: "Dear Sir/Madam, "Please find attached details received of a new D&O matter for your consideration. The notice concerns challenges which have been made to the accounting system used in the Post Office Network to monitor sub post offices for any improper behaviour." You'll see halfway down that paragraph, it says: "A review of the Horizon system was undertaken and whilst recommendations were made for improvements no systemic problems were revealed which would call into question the changes previously made against subpostmasters. It is of concern to Post Office that the expert evidence of one prosecution witness, Dr Gareth Jenkins of Fujitsu, may have failed to disclose certain problems in the Horizon system potentially relevant to a case." If we scroll over the page, we can see the Bond Dickinson note, "Horizon Risks", that was sent if we scroll down, scroll down, if we scroll over the page, we can see, under "Prosecutions & Convictions" the version

Q.	Well, the 2014 version that you circulated is the one on
	the left.
Α.	Okav.

circulated by Rodric Williams with a covering email that

Q. The one on the right-hand side is the one that was

0		should by reality with a severing entail that
6		said, "Please find attached the Horizon Risks document
7		which I have amended following input from Cartwright
8		King", et cetera. It's not at all clear whether the one
9		on the left was the original version or some other
10		version but it certainly wasn't the version that went to
11		the insurers.
12		Do you recall there the in any way, reference to
13		Gareth Jenkins being amended?
14	Α.	I don't recall that change.
15	Q.	Do you recall that the ultimate the final version
16		that was agreed was a version that only said that Gareth
17		Jenkins may have failed to disclose certain problems in
18		the Horizon system potentially relevant to a case?
19	Α.	I don't recall that change.
20	Q.	Do you recall in broad terms discussing the changes, for
21		example, in response to Rodric Williams' email,
22		discussing with Rodric Williams the various changes that
23		were being made to that document that had your header?
24	Α.	I don't recall discussing those changes with Rodric.
25	Q.	Let's look at the final notification, that's
		78
1		a case.
2		So it certainly suggests that the version that was
3		sent around to the insurers was not that version that
4		you sent around in 2014 and would you accept that that
5		version is highly misleading?
6	Α.	Yes, it appears that way, though I'm not sure I was
7		cognisant that that change had been made at that time.
8	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Well, hang on a minute. This version,
9		the one that, on the face of it, looks as if it was sent
10		to the insurer, in respect of the heading "Prosecutions
11		& Convictions", is identical, is it not, to the one
12		which was sent to you by Mr Rodric Williams under cover

- 12 which was sent to you by Mr Rodric Williams, under cover
- 13 of an email which drew your attention to the fact that
- 14 there'd been an amendment in relation to Gareth Jenkins?
- 15 A. I accept that a copy of it was sent to me. I don't now16 recall being cognisant of that change or its importance.

17 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right. That's your answer to that.

- 18 Just to clear up where I started, the version that you
- 19 sent around in March 2014, which wasn't the version sent
- 20 to the insurer, was it the version, so far as you can
- 21 remember, which you had originally drafted?
- 22 A. I believe so.
- 23 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right.
- 24 A. I believe so but it did go through a few iterations.
- 25 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: That's your answer: you believe that your 80

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1	original draft contained the details, which we see in

- 2 what I'll call the 2014 document but, in fact, it was
- 3 amended in 2013 and something different, namely what's
- 4 on the screen, was sent to the insurers. Have I got
- 5 that straight now?

15

6 A. That appears to be the case.

- 7 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. Thank you.
- 8 MR BLAKE: Can we go back to the email from Rodric Williams.
- 9 It's POL00040025. So this is the email that he sent you
- 10 with the version -- as the Chair has highlighted, is the
- 11 version that was ultimately sent to the insurers. If we
- 12 scroll down, he has sent it to you and he says:
- 13 "Please let me know if you have any comments on theproposed email or approach generally."
  - Presumably you did correspond with him on this?
- 16 A. My distant memory is I think I responded briefly saying
- 17 the cover note looks okay, or something to that effect.
- 18 Q. Presumably, you would that have opened the attachmentand read it?
- 20 A. I presume so but I can't recall.
- 21 Q. Looking at it now, is that paragraph not crying out for22 further detail?
- A. It strikes me that now but I don't remember consideringthat at the time.
- 25 **Q.** Given the significance of the advice on Gareth Jenkins 81

1 eventually reaches you but it's an email from Andy Holt 2 to Martin Edwards and the subject is "Information for 3 Paula's [one-to-one] with Chairman". So it seems as 4 though they are gathering information for a conversation 5 between Paula Vennells and the Chair. 6 If we scroll down, there is a section called 7 "Project Sparrow Update", so this looks like the 8 original draft that was proposed for that one-to-one and 9 it sets out an update on Project Sparrow: 10 "The improvement workstream has completed the 'as 11 is' experience for subpostmasters. The team are now 12 progressing with the 'to be' picture and identifying the 13 gaps and issues as well as the activities that will need 14 to get us to our future model." 15 There's a reference to the Mediation Scheme, now 16 received 46 applications, final stages of appointing 17 Sir Anthony Hooper: 18 "The criminal case reviews continue with our 19 external firm of solicitors. They have completed 20 several sifts of past cases and have recommended 21 disclosure on 11. Brian Altman QC's review is also 22 progressing well and is expected to complete as planned 23 by the end of October." 24 If we scroll up, please, we can see on page 4 25 a response from Mr Edwards to Mr Holt. He says as

83

- and the implications for criminal prosecutions, wasn't
- 2 it important to get that absolutely right, that section?
- 3 A. This is a notification to the insurers and so, yes, it's
- 4 important that it's accurate but it's also at a high
- 5 level of detail. So the insurers are aware of the
- 6 general issues that are in play.
- 7 **Q.** Were you concerned when drafting this about the
- 8 potential disclosability of the information that's
- 9 provided and, therefore, seeking to minimise those10 problems?
- 11 A. I was concerned about the disclosability of the
- 12 document, which is why we considered it to be
- 13 a privileged document. In terms of its content, though,
- the version I produced was candid about the issues,I felt.
- 16 Q. Why in that earlier 2014 email did you say that it had
- been summarised for the Board? Where did you get thatidea from?
- 19 A. So this insurance note was to the D&O insurers, the
- 20 Directors' and Officers' insurers, and I think in the
- 21 week or two before that I had provided Post Office with
- 22 an email of advice on directors' duties and, looking
- 23 back now, I wonder if I got those two points confused.
- 24 Q. Can we please turn to POL00123004. Can we start on thebottom of page 4, please. We'll see that this
  - 82 follows: "Thanks very much for this. A few questions/ requests for further information ... "Would be good to include a line on the review of prosecutions policy -- ie just updating the Board that work ... is progressing and they will see a paper at the next ARC or Board. Following yesterday's discussion, please can we confirm the arrangements?" "2. I think we should have a few lines on compensation policy. "3. I think the criminal cases review process needs more explanation. In particular, an explanation of the implications of the 11 cases where disclosure has been recommended (even if we don't want to include too much on this in the text himself, useful for Paula to have in her background notes). Can we also have an explanation of the high level conclusions of the Brian Altman review
  - along the lines outlined by Rodric yesterday?"

If we scroll up we can see that Rodric responds saying:

"Andy -- I've asked Andy P to ... respond to Martin's points."

- Then if we turn to the bottom of page 1, we can see
- that you have responded substantively to those pointsthat have been made. So the bottom of page 1, please.
  - that have been made. So the bottom of page 1, please. 84

1		We can see the questions there are slightly less bold	1		"Jar
2		than the answers. I think in the original they would	2		But
3		have been in a different colour, perhaps:	3		first revi
4		"Draft answers to Martin's questions below too	4		"Th
5		much detail or not enough?"	5		complia
6		So you are drafting for Andy Holt proposed answers	6		Second
7		to those questions. The first one:	7		[the Pos
8		"Would be good to include a line on the prosecutions	8		Sight's f
9		policy"	9		is currer
10		You've drafted as follows:	10		[the Pos
11		"Brian Altman QC's review of the prosecution policy	11		Office] is
12		is being finalised. The report was originally due on	12		approac
13		31 October but should now be ready by 25 October. The	13		'fundam
14		review will address the question of how [Post Office]	14		Office] g
15		may wish to approach prosecutions in the future."	15		review c
16		You say:	16		Cases F
17		"ANDY I'm not sure what the Board process is for	17		Nov
18		the report. Hugh mentioned there might be	18		emphas
19		an extraordinary ExCo to review the report before it	19		Altman.
20		goes to the [Audit and Risk Committee] or the Board."	20		you are,
21		More answers, if we look at 3, where the request	21		substan
22		Was:	22		go to the
23		"I think the criminal cases review process needs	23	Α.	This par
24		more explanation"	24	~	had from
25		You've put in there: 85	25	Q.	Yes. W
1		for the CEO that related to that underlying work?	1		briefed o
2	Α.	I think this is just a factual summary of the status of	2	Q.	Was it n
3		Brian's report and reflects what I understood his advice	3		a signifi
4		to be.	4	Α.	Possibly
5	Q.	Next question:	5		"This ne
6		"Further to yesterday's discussion, please could we	6	Q.	In relation
7		also have some lines for background speaking notes on	7		you just
8		the process", et cetera.	8		Brian Al
9		Then you say:	9	Α.	Largely
10		"ANDY/BELINDA thoughts on the below?	10		a positio
11		"Work is continuing on managing [Second Sight] out	11	Q.	Why ins
12		of the scheme. In general, [Second Sight's] role is	12		somebo
13		gradually being reduced until they can be removed	13		to the cl
14		entirely."	14	Α.	So, aga
15		You were involved at that stage by dealing with	15		have ret
16		Second Sight. Was that the main part of your work,	16		The role
17		then?	17		on Cart
18	Α.	Correct.	18		come fro
19	Q.	You have, in this email, answered a request in relation	19		firm of s
20		to a briefing for the CEO, covering matters relating to	20		to facilit
21		the criminal cases review process, for example. No	21	Q.	Did you
22		mention here of the Gareth Jenkins issue. Do you think	22		questior
23		that that's something that might warrant inclusion in	23	Α.	In the se
24		an update to the CEO?	24		what ha
25	Α.	My understanding of this time is that everybody had been	25	Q.	Could w
		87			

1		"Jarnail/[Cartwright King] to amend/complete."
2		But you have drafted a section on Brian Altman's
3		first review, which you say has now been received:
4		"This first review looked into [the Post Office's]
5		compliance with its prosecution duties in light of
6		Second Sight's findings in particular, it considered
7		[the Post Office's] legal duty to ensure that Second
8		Sight's findings were fully disclosed to any person who
9		is currently being or has previously been prosecuted by
10		[the Post Office]. Mr Altman concluded that [the Post
11		Office] is complying with its duties and that the
12		approach adopted by the prosecution team was
13		'fundamentally sound'. This report gives [the Post
14		Office] good grounds to resist any formal external
15		review of his historic prosecutions (ie by the Criminal
16		Cases Review Commission)."
17		Now, earlier this morning you were very keen to
18		emphasise that you were effectively a conduit for Brian
19		Altman. Now, it certainly seems from this email that
20		you are, by this stage so October 2013
21		substantively involved in advice on a brief that would
22		go to the CEO of the Post Office.
23	Α.	This paragraph here is repeating the information I've
24		had from Brian.
25	Q.	Yes. Were you involved in advising or drafting advice
		86
1		briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue.
1 2	Q.	
	Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue.
2	Q. A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite
2 3		briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO?
2 3 4		briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says,
2 3 4 5	A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King".
2 3 4 5 6	A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did
2 3 4 5 6 7	A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A. Q. A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	A. Q. A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	A. Q. A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King. The role of Brian Altman is to act as a second opinion
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King. The role of Brian Altman is to act as a second opinion on Cartwright King's work. Post Office wanted that to
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King. The role of Brian Altman is to act as a second opinion on Cartwright King's work. Post Office wanted that to come from a QC, they weren't looking to instruct another firm of solicitors to do it and so our role was to is
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King. The role of Brian Altman is to act as a second opinion on Cartwright King's work. Post Office wanted that to come from a QC, they weren't looking to instruct another firm of solicitors to do it and so our role was to is to facilitate them getting that advice.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	A. Q. A. Q.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King. The role of Brian Altman is to act as a second opinion on Cartwright King's work. Post Office wanted that to come from a QC, they weren't looking to instruct another firm of solicitors to do it and so our role was to is to facilitate them getting that advice. Did you feel comfortable in answering these kinds of
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	A. Q. A. Q. A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King. The role of Brian Altman is to act as a second opinion on Cartwright King's work. Post Office wanted that to come from a QC, they weren't looking to instruct another firm of solicitors to do it and so our role was to is to facilitate them getting that advice. Did you feel comfortable in answering these kinds of questions from the Post Office?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	A. Q. A. Q. A.	briefed on the Gareth Jenkins issue. Was it not so significant that it perhaps required quite a significant update to the CEO? Possibly, but that's also why the comment above says, "This needs to be run past Jarnail and Cartwright King". In relation to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, did you just see your job simply as repeating exactly what Brian Altman told you? Largely because I'm not a criminal lawyer, so I'm not in a position, really, to amplify what he was saying. Why instruct someone? Why be the instructing firm to somebody if all you can do is parrot what they tell you to the client? So, again, the context here is that Post Office already have retained criminal solicitors in Cartwright King. The role of Brian Altman is to act as a second opinion on Cartwright King's work. Post Office wanted that to come from a QC, they weren't looking to instruct another firm of solicitors to do it and so our role was to is to facilitate them getting that advice. Did you feel comfortable in answering these kinds of questions from the Post Office? In the sense that they were asking for a brief update of

(22) Pages 85 - 88

1		same day as you're having this correspondence. If we
2		scroll down slightly, you can see an email from Paula
3		Vennells to Alice Perkins, so this is some form of
4		one-to-one:
5		"Hi Alice, don't worry about the lateness of this
6		note"
7		So that's actually very first thing on that day, its
8		12.47 am:
9		" I am clearing the [I think it must be
10		'in-tray'] before signing out. I hope your weekend has
11		been good despite the autumn rains."
12		It says "A couple of updates", and then it updates
13		on Sir Anthony Hooper/Sparrow. Then it says as follows:
14		"My concern re Sparrow currently is our obligations
15		of disclosure re an unsafe witness (the representative
16		from Fujitsu made statements about no bugs, which later
17		could be seen to have been undermined by the [Second
18		Sight] Report). We do not think it is material but it
19		could be high profile. Martin E is briefed if you want
20		more detail. This is just in case."
21		So it seems as though her belief at that point was
22		that it was not material or not thought to be material.
23		If you could go back to the advice we looked at much
24		earlier today, please, and that's POL00145716. It's the
25		middle email. This is the advice that I took you to
		89
1		level?
1 2	Α.	level? Not as far as I was aware.
	A. Q.	
2	-	Not as far as I was aware.
2 3	-	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the
2 3 4	-	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that
2 3 4 5	-	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so
2 3 4 5 6	-	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice
2 3 4 5 6 7	-	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	-	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	-	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee;
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with: "Anyone outside Post Office
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with: "Anyone outside Post Office "JFSA
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with: "Anyone outside Post Office "JFSA "Second Sight
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with: "Anyone outside Post Office "JFSA "Second Sight "Subpostmasters
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with: "Anyone outside Post Office "JFSA "Second Sight "Subpostmasters "[The sponsoring department, the Department for
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with: "Anyone outside Post Office "JFSA "Second Sight "Subpostmasters "[The sponsoring department, the Department for Business and Industrial Strategy/Members of Parliament]
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	Not as far as I was aware. Could we please turn to POL00022002. This is the presentation that you sent again in that 2014 email that I referred to. It is dated 8 October 2013, so approximate period to that Paula Vennells email to Alice Perkins. You've said in that earlier email that this was a presentation that you gave to the Sparrow Committee; is that right? Yes. If we turn over the page, please, your presentation says as follows: "Privilege a reminder "Legal privilege = vital to success. "Do not discuss any legal advice or anything to do with [subpostmaster] settlements with: "Anyone outside Post Office "JFSA "Second Sight "Subpostmasters "[The sponsoring department, the Department for

1		much earlier today about notifying the insurer and you
2		said as follows:
3		"The risk of notification is that it would look bad
4		for [the Post Office] if it ever became public knowledge
5		that [the Post Office] had notified its insurer.
6		"To reduce this risk, it is recommended that rather
7		than sending a formal written notification, POL speaks
8		to and verbally notifies them so as not to leave
9		a paper trail."
10		We also saw the advice that is attributed to you in
11		that meeting, the first weekly Horizon meeting.
12		Could that approach that you took to not putting
13		things that are damaging in writing to weakening of the
14		Gareth Jenkins issue, as we saw in that final
15		notification, could that have been in some way
16 17		responsible for the CEO's lack of understanding of the
17 18	A.	true gravity of the problem? This is over a three-month period, where I'm not the one
10	А.	advising Post Office on criminal law risks and I'm not
20		the one who is responsible for ensuring what information
20		goes to the CEO. As far as I was concerned, the CEO had
22		been briefed on these issues.
23	Q.	Could the obsession with covering things, blanketing
24	Ξ.	things, in legal professional privilege have been
25		responsible for that lack of understanding at Board
		90
1		90
1	^	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success?
2	A.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is
2 3	А.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may
2 3 4	A.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of
2 3 4 5	A.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and
2 3 4 5 6	А.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would
2 3 4 5 6 7		90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company? No because this is talking about communications outside of Post Office and then potentially down into teams.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company? No because this is talking about communications outside of Post Office and then potentially down into teams. I don't think anyone would have interpreted that as
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company? No because this is talking about communications outside of Post Office and then potentially down into teams.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company? No because this is talking about communications outside of Post Office and then potentially down into teams. I don't think anyone would have interpreted that as somehow putting a block on information being passed up to senior management.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A. Q.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company? No because this is talking about communications outside of Post Office and then potentially down into teams. I don't think anyone would have interpreted that as somehow putting a block on information being passed up to senior management. It says, "Your teams unless absolutely necessary".
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A. Q.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company? No because this is talking about communications outside of Post Office and then potentially down into teams. I don't think anyone would have interpreted that as somehow putting a block on information being passed up to senior management. It says, "Your teams unless absolutely necessary". Yes.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q. Q. A.	90 privilege to be vital to the Post Office's success? I think the in the context of this document, which is discussing settlement criteria and what Post Office may or may not be prepared to pay, keeping that type of advice confidential is of paramount importance, and I think that is the sort of advice that any lawyer would give to a client in those circumstances. Looking back at it now, do you think that that was in some way responsible for a lack of information transferring within the company? No because this is talking about communications outside of Post Office and then potentially down into teams. I don't think anyone would have interpreted that as somehow putting a block on information being passed up to senior management. It says, "Your teams unless absolutely necessary". Yes.
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25 have more junior staff underneath them, and there's a --92

	1	that's not just advice that I'm providing, that is the	
	2	state of the law on legal advice privilege, which	
	3	provides that legal advice privilege doesn't extend to	(
	4	the entire client organisation but only those groups	4
	5	within the organisation who need to receive that advice.	Į
	6 <b>C</b>		(
	7	with the presentation, "Settlement thresholds". You set	-
	8	out here "Recommended threshold of proof", and "Risks":	8
	9	"Where the nature of the complaint is that Horizon	ç
	10	inaccurately records data/transactions	1
	11	"Risks	1
	12	"Post Office should be slow to concede that Horizon	1
	13	has any technical faults. To do so could open the	1
	14	floodgates to a large number of claims. It will be	1
	15	almost impossible to reverse this position if conceded."	1
	16	Now, all those things that we've been going over	1
	17	today, all those various bugs in the summer of 2013, the	1
	18	suspense account bug, Castleton, Misra, all of those	1
	19	issues that we've been discussing, how, by that stage,	1
2	20	could you still hold that position, could that still	2
2	21	fairly be the Post Office's approach?	2
2	22 <b>A</b>		2
2	23	publicly disclosed, so they were out there. So this is	2
2	24	talking about us coming across any new defects in	2
2	25	Horizon during the course of the scheme. Reflecting on	2
		93	
	1	When combined with the Andy Winn/Alan Lusher email in	
	2	the case of Ward which explicitly states that Fujitsu	
	3	can remotely change the figures in the branches without	(
	4	the [subpostmasters'] knowledge or authority, the case	2
	5	for a general stay is overwhelming.	Į
	6	"We ask that the Working Party considers this	(
	7	request as a matter of urgency in order that we do not	-
	8	prejudice our clients' cases by omitting information	8
	9	which is clearly of the utmost general significance."	ç
	10	If we scroll to the first page, please, you provide	1
	11	your view on this email. You say as follows:	1
	12	"Belinda	1
	13	"I have spoken to both Rodric and Simon Clarke at	1
	14	[Cartwright King] about the email from Priti Singh at	1
	15	Howe"	1
	16	So Priti Singh is a lawyer at Howe who has made this	1
	17	complaint:	1
	18	" and all three of us have similar thoughts on	1
	19	the way to proceed.	1
2	20	"The only redactions made to the copies of the	2
2	21	reports sent to [subpostmasters] was to remove:	2
2	22	"1. The personal information of some of the	2
2	23	individuals named in the report	2
2	24	"2. A header in the document that said the document	2
2	25	was subject to legal privilege when it clearly was not	2
		95	

4		
1		this now, I think that sets the bar too high.
2 3	MR	<b>BLAKE:</b> I'm going to address one more issue, sir, before we take our second morning break. I appreciate time is
4		marching on
5	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: That's fine.
6	-	BLAKE: but perhaps we can take a slightly later
7		lunch.
8		Can we please turn to POL00029707, page 3, please.
9		In the middle of page 3, we have an email from Steve
10		Darlington to Rob Wilson and Post Office Group and he
11		says as follows:
12		"As Priti has stated in her last sentence, we are
13		seeking a stay on the time limits on all cases under
14		review due to the implications of [the Post Office's]
15		non-disclosure of system-generation transactions and
16		Horizon integrity issues."
17		Do you remember who Steve Darlington was?
18	Α.	I think he was a lawyer acting for some of the
19		applicants in the scheme.
20	Q.	Yes, so it's a complaint from Howe+Co, following
21		disclosure of, amongst other things, the Helen Rose
22		Report. He says:
23		"The 'Helen Rose Report' is of critical significance
24		to all cases. The information contained within it is
25		a compelling case for such a stay in its own right. 94
		54
1		
2		"In light of this, I don't understand Howe+Co's
3		complaint that there is substantial missing material. It is not suggested that [the Post Office] provides
4 5		00 1 11
6		an unredacted version of the report as (i) this is not necessary and (ii) we do owe some duty of privacy to the
7		individuals involved. Instead, it is recommended that
8		[the Post Office] maintains its current position and
9		simply explains the redactions to the report."
10		So this is the Helen Rose Report that has been
11		redacted. You are here explaining why there have been
12		redactions that have been made to that report; is that
13		correct?
14	Α.	Yes, the redactions were made by Cartwright King,
15		though, not me.
16	Q.	Yes, and you are explaining why they have been made?
17	Α.	I'm explaining why Cartwright King's reasons for why
18		they were made.
19	Q.	You are suggesting an approach that the Post Office
20		should take in response to Howe+Co's complaint about the
21		redactions?
22	Α.	Yes.
23	Q.	That document had been disclosed to the individual in
24		the criminal context, it had been part of that criminal

- 24 the criminal context, it had been part of that criminal
- 25 disclosure arising from Cartwright King's review? 96

<ol> <li>A. I believe that's the call</li> </ol>
--

2	Q.	Yes. You say:
3		"In this vein, I have set out below a possible
4		response to [Howe+Co] to go from Chris. This response
5		is purposefully short in order to avoid any dialogue
6		with Howe on this matter. I do not believe this matter
7		needs to go through the [Working Group] because this is
8		about [the Post Office's] prosecution duties and not
9		scheme business. The response could, and in my view
10		should, be sent regardless of Steve Darlington's email
11		below as it is important that [the Post Office's]
12		position is clearly stated before Ron begins to escalate
13		Steve's views to the Working Group."
14		Now, "I do not believe this matter needs to go
15		through the [Working Group] as this is about POL's
16		prosecution duties and not scheme business"; you've been
17		very clear throughout this morning to distinguish
18		between your involvement in civil and criminal matters.
19		It is clear here that you are getting involved in
20		correspondence that relates to the Post Office's
21		prosecution duties.
22	Α.	So this is where we end up with the overlap between the
23		scheme and the fact that, within the scheme, there were
24		some subpostmasters who were convicted. My lookout from

25	here is to determine whether this is a matter for the
	97

1		but in a different report. The concern was not with the
2		data's accuracy but that the presentation of the data
3		could be misleading if its limitation was not fully
4		understood. Putting this issue aside [and this is the
5		important part] the real (and confidential) reason that
6		the report was disclosed was because Helen's comment at
7		the bottom of page 3 suggests it was widely known that
8		there were problems with Horizon. This statement
9		(regardless of whether it is correct) could have been
10		used to attack Gareth Jenkins' credibility as [the Post
11		Office's] Horizon expert as he had previously stated
12		that there were no problems with Horizon."
13		Then you go on to draft the response. If we scroll
14		down, please, your draft response says as follows:
15		"The version of the report sent to Ms Robinson was
16		redacted to protect the privacy and personal information
17		of the individuals named in the report. This was done
18		to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act. All
19		material information in the report has been provided to
20		your client in full compliance with the Post Office's
21		legal duties."
22		Now, where you say "legal duties", do you mean in
23		relation to the prosecutor's duty of disclosure?
24	Α.	Yes.
25	Q.	So you are, in this draft email, proposing 99

		solution to consider of her, and the contente was her
2		considering Post Office's prosecution duties or
3		reconsidering the conduct of prosecutions. So
4		I think I don't accept that is me advising on
5		prosecution matters. I think that is me advising from
6		the perspective of the scheme.
7	Q.	You're advising on something that touches on the
8		prosecution's duty of disclosure aren't you?
9	A.	l accept that but also, if you scroll up to the top of
10		this note, it says "I've spoken to both Rodric and Simon
11		Clarke at Cartwright King" so the criminal law input
12		would have come from Simon Clarke at Cartwright King.
13	Q.	But he's not sending any separate draft response. This
14	·	draft is coming from you, having taken others' views?
15	Α.	Having taken Simon Clarke's views on the appropriate
16		approach on the criminal side.
17	Q.	You say:
18	ω.	-
19		"Just for background information, the material part
		of the Helen Rose Report has nothing to do with her
20		comments about reversal data. [Second Sight] and Howe
21		are taking this point as evidence of a problem with the
22		integrity of Horizon. In fact, Helen's issue was that
23		the Credence data, although accurate, did not on its
24		face clearly distinguish between automated reversals and
25		user generated reversals. This information is available
		98
1		correspondence that relates to the prosecutor's duty of
2		disclosure?
3	Α.	Having taken that from Simon Clarke at Cartwright King.
4	Q.	"We will therefore not be providing an unredacted copy
5		of the report."
6		So that's a decision that you also came to or advice
7		to the clients that was encompassing others' but also,
8		ultimately, your advice.
9	Α.	That was my advice, having discussed it with the
10		criminal lawyers.
11	Q.	"For the sake of good order, I note that [the Post
12		Office] disagrees with the statements in your email
13		about the integrity of data on Horizon and the safety of
14		convictions.
15		"I do not believe that this matter should delay the
16		submission of your clients' CQRs."
		I want to look at the version of the Helen Rose
17 19		
18		Report that was attached to Ms Maru-Singh's email, that
19		was being brought to your attention. I want to look at
20		it side by side with the unredacted version of the Helen
04		

scheme to consider or not, and the scheme was not

- 21 Rose Report. So could we bring up on screen
- 22 POL00022598, side by side with POL00147949. So that is
- 23 the original version of the Helen Rose Report and this
- 24 is the version -- the version that's about to come up on
- 25 screen, is the version that was sent as part of that 100

(25) Pages 97 - 100

1		complaint from Howe+Co, and this is the redacted version	
2		and you've explained the redactions in your witness	
3		statement.	
4		I think it's paragraph 182 of your witness	
5		statement. We don't need to turn that up.	
6		So the author's name is redacted, Helen Rose, but,	
7		if we turn over, please, on page 2 on both of them, we	
8		see there the first redaction is to the branch details;	
9		the second redaction is a username; but let's look at	
10		that third redaction, please. The sentence on the	1
11		right-hand side, the real version, if we scroll down	1
12		sorry thank you it says:	
13 14		"The Fujitsu logs were requested for this branch, but whilst waiting for these to arrive communications	
14		took place with Gareth Jenkins at Fujitsu for more	-
16		details to gain an understanding what had occurred at	1
17		this branch."	-
18		We then have the redacted version, which you say is	
19		for data protection reasons, to the name of Gareth	1
20		Jenkins. We then have a look at question 1 and the	2
21		redactions that are made there. On the right-hand side,	2
22		the original:	2
23		"I am requesting Fujitsu logs for the Lepton	2
24		[branch] to look at a reversal", et cetera.	2
25		Then we have in brackets:	2
		101	
4			
1 2		of the individuals named in the report. This was done in order to ensure compliance with the Data Protection	
2		Act"	
4		I mean, did you not apply your mind anyone in any	
5		way to the redactions that had been made to that report	
6		when drafting your email?	
7	Α.	So the redactions were made by Cartwright King. They	
8		told me they made them for data protection reasons.	
9		Having looked at the report, it appeared to me that they	
10		were redacting personal data, subject to that one extra	1
11		point around the mismarking of the document as	1
12		privileged. That's how I took the I took their view	1
13		on it.	1
14	Q.	You've said there, sticking with this email:	1
15		"Putting this issue aside, the real (and	1
16		confidential) [so nobody is being told] reason the	1
17		report was disclosed was because Helen's comment at the	1
18		bottom of page 3 suggests that it was widely known that	1
19		there were problems with Horizon. This statement	1
20		could have been used to attack Gareth Jenkins'	2
21		credibility"	2
22		Gareth Jenkins' name was redacted from that	2
23		particular version.	2
24	Α.	Again, you're going to have to take that up with	2
25		Cartwright King. I wasn't involved in the disclosure of 103	2

1		"Gareth looked at the data at his end prior to me
2		receiving the Fujitsu logs."
3		We see there the name "Gareth" is redacted.
4		Now, how on earth could subpostmasters have attacked
5		Gareth Jenkins' credibility, as you've suggested was the
6		purpose for disclosing this, if Gareth Jenkins' name was
7		redacted in that report?
8	Α.	I'm not suggesting that. This was redacted by
9		Cartwright King. I had no involvement in selecting
10		those redactions or the reasons for those redactions.
11		You would have to address those questions to Cartwright
12		King.
13	Q.	Well, let's look at your email. POL00029707. I think
14		you practice in data protection, don't you?
15	Α.	l do now.
16	Q.	Let's have a look at the covering email. POL00029707.
17		You make clear in that email:
18		"The only redactions made to the copies was to
19		remove:
20		"The personal information", et cetera.
21		If we scroll down, we can see your draft covering
22		letter to the complainant from Howe+Co. If we scroll
23		down to the bottom:
24		"The version of the report sent to Ms Robinson was
25		redacted to protect the privacy and personal information
		102
1		this document or the redactions.
2	Q.	Why are you repeatedly drafting emails, sending
3		substantive comments to the Post Office, when you
4		weren't involved, where you were just a conduit for
5		information; why were you doing that? Why were you not
6		thinking through the consequences of the things that you
7		were advising?
8	Α.	So this is where we get to the crossover between the
9		scheme and the fact that some members of the some
10		applicants in the scheme were convicted. When those
11		crossover issues came up, as you can see here, I went
12		and spoke to the criminal lawyers. I feel like this
13		email faithfully represents the advice they gave to me
14	-	and I'm passing that advice back to Post Office.
15	Q.	I've noted down all those things that happened in the
16		summer of 2013, so we've got: suspense account bug that
17		was brought to your attention; concerns regarding the
18		integrity of Horizon; you had raised concerns regarding
19 20		the documenting of certain information; Castleton;
20		Misra; other cases on hold; Second Sight Report; three
21		bugs; you corresponded with the Criminal Cases Review
22		Commission, however you would like to put that.
23		You are here, in 2014, directly involved in advising
24		the Post Office in respect of a document that was
25		disclosed following a criminal conviction and saying
20		104

(26) Pages 101 - 104

1		that "We don't need to unredact the redaction to Gareth	1		of disclosure. Do you think, looking back at all of
2		Jenkins' name", aren't you?	2		that, you really reflected enough on the job that you
3	Α.	Following the advice of the criminal lawyers.	3		were doing?
4	Q.	Why in those circumstances wouldn't you have given it	4	Α.	I think if I reflecting back on it now, I think there
5		a little more thought?	5		was probably an original mistake by the criminal lawyers
6	Α.	I wasn't advising on the prosecution disclosures. I'm	6		in redacting Gareth Jenkins' name and not being more
7		a civil lawyer. I don't have any experience of criminal	7		transparent about his involvement and why they were
8		law. When these types of issues came up, I took the	8		making the disclosures back at the beginning of 2013.
9		lead from the criminal lawyers, particularly from Simon	9	Q.	Why is it all the criminal lawyers' fault? You were
10		Clarke, who is much more senior than I was.	10		here involved in matters touching on criminal law,
11	Q.	You were asked to unredact the Helen Rose Report. Your	11		weren't you?
12		advice to the client is "You don't need to unredact the	12	Α.	I've I hope I've tried to explain my involvement with
13		Helen Rose Report, those redactions were made for data	13		the criminal touch points but, as I've said, I'm not
14		protection purposes". Why wouldn't you have satisfied	14		a criminal lawyer, I don't know these rules and I can't
15		yourself that they were sufficient that they were	15		advise on them. What I'm trying to do here is helpfully
16		correct that they were fair?	16		give Post Office the advice they need, acting, as
17	Α.	I have no independent means of doing that because I'm	17		I say and I know you don't like this phrase but as
18		not a criminal lawyer. So I can't advise the client	18		a conduit for the information from the criminal lawyers.
19		independently on whether those redactions were	19	Q.	Should there have been a point where you said, "I'm
20		appropriate or not. The best I can do is go and speak	20		sorry but I can't act as a conduit any more, this is so
21		to the criminal lawyer who made those redactions and	21		outside my area of expertise that I really can't assist
22	_	seek his view.	22	_	you?"
23	Q.	You knew the significance of the Gareth Jenkins issue;	23	Α.	I didn't feel it at this point on this particular issue,
24		you had read Cartwright King's advice; you knew that the	24		no. Having spoken to Simon Clarke he was clear to me he
25		disclosure was being confidentially made for the purpose 105	25		thought those redactions were properly made. 106
1	MR	BLAKE: Sir, that might be an appropriate moment but	1		email below. Would you mind reverting to me in the
2		I appreciate it is later in the day but if we could only	2		first instance."
3		take the second break of the morning, so to 12.40.	3		We have the response and that begins at the bottom
4	SIR	R WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, and then how	4		of page 2, please. Your response is as follows:
5	MR	BLAKE: Then we can take lunch at 1.30 if that's	5		"Simon
6		suitable.	6		"As discussed, please find below the high-level
7	SIR	<b>WYN WILLIAMS:</b> So lunch at 1.30, all right. Fine.	7		advice on the terms of reference for the 'Lessons
8		BLAKE: Thank you, sir.	8		Learned Review'
9	(12	.28 pm)	9		"In general, the Post Office's desire to review past
10		(A short break)	10		activity and improve the future is understandable.
11		.40 pm)	11		However, the nature and timing of the review presents
12	MR	BLAKE: Thank you, sir.	12		several risks to the Post Office and, critically,
13		Can we please turn to POL00146243. It's page 4 I'd	13		cuts across number of ongoing activities.
14		like to look at first, please, the bottom of page 4.	14		"For these reasons, I would recommend that if the
15		We're now on 2 September 2013. We have an email from	15		review does need to take place at all, then it should be
16		Alwen Lyons, the company secretary, to Hugh Flemington,	16		deferred for 6-12 months so to first allow Second Sight
					to be managed out in the Mediation Scheme to be
17		and she says:	17		
18		"As per our conversation this morning. I would	18		completed."
18 19		"As per our conversation this morning. I would appreciate if you would get external advice on any risks	18 19		Then heading "Disclosure of The Review":
18 19 20		"As per our conversation this morning. I would appreciate if you would get external advice on any risks in the Lessons Learned Review work. My concerns are	18 19 20		Then heading "Disclosure of The Review": "Privilege This review will not be legally
18 19 20 21		"As per our conversation this morning. I would appreciate if you would get external advice on any risks in the Lessons Learned Review work. My concerns are specifically around the Freedom of Information Act or	18 19 20 21		Then heading "Disclosure of The Review": "Privilege This review will not be legally privileged. This may make it difficult (if not
18 19 20 21 22		"As per our conversation this morning. I would appreciate if you would get external advice on any risks in the Lessons Learned Review work. My concerns are specifically around the Freedom of Information Act or disclosure requirements for our criminal prosecutions	18 19 20 21 22		Then heading "Disclosure of The Review": "Privilege This review will not be legally privileged. This may make it difficult (if not impossible) to resist publicly disclosing details of the
18 19 20 21 22 23		"As per our conversation this morning. I would appreciate if you would get external advice on any risks in the Lessons Learned Review work. My concerns are specifically around the Freedom of Information Act or disclosure requirements for our criminal prosecutions and civil actions."	18 19 20 21 22 23		Then heading "Disclosure of The Review": "Privilege This review will not be legally privileged. This may make it difficult (if not impossible) to resist publicly disclosing details of the Review (as well as any documents and emails produced in
18 19 20 21 22		"As per our conversation this morning. I would appreciate if you would get external advice on any risks in the Lessons Learned Review work. My concerns are specifically around the Freedom of Information Act or disclosure requirements for our criminal prosecutions	18 19 20 21 22		Then heading "Disclosure of The Review": "Privilege This review will not be legally privileged. This may make it difficult (if not impossible) to resist publicly disclosing details of the

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1	or a subpostmaster)."	1		We'll come back to the 2013 period but I want to take
2	Still under 1, the second heading under 1:	2		you now to a few events over subsequent years that may
3	"Criminal disclosure Should the review reveal any	3		be relevant to what occurred in 2013 and advice that you
4	concerns about Horizon or branch accounting processes	4		gave. This relates to the Panorama broadcast and you
5	then Post Office may be obliged (under Criminal	5		are providing Rodric Williams with your thoughts on the
6	Procedure Rules) to proactively pass this information to	6		confidentiality position following Panorama. You say as
7	subpostmasters involved in criminal prosecutions (both	7		follows:
8	ongoing and historic). In particular, recommendations	8		"My thoughts below
9	for change could be interpreted as highlighting historic	9		"In short, my view is that [the Post Office] either
10	problems that would need to be disclosed."	10		(i) does nothing but a bare denial of the allegations
11	Everything we've been talking about this morning,	11		and waits for the Criminal Cases Review Commission of
12	you've been very concerned to distinguish between your	12		(ii) goes on a full attack with the former being my
13	role as advising in relation to the civil matters only,	13		strong preference. Any middle ground simply feeds the
14	not criminal matters. What do you have to say about	14		fire and I don't believe that steady reasoned argument
15	a paragraph here where you are advising on criminal	15		or disclosure or further documents will assist in
16	disclosure?	16		changing the story."
17 <b>A</b>	. So this is a very basic statement of the disclosure	17		Then there's a section on applicants and you say as
18	duties that Post Office was under and I've taken that	18		follows:
19	from the advice that I've seen previous to this from	19		"I'm not convinced that responding to the
20	Cartwright King.	20		'inappropriate theft charge' allegation for each case
21 <b>Q</b>	. Are you advising the client in this email of the	21		with a more detailed explanation of what happened wou
22	implications of the Lessons Learned Review in respect of	22		be worthwhile. Our arguments are technical, rely on the
23	criminal disclosure obligations?	23		intricacies of the prosecution process and are based on
24 <b>A</b>	. Yes.	24		a range of evidence rather than a single smoking gun.
25 <b>Q</b>	. Thank you. Can we please now turn to POL00021865. 109	25		The man in the street will simply say: 'where is the 110
1	evidence of the (subpostmaster) putting the money in her	1		perception "
1 2	evidence of the [subpostmaster] putting the money in her pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the	1 2		perception." Do you think that is appropriate advice to be
	pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the media."			Do you think that is appropriate advice to be giving?
2	pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the media." You have there a fair grasp, in broad terms, of the	2 3 4	A.	Do you think that is appropriate advice to be giving? I don't think that is the advice I'm giving. If you
2 3	pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the media." You have there a fair grasp, in broad terms, of the criminal argument, don't you? The criminal law	2 3	A.	Do you think that is appropriate advice to be giving? I don't think that is the advice I'm giving. If you read the opening paragraph that you touched on, it mak
2 3 4 5 6	pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the media." You have there a fair grasp, in broad terms, of the criminal argument, don't you? The criminal law arguments?	2 3 4 5 6	A.	Do you think that is appropriate advice to be giving? I don't think that is the advice I'm giving. If you read the opening paragraph that you touched on, it mak it very clear that my advice is that Post Office should
2 3 4 5 6	<ul> <li>pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the media."</li> <li>You have there a fair grasp, in broad terms, of the criminal argument, don't you? The criminal law arguments?</li> <li>At a very high level.</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5	Α.	Do you think that is appropriate advice to be giving? I don't think that is the advice I'm giving. If you read the opening paragraph that you touched on, it mak it very clear that my advice is that Post Office should do something and wait for the CCRC. What I'm then
2 3 4 5 6 7 <b>A</b> 8 <b>Q</b>	<ul> <li>pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the media."</li> <li>You have there a fair grasp, in broad terms, of the criminal argument, don't you? The criminal law arguments?</li> <li>At a very high level.</li> <li>You then say:</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Α.	Do you think that is appropriate advice to be giving? I don't think that is the advice I'm giving. If you read the opening paragraph that you touched on, it mak it very clear that my advice is that Post Office should do something and wait for the CCRC. What I'm then setting out below is the alternative proposition but
2 3 4 5 6 7 <b>A</b> 8 <b>Q</b> 9	<ul> <li>pocket?'. I don't believe we can win this battle in the media."</li> <li>You have there a fair grasp, in broad terms, of the criminal argument, don't you? The criminal law arguments?</li> <li>At a very high level.</li> <li>You then say:</li> <li>"[The Post Office] could however start attacking the</li> </ul>	2 3 4 5 6 7	Α.	Do you think that is appropriate advice to be giving? I don't think that is the advice I'm giving. If you read the opening paragraph that you touched on, it mak it very clear that my advice is that Post Office should do something and wait for the CCRC. What I'm then setting out below is the alternative proposition but that wasn't the advice I was giving.
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1		to attack the postmasters' credibility by attacking	1	Q.	You then say:
2		Thomas, Misra and Hamilton. How is that legal advice	2		"If [the Post Office] wished to respond, I would
3		rather than, for example, PR advice, because it's	3		again recommend attacking their credibility and start
4		responding to the Panorama programme?	4		with disclosing the extract from their engagement terms
5	Α.	I think the Panorama programme and I haven't watched	5		that says: 'it is acknowledged that matters relating to
6		it since that time because it was a long time ago did	6		criminal law and procedure are outside Second Sight's
7		stray into questions around legal responsibilities and	7		scope of expertise'."
8		liabilities. So I accept there's a grey area here	8		Now, you've identified a couple of issues that you
9		between legal advice and PR advice.	9		had with the quality of Second Sight's work but how
10	Q.	If we scroll down, there's also comments there on Second	10		could you attack their credibility?
11		Sight. You say:	11	Α.	In this sense, it was because Second Sight had accepted
12		"For the reasons given above, I don't believe that	12		in their engagement terms again, I'm doing this from
13		a substantive debate over [Second Sight's] views on the	13		memory that they didn't have expertise in criminal
14		'inappropriate theft charge' allegation would be	14		law and procedure, yet they had gone on to offer
15		successful. Whatever we think about them, the wider	15		opinions on those matters.
16		perception is that they are independent experts and	16	Q.	Looking back at this email, is it your view that the
17		credible."	17		advice that you were giving there and that the language
18		Just pausing there, by 2015, what did you think of	18		you were using about subpostmasters was not appropriate?
19		them?	19	Α.	I accept that the comments about the three
20	Α.	By this point, I had concerns about the quality of the	20		subpostmasters named was inappropriate but I think it
21		work they were producing.	21		all has to be read in the context of the top part of the
22	Q.	Just the quality of the work?	22		email where it says, "My strong preference is Post
23	Α.	I also had concerns about that they seemed to be	23		Office does nothing and waits for the CCRC".
24		leaning more towards the subpostmasters and ignoring	24	Q.	Reference to the CCRC there, reference to the
25		some of the points the Post Office was making. 113	25		inappropriate theft charge, referring to the credibility 114
1		of three criminal defendants, it seems once again to be	1		perhaps when she was just a trainee, but, by this stage,
		er ande er ande de er ande er de	1		
2		straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it?	2		she's qualified that year?
2 3	A.	-		А.	
	A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it?	2		she's qualified that year?
3	A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the	2 3		she's qualified that year? I believe so.
3 4	Α.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil	2 3 4		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says:
3 4 5	Α.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other	2 3 4 5		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy
3 4 5 6	A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into	2 3 4 5 6		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the
3 4 5 6 7	Α.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent	2 3 4 5 6 7		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your
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3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date).
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling Post Office anything new.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date). In the earlier round of disclosure, we did not provide the guidelines since we wished to confirm whether the
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling Post Office anything new. As I said, I'm going to jump a number of years now, to	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date). In the earlier round of disclosure, we did not provide the guidelines since we wished to confirm whether the documents were covered by privilege. Brian Altman has
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling Post Office anything new. As I said, I'm going to jump a number of years now, to a few different periods. Let's move on a year, and go	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date). In the earlier round of disclosure, we did not provide the guidelines since we wished to confirm whether the documents were covered by privilege. Brian Altman has confirmed that they will not be covered by privilege and
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling Post Office anything new. As I said, I'm going to jump a number of years now, to a few different periods. Let's move on a year, and go to WBON0000465, please. This is 5 October 2016. Amy Prime emails you. Who was Amy Prime?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date). In the earlier round of disclosure, we did not provide the guidelines since we wished to confirm whether the documents were covered by privilege. Brian Altman has confirmed that they will not be covered by privilege and as such the guidelines will, at some point, have to be
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A. Q.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling Post Office anything new. As I said, I'm going to jump a number of years now, to a few different periods. Let's move on a year, and go to WBON0000465, please. This is 5 October 2016. Amy Prime emails you. Who was Amy Prime? She was a solicitor on my team.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date). In the earlier round of disclosure, we did not provide the guidelines since we wished to confirm whether the documents were covered by privilege. Brian Altman has confirmed that they will not be covered by privilege and as such the guidelines will, at some point, have to be disclosed. "We have reviewed both the most recent version of
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A. Q.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling Post Office anything new. As I said, I'm going to jump a number of years now, to a few different periods. Let's move on a year, and go to WBON0000465, please. This is 5 October 2016. Amy Prime emails you. Who was Amy Prime?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date). In the earlier round of disclosure, we did not provide the guidelines since we wished to confirm whether the documents were covered by privilege. Brian Altman has confirmed that they will not be covered by privilege and as such the guidelines will, at some point, have to be disclosed.
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A. Q. A.	straying somewhat into the criminal sphere, doesn't it? As I've explained, there are touchpoints between the criminal areas and the Mediation Scheme and the civil areas. Those points come into contact with each other but I don't believe that I'm crossing the line into advising on criminal law matters here. To the extent that I refer to criminal matters, it's based on advice I've received from the criminal lawyers. "Bare denial of the allegations and wait for the CCRC", though, I mean, that comes pretty close, doesn't it, to advising in relation to how the company acts in respect of the Criminal Cases Review Commission? I think the status quo at that point is Post Office was waiting for the CCRC, so I don't think that's telling Post Office anything new. As I said, I'm going to jump a number of years now, to a few different periods. Let's move on a year, and go to WBON000465, please. This is 5 October 2016. Amy Prime emails you. Who was Amy Prime? She was a solicitor on my team. She was, by that stage, a newly qualified solicitor,	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		she's qualified that year? I believe so. She says: "Andy "Please find below a draft email to Rod on the Investigations Guideline would appreciate your thoughts/comments on this." Then she has below a draft that has been drafted: "Rodric "The below is not urgent but for you to consider as and when you get a chance. Freeths have requested that we provide them with Post Office's Investigation Guidelines since 1998 (including any revisions to date). In the earlier round of disclosure, we did not provide the guidelines since we wished to confirm whether the documents were covered by privilege. Brian Altman has confirmed that they will not be covered by privilege and as such the guidelines will, at some point, have to be disclosed. "We have reviewed both the most recent version of the guidelines and the prior version Of note,

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2

1 Manager should state: "I will listen to any personal 2 concerns or issues that you may have that with the 3 Horizon system during the course of this interview".' 4 "Freeths will more than likely use this statement 5 afterwards an opportunity to confirm that Post Office 6 responded to postmasters using stock answers (a point 7 which has already been raised in relation to the 8 helpline) and further could be spun to show that Post 9 Office was not taking issues with Horizon seriously and 10 were trying to ignore any issues which were raised. 11 "Although we may face some criticism later on, we 12 are proposing to try and suppress the guidelines for as 13 long as possible on the grounds that the most recent 14 version is not relevant since it post-dates the 15 investigations complained of and it would require a full 16 disclosure exercise to piece together all historic 17 revisions of the guidelines. We thought it would be 18 best to bring this to your attention early." 19 You respond to Ms Prime the same day, let's have 20 a look at WBON0000467. Thank you, you respond as 21 follows: 22 "One addition below. Little tip -- try to always 23 spell out exactly what is required from the client (even 24 if that is nothing or a negative statement like below)." 25 So you're there providing a tip to the newly 117 1 Whilst, as I have said I do not recall this email, my 2 firm's records show that Amy had sent a draft for my 3 approval earlier that day which did not contain this 4 final paragraph. I responded to her adding it into her 5 draft though my purpose in doing so appears to have 6 simply been to make clear what action we required from 7 [the Post Office] on this point, rather than to consider 8 or build upon the substance of her email. Though 9 ill-expressed, having reviewed the relevant emails from 10 around this time I consider that [that document] and the 11 final paragraph in particular does not reflect the true 12 position, as there were in fact substantive legitimate 13 reasons for resisting disclosure of the investigation 14 guidelines at this early stage. My email should have 15 been better expressed to make that clear at the time." 16 Let's take that down on the left-hand side and let's 17 concentrate on that paragraph. It's not just a poor 18 choice of words, is it? Even if you take out the words 19 in terms of legitimacy, so let's take out "that looks 20 legitimate", what you are saying here is that "We are 21 ultimately withholding a key document". 22 I mean, that's not a poor choice of words; that is 23

your acknowledgement at that time that there is a key
document, that it is okay to withhold that document for
as long as possible, isn't it?

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qualified solicitor. Were you her supervisor or were you --

3 A. I'm not sure if I was formally her supervisor but she4 was a lawyer in my team.

5 Q. You're providing her with a tip to spell out exactly6 what is required to the client.

6 7 If we scroll down, we can see on the second page, 8 the paragraph that you have then inserted that reads as 9 follows: 10 "For now, we'll too what we can to avoid disclosure 11 of these guidelines and try to do so in a way that looks 12 legitimate. However, we are ultimately withholding 13 a key document and this may attract some criticism from 14 Freeths. If you disagree with this approach, do let me 15 know. Otherwise, we'll adopt this approach until such 16 time as we sense the criticism is becoming serious." 17 Now, you've addressed this in your witness 18 statement. If we could perhaps keep that on screen but 19 also just bring up the witness statement on to screen, 20 page 235. Thank you very much. It's page 235, so the 21 explanation starts at paragraph 411. 22 412 you come to this particular document and let's 23 see the explanation is at 413 so that's over the page, 24 please. You say: 25 "Regrettably, this email is worded very poorly. 118 1 Α. So we are advising Post Office here not to disclose this 2 category of documents. I think the reference there to 3 a key document is not referring to those two specific 4 versions we have but the broader category of 5 investigation guidelines, which is what the request was. 6 Q. So the investigation guidelines, that is the guidelines 7 that led to people's investigation, subsequent 8 prosecution, conviction. A. No, the -- the request was for investigation guidelines 9 10 in the broadest sense so it could have included any form 11 of investigation --Q. Okay, so not limited to criminal prosecutions but 12 13 including investigations that led to criminal 14 prosecutions? 15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Including investigations that led to people wrongly17 losing their jobs?

18 A. I -- yes, I guess so, but I wouldn't be able to draw
19 that line directly.

20 **Q.** Investigations that led to people becoming bankrupt?

21 A. Yes.

22 **Q.** And, irrespective of your reference to doing so in a way

- 23 that looks legitimate, you are saying there, you are
- 24 advising a client, that you can withhold what you
- 25 considered at the time to be a key document until the 120

1		criticism is such that it's becoming serious.	1
2	Α.	So the context here is this is in the pre-action phase	2
3		of the litigation. No disclosure orders have yet been	3
4		made and the request that was made of us was for a broad	4
5		category of investigation guidelines. The two documents	5
6		we had were dated from August 2013 and 2016 and,	6
7		therefore, post-dated, in this sense, any prosecution	7
8		that Post Office had conducted because, as I understood	8
9		it, Post Office hadn't conducted any prosecutions after	9
10		July '13.	10
11		So, in that sense, I thought there looking at it	11
12		now, it's a very poorly worded email, I regret sending	12
13		it but, having looked at it again, I believe there were	13
14		legitimate grounds not to disclose those two documents	14
15		at that point in time, which is during pre-action.	15
16	Q.	What does it matter; what does it matter that you think	16
17		now about those documents? At the time that this	17
18		document this email is drafted, this letter is	18
19		drafted, you considered that it was a key document,	19
20		didn't you?	20
21	Α.	I considered the investigation guidelines, as	21
22		a category, a key document, yes.	22
23	Q.	Your advice to the client was "withhold until criticism	23
24		is so serious that you have to disclose", isn't it?	24
25	Α.	Withhold those two versions of the document, which is 121	25
		121	
1		"The most recent version is not relevant since it	1
1 2		"The most recent version is not relevant since it post-dates the investigations complained of and it would	1 2
2		require a full disclosure exercise to piece together all	2
4		the historic versions of the guidelines."	3
		the historic versions of the guidelines.	
5 6		Again the context is important. This is during the	
		Again, the context is important. This is during the	5
		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not	5 6
7	0	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise.	5 6 7
7 8	Q.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have	5 6 7 8
7 8 9	Q.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose	5 6 7 8 9
7 8 9 10	Q.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold	5 6 7 8 9 10
7 8 9 10 11	Q.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
7 8 9 10 11 12		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think,	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 13
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 77
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being provided to subpostmasters. So I think there are other	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Α.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being provided to subpostmasters. So I think there are other points on the other side of that equation.	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being provided to subpostmasters. So I think there are other points on the other side of that equation. Let's look at the same criticism but in different	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Α.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being provided to subpostmasters. So I think there are other points on the other side of that equation. Let's look at the same criticism but in different circumstances. We're going to look at the Known Error	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Α.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being provided to subpostmasters. So I think there are other points on the other side of that equation. Let's look at the same criticism but in different circumstances. We're going to look at the Known Error Log. Can we please turn to POL00245938, please. If you	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Α.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being provided to subpostmasters. So I think there are other points on the other side of that equation. Let's look at the same criticism but in different circumstances. We're going to look at the Known Error Log. Can we please turn to POL00245938, please. If you could turn to page 5, there's a request that is sent to	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Α.	pre-action phrase of the litigation where a party is not required to undertake a disclosure exercise. Doesn't this show a mindset, a mindset that we have already seen from 2013, not to record, not to disclose or, if you're going to have to disclose something, hold onto it to the very last moment until you absolutely have to disclose it. I think each of those has to be considered on its own merits, in its own circumstances at the time. I think, against that, I would weigh the fact that we advised Post Office to run the Mediation Scheme, which itself is a process that gave rise to lots of information being provided to subpostmasters. So I think there are other points on the other side of that equation. Let's look at the same criticism but in different circumstances. We're going to look at the Known Error Log. Can we please turn to POL00245938, please. If you	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

- the only two versions we had been provided at that time;
- there the only two documents we'd been provided with
- under that broad category of investigation guidelines.
- For the reasons that are stated in this email, we
- considered they weren't disclosable. That's not
- retrospectively my position; that was my position at the
- time. You said earlier the explanation for this began
- 8 at paragraph 411. I think it begins at paragraph 404
- 9 and it does set out the background.
- 0 **Q.** But what does it matter now that you consider those
- documents were not disclosable, if, at the time, you
- thought not only are they disclosable, they are the keydocuments?
- 14 A. No, no, apologies. Maybe I'm not being clear. The
  15 email is poorly expressed but my belief at the time was
- 6 that those documents were not disclosable.
- 7 **Q.** Your belief at that time was they were not disclosable?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Where on earth in this correspondence does it say that?
- 0 How could anybody reading this get the impression that
- 1 your view was that they were not disclosable? How does
- 22 that paragraph -- how can that possibly be read as
- 23 suggesting that it wasn't disclosable?
- A. So the explanation is in the paragraph above, where it says:

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Obody", or "A Nobody". If we turn to the top of page 5 he sends an email to the Post Office and he says as follows: "I thought I sent a reply to you but it doesn't seem to have got through. "I cannot talk to anybody about this because I have signed off my branch accounts with the wrong figure and I can go to prison for doing that. I haven't taken any money. I want to know what errors to look for. I read all this talk about errors in Horizon on the Internet. I want to know what they are. You say you have that information but you won't give me it so what is my alternative. I don't have the sort of money to give to you. Will you prosecute me for my accounts if I talk to Mrs Bogard? Please tell me, surely you have to tell me what these errors are?" What he's doing there, what that email is designed to do is to try to draw out of the Post Office information about known errors because, if you were a subpostmaster who had signed off your branch accounts, you know there's a problem but you don't know what the problem is, you want information from the Post Office to tell you what are the problems; what are the known errors that might explain my discrepancy? Did you understand that to be the background or the 25 124

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1		picture to be painted here?
2	Α.	I can see those are the questions being asked but the
3		fact that it was sent from AN Obody made me doubt the
4		veracity of this request.
5	Q.	Absolutely. So it may not be somebody who is actually
6		having a problem but it poses a theoretical problem for
7		the Post Office to answer.
8		Let's go to page 1, and this is your advice on that
9		email. You respond to Rodric Williams, you say:
10		"Draft [business as usual] response attached. I've
11		gone for a very soft known. Although I'm 99% sure this
12		is a fictional case, we just can't take the risk.
13		"I've not made any express reference to the [Known
14		Error Log]. Even the phrase 'known error' could set
15		hares racing so I've avoided it entirely. I hope
16		however the key message ('cart before horse') still
17		comes across."
18 10		Were you still concerned, even at 2016, about disclosing the fact that there was a Known Error Log?
19 20	•	So at this point in November 2016, the Group Litigation
20 21	Α.	is under way, Freeths are aware that there is a Known
21		Error Log. There is ongoing discussions around the
22		disclosure of a Known Error Log, so the fact that it
23 24		exists is out there with the claimants' lawyers.
25		I think the response here is in the context of this
20		125
4		"D
1 2		"Ben "Please find attached the updated board report
2		addressing your points. The key points to note are:
4		"1. [Womble Bond Dickinson] are assessing the risk
4 5		over the weekend of the 93 high-risk [Known Errors
6		Logs]. By [a date] next week counsel will have reviewed
7		those KELs in detail and given a view on whether they
8		are likely to cause the Horizon trial to be
9		recommenced/the judgment delayed.
10		"2. In relation to the [circa] 14,000 other [Known
11		Error Logs] (ie those not used at the trial), the key
12		risk of reviewing the 14,000 is that the claimants
13		have not asked for the documents yet. If we review them
14		now, [the Post Office] will be required to disclose any
15		adverse documents uncovered. This is doing the
16		claimants' work for them and may highlight new bugs in
17		Horizon that the [claimants] had previously decided not
18		to raise/overlooked. The advice of [Womble Bond
19		Dickinson] therefore is that the [Post Office] should

4 circumstances, where it feels like the request is 5 somehow being made as a, I don't know, a trial or 6 a joke. 7 Q. What do you mean by set hares racing there? Because I think the phrase "known error" conjures up 8 Α. views in people's mind around the extent of problems 9 10 and, at this point in time, we had been told by Fujitsu that the Known Error Log didn't contain any bugs that 11 affected Horizon -- sorry, didn't affect branch 12 13 accounting. Q. Let's fast forward to 2019. Can we please look at 14 POL00043147. 15 16 We're now in the thick of it in the litigation, 17 addressing the Known Error Log. An email from you to Rodric Williams and others: 18 19 "Rod. Kate 20 "Bullets for comment. Below is a possible email to 21 Ben ..." 22 I think that's Ben Foat, is it? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. "... from Rod. Attached is an updated board report." 25 Then the email says as follows: 126 1 Α. No, not quite, because these are -- these 14,000 KELs 2 are back versions of KELs. So the original -- the final 3 version has been disclosed already within the Group 4 Litigation. So these are only earlier versions of 5 documents that have already been put out there and so 6 they may contain more information about already 7 disclosed problems but I think it's unlikely they would 8 have contained existence of new bugs.

feeling like a fictional request, one improper request

for some improper purpose, and I don't think Post Office

should be required to provide extensive details in those

- 9 Q. "This is doing the claimants' work for them and may
  10 highlight new bugs in Horizon that the claimants had
  11 previously decided not to raise or overlooked."
- A. Yes. There is a possibility of that, I accept that, butthe context is important: that these are back versions
- 14 of KELs that have already been disclosed.
- Q. Once again, is this a concern in relation to looking for
  things or mentioning things just in case they had to be
  disclosed?
- 18 A. Well, at this point we've already informed the claimants
  19 that there are these 14,000 KELs and they can, of
- 20 course, request them and disclose them -- request them
- 21 and review them if they wanted to. In a piece of
- 22 litigation like this, I don't think it was incumbent
- 23 upon Post Office to have to review those documents.
- 24 **Q.** Were you concerned that, if you carry out too many
- 25 investigations at this stage, there would arise some 128

127

in there that are found that need to be disclosed?

not review the 14,000 other Known Error Logs unless the

claimants ask for them or Tony's review highlights major

So your advice there is that you shouldn't look at

that wider body of error logs because there may be bugs

risks that warrant a wider review."

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1	information about the integrity of Horizon that would be	1		bugs tha
2	disclosable that you wouldn't want to be disclosed?	2		told us t
3	A. I think that the depth of information around Horizon was	3	Q.	Let's loc
4	massive. There were hundreds of thousands of documents	4		KEL. B
5	and I think, if you review more technical documents on	5		Catherir
6	the system, there was always a possibility that it would	6		"No
7	give rise to a new problem. That's just an inherent	7		because
8	risk in a pile of documents that big and, if that	8		[Known
9	happened, we would have to disclose it.	9		needs to
10	<b>Q.</b> That's looking about in the system but what about	10		"He
11	discussing things with Fujitsu, for example? Were you	11		reviewe
12	concerned about discussing things with Fujitsu, just in	12		a shortli
13	case they gave you something that you might have to	13		need [F
14	disclose?	14		the que
15	A. I don't recall that being a consideration in terms of us	15		sending
16	being worried that Fujitsu would tell us that there was	16		decisior
17	something to be disclosed. In fact, we repeatedly asked	17		that son
18	them for that type of information.	18		answers
19	Q. So you were repeatedly asking Fujitsu for information,	19		lsn'
20	and what is your concern that they weren't giving it	20		in respe
21	to you?	21	Α.	l wasn't
22	A. Well, for example, if you go back, and this is at the	22		say, "Lo
23	end of this is 2019 if you go back to the earlier	23		they'd h
24	stages of the KEL, when we asked them about the KEL	24		challeng
25	originally and we asked them explicitly are there any 129	25		from Fu
1	and could lean to lines and lines of questions, which	1		Sight. (
2	means and what we were trying to do here was move	2		start on
3	this matter to a conclusion.	3		an emai
4	<b>Q.</b> Surely what you're doing there is very similar to what	4		follows:
5	we saw from 2013 onwards, which is: don't seek something	5		"Su
6	out, don't get hold of a document or information,	6		"Ha
7	because you might have to disclose that and it might be	7		Wh
8	something that we don't like?	8	Α.	Correct.
9	A. I don't see the dots that you're connecting there, I'm	9	Q.	What wa
10	afraid. As I say, you have to consider each of these	10	Α.	He was
11	points in time as you look at them.	11	Q.	Yes.
12	MR BLAKE: Sir, that might be an appropriate moment to take	12		"Arl
13	our lunch, please.	13		long-wir
14	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly.	14		a degre
15	MR BLAKE: Could we, please, therefore, come back at 2.15?	15		controlle
16	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: 2.15. Right. Very well, yeah, we'll	16		this."
17	resume at 2.15.	17		So
18	MR BLAKE: Thank you very much.	18		another
19	(1.15 pm)	19		mediatio
20	(The Short Adjournment)	20		"Me
21	(2.14 pm)	21		envisag
22	MR BLAKE: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear me?	22		[subpos
23	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, I can, thank you.	23		and per
24	MR BLAKE: Thank you. Mr Parsons, we're going to move on to	24		[subpos
25	a few separate topics, the first of which is Second	25		discuss
25	a few separate topics, the first of which is Second 131		25	25

1		bugs that affect branch accounts within the KEL, they
2		told us there weren't any.
3	Q.	Let's look at POL00043169, please. We're still on the
4		KEL. Bottom of page 1, please, an email from you to
5		Catherine Emanuel, Rodric Williams and others:
6		"No more progress on the [Known Error Log] review
7		because I've asked Tony to turn his efforts to the
8		[Known Error Log] response letter that now urgently
9		needs to go out the door.
10		"He'll then circle back to the remaining KELs to be
11		reviewed of which there are about 15. We will then have
12		a shortlist of about 25 (I'm guessing) KELs that will
13		need [Fujitsu's] input. We are collating a list of all
14		the questions to [Fujitsu] on these 25 but before
15		sending that to [Fujitsu] we need to take a tactical
16		decision on whether that is a good idea, bearing in mind
17		that sometimes we ask [Fujitsu] a question and get
18		answers we don't like!"
19 20		Isn't that the opposite of what you've just told me
20		in respect of to your relationship with Fujitsu?
21 22	Α.	I wasn't concerned there that they would turn around and
22 23		say, "Look, there's some more bugs in the system". If they'd have told us that, we'd have disclosed it. The
23 24		challenge at this stage was that the answers we'd get
24 25		from Fujitsu would be opaque or difficult to understand,
25		
		130
		130
1		
1		Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll
2		Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's
2 3		Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as
2 3 4		Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows:
2 3 4 5		Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan
2 3 4 5 6		Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin."
2 3 4 5 6 7	Α.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct.
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. Q.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this." So they're discussing options: one is arbitration,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this." So they're discussing options: one is arbitration, another is mediation? You come on now to address
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this." So they're discussing options: one is arbitration, another is mediation? You come on now to address mediation, and you say:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this." So they're discussing options: one is arbitration, another is mediation? You come on now to address mediation, and you say: "Mediation is a definite possibility. I could
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this." So they're discussing options: one is arbitration, another is mediation? You come on now to address mediation, and you say: "Mediation is a definite possibility. I could envisage a mediation between [the Post Office] and each
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this." So they're discussing options: one is arbitration, another is mediation? You come on now to address mediation, and you say: "Mediation is a definite possibility. I could envisage a mediation between [the Post Office] and each [subpostmaster] (with also [Second Sight] in the room
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	Sight. Can we start, please, with WBON0000767, so we'll start on 12 July 2013. If we scroll down there, there's an email from you to Susan Crichton and you say as follows: "Susan "Had a quick chat with Gavin." Who is Gavin; is that Gavin Matthews? Correct. What was his position? He was my supervising partner. Yes. "Arbitration will probably end up as formal and long-winded as court proceedings. We'd also lose a degree [of] control the process and timing would be controlled by the arbitrator. I'm not attracted to this." So they're discussing options: one is arbitration, another is mediation? You come on now to address mediation, and you say: "Mediation is a definite possibility. I could envisage a mediation between [the Post Office] and each [subpostmaster] (with also [Second Sight] in the room and perhaps Shoosmiths?). This gives each

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1		the room would help equalise the imbalance of power.
2		Mediation would not commit [the Post Office] to any
3		outcome (unless one was agreed by both parties) and
4		could be conducted on our timetable. If the mediations
5		were run after [Second Sight's] final report, this may
6		help ensure that the report focuses on general themes
7		whilst leaving specific cases to be heard in the
8		subsequent mediation process.
9		"The risk in is that mediation is usually set up
10		with a view to reaching a resolution. As discussed
11		yesterday I doubt we will ever reach closure on these
12		cases. [The Post Office's] Comms Team would therefore
13		need a robust media strategy to explain why the
14		mediations will, in the majority of cases, fail to reach
15		consensus between [the Post Office] and the
16		[subpostmaster]. Otherwise, this may be spun as
17		a failure to close out this matter."
18		It seems as though there was a discussion the
19		previous day, then, about mediation; do you recall those
20		discussions?
21	Α.	I recall that during this period there were a number of
22		discussions about different ways of taking things
23		forward after the Second Sight Interim Report, of which
24	_	mediation was one of the possibilities.
25	Q.	Now, why would mediations in the majority of cases fail 133
		100
1		"The approach assumes that [the Post Office] is
2		liable and will offer settlements (and seems to hint at
2 3		liable and will offer settlements (and seems to hint at cash settlements). I'm not sure where [Second Sight]
2 3 4		liable and will offer settlements (and seems to hint at cash settlements). I'm not sure where [Second Sight] have got this idea from? Any hint that [the Post
2 3 4 5		liable and will offer settlements (and seems to hint at cash settlements). I'm not sure where [Second Sight] have got this idea from? Any hint that [the Post Office] may be considering cash settlements would
2 3 4 5 6		liable and will offer settlements (and seems to hint at cash settlements). I'm not sure where [Second Sight] have got this idea from? Any hint that [the Post Office] may be considering cash settlements would encourage the toxic cases, encourage Shoosmiths and play
2 3 4 5 6 7		liable and will offer settlements (and seems to hint at cash settlements). I'm not sure where [Second Sight] have got this idea from? Any hint that [the Post Office] may be considering cash settlements would encourage the toxic cases, encourage Shoosmiths and play badly in the media. I think we need to put a stop to
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4		and the subpositilasters view of the world.
5	Q.	We know that it did go to mediation, ultimately. What
6		was the purpose of mediation, if there was this large
7		gulf that was unlikely to result in any resolution?
8	Α.	So the shape of this moved on, after this email, into
9		a slightly different shape of scheme, where the cases
10		would be reinvestigated first and then mediated, which
11		I thought would close the gap between the two parties
12		and give mediation more of a prospect of success.
13	0	
	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00191954. The same day, in
14		fact, 12 July. If we turn to page 4, we can see there
15		that Alan Bates has been in touch, addressing matters
16		have been discussed, and it comes to a point where you
17		are advising, if we turn to page 1, please he made
18		some suggestions on how the Mediation Scheme might be
19		conducted and then we have your advice to Susan Crichton
20		here. You say:
21		"Alan's approach seems similar to what we discussed
22		yesterday, however there are some critical differences:
23		"[Second Sight] seem to be being used as a weapon by
24		the [Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance] to force [the
25		Post Office] into settlement that is not their job.
		134
1		a mediation proposal; it sort of assumed more of
2		a compensation scheme structure.
3	Q.	"Any hint that the Post Office may be considering cash
4		settlements would encourage the toxic cases"
5		Just pausing there, that's an expression we've seen
6		elsewhere. Can you see us with what "toxic cases" were?
7	Α.	I think that was Alan's choice of words to describe what
8		he saw as particularly difficult subpostmaster cases.
9	Q.	So they would be encouraged by the idea of cash
10		settlements:
11		" encourage Shoosmiths and play badly in the
12		
13		media. I think we need to put a stop to this quickly."
14		
		Just reading that, what would be the I mean,
15		Just reading that, what would be the I mean, mediation would, at some stage, presumably, lead to some
15 16	Δ	Just reading that, what would be the I mean, mediation would, at some stage, presumably, lead to some cash payments to subpostmasters, wouldn't it?
16	А.	Just reading that, what would be the I mean, mediation would, at some stage, presumably, lead to some cash payments to subpostmasters, wouldn't it? Yes. But, as I said, I think Alan's email below isn't
16 17	A.	Just reading that, what would be the I mean, mediation would, at some stage, presumably, lead to some cash payments to subpostmasters, wouldn't it? Yes. But, as I said, I think Alan's email below isn't really talking about a mediation-type structure; it's
16 17 18	A.	Just reading that, what would be the I mean, mediation would, at some stage, presumably, lead to some cash payments to subpostmasters, wouldn't it? Yes. But, as I said, I think Alan's email below isn't really talking about a mediation-type structure; it's talking more about a compensation scheme structure that
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16 17 18 19 20	A.	Just reading that, what would be the I mean, mediation would, at some stage, presumably, lead to some cash payments to subpostmasters, wouldn't it? Yes. But, as I said, I think Alan's email below isn't really talking about a mediation-type structure; it's talking more about a compensation scheme structure that assumes liability. So they're two very different concepts and I was concerned here with Post Office

to reach a consensus?

A. My understanding at this point in time is that there was a large delta between Post Office's view of the world

and the subpostmasters' view of the world.

- 23 Q. We're going to move on to December 2013. Can we please 24 turn to POL00327110. It's an email from you to Martin
- 25 Smith, Jarnail Singh and Rodric Williams:

#### The Post Office Horizon IT In . . . .

1		"Martin, Jarnail, Rodric	1
2		"As discussed last week, below is our next thorny	2
3		question on the interaction between the mediation and	3
4		criminal prosecutions.	4
5		"We now have 4 cases in the scheme subject to live	5
6		criminal investigations/prosecutions. Thus far we have	6
7		refused to provide any details of these cases to the	7
8		Working Group. However, the Working Group are concerned	8
9		that as they have no oversight on these cases, there is	9
10		no way for them to validate that the applicant's	10
11 12		application to the scheme should remain suspended. Underlying this is a general (and in my view	11 . 12
12		unwarranted) distrust by [Second Sight] and the [Justice	12
14		for Subpostmasters Alliance] of how [Post Office]	13
15		handles criminal cases."	15
16		We've spoken a lot today about how, in your view,	16
17		you had a very hands-off approach to the criminal cases.	17
18		How is it you formed the view that their distrust was	18
19		unwarranted?	19
20	Α.	I can't recall this particular email and what drove that	20
21		thought.	21
22	Q.	Presumably, you had a sufficient knowledge of how the	22
23		criminal cases were being addressed to write in an email	23
24		that it was an unwarranted distrust?	24
25	Α.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	25
		137	
1		report."	1
2		So, by this stage, Second Sight were working on	2
3		a second report that addressed themes; is that correct?	3
4	Α.		4
5	Q.	"At the [Working Group] meeting on Friday [Second Sight]	5
6		hinted that their concern is not a comms failure between branch and data centre (and therefore a failure to	6
7 8		record transactions to the audit log in the DC) but	7 8
9		rather it was where a third party system received the	9
10		transactions but there is a comms failure that stops the	10
11		transaction completing at the branch end They call	10
12		this the 'one-sided' transaction issue. The point is	12
13		not expressly drawn out in M014 but does come out more	13
14		clearly in M001 Castleton."	14
15		You then say this:	15
16		"The variation on the comms theme is not directly	16
17		covered in the [Fujitsu] data integrity documents so we	17
18		may need to commission further work from [Fujitsu] once	18
19		we know for certain how [Second Sight] have	19
20		characterised this in their thematic report. On that	20
21		basis, I think sending more [information] at [Second	21
22		Sight] at this stage risks them asking more questions.	22
23		My preference is for a targeted attack on the [Second	23
24		Sight] report when we understand the specifics of their	24
25		position rather than be on the back foot in trying to 139	25

on IT Inquiry 13 June 2024			
1		me by the criminal lawyers. I never reviewed any of the	
2		criminal cases myself.	
3	Q.	But you didn't say "in Cartwright King's view it's	
4		unwarranted". You had formed a view at this stage about	
5		the trust that should be placed in the Post Office's	
6		handling of criminal cases. How did you form that view?	
7	A.	Based on the information I'd seen from the criminal	
8		lawyers.	
9	Q.	Did you just assume that what they had told you was	
10		correct, in that respect?	
11	Α.	Yes, because I was relying on them to provide me with	
12		that information.	
13	Q.	Can we please turn to POL00201761. We're now in March	
14		2014, 13 March and this is an email from yourself to	
15		Rodric Williams. If we actually scroll down slightly,	
16		at the bottom you can see there he is asking you, he	
17		says:	
18		"What are your thoughts on how we should feed to	
19		[Second Sight Fujitsu's] response below on [Second	
20		Sight's] M014 report?"	
21		So that's a specific review that Second Sight are	
22		conducting. If we scroll up, please, you say as	
23		follows:	
24		"Rodric	
25		"I think we hold fire until we see the thematic 138	
1		defend the entire Horizon comms infrastructure."	
2		Second Sight were a firm of independent	
3		investigators that had been instructed by the Post	
4		Office to carry out that independent investigation. Is	
5		the approach that you're taking here very similar to the	
6		approach in litigation? A targeted attack on their	
7		report. It does seem rather adversarial, doesn't it?	
8	Α.	Yes, I accept that I adopted a reasonably adversarial	
9		approach.	
10	Q.	Was that based on instructions or was that the way that	
11		you saw it should be approached?	
12	Α.	It was a combination of my doubts at this point in the	
13		quality of Second Sight's work and that was the general	
14		direction and theme that Post Office were taking.	
15	Q.	Who was setting that direction and theme, in your view?	
16	Α.	The group of individuals I was talking to on a daily	
17		basis about the scheme: so Rodric Williams, Belinda	
18		Crowe and the other members of the Project Sparrow team.	
19	Q.	When the scheme was set up, did anybody ever tell you,	
20		for example, "This is intended to be like a truth and	
04			

- reconciliation commission", or something along those
- lines, "Where we're not to take an adversarial
- approach"?
- A. Don't recall any -- I don't recall anything along those lines.
  - 140

1	Q.	Can we please turn to POL00305714. We're moving now
2		swiftly to the summer of 2014, 11 August, and there is
3		a meeting. Second Sight's draft Part 2 mediation
4		briefing report. It's a teleconference. Amongst the
5		participants you're listed there as the representative
6		from Bond Dickinson; do you recall that meeting?
7	Α.	No, I don't.
8	Q.	Let's have a look at the notes. The record of that
9		teleconference. Could we go perhaps and look at page 3,
10		please, the bottom half of page 3. Thank you:
11		"Lack of evidence
12		"Second Sight expressed concern that the character
13		of the conversation is one of litigants
14		antagonistic."
15		That's a fair reflection of the approach you've just
16		described, isn't it?
17	Α.	I think it waxed and waned so there was certainly
18		a period of time at the beginning where we were very
19		much looking to cooperate with Second Sight, provide as
20		much information as we could, particularly in the
21		individual cases. At times it became more adversarial
22		and at times we tried to row that back again because we
23		realised it had got too adversarial. So I think it
24		moved during the course of, what, the 18 months that the
25		scheme was running.
		141
1		external legal advisor at the meeting. Were these
2		external legal advisor at the meeting. Were these likely to have been your words or a summary of your
2 3		likely to have been your words or a summary of your words?
2 3 4	A.	likely to have been your words or a summary of your words? I don't recall this call and I think this document was
2 3 4 5	A.	likely to have been your words or a summary of your words?
2 3 4 5 6	A.	likely to have been your words or a summary of your words? I don't recall this call and I think this document was only sent to me a few days ago, so I haven't had a chance to look into it.
2 3 4 5 6 7	A. Q.	likely to have been your words or a summary of your words? I don't recall this call and I think this document was only sent to me a few days ago, so I haven't had a chance to look into it. "Post Office flagged the risk of straying into legal
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1	Q.	"Second Sight claimed this is the antithesis of what the
2		CEO and Chair assured them would be the case."
3		Were you aware of any discussions or instructions
4		from the CEO and Chair about how the scheme should be
5		conducted?
6	Α.	l don't recall.
7	Q.	"Post Office reassured Second Sight that the
8		conversation is not antagonistic. Post Office expressed
9		concern about Second Sight not getting to the truth of
10		the case and not providing evidence.
11		"Post Office stated not trying to fetter Second
12		Sight independence or take things out, just want to get
13		the paper right. Post Office expressed concern that the
14		lack of evidence doesn't take things further. Post
15		Office concerned applicants may feel issues are more
16		widespread than they are.
17		"Second Sight claimed they report the truth, with
18		an objective to help the applicants."
19		Scroll over:
20		"Post Office raised two examples of items that are
21		out of scope, et contract and criminal. 'If you look at
22		criminal matters need to ask why and who are you doing
23		this for'."
24		Just looking back at the attendees, there was nobody
25		from Cartwright King at this meeting. You were the only
		142
1	Α.	Those issues around scope were points of tension. Post
2		Office thought that Second Sight were exceeding their
3		cope by including commentary on legal issues within
4		their reports, where Post Office had attempted to run
5		the scheme without advancing legal defences, certainly
6		during the investigation phase. But, alongside this,
7		there was also a lot of cooperation in terms of
8		providing information to Second Sight.
9	Q.	If we scroll up it's not just scope, there's the section
10		on "Lack of evidence", and it said there, penultimate
11		paragraph:
12		"Post Office expressed concern that the lack of
13		evidence doesn't take things further. Post Office
14		concerned applicants may feel issues are more widespread
15		than they are."
16		Is that a concern that you recall at that time
17	Α.	(No audible answer)
18	Q.	a concern at the Post Office that Second Sight might
19		be giving the impression that things are more widespread
20		than Post Office thought them to be?
21	Α.	I don't recall the last bullet point being discussed
22		with me.
23	Q.	You were at this meeting, though?

- 24 A. As I say, I don't recall the meeting.
- 25 **Q.** Do you remember that being a concern? 144

1 2	A.	I don't recall that idea coming up. Can we please turn to POL00075810. Moving now to	
2	Q.	16 October 2014. There's an email, the second email on	
4		that page, please, if we scroll down, an email from you	
5		to Anthony Hooper, the Chair of the Working Group, and	
6		you say:	
7		"On our last [Working Group] call you asked Post	
8		Office to make clear which cases it considers are	
9		suitable for mediation before the face-to-face meeting	
10		tomorrow. You asked Belinda to ensure that this	1
11		information was copied to Second Sight so I have [copied	1
12		in] Ron and Ian.	1
13		"Having carefully considered Second Sight's final	1
14		CRRs"	1
15		Is that the questionnaires?	1
16	Α.	No, that's the Second Sight Report?	1
17	Q.	" Post Office's position on mediation is set out	1
18		below. We will explain at the meeting tomorrow our	1
19		reasons for taking these positions."	1
20		So you've been asked to identify which cases you	2
21		consider are suitable for mediation and you have	2
22		responded to the Chair of the Working Group and we have	2
23		there set out the Post Office's position on mediation.	2
24		Can we please look at that. So if we scroll down	2
25		slightly: number 1, unsuitable; number 3, unsuitable;	2
		145	
1		so slightly so I can see the date. So October '14, at	
2		this point the cases will all have been at different	
3		stages, some will be waiting investigation, some will	
4		have been investigated by Post Office, some will have	
5		been investigated by Second Sight and some will probably	
6		have gone through to mediation, so I think that's just	
7		a snapshot in time of those cases.	
8	Q.	Do you think that, in reality, by that stage of 2014,	
9		this was a properly functioning scheme?	
10	Α.	I think it began to break down well, the Working	1
11		Group began to break down around this time and towards	1
12		the end of 2014.	1
13	Q.	Was the Working Group was meant to determine which ones	1
14		were suitable and, at least on the face of this email,	1
15		it's not actually receiving any that the Post Office	1
16		considered to be suitable?	1
17	Α.	Well, as I say, this is a snapshot. How many cases are	1
18	_	there, about ten? There are 150 cases in the scheme.	1
19	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00141727, please. Still in	1
20		October, 31 October now, an email from you to Patrick	2
21		Bourke:	2
22		"Patrick	2
23 24		"In recent CRRs, I've noticed [Second Sight] using	2
24 25		language such as '[the Post Office] has failed to disprove the applicant's assertion' see paragraph 4.2	2
20		147	2

1		number 5, currently minded to consider unsuitable; 17
2		unsuitable; 21 unsuitable; 29 unsuitable; et cetera,
3		et cetera, et cetera.
4		At that point, all of the cases were listed by
5		yourself as being unsuitable for mediation; do you
6		recall that?
7	Α.	I'm trying to think if there was any commonality in
8		those cases that led to that decision. Because this is
9		towards the end of 2014, the cases to which were
10		suitable tended to move through the scheme quicker, so
11		they may well have already passed through and what was
12		left were the ones which were more heavily contested,
13		where Post Office thought they were unsuitable. So the
14		fact that that list is nearly all unsuitable may be
15		a product of where we are in the scheme at that point in
16		time.
17	Q.	If we scroll up slightly:
18		"On our last [Working Group] call, you asked Post
19		Office to make clear which cases it considers are
20		suitable for mediation before the face-to-face meeting",
21		so you have been asked which are suitable and your
22		response is, in effect, all were unsuitable?
23	Α.	I suspect, at this point in time, these were the cases
24		that were pending decision on whether to go to
25		mediation. So by the end if you can scroll up ever
		146
		140
1		attached for an example. This is building in
2		attached for an example. This is building in a presumption that the applicant is correct and that
2 3		attached for an example. This is building in a presumption that the applicant is correct and that [the Post Office] has to disprove the position, even
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1	Q.	I think Sir Anthony Hooper's evidence to the Inquiry was	1	Α.
2		that he wasn't particularly concerned by the paperwork	2	
3		coming from Second Sight at this stage. Would you take	3	
4		a different view?	4	
5	Α.	I didn't see Sir Anthony Hooper's evidence and,	5	
6		I apologise, I'm not quite sure what the context was for	6	
7	~	his comment.	7 8	~
8	Q.	Is your evidence that you personally had concerns about	o 9	Q.
9 10	Α.	Second Sight's paperwork as at October 2014?	9 10	
10	А.	I had concerns at that point about the quality of the work product they were producing.	10	
12	Q.	Can we please turn to POL00176599. 7 November 2014,	11	
13	α.	this is an email that the Inquiry has seen before, it's	12	
14		Martin Smith to you and others. He says:	13	
15		"From a criminal perspective, we would advise as	15	
16		a general rule against the disclosure of any documents	16	
17		from a criminal file which have not previously been	17	
18		disclosed to the defendant during the course of the	18	
19		original proceedings. To do otherwise may well enable	19	
20		the defendant or Second Sight to attempt to criticise	20	
21		the way in which the prosecution was conducted or how	21	
22		the Prosecution Policy was applied. Clearly such	22	
23		arguments in a public arena would be uncomfortable for	23	
24		[the Post Office]."	24	
25		Did that raise any concerns for you?	25	
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1		Second Sight had been appointed as independent	1	
2		investigators, they'd made a request to the Post Office	2	
3		for information, and you, a lawyer, on Post Office's	3	
4		behalf, have gone thorough that and reached the view	4	
5		that it's what you might call a fishing expedition in	5	
6		litigation, and are addressing there which ones should	6	
7		and shouldn't be answered.	7	
8	Α.	As I said earlier, the adversarial nature of it waxed	8	
9		and waned over time. Here I'm expressing concern about	9	
10		some of the questions but my understanding is, actually,	10	
11		that a good number of those questions I can't	11	
12		remember the exact amounts were actually answered.	12	
13	Q.	We can have a look I can take you, if you'd like,	13	
14		to I may be able to take you to that document perhaps	14	
15		tomorrow morning. But is your approach here	15	
16		particularly adversarial, given that Second Sight had	16	
17		been appointed as independent investigators?	17	
40	Α.	No, I don't think so I'm just advising Post Office on	18	
18		what I think is the relevance of the questions and, if	19	
18 19		you look at the last part there, it says, "My guess is	20	
19		this is going to take quite a lot of work to answer all	21	
19 20		this is going to take quite a lot of work to answer all these questions", and, as I recall, it was quite a lot	21 22	
19 20 21				
19 20 21 22	Q.	these questions", and, as I recall, it was quite a lot	22	

13 June 2024 My recollection is that we, WBD, on the WBD side, looking at it from the scheme perspective, were keen to use the material in those files because we thought it helped explain the cases, and Martin and Cartwright King were pushing back against it. I think ultimately that question was taken up to the Working Group and Sir Anthony gave some directions on how to proceed. Can we please now look at POL00214323. 9 December 2014. Second Sight have provided a list of questions that they are seeking answers to. You can say there there's an attachment, "Second Sight Questions for [the Post Office]". This is an email from you to Belinda Crowe and others and you say as follows: "There are some sensible questions in here but there is also a massive fishing expedition for information that does not address issues raised by applicants. I've highlighted all the questions that I think are just fishing for info in blue. There are also a number of questions that are outside the scope of the scheme. Most telling is the fact that there are only a handful of questions about Horizon; nearly all the questions are about accounting practices." I think you've accepted already that the approach that the Post Office was taking was adversarial in nature. Is this an example of that because, of course, 150 we're in 29 December now. If we can turn to page 3 please, Belinda Crowe emails, she says: "Mark/Paul/Andy Parsons -- would you be able to prepare the schedule of questions to which Post Office is not prepared to respond and the reasons why -- it would be that some of the text I have included in the letter is best placed in the schedule." So there's a letter that's being prepared to Second Sight in relation to the questions they've asked. If we scroll up, please. There's a response from Mark Underwood, he says: "Hi Belinda, "As requested please find attached a list of questions we are not providing answers to, and the reasons why. "Andy -- there is one question I have highlighted. Did we actually your send out the response with regards to suspense accounts as I am unsure?

"In total we are not providing answers to 41 of the 1110 questions posed (37%). Splits by reason in the table below ..."

He there sets out the table. So I think your evidence just before was that you did provide answers to lots of the questions. 37 per cent of those questions you weren't answering, 25 per cent because you

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1	considered them to be fishing. Why even use "fishing"	1		very wide to the point where they were you know, it
2	as an expression in relation to your independent	2		would require disproportionate effort and what I was
3	investigators?	3		trying to encourage Post Office to do was at least try
4 <b>A</b> .	This is Mark Underwood's assessment of those questions.	4		to answer a question, even if they couldn't provide
5	I know that this these actually went through	5		a full answer.
6	a two-stage process, so I think this is version 1 of the	6	Q.	You asked to see the questions and, I think, the table,
7	answers and then there was a discussion with Second	7		and I can actually bring that on to screen, that is
8	Sight, I recall, where they clarified some of the	8		POL00021864. Is this what you had in mind?
9	questions. There was a discussion with the Working	9	Α.	No, I had in mind the actual final version of the
10	Group where the Working Group advised that some of the	10		answers that were sent at the end of January.
11	questions were too wide and a version 2 was produced	11	Q.	Well, this is attached to that email that I've just
12	with a lot more answers.	12		taken you to, where you've used the words "fudging
13 <b>Q</b> .	Would you accept that's quite a high percentage of	13		an answer" and we can see 4.6d, for example, the
14	questions not being answered at that stage?	14		question is, Second Sight are asking Post Office:
15 <b>A</b> .	At that stage, yes.	15		"Any instance in the last 3 years in which Post
16 <b>Q</b> .	If we scroll up, we can see your response. You say:	16		Office initially determined that a cash loss was
17	"I've tried to flesh out some of the 'reasons' so	17		attributed to a subpostmaster but where it was
18	that it doesn't look like we are just stonewalling.	18		subsequently found that the subpostmaster was not
19	I also think there are a few questions that we may be	19		responsible for the loss."
20	able to answer or at least fudge an answer. I think it	20		The reasons for not providing an answer is:
21	would be better to try and answer a question than just	21		"Request general information on the occurrence of
22	refuse entirely wherever possible."	22		certain events, without reference to it being raised by
23	So were you trying to push the Post Office to at	23		the applicants."
24	least answer some more questions.	24		Somebody has inserted there:
25 <b>A</b> .	If possible. From memory, some of the questions were 153	25		"Note: I think we could fudge the answer to this as 154
1	follows"	1	Q.	Taking that as an example, why is it that that would
2	If we scroll down.	2	ч.	have been something that couldn't be answered by the
3	"As explained to Second Sight previously,	3		Post Office in response to a request from Second Sight?
4	subpostmasters can challenge any cash loss or	4	Α.	So my recollection is that Post Office was only given by
5	transaction correction in their branch in relation to	5	7.0	the Working Group a very short period of time to
6	ATMs. In many circumstances, the information needed to	6		respond. I think it might have been a month, I may have
7	determine the cause of any discrepancy is only held by	7		that wrong. And if you look at that question, it says,
8	a subpostmaster. There will therefore have been	8		"Any instance in the last 3 years in which Post Office
9	occasions when a transaction correction against	9		initially determined that a cash loss was attributed to
10	a subpostmaster has been challenged and reversed this	10		a subpostmaster". That is a very large period of time
11	is however standard operating practice."	11		to cover across 10,000 branches. So my view is that
12	Can you assist us with who would have inserted that	12		I don't think it would have been practical to be able to
13	suggested form of words? If we scroll out again we can	13		get to the bottom of that answer within the time
14	see the reference. In your email, you referred to "may	14		available.
15	be able to answer or at least fudge an answer", and, if	15	Q.	Why wouldn't that have been the response? Why did yo
16	we scroll up we can see it says, "Note: I think we could	16	ά.	feel a need to fudge an answer to your independent
17	fudge the answer to this as follows". Does it suggest	17		investigators when the explanation could well have been
18	that that proposed answer is coming from you?	18		as you've just said, "That is not reasonably practicable
19 <b>A</b> .	It may have been but I was only provided this document	10		in the time"?
20	a couple of days ago so I haven't had a chance to	20	Α.	Well, I think the answer that's given there is trying to
20 21	consider it.	20	д.	assist them in to give them a steer as to why this
22 <b>Q</b> .	Is it likely, given that you've used the word "fudge" in	21		information may not be relevant or needed but I'd have
22 <b>u</b> . 23	a covering email on the same date, that that is in fact	22		to see the final version of the document to decide where
23	covering entail of the same date, that that is in fact	23 24		we actually ended up with this.
24 25 <b>A</b> .		24 25	Q.	ls "fudging" a steer or is "fudging" fudging?
LU A.	155	23	હ.	

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1	Α.	No, I think we couldn't answer the question because	1		Corfield, who, if we scroll down slightly, is emailing
2		there wasn't enough time. I think the answer given	2		you and Angela van den Bogerd and others. She says:
3		there, which I'm just reading again now, is an attempt	3		"On the criminal cases the main message to land now
4		to try to give a steer as to what Post Office's position	4		that [Post Office] investigations are completed is our
5		was.	5		view that there is nothing that undermines the safety of
6	Q.	Isn't it, yet again, taking a particularly adversarial	6		convictions (but legal routes have of course never been
7		approach to the independent investigators?	7		closed to people). This will be unpalatable in the
8	Α.	Again, I don't know what time this document was	8		extreme to some and any meetings will certainly be made
9		sorry, I lost the date, I think you said it was 2014.	9		public, so we need to be in a position where we can
10		My recollection is that, after this, there was a meeting	10		release supporting, non-case specific documentation to
11		with Second Sight to discuss the questions that couldn't	11		counter inevitable allegations as much as possible."
12		be answered to try to reframe them, narrow them, recast	12		So, "On the criminal cases the main message to land
13		them, if needed, so that Post Office could then answer	13		now that the [Post Office] Investigations are completed
14		them so, yeah I accept that, to an extent, this is	14		is our view that there is nothing that undermines the
15		adversarial but it's also as I say it waxes and wanes	15		safety of convictions"; what investigations did you
16		and then there's periods of cooperation as well.	16		understand that to be referring to?
17	Q.	-	17	Α.	8 8
18	Α.		18		the mediation scheme.
19		talking through these questions and trying to get to	19	Q.	
20		a mutual position on them.	20		quite heavily in this period, is it your view that the
21	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00150460. We're still in	21		result of that mediation taking place was sufficient for
22		December 2014, the very end, 31 December 2014, and there	22		the Post Office to form a view that there's nothing that
23		has been the Westminster Hall debate and the Post Office	23		undermines the safety of convictions?
24		is formulating a response to a case related to Members	24	Α.	
25		of Parliament's queries. You're emailed by Melanie 157	25		reports for every case in the scheme went to Cartwright 158
1 2		King for review and I don't recall Cartwright King raising anything in those reports that caused them to	1 2		are engaged by us, they in fact work to the [Working Group]. You can imagine the sorts of arguments which
3		question the safety of a conviction.	3		might be made."
4	Q.		4		Now, this is very shortly after the Select Committee
5	-	termination, of Second Sight. Can we please look at	5		appearance of Second Sight and Paula Vennells. It seems
6		POL00022352. We're now in February 2015, 5 February	6		from this email, were you aware, that it was the
7		2015. Patrick Bourke emails you and he says:	7		intention Post Office from this point to terminate the
8		"Dear Andy	8		contract with Second Sight and not to have a Part Two
9		"We spoke briefly.	9		Report?
10		"I would be grateful if [Bond Dickinson] could	10	Α.	I either shortly before or shortly after this,
11		produce a short bit of advice on the manner of	11		I think I was provided with a I can't remember if it
12		implementation and consequences of a future decision to	12		was a Board paper or steering group paper about the
13		terminate Second Sight's engagement.	13		termination of Second Sight. So I was aware that that
14		"The advice needs to cover (but should not be	14		was the direction of travel that Post Office were
15		limited to if other matters occur) the nature and extent	15		heading in.
16		of [the Post Office's] ability to control access to, and	16	Q.	Were you aware that one of the reasons why they wanted
17		uses of, all and any information it has provided [Second	17		to terminate Second Sight at that point was before the
18		Sight]; the duration and effectiveness of that control	18		Part Two Report could be completed?
19		in particular with regard to the Part II report they are	19	Α.	The second version of the Part Two Report, the first
20		preparing; and the legal and practically effects of the	20		version had already been produced by this point.
		30-day notice period which the letter of engagement	21		I don't remember it about stopping the Part Two Report.
21			22		I remember the concern was more about ensuring that
21 22		provides for.	22		
		provides for. "I am also interested in the effects, in legal and	22		Second Sight focused on completing their investigations
22		"I am also interested in the effects, in legal and practical terms, of a termination given that the letter			
22 23		"I am also interested in the effects, in legal and	23		Second Sight focused on completing their investigations

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1	Q.	Shall we look at the advice that you gave? That's	1
2		POL00006364. It has "Bond Dickinson" on the final page,	2
3		6 February 2015. Is this is an advice that you wrote?	3
4	Α.	Yes.	4
5	Q.	If we scroll down, please, there's a section on	5
6		"Contract Termination", so:	6
7		"The contract between [Post Office] and [Second	7
8		Sight] is governed by the Engagement Letter dated 1 July	8
9		2014 and a Side Letter"	9
10		If we scroll over the page, please, to Second	10
11		Sight's position during the notice period. Here you're	11
12		addressing the position of Second Sight during that	12
13		30-day notice period. You say as follows:	13
14		"Under the [engagement letter, Second Sight] is	14
15		required to continue providing the Services until the	15
16		end of the 30-day notice period and is entitled to be	16
17		paid for any work done.	17
18		"There is however no converse obligation on Post	18
19		Office to keep asking [Second Sight] to do work during	19
20		the notice period or at any other time.	20
21		"[Second Sight] may try to argue that they have	21
22		a right to continue to work during the 30-day notice	22
23		period. We consider that this argument would be	23
24		difficult for [Second Sight] to advance. First, the	24
25		terms of the [letter] simply do not provide for this. 161	25
1		a significant consideration in the disbanding of the	1
2		Working Group that the effect of that would be to stop	2
3		Second Sight from carrying out any further work?	3
4	Α.	This advice was from the legal perspective on that	4
5		decision and, from a legal perspective, if Post Office	5
6		wanted a clean exit, then it seemed to me that they	6
7		needed to disband the Working Group as well.	7
8	Q.	Had you had discussions with the Post Office, their	8
9		intention was to end Second Sight's work and to prevent	9
10		them from being provided with any other instructions by	10
11		the Working Group?	11
12	Α.	No, that wasn't my understanding. My understanding is	12
13		they wanted to bring to an end the current arrangement	13 <b>A</b>
14		and replace it with a new arrangement that could see	14 <b>Q</b>
15		Second Sight complete their work. I can't now recall	15
16		whether that explicitly included Part Two or not.	16 <b>A</b>
17	Q.	Let's look at the disbanding of the Working Group.	17
18		Let's look at POL00021908. There was a draft paper that	18
19		was circulated for the Sparrow subcommittee. We see	19 <b>Q</b>
20		that if we scroll over the page on page 2, Mark Davies	20
21		is sending a first draft of that paper.	21
22		We then have, on page 1, your views. I'll just take	22
23		you to a few passages from this email:	23
24		"Belinda	24
25		"A few thoughts below on the Sparrow paper. In 163	25

ו IT	Inq	uiry 13 June 2024
1		Second, effectively [Second Sight] would be arguing that
2		there was a minimum guaranteed volume of work due to
2		them when no such guarantee was ever given. Third,
4		[Second Sight] are paid on an hourly rate so their pay
5		is not conditional on the completion of any work.
6		"One complicating factor is that the Services
7		include [Second Sight] 'assisting with any reasonable
, 8		requests made by the Working Group and/or Post Office'.
9		Although the Working Group has no legal standing to
0		enforce the [Engagement Letter], decisions of the
1		Working Group can nevertheless influence [Second
2		Sight]'s work. If during the notice period the Working
3		Group were to direct [Second Sight] to complete some
4		work (within the scope of the services), then [Second
5 6		Sight] would be entitled to complete this work and
7		expect payment. "To avoid this situation, we would therefore
8		recommend that in tandem with the termination of [Second
9		Sight], the Working Group is also disbanded so that it
20		cannot give any directions to [Second Sight]. This will
21		then enable Post Office to direct [Second Sight] to
22		immediately cease all work."
23		You've given in your witness statement a number of
24		reasons why it was a sensible idea to terminate the
 25		Working Group. But, looking at this now, is
.0		162
1		general, I agree with the idea of disbanding the
2		[Working Group] as (i) it offers no real value and (ii)
3		it is the source of much of the criticism of [Post
4		Office Limited]. However, I can see some challenges
5		with the other two limbs of proposal."
6		Then you go on to address those two limbs. First is
7		Second Sight's role. You say:
8		"If [Second Sight] are independently contracted by
9		applicants then I cannot see how [the Post Office] can
0		dictate [Second Sight's] scope of work."
1		So one of the proposals was to let applicants
2		themselves appoint Second Sight; is that correct?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	Your view was that that was not sensible because the
5		Post Office would lose control?
6	Α.	Yes. In particular, in terms of timing, because the
7		great difficulty to this point was that Second Sight
8		were a long way behind schedule.
9	Q.	If we scroll down, we can see a second suggestion:
20		mediating all non-criminal cases. You say as follows:
21		"Mediating all non-criminal cases of course means
22		mediating lots of hopeless cases. Mediating
23		unmeritorious cases raises applicants' expectations
24		unfairly and may in fact create greater animosity and
E		complaints (acrtainly that was my averagional from M002)

5 complaints (certainly that was my experience from M002). 164

1	My recommendation would be for [Post Office] to take	1	Q.	We saw earlier that email where I know you said it
2	a tougher line and only we date meritorious cases (even	2		was just a snapshot, but a very high number of cases had
3	if the bar for this is set low)."	3		been deemed unsuitable by the Post Office. How do you
4	Just pausing there, wasn't that the very purpose of	4		get from a position where you are determining that
5	the Working Group itself, to vet those applications to	5		a large number are unsuitable to saying, "Actually,
6	work out which were meritorious so they could go	6		we'll mediate all non-criminal cases"?
7	forward?	7	Α.	So, again, I think you have to be careful with that list
8 <b>A</b> .		8		because I feel it may not be a I think it may be
9	a series of decisions of the Working Group during the	9		a subset of subpostmasters. I recognise some of the
10	course of 2014, Sir Anthony Hooper decide to take	10		numbers on those lists and I think number of them were
11	an approach which lowered the bar on whether cases	11		subpostmasters with convictions, though I can't remember
12	should go to mediation or not.	12		all the names and the numbers now. So I wouldn't draw
13 <b>Q</b> .		13		anything from that list. I think this is a proposal
14	approach?	14		here to say Post Office should be looking to mediate
	l did disagree with that decision, yes.	15		meritorious cases even if the bar is low.
16 <b>Q</b> .		16	Q.	Reflecting now on all those emails and just your
17	albeit a low bar?	17		recollection of the mediation process; do you think that
18 <b>A</b> .	The distinction here is that the Working Group were	18		the process itself was doomed fail?
19	prepared to put cases through to mediation where the	19	Α.	No, I don't believe so. I think people went into it
20	subpostmaster had been convicted. That created	20		with good faith. I think the breakdown of I think
21	a problem for Post Office because it had been advised by	21		the relationship with Second Sight could have been
22	its criminal lawyers not to mediate with anyone with	22		better between Post Office and Second Sight. I think
23	a conviction and that tension, in my view, was probably	23		that could have been more collaborative. I think that
24	the root cause of the Working Group breaking down at the	24		would have required more compromise on both sides to
25	end of 2014.	25		reach that stage. But I still think that the Mediation
	165			166
1	Scheme did a lot of good.	1		"Sorry we've never got any clarity of this point.
2 Q.	-	2		The reality is that the use of the manual balancing
3	have taken a less adversarial approach?	3		process is so rare that there is no protocol for its
4 <b>A</b> .		4		use."
5	I think there were some points where we were fair in	5		If we scroll up, we see more correspondence on the
6	criticising Second Sight but there were somewhere we	6		issue. Page 1, the middle of page 1, and you're still
7	were too adversarial.	7		involved in this email chain: Mark Underwood to Melanie
8 Q.		8		Corfield and you. Mark Underwood says:
9	I will I'll go thorough a few documents and then we'll	9		"It comes back to Andy's point about the question
10	take our afternoon break but then I'll stick with remote	10		being wrong.
11	access for the rest of the day. It's possible I might	11		"Access' can mean view
12	move on to one other topic before we finish for the day.	12		"The question is can transactions be edited
13	Could we start, please, with POL00031456. So we're	13		remotely to which the answer is no.
14	starting 1 February 2015, and there are discussions with	14		"Once a transaction is in, it cannot be removed or
15	Melanie Corfield and Mark Underwood. If we scroll down	15		edited in any way all that can happen is for
16	slightly actually, let's start on page 3. Melanie	16		additional transactions to be put in to correct
17	Corfield emails Rodric Williams.	17		mistakes all of which are visible to the
18	"What would be the circumstances for [Post Office]	18		[subpostmaster]."
19	adding a transaction (we did so once in 2010 using	19		Now, we know now that that is wrong:
20	functionality)? I know [very] rare, strict authority	20		"If PV and MD [that's Paula Vennells and Mark
21	but would we need to ever do this?"	21		Davies] are still confused I would just send them the
	If we scroll up to page 2, there's an email from	22		below extract from the paper as I think it makes it
22				
22 23		23		guite clear what can and cannot be done.
23	you, if we scroll up slightly more, and you respond to	23 24		quite clear what can and cannot be done. "Alternatively, we treat any questions about [remote
				quite clear what can and cannot be done. "Alternatively, we treat any questions about [remote access] with the contempt they deserve why on earth

1		would [Post Office] have a secret bunker in Bracknell	1		through the Mediation Scheme, determining the cause of
2		accessing [subpostmasters] accounts?"	2		a loss in the branch is the central, central question.
3		Then it sets out there the issue and the response.	3		So people generally thought, including myself, that
4		If we scroll up, we see a response from Melanie	4		remote access was never going to really move forward
5		Corfield, and she says:	5	_	these cases, through the scheme.
6		"At one time our line was simply that there is no	6	Q.	Can we please turn to POL00312743. The bottom of
7		remote access but for most people I think that sounded	7		page 1, over into page 2. March 2015:
8		unlikely given that you have to have [full] support etc.	8		"All
9		It has a different meaning for different people.	9		"We've been through the prosecution file for M056
10		I completely agree re showing contempt about the	10		Wylie. There will be further documents to disclose
11		allegations on this subject! It's a prime example,	11		including the attached witness statement by Gareth
12		actually, of our rigour and investigating allegations	12		Jenkins. At the top of page 3, Jenkins states:
13		that are in the realms of fantasy"	13		"I also note a comment being made about it being
14		What was your view on receiving those emails?	14		[possible] to remotely access the system. It is true
15	Α.	It appears to me that Mark Underwood has set out	15		that such access is possible; however in an analysis of
16		factually what we understood the position to be at that	16		data audited by the system, it is possible to identify
17		time. Admittedly that was wrong. The language around,	17		any data that has not been input directly by staff in
18		"and treat with contempt", I think is probably too	18		the branch. Any such change to data is very rare and
19		strong.	19		would be authorised by Post Office Limited. As I have
20	Q.		20		not had an opportunity to examine data related to this
21		of emails that you would receive on the topic of remote	21		branch, I cannot categorically say that this has not
22		access?	22		happen in this case, but would suggest it is highly
23	Α.	I think at the time, people thought it was a very	23		unlikely'."
24		unlikely possibility that remote access was the actual	24		You say as follows, you say:
25		cause of losses in branches. And at this time, going	25		"I'm pretty certain that Jenkins is referring to the
		169			170
1		balancing transaction process that allows [Fujitsu] to	1		[subpostmasters] cannot be edited but we don't go on to
2		input new transactions rather than edit old	2		say that [Fujitsu] can input new transactions in
2 3		input new transactions rather than edit old transactions. Nevertheless, this will be a red rag to	2 3		say that [Fujitsu] can input new transactions in exceptional circumstances. This information would
2 3 4		input new transactions rather than edit old transactions. Nevertheless, this will be a red rag to Second Sight."	2 3 4		say that [Fujitsu] can input new transactions in exceptional circumstances. This information would therefore be entirely new news to [Second Sight]."
2 3 4 5		input new transactions rather than edit old transactions. Nevertheless, this will be a red rag to Second Sight." Why would it be a red rag to Second Sight?	2 3 4 5		say that [Fujitsu] can input new transactions in exceptional circumstances. This information would therefore be entirely new news to [Second Sight]." Were you, by this stage, quite concerned about the
2 3 4 5 6	А.	input new transactions rather than edit old transactions. Nevertheless, this will be a red rag to Second Sight." Why would it be a red rag to Second Sight? Because they were concerned about anything around remote	2 3 4 5 6		say that [Fujitsu] can input new transactions in exceptional circumstances. This information would therefore be entirely new news to [Second Sight]." Were you, by this stage, quite concerned about the information that had, so far, been disclosed about
2 3 4 5 6 7		input new transactions rather than edit old transactions. Nevertheless, this will be a red rag to Second Sight." Why would it be a red rag to Second Sight? Because they were concerned about anything around remote access.	2 3 4 5 6 7		say that [Fujitsu] can input new transactions in exceptional circumstances. This information would therefore be entirely new news to [Second Sight]." Were you, by this stage, quite concerned about the information that had, so far, been disclosed about remote access?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A. Q.	input new transactions rather than edit old transactions. Nevertheless, this will be a red rag to Second Sight." Why would it be a red rag to Second Sight? Because they were concerned about anything around remote access. The suggestion here being not just old transactions can	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	А.	say that [Fujitsu] can input new transactions in exceptional circumstances. This information would therefore be entirely new news to [Second Sight]." Were you, by this stage, quite concerned about the information that had, so far, been disclosed about remote access? Yes. So when I first found out about the ability to
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1	Q.	" are understood and very [helpful]. We'll rework
2		the general structure of the letter and then come back
3		to you to discuss specific points.
4		"Off the back of yesterday's call, (I think) I now
5		have a better grasp of the central tenants <i>[sic]</i> of our
6		case. I've tried to capture these below just to see if
7		it matches your thinking."
8		Then it's at 2 you address remote access. So:
9		"The branch accounting system (including the role of
10		Horizon within the accounting system) is built around
11		the principle that the postmasters approve every
12		transaction that goes into their accounts:
13		"a. They (or their assistants) enter all
14		transactions conducted in branch; and
15		"b. They (or their assistants) approve any
16		transactions originating from [Post Office] (such as
17 18		transaction corrections)."
10		In brackets it says as follows: "Note the issue of remote access is critical
20 21		here my understanding is that [Post Office] will not use a balancing transaction without postmaster consent
21		in which case this complies with the above principle but
22		we need Deloitte to confirm this. Absolutely."
23 24		Are you able to assist in whose words those are? Is
24		that your email or is that somebody inputting into your
20		173
		The second state is the March state is second at
1 2		Then you go on to identify what the issue is:
2		"The immediate concern is that this means that [the Post Office's] historic statements about not being able
4		to edit or delete transactions appear, at least on face
4 5		value, to have been materially incorrect. This
6		therefore may bring into play:
7		"(i) Allegations of deceit in that the Post Office
, 8		has made false statements:
9		"(ii) A basis for unwinding the settled cases; and
10		"(iii) The possibility for some claimants to extend
11		their limitation deadline"
12		If you scroll down, you say:
13		"Once we have a much clearer picture, we may wish to
14		seek Brian Altman's advice on whether this issue causes
15		any concerns for criminal law/disclosure perspective.
16		We may also need to give consideration to whether to
17		inform the [Criminal Cases Review Commission]."
18		So, first of all, this is presumably quite
19		a significant moment for you, having been involved in
20		the issue of transaction corrections for quite a number
21		of years now?
22	Α.	The issue of balancing transactions.
23	Q.	The issue of super-users?
24	Α.	Sorry, yes, well, we were by this point, we'd seen
25		I'd been provided with copies of Deloitte's earlier
		175

on IT	[ Inq	uiry 13 June 2024
1		email?
2	Α.	l can't tell.
3	Q.	Certainly by this stage, the summer of 2016, you
4		recognised the critical nature of that remote access
5		point?
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	POL00029990. We have an email from yourself to Jane
8		MacLeod, Rodric Williams and others. It's further to
9		some Deloitte investigations:
10		"Before tomorrow's steering group meeting I wanted
11		to give you a heads-up on the 'remote access' issues
12		"Deloitte has identified that a small number of
13		super-users at [Fujitsu] have the ability to delete and
14		edit transactions from the branch database. The [branch
15		database] is the central server on which all branch
16		transactions are recorded before being passed to other
17		servers This access is subject to strict controls
18		and Deloittes current understanding is that it would not
19		be possible to delete or edit transactions without
20		leaving a footprint in the audit trail. They also
21		believe that (i) this type of access is not unusual and
22		(ii) the likelihood of someone actually making such
23		changes is extremely low. This super-user access is
24		a separate, yet more extensive, process to the balancing
25		transaction process we previously knew about." 174
1		reports and the Swift Review which pulled this issue
2		out. So this is further investigations by Deloitte.
3	Q.	You've identified there under "Issues", slightly further
4		up, some civil issues.
5	Α.	Mm-hm.
6	Q.	But then you refer also to seeking Brian Altman's advice
7		and the Criminal Cases Review Commission potentially
8		having to inform them. Is this, again, an example
9		where, although you are not, as you've said many times,
10		a criminal law expert, you are touching upon matters
11		that affect the criminal law potential appeals?

- 12 A. Here, yes, because I also recall that, a year earlier, 13 we'd already got Brian's advice on the remote access
- 14 issues.
- 15 MR BLAKE: Thank you.
- 16 Sir, I will be continuing with more questions on
- 17 remote access but perhaps that is an appropriate time to
- 18 take our mid-afternoon break.
- 19 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, by all means.
- 20 MR BLAKE: If we could come back at 3.35.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Certainly. 21
- 22 MR BLAKE: Thank you very much.
- 23 (3.18 pm)

24

- (A short break)
- 25 (3.35 am)
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1	MR	BLAKE: Thank you. Can we please turn to POL00245978,	
2		please, the bottom of the first page into the second	
3		page, please. We're now on 27 November 2016 and you	
4		have drafted a letter to Freeths in response to their	
5		last substantive letter and you say as follows:	
6		"The majority of this letter addresses legal and	
7		procedural points. The key substantive area is	
8		section 9 on remote access	
9		"Following feedback from Deloitte, we cannot	
10		definitively say that [the Post Office] (as distinct	
11		from [Fujitsu]) never had the ability to change Horizon	
12		data because Deloitte and the current staff at [Fujitsu]	
13		just don't have enough knowledge of Old Horizon to	
14		confirm this. This was a point made in an early draft	
15		but it has now been removed.	
16		"We have (I hope) now found a formulation of words	
17		that avoids having to overtly throw [Fujitsu] to the	
18		wolves and avoids any risk of waiving privilege in any	
19		documents, but still gives us a fair story to tell."	
20		What did you mean there by throwing Fujitsu to the	2
21		wolves?	
22	Α.	I think this letter is addressing not just remote access	2
23		but the statements that Post Office had made	2
24		historically about remote access and the view was that	2
25		a lot of the previous incorrect statements about remote 177	2
1 2		securing the support of the right people internally before issuing.	
3		"As I'm the lucky man with the responsibility for	
4		this as the [steering group] Chair, I must ask that we	
5		get this properly reviewed by Mark Davies and also	
6		Angela who I don't think are on this list. In	
7		particular we need a full assessment and media plan	
8		based on the worst case consequences in place before	
9		sending."	
10		Can you assist us with the position within the Post	
11		Office, the concern at that time, regarding the letter	
12		that was going to be sent to Freeths?	
13	Α.		
14		concessions that Post Office had previously made	·
15		incorrect statements about remote access, and that was	-
16	~	the concern.	-
17 19	Q.	There's reference here to Mark Davies.	
18	A.	Mm-hm.	-
19 20	Q.	Was he somebody you knew?	
20 21	A.	I knew of him. He was the Communications Director.	2
21 22	Q.	How involved was he in these kinds of issues, from what you saw?	4
22 23	Α.	you saw? He would occasionally get involved in some of the legal	-
23 24	ς.	issues that were coming up in the scheme.	4
25	Q.		2
	<u> </u>	179	-

	•	-
1		access were because that Fujitsu had given us incorrect
2		information or had given incorrect information to Post
2		Office.
4	Q.	Was that your view, was that the view of the Post
5	ч.	Office, or was it both?
6	A.	Both.
7	Q.	You say:
8	<b>.</b>	"We have also toned down the admissions of making
9		incorrect statements, though they are still there.
10		I hope this might make it easier to get this letter
11		cleared through [the Group Executive] and [Fujitsu]."
12		So it seems Fujitsu are clearing the form of words
13		that go to Freeths; is that correct?
14	Α.	Where we were writing letters on technical issues then
15		that type of language would go past Fujitsu to get their
16		confirmation that they thought it was accurate.
17	Q.	If we scroll up, please, we have a response, from Rob
18		Houghton. He says:
19		"I personally think we overdo the response on access
20		and I've suggested some changes."
21		If we scroll up again there is a response from
22		Thomas Moran, also of Post Office. He says:
23		"My overall conclusion is that could very well have
24		serious implications on the proceedings and we
25		absolutely have to make sure we are briefing and
		178
1		was real concern within the business at this stage about
2		this admission?
3	Α.	Yes, there was real concern about making this admission.
4	Q.	Could we, please, turn to POL00415440. This is actually
5		the day before that final email in the chain but it all
6		relates to the same issue, the same letter. It's from
7		you to counsel and you say:
8		"Rod has gone through the remote access section.
9		The content is broadly the same. He has reordered the
10		structure (which I like a lot) and toned down the 'mea
11		culpa' (but I think this still works)."
12		
40		Was that something the Post Office was doing, toning
13		down the <i>mea culpa</i> ?
14	Α.	down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly
14 15	Α.	down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about
14 15 16	A.	down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language
14 15 16 17	A.	down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but
14 15 16 17 18	Α.	down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the
14 15 16 17 18 19		down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the direction the letter needed to go in.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	A. Q.	down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the direction the letter needed to go in. If we look at POL00246005, at the bottom of that page.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the direction the letter needed to go in. If we look at POL00246005, at the bottom of that page. The bottom of the page, please, this is 28 November:
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22		down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the direction the letter needed to go in. If we look at POL00246005, at the bottom of that page. The bottom of the page, please, this is 28 November: "Please find attached the updated 'remote access'
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the direction the letter needed to go in. If we look at POL00246005, at the bottom of that page. The bottom of the page, please, this is 28 November: "Please find attached the updated 'remote access' wording. The general direction of your comments was to
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24		down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the direction the letter needed to go in. If we look at POL00246005, at the bottom of that page. The bottom of the page, please, this is 28 November: "Please find attached the updated 'remote access'
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		down the <i>mea culpa</i> ? My recollection at this time is this letter does clearly state that Post Office made incorrect statements about remote access. There was some debate about the language that was used then to describe that situation but I don't recall that there was any real debate about the direction the letter needed to go in. If we look at POL00246005, at the bottom of that page. The bottom of the page, please, this is 28 November: "Please find attached the updated 'remote access' wording. The general direction of your comments was to be less apologetic in on to and less repetitive, both of

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1		"The key issue is how far we want to go in accepting	
2		that incorrect statements have been made in the past.	
3		I believe that some of the drafting/tone changes are	
4		coming out of us not having a settled view on this	
5		issue", and you suggest a call.	
6		So you say there the general direction of your	
7		comments was to be less apologetic. Where in particular	
8		was that coming from, in your view?	
9	Α.	I can't now recall. We'd have sought comments on that	
10	_	drafting from probably the people on this email chain.	
11	Q.	Moving in to 2017 now. Could we turn to POL00249553.	
12		We're now on to the drafting of the defence. So the	
13		admission has been made to Freeths in November 2016.	
14		We're now on to the defence, in the summer of 2017. You	
15		are sending around the draft defence from counsel. If	
16 17		we scroll down, paragraph 2, it says:	
17 18		"Paragraph 50(2) do we say that POL previously relied on incorrect statements from [Fujitsu] in	
10		- , - ,	
20		relation to remote access? This is basically dropping [Fuiitsu] in it."	
20		Same point, I think, as before, really. It seems as	
22		though your view at that point was that Fujitsu were at	
23		fault or were to blame in some way, or that it was	
24		suggestive of that in the draft defence.	
25	Α.	I felt that Fujitsu were primarily responsible, not	
		181	
1	Q.	What is your view, though? We're here, we're years	
2		later now, we're in 2017, we're still debating on how	
3		it's going to be phrased, the remote access issue. It's	
4		clearly an important issue to the business. You've	
5		placed a lot of blame with Fujitsu but is it your view	
6		that the blame only lies with Fujitsu or that there was	
7		a failure at the Post Office end to research the problem	
8		properly?	
9	Α.	My view is it primarily sat with Fujitsu. I think there	
10		may there's probably some underlying problem with	
11		Post Office not understanding the Horizon system in	
12		enough detail across its organisation and I also, to	
13		some degree, accept an accountability on my part,	
14		because I feel I should have pushed harder on this issue	
15		during the scheme.	
16	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00249919. We're still in	
17		July 2017 and you send an email to counsel:	
18		"A quick note so that you're in the loop on my	
19		meetings with [the Post Office] over the last few days	
20			
21		"Both the Postmaster Litigation Steering Group and	
22		the Group Executive are comfortable with the defence [by	
23 24		this stage]."	
24 25		You say: "I've briefed both the IPostmaster Litigation	
25		"I've briefed both the [Postmaster Litigation 183	

1		solely responsible, but primarily responsible, and there
2		was a I recall there was some debate around exactly
3		how we put that point in the draft defence.
4	Q.	Could we turn to WBON0000496, please. From Anthony
5		de Garr Robinson, you're copied in here, 10 July 2017.
6		Another version of the draft defence is circulated. If
7		we have a look at paragraph 60, he says:
8		" the more I think about it, the more I think the
9		whole of paragraph 60 other than the first two sentences
10		ought to be deleted."
11		There's reference to mediation, et cetera, in there
12		that he doesn't want included. It's the final line or
13		final sentence there, he says:
14		"This seems to give us no excuse for not having
15		researched the problem properly before we said remote
16		alteration was not possible."
17		Where do you consider the blame lies for
18		insufficient research? It seems as though his view
19		there was "us", being the Post Office, rather than
20		Fujitsu. Where do you think the blame lies for not
21		having researched the problem properly?
22	Α.	I don't I'm not sure whether Tony is using the word
23		"us" to mean Post Office or Fujitsu, or the collective
24		side of the case that was the Post Office side of the
25		case sorry, can you repeat the question? 182
		162
1		Steering Group] and [the Group Executive] on what I saw
2		as the key risk areas as follows."
2 3		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access":
2 3 4		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work.
2 3 4 5		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data
2 3 4 5 6		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems.
2 3 4 5 6 7		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this:
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this: "Both [the steering group and the Group Executive]
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this: "Both [the steering group and the Group Executive] are very uncomfortable about this but understand the
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13		as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this: "Both [the steering group and the Group Executive] are very uncomfortable about this but understand the tactical reasons for this approach."
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	А.	as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this: "Both [the steering group and the Group Executive] are very uncomfortable about this but understand the tactical reasons for this approach." Can you assist us with what you meant there? I recall that senior management at Post Office were
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	A.	as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this: "Both [the steering group and the Group Executive] are very uncomfortable about this but understand the tactical reasons for this approach." Can you assist us with what you meant there? I recall that senior management at Post Office were uncomfortable with making an admission that the previous
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this: "Both [the steering group and the Group Executive] are very uncomfortable about this but understand the tactical reasons for this approach." Can you assist us with what you meant there? I recall that senior management at Post Office were uncomfortable with making an admission that the previous statements had been incorrect. Who do you have in mind there? I don't I can't place it to an individual because I would have been, at that time, I think, getting a lot of the feedback indirectly via the Legal Team and I can't now recall these calls or meetings I had with the GE at that time.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Q. A.	as the key risk areas as follows." Then (2) is "Horizon integrity/remote access": "Much more comfortable now we have Deloitte's work. Deloitte's view is that it is unlikely that data integrity/remote access is the true cause of problems. "[The Post Office] has previously made false statements and we admit this. Deny that they were known to be false when made." Then you say this: "Both [the steering group and the Group Executive] are very uncomfortable about this but understand the tactical reasons for this approach." Can you assist us with what you meant there? I recall that senior management at Post Office were uncomfortable with making an admission that the previous statements had been incorrect. Who do you have in mind there? I don't I can't place it to an individual because I would have been, at that time, I think, getting a lot of the feedback indirectly via the Legal Team and I can't now recall these calls or meetings I had with the GE at that time.

1		very uncomfortable about that?	1
2	۸	Yes, and, actually, I can recall speaking to the	2
3		steering group about it and getting that sense directly	3
4		from them, as well.	4
5	Q.	"Much discussion about media comments and managing bad	5
6		publicity."	6
7		Do we understand, looking at all these documents	7
8		that we've been looking at this afternoon in relation to	8
9		remote access, that you were personally very involved in	9
10		the remote access issue from the legal side?	10
11	Α.	If you're talking about which period of time are you	11
12		talking about?	12
13	Q.	The documents we've been looking at, so let's say	13
14		2016/2017 period?	14
15	Α.	Yes.	15
16	Q.	There was a lot of focus on the wording	16
17	Α.	(The witness nodded)	17
18	Q.	a lot of care was taken over how that was presented;	18
19		do you agree with that?	19
20	Α.	Correct.	20
21	Q.	It was a significant issue for the business as a whole,	21
22		the Post Office?	22
23	Α.	Err	23
24		The admission?	24
25	Α.	I couldn't comment as to what they thought about it as 185	25
1	Q.	I think it's the person who has at least raised the	1
2		issue:	2
3		" and he has sent me the email chain below by way	3
4		of further background."	4
5		Ah, so, in fact, Sree is from the Post Office, he is	5
6		the Lead Branch Availability Manager, so he has raised	6
7		it with your firm:	7
8 9		"In summary, Post Office have exhausted all other	8 9
9 10		ways of cancelling this [transaction correction] and I agree that there is no alternative but for [Fujitsu]	9 10
11		to manually remove it.	10
12		"Some key points:	12
13		"The [transaction correction] relates to a redundant	12
14		product that this branch never sold Post Office	13
15		reinstated the product and gave the branch permission to	15
16		sell it, but it was not possible for the branch to	16
17		accept the [transaction correction];	17
18		"Post Office cannot issue another [transaction	18
19		correction] to net the first one off for the same reason	19
			20
20			
20 21		"The [transaction correction] was issued due to	21
		"The [transaction correction] was issued due to human error rather than a technical fault."	21 22
21			
21 22		human error rather than a technical fault."	22
21 22 23		human error rather than a technical fault." Just pausing there, a transaction correction has	22 23

1		a wider business issue. I can tell you they thought it
2		was important within the context of the litigation.
3	Q.	As we've seen, a lot of toing and froing and care taken
4		over the issue of remote access, in terms of how it
5		would affect the litigation.
6	Α.	Yes.
7	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00254632, please. Now, this
8		is a chain of emails. I appreciate that it's a document
9		you will only have seen this morning but I'd like your
10		assistance on it. Let's start on page 4, if we may. If
11		we scroll down, please actually, if we go to page 6,
12		just to have a look at how this issue comes in. There's
13		somebody from Information Services called Eleanor
14		Bradley, on page 6, if we scroll up, please. Thank you.
15		It's a discussion about an issue that has been
16		raised in a particular post office. If we please turn
17		to page 4, and the email from Jonathan Gribben to you.
18		So Jonathan Gribben was a Managing Associate in your
19		firm; is that correct?
20	A.	Correct.
21	Q.	I'd like to just read this email. He says:
22 23		"Andy, "I have spoken to Sree"
23 24		Now, was Sree the postmaster, do you recall?
24 25	Α.	I don't know.
20		186
1		likely that the claimants in the [Group Litigation] will
2		become aware of the issue and get the wrong end of the
3		stick; and
4		"In Sree's view the real risk to Post Office is not
5		fixing the issue as it's preventing the branch from
6		completing its trading period the branch may have been
7		incurring losses and in the circumstances Post Office
8		likely to have to pick those losses up.
9		"Are you happy for me to give Sree the green light
10		to have [Fujitsu] remove the [transaction correction]?"
11		So there has been an issue in a branch, it's
12		a McColl's branch, I think that's a chain branch, and it
13		seems as though they are holding off asking Fujitsu to
14		remove the transaction correction because of the ongoing
15		litigation and the issue of remote access; is that
16		right?
17	Α.	Yes, that appears what that's saying.
18	Q.	If we scroll up, we have your response, and you say:
19		"Can they not settle the [transaction correction]
20		centrally and then wipe it off the postmaster's
21		account?"
22		Were you, at this point, qualified to be making
23		suggestions as to how to correct an error in a branch's
24		accounts?

25 A. I knew enough about transaction corrections that there 188

6 Q.

A. Correct.

action for now.

Group Litigation."

of legal privilege.

email. It says:

controlled their content.

"1. As a first step, I would like Sree to copy all

"Jonny, please then keep this somewhere separate and

"Second, I would like to escalate this to Pete and

safe. He should then be instructed to take no further

Torstein at [Fujitsu] so that they can produce for us

"I understand that this is going to cause

operational problems and risks in this branch, but if

not handled properly this could be disastrous for the

the very beginning: that your advice to the Post Office

branch, a random branch that is affected that needs

privilege because it could be disastrous for the Group 190

a correction and your advice is, "Let's cover this in

Q. Final document I'll take you to today, it's POL00276195. It's an email from yourself to Ben Foat and Rodric

about some of the history of the litigation and why

an overall advice had not been obtained. I'll read the

"The concern at the outset was that any early settlement would be seen as conceding the [claimants']

Williams in June 2019, and you're explaining to Ben Foat

is "Let's blanket this in privilege"? This is

a technical issue with a branch, not a claimant's

Doesn't this take us back to where we began today at

a full (and privileged) note on what has happened and why there is no alternative but to editing the data.

"Third, we can then make a decision on how to

emails on this topic (past and future) to Jonny."

So Jonny is a lawyer, is he?

proceed in light of the full facts.

1		were a couple of ways they could be processed through	1
2		the system. Where it refers to a "postmaster's account"	2
3		there, that doesn't mean the account on Horizon; that	3
4		means the account at FSC.	4
5	Q.	Why are you getting involved in the minutiae of	5
6		a postmaster's account?	6
7	Α.		7
8		say, I don't recall this email and, as you said earlier,	8
9		I only was passed it this morning it appears from the	9
10		email below that the solution being proposed is for	10
11		Fujitsu to manually delete or remove some data. That's	11
12		a version of remote access, it appears, and that's	12
13	_	a very key issue in the litigation.	13
14	Q.	17 <b>0 0</b>	14
15		says:	15
16		"No. I asked Sree last night when he rang me. The	16
17		issue is that the branch cannot process the [transaction	17
18		correction] at all."	18
19 20		If we scroll up, we have your response, and you say this:	19
20 21		"All.	20 21
21 22		All, "I think we (the legal team) need to take charge of	21
22		this process. Whatever documents are produced are	22
23		likely to be disclosable and I would like as far as	23
25		possible for this to be covered by privilege or have	24
20		189	20
1		Litigation". Just as, in the very early years, you were	1
2		advising in respect of, for example, the notification to	2
3		the insurer, "Let's not write that down; let's deal with	3
4		it, cover it in privilege as far as we can"?	4
5	Α.	I think in the context here and as I've said a number of	5
6		times, I think all of these decisions are context	6
7		specific. We are in the middle of a large piece of	7
8		litigation, an issue has arisen that is related to one	8
9		of the key issues in that litigation. I think it's	9
10		appropriate for any organisation to avail itself of	10
11		legal privilege to investigate that issue. To be clear,	11
12		that is not to say the issue wouldn't be brought to	12
13		light. I think it's possible for an organisation to	13
14		investigate something under privilege and then to make	14
15		decisions later, when it has the full facts, as to how	15
16		that then gets disclosed through the litigation process.	16
17	Q.		17
18		a branch, unrelated branch, because of the impact on the	18
19		Group Litigation". Do you think that was an appropriate	19
20		approach to take?	20
21	Α.	I do think that was an appropriate approach to take.	21
22	Q.	Does it make any difference for you that the Post Office	22
23		is owned by the Government, by the taxpayer, in how that	23
<u>.</u>			<u> </u>
24 25	A.	kind of litigation is conducted? I still think Post Office was entitled to avail itself	24 25

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	<b>•</b> • • •
10	arguments on the [subpostmaster] contracts and Horizon.
11	This would then possibly open up the floodgates to more
12	claims, so the plan was for Post Office to try to secure
13	some positive decisions in its favour before breaching
14	the topic of settlement.
15	"The strategy was to contest the Common Issues
16	trial, because based on the advice from Counsel, Post
17	Office should win on most points. When the Common
18	Issues expected to be resolved in [the Post Office's]
19	favour, either the [claimants'] funding would collapse
20	or they might walk away for a modest settlement that,
21	when viewed against a positive Common Issues judgment,
22	would not set a dangerous precedent. With this in mind,
23	before the [Common Issues] judgment was handed down we
24	had already agreed a mediator with Freeths and had begun

25 planning for settlement discussions.

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11

1	"Further, Post Office had Deloitte review the
2	Horizon system out at the outset of the litigation and
3	they advised that Horizon was robust and extremely
4	unlikely to be the cause of shortfalls in branches.
5	This therefore gave us a back-up plan in case [the]
6	resolution didn't come immediately in the wake of
7	a Common Issues judgment. Deloitte gave us a degree of
8	confidence in winning the Horizon trial, and that might
9	then cause the [Claimants] funding to collapse or
9 10	a modest settlement would be possible.
11	"If this didn't work, then the next step was to
12	'thin the herd'. By this we meant identifying subgroups
12	of Claimants whose claims could be defeated on
13	a technicality or legal point. For example, trying to
14	strike out all of the time-barred claims. By thinning
16	the herd' you undermine the economics of the group.
17	Less claimants means less damages which makes the
18	funder's return on investment lower to the point where
10	they would prefer to settle rather than invest more
20	money."
20 21	It's this final substantive paragraph that I'd like
21	to focus on. You say:
22	"The strategy was never to seek an outright win
23 24	through the Court process, for that would mean
24 25	ultimately defending 500+ individual claims in 500+
20	193
1	if you look at the balance of the advice we gave on
2	disclosure to Post Office, it was actually to err on the
3	side of giving more disclosure and being generous with
4	disclosure.
5	<b>MR BLAKE:</b> Sir, that might be an appropriate moment to break
6	for the day.
7	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
8	<b>MR BLAKE:</b> I have, at most, one hour left, and then we have
9	questioning from Core Participants, which shouldn't be
10	more than around an hour and a half, at most two hours.
11	So we have plenty of time tomorrow.
12	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: That's fine. I'd be grateful, Mr Blake,
13	if you'd just send me a rough breakdown of what we
14	expect with the Core Participants, so that I am <i>au fait</i>
15	of what's likely to occur, if you would?
16	MR BLAKE: Absolutely.
17	SIR WYN WILLIAMS: But yes, let's call it a day for today,
18	and we will resume again at 9.45 tomorrow.
19	MR BLAKE: Thank you very much, sir.
20	(4.03 pm)
21	(The hearing adjourned until 9.45 am the following day)
22	
23	

- 23 24
- 24

- 1 separate trials (because the cases turn on their own
- 2 facts and the utility of dealing with them as a group
- 3 gradually erodes as more 'group issues' are resolved and
- 4 you are left with individual issues). Even if Post
- 5 Office's legal case was perfect, securing a full
- 6 resolution through the Courts would take years and be
- 7 massively disproportionately expensive. Hence, the
- 8 above plan to build leverage and air cover through the
- 9 Court process to force a settlement or collapse of the10 litigation."
  - Does that explain the approach that you took to
- 12 disclosure throughout these years, that you would never
- 13 see a final trial, so no one would ultimately look under
- the various rocks that had been placed over these piecesof information?
- 16 A. No, I don't ever recall thinking like that.
- 17 Q. Was it a strategy to delay disclosure of important
- 18 documents, just like we saw in relation to that Amy
- 19 Prime email that you inputted into: delay, delay, delay
- 20 disclosure until the moment at which you're becoming
- 21 criticised and then you can provide it and, if that
- 22 strategy worked, you would never have to provide certain
- 23 information because the plan was never to hear the full
- 24 trial until the end?
- 25 A. No. I think you've referred to one outlier email and, 194

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37/13 53/15 62/19 63/3 65/17 93/17 104/16 135/12 141/2 143/23 174/3 181/14 super [3] 174/13 174/23 175/23 super-user [1] 174/23 super-users [2] 174/13 175/23 supervising [7] 30/12 31/19 32/13 55/9 59/10 62/9 132/10 supervisor [2] 118/1 118/3 supplemental [1] 48/25 support [3] 35/15 169/8 179/1 supporting [1] 158/10 suppress [1] 117/12 sure [15] 9/16 13/2	table [3]         152/21           152/22         154/6           tactical [3]         34/14           130/15         184/13           take [47]         2/4         3/20           5/18         7/2         28/20         30/5           42/16         46/14         53/10         54/5         65/18         66/2         76/4           94/3         94/6         96/20         103/24         107/3         107/5         108/15         110/1         119/16         119/18         119/19         125/12         130/15         131/12         140/22         142/12         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         192/2         192/2         192/2         194/6         148/13         149/22         192/2         194/6         14/14 <t< td=""><td>teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10</td><td>that I [1] <math>195/14</math> that's [80] <math>3/6 3/19</math> 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20</td><td><math display="block">\begin{array}{c} 185/4 \ 194/2 \\ \textbf{thematic [2]} \ 138/25 \\ 139/20 \\ \textbf{theme [3]} \ 139/16 \\ 140/14 \ 140/15 \\ \textbf{themes [2]} \ 133/6 \\ 139/3 \\ \textbf{themselves [2]} \ 74/11 \\ 164/12 \\ \textbf{them [96]} \ 3/13 \ 4/23 \\ 11/16 \ 13/5 \ 13/8 \ 13/13 \\ 14/25 \ 15/1 \ 16/10 \\ 19/10 \ 23/12 \ 24/8 \\ 28/19 \ 37/17 \ 37/24 \\ 38/23 \ 38/24 \ 39/8 \ 39/9 \\ 40/20 \ 43/3 \ 45/21 \\ 46/24 \ 47/2 \ 47/8 \ 47/9 \\ 48/22 \ 49/24 \ 53/12 \\ 56/23 \ 57/15 \ 67/15 \\ 75/14 \ 84/23 \ 87/9 \\ 87/17 \ 89/12 \ 89/13 \\ 92/12 \ 99/13 \ 101/18 \\ 101/20 \ 101/25 \ 107/4 \\ \end{array}</math></td></t<>	teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10	that I [1] $195/14$ that's [80] $3/6 3/19$ 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20	$\begin{array}{c} 185/4 \ 194/2 \\ \textbf{thematic [2]} \ 138/25 \\ 139/20 \\ \textbf{theme [3]} \ 139/16 \\ 140/14 \ 140/15 \\ \textbf{themes [2]} \ 133/6 \\ 139/3 \\ \textbf{themselves [2]} \ 74/11 \\ 164/12 \\ \textbf{them [96]} \ 3/13 \ 4/23 \\ 11/16 \ 13/5 \ 13/8 \ 13/13 \\ 14/25 \ 15/1 \ 16/10 \\ 19/10 \ 23/12 \ 24/8 \\ 28/19 \ 37/17 \ 37/24 \\ 38/23 \ 38/24 \ 39/8 \ 39/9 \\ 40/20 \ 43/3 \ 45/21 \\ 46/24 \ 47/2 \ 47/8 \ 47/9 \\ 48/22 \ 49/24 \ 53/12 \\ 56/23 \ 57/15 \ 67/15 \\ 75/14 \ 84/23 \ 87/9 \\ 87/17 \ 89/12 \ 89/13 \\ 92/12 \ 99/13 \ 101/18 \\ 101/20 \ 101/25 \ 107/4 \\ \end{array}$
37/13 53/15 62/19 63/3 65/17 93/17 104/16 135/12 141/2 143/23 174/3 181/14 super [3] 174/13 174/23 175/23 super-user [1] 174/23 super-users [2] 174/13 175/23 supervising [7] 30/12 31/19 32/13 55/9 59/10 62/9 132/10 supervisor [2] 118/1 118/3 supplemental [1] 48/25 support [3] 35/15 169/8 179/1 supporting [1] 158/10 suppress [1] 117/12 sure [15] 9/16 13/2 23/10 30/10 45/2	table [3]         152/21           152/22         154/6           tactical [3]         34/14           130/15         184/13           take [47]         2/4         3/20           5/18         7/2         28/20         30/5           42/16         46/14         53/10         54/5         65/18         66/2         76/4           94/3         94/6         96/20         103/24         107/3         107/5         108/15         110/1         119/16         119/18         119/19         125/12         130/15         131/12         140/22         142/12         142/12         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         140/22         142/12         165/10         167/10         176/18         189/22         190/7         190/19         191/20         191/21         192/2         194/6         14ken [17]         14/14         17/25         18/23         23/21	teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10 6/20 17/14 28/10	that I [1] $195/14$ that's [80] $3/6 3/19$ 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20 158/17 161/1 165/8	$\begin{array}{c} 185/4 \ 194/2 \\ \textbf{thematic [2]} \ 138/25 \\ 139/20 \\ \textbf{theme [3]} \ 139/16 \\ 140/14 \ 140/15 \\ \textbf{themes [2]} \ 133/6 \\ 139/3 \\ \textbf{themselves [2]} \ 74/11 \\ 164/12 \\ \textbf{them [96]} \ 3/13 \ 4/23 \\ 11/16 \ 13/5 \ 13/8 \ 13/13 \\ 14/25 \ 15/1 \ 16/10 \\ 19/10 \ 23/12 \ 24/8 \\ 28/19 \ 37/17 \ 37/24 \\ 38/23 \ 38/24 \ 39/8 \ 39/9 \\ 40/20 \ 43/3 \ 45/21 \\ 46/24 \ 47/2 \ 47/8 \ 47/9 \\ 48/22 \ 49/24 \ 53/12 \\ 56/23 \ 57/15 \ 67/15 \\ 75/14 \ 84/23 \ 87/9 \\ 87/17 \ 89/12 \ 89/13 \\ 92/12 \ 99/13 \ 101/18 \\ 101/20 \ 101/25 \ 107/4 \\ 107/5 \ 108/15 \ 108/19 \\ \end{array}$
37/13 53/15 62/19 63/3 65/17 93/17 104/16 135/12 141/2 143/23 174/3 181/14 super [3] 174/13 174/23 175/23 super-user [1] 174/23 super-users [2] 174/13 175/23 supervising [7] 30/12 31/19 32/13 55/9 59/10 62/9 132/10 supervisor [2] 118/1 118/3 supplemental [1] 48/25 support [3] 35/15 169/8 179/1 supporting [1] 158/10 suppress [1] 117/12 sure [15] 9/16 13/2 23/10 30/10 45/2 54/11 72/19 80/6	table [3]         152/21           152/22         154/6           tactical [3]         34/14           130/15         184/13           take [47]         2/4         3/20           5/18         7/2         28/20         30/5           42/16         46/14         53/10         54/5         65/18         66/2         76/4           94/3         94/6         96/20         103/24         107/3         107/5         108/15         110/1         119/16         119/18         119/19         125/12         130/15         131/12         140/22         142/12	teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10	that i [1] $195/14$ that's [80] $3/6 3/19$ 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20 158/17 161/1 165/8 168/20 188/12 188/17	$\begin{array}{c} 185/4 \ 194/2 \\ \textbf{thematic [2]} \ 138/25 \\ 139/20 \\ \textbf{theme [3]} \ 139/16 \\ 140/14 \ 140/15 \\ \textbf{themes [2]} \ 133/6 \\ 139/3 \\ \textbf{themselves [2]} \ 74/11 \\ 164/12 \\ \textbf{them [96]} \ 3/13 \ 4/23 \\ 11/16 \ 13/5 \ 13/8 \ 13/13 \\ 14/25 \ 15/1 \ 16/10 \\ 19/10 \ 23/12 \ 24/8 \\ 28/19 \ 37/17 \ 37/24 \\ 38/23 \ 38/24 \ 39/8 \ 39/9 \\ 40/20 \ 43/3 \ 45/21 \\ 46/24 \ 47/2 \ 47/8 \ 47/9 \\ 48/22 \ 49/24 \ 53/12 \\ 56/23 \ 57/15 \ 67/15 \\ 75/14 \ 84/23 \ 87/9 \\ 87/17 \ 89/12 \ 89/13 \\ 92/12 \ 99/13 \ 101/18 \\ 101/20 \ 101/25 \ 107/4 \\ \end{array}$
37/13 53/15 62/19 63/3 65/17 93/17 104/16 135/12 141/2 143/23 174/3 181/14 super [3] 174/13 174/23 175/23 super-user [1] 174/23 super-users [2] 174/13 175/23 supervising [7] 30/12 31/19 32/13 55/9 59/10 62/9 132/10 supervisor [2] 118/1 118/3 supplemental [1] 48/25 support [3] 35/15 169/8 179/1 supporting [1] 158/10 suppress [1] 117/12 sure [15] 9/16 13/2 23/10 30/10 45/2 54/11 72/19 80/6 85/17 118/3 125/11	table [3]         152/21           152/22         154/6           tactical [3]         34/14           130/15         184/13           take [47]         2/4           2/16         46/14           5/18         7/2           28/20         30/5           42/16         46/14           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           103/24         107/3           107/5         108/15           108/15         110/1           119/18         119/19           125/12         130/15           130/15         131/12           140/22         142/12           142/12         142/14           151/21         163/22           165/10         167/10           165/10         167/10           189/22         190/7           190/19         191/20           191/20         191/21           192/2         194/6           taken [17]         14/14	teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10 6/20 17/14 28/10	that i [1] $195/14$ that's [80] $3/6 3/19$ 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20 158/17 161/1 165/8 168/20 188/12 188/17	$\begin{array}{c} 185/4 \ 194/2 \\ \textbf{thematic [2]} \ 138/25 \\ 139/20 \\ \textbf{theme [3]} \ 139/16 \\ 140/14 \ 140/15 \\ \textbf{themes [2]} \ 133/6 \\ 139/3 \\ \textbf{themselves [2]} \ 74/11 \\ 164/12 \\ \textbf{them [96]} \ 3/13 \ 4/23 \\ 11/16 \ 13/5 \ 13/8 \ 13/13 \\ 14/25 \ 15/1 \ 16/10 \\ 19/10 \ 23/12 \ 24/8 \\ 28/19 \ 37/17 \ 37/24 \\ 38/23 \ 38/24 \ 39/8 \ 39/9 \\ 40/20 \ 43/3 \ 45/21 \\ 46/24 \ 47/2 \ 47/8 \ 47/9 \\ 48/22 \ 49/24 \ 53/12 \\ 56/23 \ 57/15 \ 67/15 \\ 75/14 \ 84/23 \ 87/9 \\ 87/17 \ 89/12 \ 89/13 \\ 92/12 \ 99/13 \ 101/18 \\ 101/20 \ 101/25 \ 107/4 \\ 107/5 \ 108/15 \ 108/19 \\ 109/5 \ 110/17 \ 111/8 \end{array}$
37/13 53/15 62/19 63/3 65/17 93/17 104/16 135/12 141/2 143/23 174/3 181/14 super [3] 174/13 174/23 175/23 super-user [1] 174/23 super-users [2] 174/13 175/23 supervising [7] 30/12 31/19 32/13 55/9 59/10 62/9 132/10 supervisor [2] 118/1 118/3 supplemental [1] 48/25 support [3] 35/15 169/8 179/1 supporting [1] 158/10 suppress [1] 117/12 sure [15] 9/16 13/2 23/10 30/10 45/2 54/11 72/19 80/6 85/17 118/3 125/11 135/3 149/6 178/25	table [3]         152/21           152/22         154/6           tactical [3]         34/14           130/15         184/13           take [47]         2/4         3/20           5/18         7/2         28/20         30/5           42/16         46/14         53/10         54/5         65/18         66/2         76/4           94/3         94/6         96/20         103/24         107/3         107/5         108/15         110/1         119/16         119/18         119/19         125/12         130/15         131/12         140/22         142/12         142/14         144/13         149/3         151/13         151/14           151/21         163/22         165/1         165/10         167/10         176/18           189/22         190/7         190/19         191/20         191/21         192/2           194/6         taken [17]         14/14         17/25         18/123         23/21           30/17         40/8         51/25         98/14         98/15         100/3           109/18         124/8         150/6         154/12         167/3         185/18           186/3         taking [16]         2/5 <td>teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10 6/20 17/14 28/10 55/14 56/4 58/16 58/18 59/8 61/17 62/5 62/6 62/12 62/13 62/21 62/23 63/3 63/8</td> <td>that I [1] 195/14 that's [80] 3/6 3/19 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20 158/17 161/1 165/8 168/20 188/12 188/17 189/11 189/12 195/12 theft [3] 110/20 113/14 114/25</td> <td>185/4 194/2 thematic [2] 138/25 139/20 theme [3] 139/16 140/14 140/15 themes [2] 133/6 139/3 themselves [2] 74/11 164/12 then [96] <math>3/13 4/23</math> 11/16 13/5 13/8 13/13 14/25 15/1 16/10 19/10 23/12 24/8 28/19 37/17 37/24 38/23 38/24 39/8 39/9 40/20 43/3 45/21 46/24 47/2 47/8 47/9 48/22 49/24 53/12 56/23 57/15 67/15 75/14 84/23 87/9 87/17 89/12 89/13 92/12 99/13 101/18 101/20 101/25 107/4 107/5 108/15 108/19 109/5 110/17 111/8 112/7 114/1 116/9 118/8 126/25 130/10 130/11 133/19 134/10</td>	teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10 6/20 17/14 28/10 55/14 56/4 58/16 58/18 59/8 61/17 62/5 62/6 62/12 62/13 62/21 62/23 63/3 63/8	that I [1] 195/14 that's [80] 3/6 3/19 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20 158/17 161/1 165/8 168/20 188/12 188/17 189/11 189/12 195/12 theft [3] 110/20 113/14 114/25	185/4 194/2 thematic [2] 138/25 139/20 theme [3] 139/16 140/14 140/15 themes [2] 133/6 139/3 themselves [2] 74/11 164/12 then [96] $3/13 4/23$ 11/16 13/5 13/8 13/13 14/25 15/1 16/10 19/10 23/12 24/8 28/19 37/17 37/24 38/23 38/24 39/8 39/9 40/20 43/3 45/21 46/24 47/2 47/8 47/9 48/22 49/24 53/12 56/23 57/15 67/15 75/14 84/23 87/9 87/17 89/12 89/13 92/12 99/13 101/18 101/20 101/25 107/4 107/5 108/15 108/19 109/5 110/17 111/8 112/7 114/1 116/9 118/8 126/25 130/10 130/11 133/19 134/10
37/13 53/15 62/19 63/3 65/17 93/17 104/16 135/12 141/2 143/23 174/3 181/14 super [3] 174/13 174/23 175/23 super-user [1] 174/23 super-users [2] 174/13 175/23 supervising [7] 30/12 31/19 32/13 55/9 59/10 62/9 132/10 supervisor [2] 118/1 118/3 supplemental [1] 48/25 support [3] 35/15 169/8 179/1 supporting [1] 158/10 suppress [1] 117/12 sure [15] 9/16 13/2 23/10 30/10 45/2 54/11 72/19 80/6 85/17 118/3 125/11 135/3 149/6 178/25 182/22	table [3]         152/21           152/22         154/6           tactical [3]         34/14           130/15         184/13           take [47]         2/4           2/16         46/14           5/18         7/2           28/20         30/5           42/16         46/14           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           94/3         94/6           103/24         107/3           107/5         108/15           108/15         110/1           119/18         119/19           125/12         130/15           130/15         131/12           140/22         142/12           142/12         142/14           149/3         151/13           151/14         151/21           165/10         167/10           165/10         167/10           189/22         190/7           190/19         191/20           191/20         191/21 <t< td=""><td>teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10 6/20 17/14 28/10 55/14 56/4 58/16 58/18 59/8 61/17 62/5 62/6 62/12 62/13 62/21 62/23 63/3 63/8 63/13 64/13 73/2 73/2</td><td>that I [1] 195/14 that's [80] 3/6 3/19 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20 158/17 161/1 165/8 168/20 188/12 188/17 189/11 189/12 195/12 theft [3] 110/20 113/14 114/25 their [52] 3/15 12/25</td><td><math display="block">\begin{array}{c} 185/4 \ 194/2 \\ \textbf{thematic [2]} \ 138/25 \\ 139/20 \\ \textbf{theme [3]} \ 139/16 \\ 140/14 \ 140/15 \\ \textbf{themes [2]} \ 133/6 \\ 139/3 \\ \textbf{themselves [2]} \ 74/11 \\ 164/12 \\ \textbf{them [96]} \ 3/13 \ 4/23 \\ 11/16 \ 13/5 \ 13/8 \ 13/13 \\ 14/25 \ 15/1 \ 16/10 \\ 19/10 \ 23/12 \ 24/8 \\ 28/19 \ 37/17 \ 37/24 \\ 38/23 \ 38/24 \ 39/8 \ 39/9 \\ 40/20 \ 43/3 \ 45/21 \\ 46/24 \ 47/2 \ 47/8 \ 47/9 \\ 48/22 \ 49/24 \ 53/12 \\ 56/23 \ 57/15 \ 67/15 \\ 75/14 \ 84/23 \ 87/9 \\ 87/17 \ 89/12 \ 89/13 \\ 92/12 \ 99/13 \ 101/18 \\ 101/20 \ 101/25 \ 107/4 \\ 107/5 \ 108/15 \ 108/19 \\ 109/5 \ 110/17 \ 111/8 \\ 112/7 \ 114/1 \ 116/9 \\ 118/8 \ 126/25 \ 130/10 \\ 130/11 \ 133/19 \ 134/10 \\ 134/19 \ 135/16 \ 139/15 \\ \end{array}</math></td></t<>	teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10 6/20 17/14 28/10 55/14 56/4 58/16 58/18 59/8 61/17 62/5 62/6 62/12 62/13 62/21 62/23 63/3 63/8 63/13 64/13 73/2 73/2	that I [1] 195/14 that's [80] 3/6 3/19 8/10 14/6 15/7 18/20 19/21 19/22 23/4 23/25 28/18 29/1 29/4 30/6 31/16 34/22 35/12 35/19 39/6 39/12 40/5 40/25 46/1 47/15 47/15 49/14 50/9 52/3 58/12 60/5 64/15 66/15 67/19 68/14 71/11 75/19 75/20 76/14 76/25 78/25 80/17 80/25 82/8 87/23 88/4 89/7 89/24 93/1 94/5 97/1 100/6 100/24 103/12 107/5 115/15 118/23 119/22 122/5 126/22 129/7 129/10 136/5 138/21 139/4 141/15 145/16 147/6 152/8 153/13 155/25 156/20 158/17 161/1 165/8 168/20 188/12 188/17 189/11 189/12 195/12 theft [3] 110/20 113/14 114/25 their [52] 3/15 12/25	$\begin{array}{c} 185/4 \ 194/2 \\ \textbf{thematic [2]} \ 138/25 \\ 139/20 \\ \textbf{theme [3]} \ 139/16 \\ 140/14 \ 140/15 \\ \textbf{themes [2]} \ 133/6 \\ 139/3 \\ \textbf{themselves [2]} \ 74/11 \\ 164/12 \\ \textbf{them [96]} \ 3/13 \ 4/23 \\ 11/16 \ 13/5 \ 13/8 \ 13/13 \\ 14/25 \ 15/1 \ 16/10 \\ 19/10 \ 23/12 \ 24/8 \\ 28/19 \ 37/17 \ 37/24 \\ 38/23 \ 38/24 \ 39/8 \ 39/9 \\ 40/20 \ 43/3 \ 45/21 \\ 46/24 \ 47/2 \ 47/8 \ 47/9 \\ 48/22 \ 49/24 \ 53/12 \\ 56/23 \ 57/15 \ 67/15 \\ 75/14 \ 84/23 \ 87/9 \\ 87/17 \ 89/12 \ 89/13 \\ 92/12 \ 99/13 \ 101/18 \\ 101/20 \ 101/25 \ 107/4 \\ 107/5 \ 108/15 \ 108/19 \\ 109/5 \ 110/17 \ 111/8 \\ 112/7 \ 114/1 \ 116/9 \\ 118/8 \ 126/25 \ 130/10 \\ 130/11 \ 133/19 \ 134/10 \\ 134/19 \ 135/16 \ 139/15 \\ \end{array}$
37/13 53/15 62/19 63/3 65/17 93/17 104/16 135/12 141/2 143/23 174/3 181/14 super [3] 174/13 174/23 175/23 super-user [1] 174/23 super-users [2] 174/13 175/23 supervising [7] 30/12 31/19 32/13 55/9 59/10 62/9 132/10 supervisor [2] 118/1 118/3 supplemental [1] 48/25 support [3] 35/15 169/8 179/1 supporting [1] 158/10 suppress [1] 117/12 sure [15] 9/16 13/2 23/10 30/10 45/2 54/11 72/19 80/6 85/17 118/3 125/11 135/3 149/6 178/25	table [3]         152/21           152/22         154/6           tactical [3]         34/14           130/15         184/13           take [47]         2/4         3/20           5/18         7/2         28/20         30/5           42/16         46/14         53/10         54/5         65/18         66/2         76/4           94/3         94/6         96/20         103/24         107/3         107/5         108/15         110/1         119/16         119/18         119/19         125/12         130/15         131/12         140/22         142/12         142/14         144/13         149/3         151/13         151/14           151/21         163/22         165/1         165/10         167/10         176/18           189/22         190/7         190/19         191/20         191/21         192/2           194/6         taken [17]         14/14         17/25         18/123         23/21           30/17         40/8         51/25         98/14         98/15         100/3           109/18         124/8         150/6         154/12         167/3         185/18           186/3         taking [16]         2/5 <td>teleconference [2] 141/4 141/9 tell [10] 19/22 88/12 124/15 124/15 124/23 129/16 140/19 174/2 177/19 186/1 telling [2] 115/15 150/20 ten [2] 45/21 147/18 tenants [1] 173/5 tended [2] 92/23 146/10 tension [2] 144/1 165/23 tensions [3] 143/24 148/13 148/15 term [1] 57/16 terminate [4] 159/13 160/7 160/17 162/24 termination [6] 159/4 159/5 159/24 160/13 161/6 162/18 terms [36] 3/11 4/10 6/20 17/14 28/10 55/14 56/4 58/16 58/18 59/8 61/17 62/5 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182/5 183/18 185/11	189/19 190/20 190/24		
192/4 194/20	yourself [5] 105/15 138/14 146/5 174/7		
<b>you've [32]</b> 5/15 7/5	192/3		
10/18 14/7 14/7 15/1 15/2 29/22 43/10 65/5			
85/10 85/25 91/8			
97/16 101/2 102/5			
103/14 109/12 114/8 118/17 130/19 141/15			
145/20 150/23 154/12			
			(83) years yourself