1 Wednesday, 19 June 2024 2 (9.45 am) 3 MR STEVENS: Good morning, sir. 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Morning. MR STEVENS: Can you see and hear me? 5 6 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. 7 MR STEVENS: Thank you, sir. Before we hear from 8 Mr Christou, I should just say that we will be having 9 the usual fire alarm at 10.00. 10 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. MR STEVENS: As usual, I propose we just sit through that. 11 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, of course. 12 13 MR STEVENS: If I can call Mr Christou. 14 RICHARD CHRISTOU (sworn) 15 Questioned by MR STEVENS 16 MR STEVENS: Please could you state your full name? 17 A. Richard Christou. Q. Mr Christou, thank you very much for attending the 18 19 Inquiry today and thank you for the two witness 20 statements you have provided. I want to turn to those 21 first. You should have a bundle of documents in front 22 of you. Could I ask you to open that and have the first 23 witness statement in front of you. 24 A. I do. 25 Q. Thank you. Is that dated 20 March 2023? 1 you please to turn to page 27 of your statement. 2 A. The second witness statement? 3 Q. The second witness statement, sorry, yes, thank you. 4 A. Yes? 5 Q. Is that your signature? 6 A. Yes. 7 Are the contents of both of those statements taken 8 together true to the best of your knowledge and belief? 9 A. Yes. Q. 10 Thank you very much. Now, those witness statements now 11 stand as evidence in the Inquiry. They will be published on the website in due course. I have some 12 13 questions for you about them but not all issues that you 14 raise within them. I want to look at an exhibit in your 15 witness statement first, if I may, and that's -- if we 16 can bring up the first statement, please, and page 30. 17 A. I'm looking at the wrong statement.

Q. Yes, it will be on the screen shortly, as well. So this

Q. -- and, thereafter, from 1970 to 1990, you held various

roles in the companies listed in the middle column.

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that you qualified as a solicitor in 1969 --

is a CV that you've annexed to your witness statement.

If we could go to the bottom of the page, please, we see

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22 **A**.

A. Yes.

1 A. Yes. Q. For the record, that has Unique Reference Number 2 3 WITN03840100. Could I ask you please to turn to 4 page 29. A. Yes. 5 6 Q. Is that your signature? 7 Could I ask you then to turn to your second witness 8 9 statement, dated 9 May 2024. 10 A. 11 Q. For the record, that is reference number WITN03840200. 12 Now, before I ask to turn to your signature, there's one 13 correction I believe you want to make --14 A. 15 Q. -- which is at page -- bear with me sorry -- page 21, 16 paragraph 103. 17 A. That's correct. Q. I'll just wait for that to come up on the display. 18 19 There we are. So, as I understand it, it's the last 20 sentence of paragraph 103 and the correction should be 21 in schedule A02 to change the paragraph number to 4.1.8. 22 Α. That's correct. 23 Q. Is it the same for schedule A4? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Thank you. With that correction in mind, could I ask 1 Q. Now, of those roles were you acting as an in-house 2 solicitor for -- where it says legal adviser, is that 3 akin to in-house solicitor? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. We see from 1982, the two roles you had with, first with STC Telecommunications and then with Solaglas (UK) 6 7 Limited you acted as company secretary? 8 A. That's correct. Q. Finally, from 1987 to 1990, it says, "Director, 9 10 Commercial & Legal Affairs" of STC Plc. Did you sit on 11 the Board of that company? No, it was what I described as a courtesy title. 12 Q. I want to now look at your roles from 1990 onwards, and 13 14 from that point you worked within the ICL Group? 15 A. Yes. 16 17 I'll just use the single term without going into the 18 19 the ICL Group? 20 A. Yes.

Q. When you joined in 1990, I understand that Fujitsu --

precise legal entities -- was a majority shareholder in

21 Q. ICL, at that time, continued to have its own branding as

22 ICL --

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. -- but, in 2002, the brand changed from ICL to Fujitsu?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Could we look, please, in your second statement at
- 2 page 3, paragraph 10.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So it's been some time since the Inquiry has considered
- 5 the corporate structure for Fujitsu, so I think it's
- 6 helpful to go over it. You helpfully here set out the
- 7 key or relevant companies within the ICL Group, at
- 8 paragraphs (a) to (e), on the left, with the name before
- 9 the change of brand in 2002, and, on the right, when it
- 10 became a Fujitsu-branded company?
- 11 A. That's correct, yes.
- 12 Q. So at the top of the corporate pyramid, as it were, we
- 13 have ICL Plc, which was the ultimate holding company for
- 14 the group?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. We see that became Fujitsu Services Holdings Plc in
- 17 2002.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Beneath that (b) there's International Computers
- 20 Limited, which was a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICL Plc?
- 21 A. Correct.
- 22 Q. International Computers Limited carried out ICL Group's
- 23 UK operations; is that right?
- 24 A. That's correct, yes.
- 25 Q. That became Fujitsu Services Limited --
  - 5
- 1 Q. -- for being a PFI deal, initially. For today's
- 2 purposes, from 1996 onwards, wholly owned by ICL --
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. -- International Computers Limited?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. Thank you. The final company we see there is (d), the
- 7 ICL Global Investments Limited. Now, I understand that
- 8 that was a subsidiary of the overall parent company ICL
- 9 Plc?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. ICL Global Investments Limited dealt with the ICL
- 12 Group's non-UK business?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. Let's turn, then, to look at your roles. You were
- 15 appointed as Director of Commercial and Legal Affairs of
- 16 International Computers Limited in 1990?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. We don't need to turn it up but, in your first witness
- statement, paragraph 5, page 2, you say that you were
- 20 responsible for the provision of legal and commercial
- 21 advice in connection with the participation of the ICL
- 22 Group in the tender for the Horizon IT System.
- 23 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 24 Q. So, in that role, and when dealing with the tendering
- 25 process and the Horizon IT System, which teams reported 7

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 **Q.** -- which from roughly 2002 onwards it became the
- 3 contracting party for the Horizon contract?
- 4 A. Yeah, precisely in April 2003 is when the change was
- 5 made but, yes, now it is, yes.
- 6 Q. Yes, 2003, sorry, you're quite right. What we see at
  - (c) is ICL Pathway Limited. Now, Pathway, when the
- 8 Horizon Programme was being tendered for, it was
- 9 referred to as the Pathway Programme?
- 10 A. Yes.

- 11 Q. ICL Pathway Limited was set up as a company in order to
- tender for and deal with the Pathway Programme?
- 13 A. Yes, yes, that's correct.
- 14 Q. That, in itself, was a wholly-owned subsidiary of
- 15 International Computers Limited?
- 16 A. It started off as a consortium, there were two other
- 17 shareholders. From recollection, it was Girobank and De
- 18 La Rue but, shortly after, I think about a year after --
- 19 1996 maybe -- ICL and the other two consortium members
- 20 parted company quite amicably and it then became
- 21 a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICL -- sorry, of
- 22 International Computers Limited.
- 23 Q. I think you're quite right, the De La Rue and Girobank
- 24 consortium was of sort of historic interest --
- 25 A. Historic.

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- 1 to you?
- 2 A. Only legal personnel, no other persons at that stage.
- 3 There would have been some commercial people as well but
- 4 that's all. There were no operational people reporting
- 5 to me at all.
- 6 Q. Do you recall who operational people reported to?
- 7 A. They would have reported either directly or indirectly,
- 8 and I think directly, to Keith Todd at that stage.
- 9 Q. Could you explain where Keith Todd sat in relation to
- 10 you in the management structure?
- 11 A. I reported to Keith Todd. He was the Chief Executive.
- 12 Q. Now, at that stage, were you part of any management or
- 13 Executive Committee this within ICL -- sorry
- 14 International Computers Limited?
- 15 A. There was a Fujitsu -- sorry, it would have been ICL at
- 16 that stage -- ICL Management Committee, I suppose you'd
- 17 call it -- which met once a week, and we -- all of the
- 18 reports of the Chief Executive would sit round the table
- 19 and you'd discuss whatever matters came up.
- 20 Q. For the purposes of those management committees, was
- there a hard line difference between, say, ICL Plc and
- 22 International Computers Limited?

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- 23 A. I don't think people thought of it like that.
  - (Pause for fire alarm test)
- 25 Q. I say with trepidation that I think that's the end of

- 1 it.
- 2 A. We can carry on.
- 3 Q. Just for clarity, I was asking you about management4 committees.
- 5 A. Right.
- 6 Q. The question I asked before we had the fire alarm was:
- 7 was there a hard line difference between the management
- 8 committees of, say, ICL Plc and International Computers
- 9 Limited?
- 10 A. As I said, I don't think people thought of it like that.
- 11 If you look at the composition of that management
- 12 committee, the people on it, of which I was one, were
- 13 probably called director of this and director of that
- 14 but none of them, except the Chief Executive, was on the
- 15 Board of ICL Plc. So, in that sense, yes, there was
- a hard line, I suppose you could call it a hard line,
- 17 between them. But whatever went on there, it was the
- 18 Chief Executive's job, in due course, as a member of the
- 19 Board to produce his report to the Board.
- 20 Q. So in your role you would attend the Management
- 21 Committee --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- every week. You weren't a member of the Board of ICL
- 24 Plc --
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. Can you recall who else attended those Board meetings,
- 2 in particular who from an IT background or an
- 3 operational background attended?
- 4 A. Let's think. The only one that springs to mind -- well,
- of course, there was the Managing Director of Pathway,
- 6 who was then Mr Bennett, I think Mr Coombs attended as
- 7 well. I don't recall any other operational people.
- 8 Mostly, it was the Board originally, with some of the
- 9 representatives of Girobank and De La Rue, and they
- 10 actually stopped on for some time afterwards because
- 11 there were subcontracts with them.
- 12 Q. Let's turn then to your -- before I do that actually,
- 13 I should say, in your first statement, you go into, as
- 14 requested by the Inquiry -- an amount of detail in
- 15 relation to the Benefits Agency withdrawing from the
- 16 agreement. Those are Phase 2 issues that I don't
- 17 propose to cover with you today.
- 18 **A.** Right.
- 19 Q. You became Acting Chief Executive and, shortly after,
- 20 Chief Executive of ICL Plc in 2000?
- 21 A. That's correct, yes.
- 22 Q. Whilst you were Chief Executive, I understand you were
- 23 also a director of International Computers Limited?
- 24 A. When I was Chief Executive, I would have been a director

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25 of ICL Plc in that sense. I mean, nobody really looked

- Q. -- but would you be asked to attend on occasion?
- A. I actually can't recall an occasion when I was asked toattend.
- 4 Q. I've asked there about management committees of ICL Plc
- 5 and International Computers Limited; what about ICL
- 6 Pathway Limited: did that have a separate management
- 7 structure?
- 8 A. That had a separate management structure because,
- 9 obviously, it was originally set up as a consortium
- 10 agreement. They had their Board, and it was managed,
- 11 I suppose, quite a lot in the early stages, via the
- 12 Board. The Chief Executive would report to that Board
- but, in practice, the Chief Executive reported to --
- 14 well, he was called Managing Director -- reported to the
- 15 Chief Executive of ICL, who would have been Keith Todd.
- 16 Q. So would that mean the Managing Director of ICL Pathway
- 17 Limited came to the Management Committee meetings which
- you attended for ICL -- sorry, International Computers
- 19 Limited?
- 20 A. Frankly speaking, I can't recall but I don't think so.
- 21 But I don't recall actually seeing him at a meeting.
- 22 Q. Whilst you were in your position as Director of Legal
- 23 and Commercial, did you attend the Board meetings of ICL
- 24 Pathway Limited?
- 25 **A.** Yes, I did.

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- 1 at International Computers Limited as a separate
- 2 company, whether it's correct or not, it was, if you
- 3 like, all mixed together and the Board that, if you
- 4 like, was controlling the whole thing was the Board of
- 5 ICL Plc and yes, I would have sat on that when I was
- 6 Chief Executive as a Board member.
- 7 Q. In terms of the responsibility for overseeing the
  - Horizon IT System, at the time when you became Chief
- 9 Executive in 2000 at Board level, was that
- 10 a responsibility of ICL Pathway Limited, ICL Plc or
- 11 both?

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- 12 A. I think at different levels it was both because,
- 13 clearly, ICL Pathway was executing the contract and
- 14 looking at it on a -- obviously, a day-to-day basis,
- 15 hourly, probably. But ICL Plc, obviously, as the
- 16 ultimate Board had responsible for the whole business,
- 17 including Pathway -- or Horizon, I'm sorry.
- 18 **Q.** This is quite a broad question but would you say that
- 19 the identification, analysis and management of risk is
- 20 important to the running of a company?
- 21 A. Of course it is.
- 22 Q. Would you accept that ICL Plc or the Board of ICL Plc
- 23 was responsible for overseeing how the Group or the
- 24 company, either ICL Plc or ICL Pathway Limited,
- 25 identified, analysed and managed risk?

- Only in the broadest sense. 1 Α.
- 2 Q. Can you expand on that, please?
- 3 Α. Yes, sure. If you look at a company the size of this,
- 4 it is not possible for every level of detail to be
- 5 surfaced to the Board. If every single document about
- 6 every single contract was surfaced to the Board, they
- 7 would not have time or capacity to understand it or to
- 8 consider it, even. So what is necessary is a filter
- 9 system, whereby overall the Board has to be satisfied --
- 10 and this is what I've described in the second witness
- 11 statement, that there are flows of information in place 12
- but one has to manage by exception, and people further
- 13 down in the organisation -- in this case the Managing
- 14 Director and the other responsible people in Pathway --
- 15 had to deal with day-to-day matters.

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- And levels of a certain granularity, complexity, would not come to the Board. The Board would have certain reports and they would be satisfied with the
- 19 overall conduct of the business but precise details, no. 20 Q. The filters you've described, presumably the purpose of
- 21 those is to ensure that any serious matters that ought
- 22 to have the attention of the board, either of ICL
- 23 Pathway Limited or ICL Plc, ensure that those
- 24 significant issues make it to the Board?
- 25 Α. Yes, I think that's correct. I'm saying ensure they

  - would have dealt with it.
- 2 So I think, overall, I'm responsible -- and I accept
- 3 that -- for setting up the systems but it's people lower 4 down in the organisation who have to operate them.
- 5 Q. That's talking about responsibility for ensuring things
- 6 are working. I want to ask a slightly different
- 7 question about accountability. Would you accept that,
  - as Chief Executive, you were ultimately accountable for
- 9 the operations of the ICL Group?
- A. I don't accept that. That's too broad. 10
- 11 Q. In terms of your accountability then, for the ICL Group
- 12 and its operations, what would you say your level of
- 13 accountability was?
- 14 A. What I was responsible for was that, as so far as
- 15 possible, to see that the operations of ICL were carried
- 16 out legally, were carried out profitably and to report
- 17 to my shareholders, Fujitsu Limited, various issues
- 18 insofar as it was necessary.
- 19 If you mean that I was responsible for the
- 20 miscarriage of justice then I don't accept that. It's
- not to mitigate the miscarriage of justice, I hasten to 22 add, I think it's a gross miscarriage of justice,
- 23 I really feel for the subpostmasters and the postmasters
- 24 who are involved, but talking about accountability is
- 25 a different matter and, certainly, I knew nothing about
  - 15

- 1 reached the Board provided people further down operate
- 2 the system properly, then they will reach the board.
- 3 They were issues that were serious -- in my second
- 4 witness statement, I refer to the red alert system --
- 5
- and those things did come to the Board. So details,
- 6 certain details, would not have come to the Board
- 7 because they were too complex, technical and too
- 8

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- 9 Q. Would you accept that, as Chief Executive, you had
  - a responsibility to exercise care to see that those
- 11 filters were working properly and people in lower down
  - executive levels were filtering information up
- 13 appropriately?
- 14 I'd accept that I had responsibility to set up the
- 15 systems, a lot of those systems were already set up
- 16 before I became Chief Executive. One has to delegate
- 17 and delegation in the organisation requires that people
- 18 further down make those decisions. It's necessary to
- 19 see that appropriate personnel are appointed and, at
- 20 various levels, that is always done. I should point out
- 21 that all of our employees are required, through the HR
- 22 system, to go through assessments as to capability,
- 23 et cetera, et cetera, on a regular basis and these are
- 24 filtered up and, if there were any concerns about the
- 25 competence of a person, the next level of management
- 1 it.
- 2 Q. We'll come back to specific facts as we go. Before
- 3 moving on to look at the restructure, I just want to
- 4 ask, when you were Chief Executive, who did you report
- 5
- 6 A. I will first have -- well, apart from the Board, in
- 7 actual fact, I reported to a Mr Naruto in Tokyo, he was
- 8 a very senior member of the IC -- sorry, Fujitsu Limited
- 9 Board, and he was the person who oversaw the purchase of
- 10 ICL by Fujitsu in 1990. After that, I reported to
- 11 a Mr Kurokawa, who was later president of Fujitsu, and
- 12 I reported to him for a long time, and following that
- 13 I would have reported to the next president and the next
- 14 president.

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- 15 In terms of as Chief Executive, your reporting lines,
- 16 who reported to you directly, who had responsibility for
- 17 the oversight of the Horizon IT System?
- Very initially, and I'm talking about the 2000, Mike 18
- 19 Stares, I presume, would have reported -- he reported to
- 20 me. From July 2001, a Chief Operations Officer,
- 21 Mr David Courtley, was appointed and, from then on, he
- was responsible for all of the operations within ICL, as 23 it was then, and all of the operation departments,
- 24 including Pathway, reported to him; he reported to me.
  - I kept the functional departments at that time, so

- 1 things like HR, Marketing and Legal.
- 2 Q. We, actually, I'll go slightly out of order, on the
- 3 matter of Mr Courtley. In April 2004, you became
- 4 Executive Chairman of what was then Fujitsu Services
- 5 Holdings Plc but had been ICL Plc?
- 6 A. That's correct, and he became Chief Executive.
- 7 Q. Now, you remained employed by the company on a full-time
- 8 basis, I understand?
- 9 A. Yes, that's why they called it "executive". I mean, we
- 10 know it has no legal significance, you're Chairman or
- 11 you're not Chairman, but that's what Fujitsu wanted to
- 12 use because that's what they thought it meant.
- 13 Q. Did your responsibilities change upon becoming Chairman?
- 14 A. Yes. They were much more focused outward, dealing, for
- instance, with particular customers, a lot of them
- overseas, because Mr Courtley had his hands full,
- 17 reorganising and dealing with the operating divisions
- 18 within what was then International Computers Limited.
- 40
- So, to give you a small example, I went with the president to Russia at one stage to look at their
- operations there; I went to Finland; a bit later on,
- 22 I was on some Boards of Fujitsu America; and so on.
- 23 I mean the role grew, much more widely.
- 24 Q. The functional elements that you said you kept when
- 25 Mr David Courtley became Chief Operating Officer in July
  - 17
- 1 We had our offices next door to each other. We'd
  - have coffee together and chat. If there was anything
- 3 that was concerning him, he would have raised it with
- 4 me

- 5 Q. You say in your witness statement you had regular weekly
- 6 meetings with all your direct reports, including
- 7 Mr Courtley?
- 8 A. Yes, yes.
- 9 Q. Did that continue when you were Executive Chairman?
- 10 A. No, not in the same way. I would have had -- the weekly
- 11 meetings I would have had would have been with
- 12 Mr Courtley and with the functional people. But not
- 13 with the operational people underneath, that was for
- 14 Mr Courtley to deal with, including Horizon.
- 15 Q. Aside from the matters that you raise in your witness
- statement, such as various red and amber alerts, can you
- 17 recall Mr Courtley expressing any concerns to you as to
- the adequacy of the Horizon IT System?
- 19 **A.** No
- 20 Q. I want to look at the restructure now, it's jumping
- 21 back, I appreciate. Please could we bring up
- 22 FUJ00003693.
- 23 **A.** Yeah.
- 24 Q. This is set of minutes for ICL Pathway Limited --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 2002, did you pass those functions down to
- 2 Mr Courtley --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Yeah.
- 5 A. Sorry, I shouldn't cut you off. Yes, the answer is.
- 6 Q. I was going to say when you became Executive Chair?
- 7 A. Yes, yes, exactly.
- 8 Q. What was your working relationship like with
- 9 Mr Courtley?
- 10 A. Very good. I'd known him for some time, actually. He
- 11 worked previously for EDS and we first came across each
- 12 other in a kind of contract dispute, as it happens,
- 13 between ICL and EDS, and we had a great mutual respect.
- 14 I thought he was a -- first of all, he was more of
- 15 a technician than I. He actually had a degree in
- 16 mathematics. That's what you got in those days if you
- 17 were going to be a computer scientist. So he was much
- 18 more technically oriented than me and he was also what
- 19 I'd describe as better at growing the business than me.
- 20 I was, if you like, clinical and the turnaround
- 21 I did in ICL, during those first years, was something
- 22 that needed a really clinical, objective view of the
- 23 issues. He was concerned much more with growing the
- 24 business and this was one of the reasons why he was
- 25 employed.

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- 1 Q. -- so the specific company, 15 August 2000?
- 2 A. Mm-hm.
- 3 Q. At this time you were Acting Chief Executive, I believe?
- 4 A. That's correct. That -- just about, yes.
- 5 Q. We see you are chairing the meeting.
- 6 A. Mm
- 7 Q. If we go down slightly, further down, please. Thank
- 8 you
- 9 Sir, I should just say, at this point, when looking
- 10 at minutes, you may see the Post Office highlighted at
- 11 various points -- you'll see it there -- that wasn't on
- the original minutes. That's something that's added
- 13 afterwards.
- 14 **A.** Okay.
- 15 Q. So just a point of clarification.
- 16 A. Yeah.
- 17 Q. So you've got various things of headcount requirements
- for testing, and then we have the Managing Director's
- 19 report.
- 20 **A.** Mm.
- 21 **Q.** Go over the page, please. We see there quite a detailed
- 22 report from the Managing Director --
  - 23 **A.** Yes, yes.
  - 24 **Q.** -- on various parts.
  - 25 **A.** Yes.

- 1 Q. (b) CSR+ -- that's Core Systems Release Plus -- was
- 2 a significant issue?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. It provides detail; (c) we have detail on the rollout;
- 5 and (d), weekly service performance is still a key
- 6 issue.
- 7 **A.** Mm.
- 8 Q. Was this typical of the type of oversight that the Board
- 9 of ICL Pathway Limited would give to the delivery of the
- 10 Horizon contract?
- 11 A. Yes, I think that's -- yes, I mean, obviously, it varies
- 12 with time but this is the sort of report that we got,
- 13 yes
- 14 Q. In fairness, this is rollout, so it's a busy time for
- 15 the company?
- 16 A. No more busy than in the development. I think, in
- a sense, once they got through the acceptance test,
- 18 which I'm -- they would have done by then, I think,
- 19 rollout is a logistics issue, rather than a -- it's much
- 20 more straightforward in a sense. There's a lot of
- 21 planning to do but it's a logistics issue, mainly.
- 21 planning to do but it 3 a logistics issue, mainly.
- 22 **Q**. Can you recall how often the Board of ICL Pathway
- 23 Limited would meet?
- 24 **A.** No.
- 25 Q. Can we look at your witness statement now, please,
  - 21
- 1 Q. Is it incorporated in Japan?
- 2 A. Oh, yes, yes.
- 3 Q. So do I understand you to say that this decision was
- 4 made by that company in Japan not an ICL Group or UK
- 5 Fujitsu?

- 6 A. No, no, they -- I mean, it's a practical matter that
- 7 they wanted to look at the business as a whole, and
  - there are a lot of Japanese directors and observers
- 9 coming in all the time and to have three separate
- 10 meetings just wasn't efficient. So we dealt with
- 11 everything at one meeting and the meetings would go on
- 12 all day.
- 13 Q. So when you discuss efficiency, you're using it in the
- 14 sense of the word from the holding company above Fujitsu
- 15 Services Holdings, their efficiency, really.
- 16 **A.** Yeah.
- 17 Q. -- they come in and have fewer meetings?
- 18 A. Well, yes, but it didn't impact on the consideration of
- 19 issues, it was just that we had a very long meeting on
- 20 one day.
- 21 Q. Could we just then turn to page 12 of your statement,
- paragraph 55. Sorry, second statement.
- 23 A. Yes --
- 24 Q. For context, in this you're talking about quarterly
- 25 business reviews, and you say:
  - 23

- 1 page 4, paragraph 15. So you discuss here part of the
- 2 restructure --
- 3 A. Yeah.
- 4 Q. -- and say:
- 5 "In order to make Board meetings of all three
- 6 companies more efficient ..."
- 7 When you say "all three companies" there, you're
- 8 referring to the ultimate parent company, Fujitsu
- 9 Services Holdings, Fujitsu Services Limited, the sort of
- 10 intermediate company --
- 11 A. Yes, there's those two.
- 12 Q. -- and then the other -- I think the third company is
- the one responsible for non-UK business?
- 14 A. That's correct. It was all three of those.
- 15  $\,$  **Q.** The Board decide to delegate the oversight of all of the
- 16 companies to a single management, known as the Fujitsu
- 17 Services Management Committee?
- 18 A. That's correct, it was a Fujitsu Limited decision.
- 19 **Q.** When you say Fujitsu Limited, can you just explain the
- 20 corporate identity of Fujitsu Limited?
- 21 A. Yes, Fujitsu Limited is the ultimate holding company of
- 22 Fujitsu. It's quoted on the Tokyo and, I think, the
- New York Stock Exchanges. It's an interesting company
- 24 because it's not only a holding company but it also runs
- 25 all of the operations in Japan as well.

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- 1 "For a complete set of meetings comprising this
- 2 cycle [the corporate business review cycle, I think] see
- 3 the four FSMC [so Fujitsu Services Management Committee]
- 4 meetings in 2005 ..."
  - So do we take it from that that the plan was for the
- 6 FSMC to meet four times a year or quarterly?
- 7 A. That's correct. It fit in with Fujitsu's quarterly
  - reporting obligations as a quoted company, and I can
- 9 expand if you wish but that's the answer to the
- 10 question.

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- 11 Q. So the follow-up question I have is: from the
- 12 perspective of, say, a director on ICL Plc, when this
- change was made, did it result in fewer Board meetings
- 14 each year?
- 15 **A.** No.

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- 16 Q. So before the change, it was --
- 17 A. It was exactly -- it was following exactly the same
- 18 schedule from 1990 because, from 1990 onwards, Fujitsu
- 19 Limited had the same reporting requirements as it did in
- 20 2000. In fact, when ICL was taken over, it had to
- 21 change its accounting year to correspond with the
- Fujitsu accounting year, so that the system would work.
- 23 So this is a long-established tradition.
- 24 Q. That document can come down, please.
  - Can we please look at FUJ00003704. We see these are

- 1 minutes of the Fujitsu Services Management Committee on
- 2 29 May 2002.
- 3 **A.** Yes.
- 4 Q. In your witness statement, you say that this is the
- 5 first meeting of the FSMC.
- 6 A. Yes, because it took place -- we switched the brand, if
- 7 you'll remember, on 1 April 2002, again to coincide with
- 8 Fujitsu's financial year. Everything happens at the
- 9 beginning of the financial year with Fujitsu, and that
- 10 was the first meeting that we held.
- 11 Q. We see that, at this point, that one of the companies
- 12 included in this isn't what was ICL Pathway Limited?
- 13 A. No, that's correct and it wouldn't be because it was
- just an operation, just like a lot of other operations,
- and you've got Mr Courtley there, who is responsible for
- all those operations. So it wouldn't be appropriate.
- 17 Q. If we can go down, please, we see at the bottom we have
- 18 your CEO report, and you're talking about the financial
- 19 year and about the restructuring.
- 20 A. Yes
- 21 Q. If we can go to page 3, please, the CFO report?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Just scrolling down, we don't need to read all of this,
- but we see quite a detailed report which continues until
- 25 page 8 --

- 1 say the "extension", you mean the extension of the date
- 2 for termination of --
- 3 A. Exactly.
- 4 Q. -- the Horizon contract --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- and it then extended to 2010?
- 7 A. Precisely.
- 8 Q. At this stage then, so we're in 2002, can you recall
- 9 what, if any, Board meetings were held by ICL Pathway
- 10 Limited?
- 11 A. No, is the answer. I may have attended some but,
- 12 without you showing me documents at this minute, I don't
- 13 recall.
- 14 Q. Is it fair to say from your perspective at this stage
- 15 you saw the responsibility as being on Mr Courtley to
- 16 present any issues with the Horizon project to the
- 17 FSMC --
- 18 A. That's exactly correct.
- 19 **Q.** -- or that --
- 20 A. Well, or to me.
- 21 Q. Or to you in the --
- 22 A. Yes, and then I would have presented it but that's
- 23 correct.
- 24  $\,$  Q. That document can come down. Thank you.
- 25 Do you think the restructure had any effect on the

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A. Yes.

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- 2 Q. -- and we have here Mr Courtley presenting the new
- 3 organisational model.
- 4 A Yes
- 5 Q. In terms of the new organisational model, and I'm only
- 6 really focusing on oversight of Horizon here, what
- 7 changes were made to the management structure that
- 8 affected the oversight of the Horizon IT System?
- 9 A. In actual fact, none at this stage. You see the one
- 10 that says, "Large projects, reporting direct to
- 11 Mr Courtley"?
- 12 **Q.** Yes.
- 13 A. Well, one of those large projects was, at that time,
- 14 Pathway -- I've forgotten what it would be called now,
- 15 ICL Pathway Limited, I suppose -- and what happened,
- 16 just to -- if I may, to finish it -- in 2003, when we
- 17 entered into the extension agreement, it was agreed with
- the Post Office that we would shut down the actual
- 19 Pathway company, it would become dormant, and large
- 20 projects would then comprise a division within Fujitsu
- 21 Services Limited, which comprised the Horizon project,
- and that division became one of the five large projects,
- 23 each of which had a division, if you like, reporting to
- 24 Mr Courtley.
- 25 Q. The only thing, I think, just to clarify there, when you

26

- 1 level of oversight that ICL Pathway, then Fujitsu
- 2 Services Holdings limited, had on the Horizon IT System?
- 3 A. I think it would have had a beneficial effect because
- 4 what you have now is Mr Courtley, who has great
- 5 experience in IT, he's much more technically oriented
- 6 than me, and I believe it would have been, let's say,
- 7 a more -- more piercing oversight is the word I would
- 8 use, yes.
- 9 Q. Before I move on to look at a couple of specific topics,
- 10 just for the purposes of the timeline, I want to
- 11 complete your sort of career history. In April 2007,
- 12 you became Corporate Senior Vice President and Head of
- 13 Fujitsu EMEA Regional Operations for Fujitsu Limited?
- 14 **A**. Yes
- 15 Q. So that's the overall parent company incorporated in
- 16 Japan?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. Did you remain a director or involved in Fujitsu
- 19 Services Limited or Fujitsu Services Holdings Plc?
- 20 A. I would still, from my recollection, be chairing the
- 21 FSMC. That's the limit of it. So, from that stage
- 22 onward, anything that I really knew about operations
- 23 within that group of companies would have come via the
- 24 FSMC meetings.
- 25  $\,$  **Q.** And at that stage, would you have had -- sorry, I'll

rephrase that question.

Did Mr Courtley report to you directly or indirectly once you became Corporate Senior Vice President?

A. I'm trying to think. I'm thinking very carefully about the answer so I can give it to you. It would have been directly, in a sense. There was still a line but that line would have been fairly tenuous. I mean, at that stage, he was acting like any Managing Director or Chief Executive of a subsidiary, reporting to what I described as a holding company. So there was a line but he was running the business as he saw fit, I had confidence in him and that was it. Yeah.

I was ultimately responsible, I think is the way
I will put it, for the way in which he managed the whole
of the business but that's like a normal Chairman of
a Board, in my view.

17 Q. What reporting line, if any, did you have to Mr Duncan18 Tait?

A. Duncan Tait was -- I've got to think about this -I think -- and I'm saying I think -- that he came on
board -- he came from Unisys as a director -- courtesy
title -- of I think the commercial business unit in

those days, which I think had Pathway in it. He would have reported to David Courtley. So it's a very

25 indirect line, as far as I'm concerned and, by the

frankly, at 67 this was becoming a bit too much for me,
and I spent a year -- Fujitsu Limited tends to give its
directors a kind of sabbatical before they retire, is
the way it works, and I took my sabbatical in Singapore,
I was kind of a corporate executive adviser but I didn't
really do anything much and then I left, returned to
England, and that was the end of it.

Sorry, I can stop.

9 Q. Before I --

10 A. Yes?

11 Q. -- move on, do you recall at any point Mr Tait advising12 you of any concerns he had about the Horizon IT System?

A. The only connection that I had with him in this issue is
 the document which you showed me, I can't remember the
 name of it, an exchange of emails, in which he wanted to
 set up --

17 Q. Well, if that's your only recollection --

18 A. That's the only -- I can't remember whether it happenedor not, to be honest.

20 Q. We'll come to that shortly.

21 A. Yes, yes. But that's all. Nothing else.

**Q.** We're going to move to a different topic now. Can we

23 please bring up your first witness statement, at

page 22, paragraph 67, so you write at paragraph 67 that:

time -- don't forget, by the time he came on board, I was practically based in Tokyo. I mean, I went to live in Tokyo in 2010 so, yes, I knew him.

I had a lot of respect for his competence.

Mr Courtley left in 2009, I think. There was a short interim period when I just sort of held the reins.

I don't know if -- I wouldn't say I was overseeing anything in particular. I appointed Roger Gilbert for a short time as Chief Executive of what was then Fujitsu Services Limited. We had broken -- I've got to go back to this, but we broke up the original group once we were reorganising as a global business group and what was there was Fujitsu Services Limited. ICL Plc was -- it was a legal entity but it was not really managing, in any sense of the word.

So Duncan Tait was in charge of commercial unit. Pathway was in it. There came a time in 2010 when we wanted to make a more permanent Chief Executive for Fujitsu Services Limited. There were two people who were candidates and about my last executive decision, if you like, was with the consent of Fujitsu Limited, my colleagues on the Board as it would have been in these cases, I appointed Duncan Tait as Chief Executive of Fujitsu Services Limited. That's 2011.

At that stage, I retired, in effect, because,

"I have been asked whether or not Horizon could be considered a robust system. In all my experience of over 40 years working in the Telecommunications and IT industry I have never across the use of the word 'robust' as a contractual term. With respect, I think it is a subjective term without any precise legal meaning. I believe that the only pertinent questions in relation to the Horizon system are, (a) did the system pass the acceptance tests, and (b) was it delivered in accordance with the contract. Both of these conditions were satisfied at the end of rollout in 2002."

So, effectively, as I understand it, you're saying, from your perspective, the key questions are: (i) the product produced by Fujitsu and delivered to the Post Office, did it pass the contractual acceptance test?

**A.** Yes.

Q. Secondly, in respect of the ongoing obligations, was
 Fujitsu delivering those in accordance with the
 contractual standards that had been agreed between the
 parties?

**A.** Yes.

Q. Could we please look at page 26, paragraph 79. You say:
 "My objectives in negotiating the Codified Agreement
 ..."

Now, pausing there, the Codified Agreement was the

- 1 agreement entered into between Post Office -- then Post
- 2 Office Counters Limited -- and ICL Pathway Limited in
- 3 1999?
- 4 A. Yes.

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- 5 **Q.** So the objectives in negotiating that were:
  - "... to create a detailed specification and precise acceptance criteria."
- 8 When you say "detailed specification", is that
- 9 referring to a specification of the services that ICL
- 10 Pathway were to provide to Post Office?
- A. That specification that I was focusing on was 11
- a specification of the system. 12
- 13 Okay. So --Q.
- A. Because that's what's passing the acceptance tests. 14
- Q. So, when we're seeing a detailed specification, is that 15
- 16 referring to a set of contractual clauses that set out
- 17 the specification for the system that ICL were supposed
- to deliver to Post Office under the contract? 18
- 19 Α. Yes, it was in a schedule to the Codified Agreement.
- Q. You say you: 20
- 21 "... focused on the main provisions of the Codified
- 22 Agreement, in order to achieve the above objectives.
- 23 I had little involvement in the preparation of the
- 24 schedules and appendices of the Codified Agreement,
- 25 which I never read."

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- 1 A. Sorry.
- 2 Q. We see defined terms, as is standard, are capitalised,
- 3 so things like Contractor --
- 4 A. I'm sorry, I'm lost here. Just tell me again?
- 5 Q. I'm so sorry. It's 103.3 (sic).
- 6 A. I'm not seeing that on the screen.
- 7 Q. Ah, right. 101.3, I've done the same again.
- 8 A. You want me to look at 101.3?
- Q. 101.3, yes? 9
- 10 A. Okay.
- Q. Can you see that now? 11
- 12 A. Yes, now I can, yes.
- ${\bf Q.}\ \ \,$  It would help if I said the right clause. That would be 13
- 14 of assistance
- 15 For example, it says "The Contractor", capitalised,
- 16 and, throughout this agreement, defined terms tend to be
- 17 capitalised --
- Yes. 18 Α.
- Q. -- as standard. 19
- 20 Α. Yes.
- So, in order to understand this agreement, you would 21
- 22 presumably accept that you need to be familiar with
- 23 Schedule A1?
- 24 Α. This is the interpretations?
- 25 Q. Yes.

- A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I want to look at the Codified Agreement now.
- 3 Okav.
- Q. It's FUJ00000071. This is a document of over 900 pages, 4
- so it may be we need to catch up a little bit with the 5
- computer system but this is the Codified Agreement. Can 6
- 7 we turn to page 12, please.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I'm sorry, what's the reference for that 8
- 9 again: 71 at the end? Thank you.
- 10 MR STEVENS: Yes. FUJ00000071.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thanks. 11
- MR STEVENS: If we could go to clause 102.1, please. So 12
- 13 that's an interpretation clause, which is standard in
- 14 these contracts.
- 15 A. Yes, yeah.
- 16 Q. It says:
- 17 "As used in this Codified Agreement:
- "the terms and expressions set out in Schedule A1 18
- 19 shall have the meanings ascribed [to them] ..."
- 20 A.
- 21 Q. As is standard, for example, at 103.3, we see -- no,
- 22 sorry --
- 23 A. Which one?
- 24 Q. Sorry, if we could go up slightly. I misspoke, sorry.
- 25

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- Yes.
- O. So --2
- 3 A. In that sense, I did read it, yes.
- 4 Q. I was going to say, putting yourself back, whilst you
- 5 may not have been au fait with everything in the
- 6 schedules you well have had some familiarity?
- 7 That's fine but I'm talking about the whole 900 pages.
- 8 Q. Yes, of course. Could we go, please, to page 17. If we
- could go down to the bottom there. Thank you. We have 9
- 10 "Part 2: Performance of [Post Office Counters Limited]
- Services and Supply of Products". Clause 201.2 says 11
- 12
- 13 "Subject to clause 201.6 the Contractor shall be
- 14 responsible for meeting the requirements specified in
- 15 schedule A15 in accordance with the Solutions specified 16
  - in Schedule A16 by performing the Core System Services
- 17 referred to in Clause 201.3."
- 18 So, breaking that down, what we have here is,
- 19 firstly, there was a schedule A15, which set out Post
- 20 Office, it says, requirements for the contract.
- Well, those particular specifications with the solutions 21
- 22 specified, yes.
- 23 Q. Yes.
- 24
- 25 Q. There were solutions specified, as you say, in schedule

A16? 1

- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Now, when you were involved in the negotiation and the 4 tender, would you have been involved in considering the
- 5 requirements and solutions for the products?
- 6 Α. No.
- 7 Q. The clause here then says that, in order to meet the
- 8 requirements, ICL Pathway had to perform the Core System
- 9 Services referred to in Clause 201.3. So, if we could
- 10 look at 201.3, please, which is on the next page. Thank

11 you:

- 12 "Subject to Clause 201.6 the Contractor shall
- 13 perform the following Core System Services in accordance
- 14 with all applicable provisions hereof ..."
- 15 So this is essentially setting out what ICL is
- 16 supposed to do under the contract --
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. -- or part of it, I should say?
- 19 A. Part of it, yes.
- 20 **Q**. So this is a very important clause in the contract;
- 21 would you agree?
- 22 A. Yes. Yeah.
- 23 Q. Would you agree that it's fundamental to the
- 24 specification of the product and services to be
- 25 provided?

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- 1 authorising commencement of National Rollout of the Core
- 2 System and subject to Clause 201.6, the Contractor
- 3 shall, from the date of [Core System Release]
  - Acceptance, perform the following operational Services."
    - Now, these obligations effectively kick in after acceptance?
- 6

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- 7 A. Yes, after acceptance, and the way I think of these are 8
  - service provision and service provision obviously can't
- 9 start until you've got something rolled out that you can
- 10 provide the service for. So it develops progressively
- 11 as rollout takes place. Yes, yes.
- 12 You say that you were involved in drafting precise
- 13 acceptance criteria for the --
- 14 A. When I say I was involved, what I was involved in was
- 15 ensuring that the technical people actually did it
- 16 because one of the biggest failings in IT contracts is,
- 17 when they come down to it, they end up without
- 18 a specification and without acceptance criteria, I was
- 19 taught this from 1975.
- 20 Q. As part of that, you would have presumably needed to
- 21 review the contract and see what services or what
- 22 specification was being agreed?
- 23 A. No. It's not something that I would have looked at
- 24 because this was dealt with by people who were
- 25 responsible providing it, and they will produce the 39

- 1 A. Well, it describes what they are and then you have to
- 2 look at the definition. So I suppose so, yes.
- 3 Q. We'll look at two of them. Paragraph 201.3.1 says that
  - ICL were to provide the development services pursuant to
- clause 403 --5
- 6 A. Yes.

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- 7 Q. -- and 201.3.3, also the operational services pursuant
- 8 to clause 405.
- 9 Can we look, please, at page 26, and go to
- 10 clause 403. So this is the clause that defines the
- 11 development services?
- 12 Yes, yes, yes, and it has loads of schedules attached to
- 13 it, so far as I can see, which would give you the
- 14 specification of the development.
- 15 Q. Yes.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. At 403.2, it says, "development of EPOSS", that refers
- 18 to the Electronic Point of Sale System --
- 19 A. Yes. ves.
- 20 Q. -- "as described in the Schedule F1".
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Then if we can go over the page, I think, to clause 405,
- 23 we have the "Performance of Operational Services", and
- 24 it says:

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25 "Subject to the Release Authorisation Board

- 1 necessary services. I wouldn't want to go beyond what's
- 2 in clause 405, and even that needed input from, if you
- 3 like, technical people who knew what to write in
- 4 clause 405. What I was concerned with was that it
  - happened, not with its content, and I wouldn't pretend
- 6 to be competent to criticise that content.
- 7 **Q.** So is your evidence that, in terms of internal lawyers
- 8 within ICL at this point, was -- well, I won't say "is
- your evidence", I'll ask you. In terms of internal 9
- 10 lawyers within ICL at this point, were there any
- 11 lawyers, that you're aware of, who were monitoring or
- 12 reading what was in the schedules?
- 13 Α. This would have been done by Masons. I'm sorry if we
- 14 are -- they're now Pinsent Masons, I think. These were
- 15 long-time solicitors. First of all, for STC, actually,
- 16 I knew them, and there was a person called Iain Monaghan
- 17 who was the head of a team of lawyers who was looking at
- 18 all of this and working with the technical people. It
- 19 wasn't done by lawyers within ICL, as it was in those
- 20 days, I suppose, but it was done by a properly qualified
- 21 Legal Team and Masons were expert in dealing with IT
- 22 matters. I used them on many occasions.
- 23 Q. But, presumably, someone within ICL would want to know 24 precisely the nature of the obligations that ICL was
- 25 signing up to?

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- 1 A. Of course they would but they will be the technical
- 2 people who would then consult on the drafting with
- 3 Masons
- 4 Q. So your evidence is, in terms of the lawyers, the
- 5 lawyers wouldn't have read the schedule F1 --
- 6 A. No, no, I'm not saying the lawyers wouldn't. Masons
- 7 would have done, people in Masons. They had a whole
- 8 team, and they would have worked with the technical
- 9 people in ICL. I was there with Stuart Sweetman to
- 10 oversee that things happened and to look at any real
- 11 points of conflict in the main agreement, and I don't
- think there were very many, actually.
- 13 Q. Well, let's look at schedule F01, it's page 587. So
- 14 this is the "EPOSS Service Definition" to which those
- 15 clauses we just looked at referred.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. It says:
- 18 "This schedule details all the requirements relating19 to the EPOS Service which the Contractor shall provide."
- 20 A. Yes
- 21 Q. So your evidence is, as I understand it, that -- did you
- 22 not consider this to be a document that someone internal
- 23 to ICL or a lawyer internal to ICL would need to read to
- 24 understand the specification of the product that was
- 25 being provided?

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- A. Well, it's quite clear that I never saw that and I can't
   comment further.
- Q. Is your evidence that the -- well, let me ask it anotherway.
  - What was your understanding of the adequacy of the -- or let me rephrase, sorry.
  - What was your understanding of what Fujitsu were required to provide to Post Office in terms of the adequacy of the EPOSS product?
- 10 A. I don't think I had any particular understanding, I know11 what an EPOS product, is, point of sale, basically.
- 12 I had assumed there would be a specification for it and
- 13 that it would be supplied to that specification.
- 14 Q. I take it from your evidence that these types of matters15 of whether the product was robust didn't arise in your
- 16 management discussions with your reports?
- 17 **A.** No.

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- 18 MR STEVENS: Sir, that's probably a good time to take themorning break.
- 20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Very well. What time shall we resume?
- 21 MR STEVENS: If we could say 11.10, please.
- 22 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: All right, thank you.
- 23 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.
- 24 (11.00 am)
- 25 (A short break)

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- 1 A. The point is that there had to be competent legal advice
  - surrounding it. This was done by Masons and it was done
- 3 in accordance with what the technical people were
- 4 negotiating on both sides, Post Office and ICL. So what
- 5 would happen is there would be a lot of technical
- 6 discussions, they would be writing it and Masons would
- 7 look at this and turn it into, if necessary, rather more
- 8 legal wording. But, at the end of the day, the
  - substance which is provided in these schedules has to
- 10 come from the technical people on both sides, this is
- 11 how they worked it out, and there's nothing that I could
- 12 personally add to that.
- 13 Q. If you look down we see "Scope", and then it sets out
- the four service boundaries. Further down, please, it
- 15 says, "Constraints", and we've got various paragraphs
- there. We see, in the brackets, "R808" referring to the
- 17 requirements which we went to earlier?
- 18 A. Yeah.
- 19  $\,$  Q. Can we go, I think, it's two pages, I think there may be
- 20 a blank page on the next page. Thank you. Just further
- 21 down, please. 3.8 says:
- 22 "EPOSS shall be a robust" --
- 23 A. Ah, well, there you are.
- 24 Q. -- "POCL Service, including features to", and then it
- goes on to set that out.

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- 1 (11.11 am)
- 2 MR STEVENS: Good morning, sir, can you still see and hear
- 3 me?

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- 4 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you.
- 5 MR STEVENS: Thank you, I'll carry on. I want to now look
- 6 at some specific examples of the management of the
- 7 contract. Please could we look at FUJ00080690.
  - This is a document the Inquiry has seen before, particularly in Phase 2. The title is "Report on the
- 10 EPOSS PinICL Taskforce".
- The date in the top, 14 May 2001, but we can see in
- the abstract that it is referring to a task that
- happened between 19 August and 18 September 1998.
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 Q. Firstly, the distribution list: T Austin, M Bennett,
- 16 M McDonnell (sic); do you recognise those names?
- 17 A. Yes, both of them reported -- well, certainly Martyn
- 18 Bennett reported to the Managing Director of Pathway and
- 19 he was responsible for, I think, Quality and Customer
- 20 Services, from recollection. Terry Austin, I'm not
- 21 quite sure whether he reported directly to the Managing
- 22 Director or not. I don't really recall McDonnell.
- 23  $\,$  Q. So did you ever have any direct interactions with
- 24 Mr Austin or Mr Bennett?
- 25 A. No, not that I can recall.

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**Q.** If we turn the page, please, just for assistance with 1 2 dating the document, we can see version 0.1, 3 18 September '98 and then, on 14 May 2001, raised to 4 Version 1, "Administrative catch-up".

> Could we go, please, to page 4., I'm just going to go through a few bits of this document. I should ask first, sorry: before you were sent this document by the Inquiry, had you seen it before?

9 A. No.

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10 Q. So in the "Introduction", it says:

> "During the week commencing 17 August the EPOSS/ Counter PinICL Stack Reduction Team, known as the Taskforce, was established. The objectives, current workload, composition, outline process and targets were presenting to the team on Tuesday, the 18th with a formal start date of Wednesday, 19 August."

It goes on to describe the presenting the outcome of the activity and:

"... identifies factors which prevented the original target (zero or near to zero residual PinICLs) being met. During the course of the Taskforce it became clear that there are significant deficiencies in the EPOSS product, its code and design, and these are also presented in this report."

Can we look then at page 7. There's a section on

1 instance, you say it's bad code: I've got no idea if 2 it's bad or good.

- 3 Q. Well, if you don't have technical competence, you 4 presumably need to rely on technical people?
- 5 A. Well, I would also point out to you that there's second
- 6 document which mentioned the CSR+, which you also sent
- 7 to me as the additional documents, and I looked at that,
- 8 and I can only give you my impressions because I've not
- 9 seen either of these documents, but I'm happy to do so:
- 10 the first is that was in 1998, before the Codified
- 11 Agreement. So water had flowed under the bridge for 12 almost a year in terms of the development.

13 And the second point is, if you look at the action

points in the CSR+ document, it talks about this, and --

- Q. We'll come to that shortly. 15
- 16 A. You'll come to that.
- 17 Q. Yes.

14

- A. Okay, that's fine. I'm just saying you have to look at 18 19 both of them in context.
- 20 Q. I want to look at this one in context at the time that 21 it was drafted, as you say, in '98?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. You've read this document, I've taken you to extracts

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- 24 from it; do you accept that it's describing a serious
- 25 issue in the EPOSS code?

the EPOSS Code. It says:

"It is clear that senior members of the Taskforce are extremely concerned about the quality of code in the EPOSS product."

We don't need to read it all but we see the last paragraph in that section says:

"Lack of code reviews in the development and fix process has resulted in poor workmanship and bad code."

Then if we could turn to page 17, please. At the bottom, section 7.3., we see Example 1, and it gives an extract of some code that's designed to reverse the sign of a number and is equivalent to the command. Fortunately, we don't need to concern ourselves with the code itself, but over the page, it says:

"Whoever wrote this code clearly has no understanding of elementary mathematics or the most basic rules of programming."

18 So you say you hadn't read the document before?

19 I've never seen it.

20 Q. Never seen it. Were you made aware of the issues that 21 this document describes?

22 Α.

23 Q. Do you accept that these are serious issues being 24 described by the document?

25 I'm not technically competent to say. I mean, for

1 A. It's describing an issue which has got to be corrected 2 and that's what they're talking about. How serious it

3 is, I couldn't tell you.

4 Q. Why do you think that the issue being described in this 5 document was not raised with you at the time?

6 A. It's a technical issue and it's not something that would 7 have been raised at board level. That's what, I think.

8 I think this was too detailed for the Board.

9 Q. Well, this is going, really, isn't it, to the heart of 10 the product that's being produced by ICL. Do you accept

that? 11 A. I can hypothesise many reasons but I'm telling you that 12

it wasn't, and I can also say the reason that it wasn't, 13 14

so far as I understand these things, and I think

15 Mr Muchow -- I think he's called -- said much the same 16 thing in his evidence, not at that level of granularity,

17 and I'd agree with it.

Q. So your evidence is that this type of issue is something 18 19 that should be just dealt with at management level and 20 it shouldn't concern the Board?

21 A. It's a technical issue, which should be dealt with at 22 a technical level and, when we come on to the CSR+

23 document, which you're coming on to, I think that's

24 clear to me.

25 Q. Well, let's look at that now. I think we're talking

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- about the same document. It's WITN04600104, please. We
   have here a "Schedule of Corrective Actions, [Core
- 3 System Release Plus] Development Audit"; is this the
- 4 document you were referring to?
- 5 A. Yes, and you can see it's gone up to the Managing
- 6 Director, Stares, and Mike Coombs, and they're all down
- 7 here: Bennett, Jeram, Austin. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did you see this document at the time?
- 9 **A.** No.
- 10 Q. I think you said that you didn't?
- 11 A. No, I didn't.
- 12 Q. Can we please turn to page 4. The "Introduction" says:
- "This document presents the Corrective Action Plan
   that emerged from a post-audit meeting following the
- 15 audit of the operation of the CSR+ Development."
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. At page 6, we see the start of various report
- observations and then, on the penultimate column, action
- 19 points --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- which I think you were referring to earlier?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Could we turn, please, to page 9. So we see in the
- 24 "Report Observation/Recommendation" it says:
- 25 "The audit identified that EPOSS continues to be
- 1 do with error and printer error handling?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. "Daily meetings instigated. TPA ..."
- 4 Does that refer to Mr Austin?
- 5 A. The answer is it might do or I don't know if he had
- 6 a "P" in his name.
- 7 Q. "TPA is of the view that while original code had not
- 8 been good it would be difficult to justify the case for
- 9 rewriting now."
- There's then what appears to be copied from an email
- 11 from TPA:
- "We have not formally closed down the recommendationthat we re-engineer the EPOSS application due to its
- 14 inherent instability."
  - It goes on in the final paragraph on this page:
- "We will, of course, continue to monitor the PinICL
- 17 stack for the next few months and, if necessary,
- 18 re-evaluate this decision."
- 19 A. They say would -- close this issue formally, whoever Jan
- 20 is, "Would Jan please close this issue formally".
- 21 Q. Then if we turn the page, please, so that was
- 22 25 November '99.
- 23 A. Yes.

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- 24  $\,$  Q. We're now into December and then into 2000. On 10 May,
- 25 it says:

PinICLs raised since the 1988 Taskforce and the rate of their being raised.

"The EPOSS Solutions Report made specific recommendations to consider the redesign and rewrite of

unstable. PinICL evidence illustrated the numbers of

EPOSS, in part or in whole, to address the then known
 shortcomings. In light of the continued evidence of
 poor product quality these recommendations should be

9 reconsidered."

- Now, before we look at the action points, can I ask
  whether you recall any discussion that you were involved
  with where management of ICL were considering or raising
  rewriting the EPOSS application?
- 14 **A.** No
- 15 Q. If we look in the "Agreed Action" points, 25/11 --
- 16 A. Hold on, yes.
- 17 **Q.** -- it says, "Work on" -- sorry --
- 18 A. The one above, isn't it?
- 19 Q. Yes, "Work on Al298", that's referring to an Acceptance20 Incident, isn't it?
- 21 A. Yes, and it's something -- well, I understood this
- 22 because I've read the various documents. So far as
- 23 I can see, it's something to do with printer error and
- printer handling, whatever that is, yeah.
- 25 **Q.** Well, 80 per cent of problems, this was saying, were to
- 1 "Following response received from MJBC ..."
- 2 Is that Mike Coombs?
- 3 A. Yes, it is Mike Coombs.
- 4 Q. "As discussed, this should be closed. Effectively as
- 5 a management team we have accepted the ongoing cost of
- 6 maintenance rather than the cost of a rewrite. Rewrites
- 7 of this product will only be considered if we need to
- 8 reopen the code to introduce significant changes in
- 9 functionality. We will continue to monitor the code
- 10 quality (based on product defects) as we progress the
- 11 through the final passes of testing", and it continues
- 12 to closing the ticket?
- 13 A. Right. Yes.
- 14 **Q.** Now, there, when it says, "The management team", who is
- being referred to there?
- 16 A. Mike Coombs would have been referring to all the people
- 17 that you saw on that CSR+ list, I presume -- the
- 18 management attempt within Pathway.
- 19 Q. Would you accept that what's being discussed here is20 a significant decision as to whether or not to incur the
- costs of rewriting the EPOSS application or accept the
- 22 costs of maintaining it in the state it's in?
- 23 A. I mean, I've seen this before but -- in some of the
- 24 witness statements or the questions. But I don't think
- 25 this is the issue. When you look at this, yes, there is

a cost to maintaining it and, if you like, there's a penalty in that. But I've seen this many times with software engineers. It's a bit like lawyers when they review cases. Everybody has got their own opinion.

Software engineers always say -- some of them do --"Oh I could rewrite this and it's better". Well, maybe they can and maybe they can't but, under the circumstances of this contract, what the management team decided -- and it's a technical decision, and they're accepting, in my view, a cost penalty to do this because it's safer to keep with the EPOSS, which is the thing that you know, monitor it, and they say it's been improved since 1998, we've moved on two years now, nearly. It's a complete step into the unknown, to start rewriting and if you rewrite a program from scratch, you've got no idea is it going to work better; is it going to work worse; will it fit in with everything else?

From my opinion, it's a technical decision. Let's suppose that they'd showed this to me or they'd showed it to the Board. What would have been said was, "Well, this is a technical decision, what do you advise?", and that's what they advised. Nobody saw this outside of them, but that's -- outside of Pathway but I don't think it makes any difference.

- 1 Right, and they advised that it was better to go ahead 2 with the -- not to go ahead with the rewrite but to go 3 ahead with that. I can't question that decision and 4 I didn't know about it.
- 5 Q. But would you not accept that the Board, in order to 6 understand whether or not its legal obligations are 7 being complied with, should be advised of serious 8 concerns in the product that's being delivered?
- 9 A. Not if the incident was closed.
- Q. So is it your evidence that, once the technical people 10 have decided that this doesn't need to go to the Board, 11 12 that's it?
- Yes. 13 Α.

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- 14 Q. The end of it?
- A. That's exactly what I think. 15
- Q. In your view, what role, then, does the Board have in 16 overseeing the quality of the product that is being 17 18 produced or delivered to the Post Office in this
- 19 circumstance?
- 20 A. Right, the Post -- I'm sorry, not the Post Office. The 21 Board has to have overall responsibility for seeing that
- 22 there are properly qualified people who are doing
- 23 defined jobs in connection with the implementation of
- 24 the project. That's what I believe is the job. Their
- 25 second job is to trust those people and, when

- 1 Q. Well, let's stand back. ICL have contracted with Post 2 Office to provide a system on certain terms.
- 3 A.
- 4 Q We saw earlier one of those terms was that it's robust?
- A. Yes, we don't know -- and I insist on this -- we don't 5
- 6 know -- there's not a legal definition of robust that
- 7 I'm aware of. Maybe you have one, I don't know. But --
- 8 whether it means -- comes, I think, from Latin, robur
- 9 strong, or something like that, able to withstand shots.
- 10 Q. Well, we'll come back to that point. The point is the
- 11 parties agreed that a robust system would be delivered;
- 12 is that fair?
- 13 It's in the contract. A.
- 14 Q. It's not for the technical people to determine whether or not the ICL are acting in compliance with legal 15
- 16 obligations to Post Office, is it?
- 17 **A.** I think that's true but it's the technical people who
- 18 would, in the end, have to produce some opinions.
- 19 I think Adrian Montague did, at one stage, and said the
- 20 system was robust, whatever that means. But the
- 21 technical people would have to tell you. I can tell you
- 22 what definitions of robust -- I can look it up in the 23
  - dictionary but whether it applies to the system --
- 24 Q. The technical people can provide you advice on the 25 application itself.

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- 1 appropriate, through the mechanisms that I talk about in 2 the second witness statement, to review progress on the
- 3 project, like all other projects. The Board is
- 4 dependent upon the reporting channels which provide
- 5 information to them, which, ultimately, via the QVRs and
- 6 all these other things we've described, turns up as the
- 7 Financial Officer's report and the Chief Executive's
- 8 report, which the Board considers.
- I've also not talked about -- and I imagine you'll 9 10 come to that -- the particular Japanese oversight of 11 this but that's a different matter. It's in my witness
- 12 statement
- 13 Q. So do I take it from your evidence that you're not
- 14 critical -- or, no, let me put it another way.
- 15 Are you critical of the management team for not 16 raising this with the Board?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. What steps did you take, or the Board take, after 19 appointing the management team to monitor Pathway, to 20 ensure that they were doing a proper job?
- 21 A. I've told you. The reporting structures that I've
- 22 described --
- 23 Q. Well, if you pause there. If the reporting structures 24 rely on the management team to flag problems to you, how
- 25 did the Board satisfy itself that problems were

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1 appropriately being flagged? 2 A. Because they would question the Chief Executive. The 3 Chief Executive would, in the initial case, talk to the 4 COO and, later on, it would have been just the Chief 5 Executive. He would have had quarterly business reviews 6 with Pathway -- that's not Board meetings, this is 7 management meetings -- and those management meetings 8 would have surfaced to him anything that he thought 9 appropriate to report in his Chief Executive's report to 10 the Board.

> And, I have to say, that when you talk about the Board, you must remember that the Board is a majority of Japanese directors, and I've talked -- I don't know whether you want to come on to this -- about the flows of information which actually existed outside of the Board meeting reports to the Japanese directors in Japan. And I can assure you, these were very detailed dealt with by people who were on the ground within Pathway.

I told you that we had a large team of software engineers from Japan win the development at that time that you're talking about.

23 Q. So that's a flow of information directly to Fujitsu 24 Limited?

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25 Α. The way it works -- and, if I may, I'd like to expand on

> and inside it what you get is the answer to all the possible questions that you could raise, or might raise, when you go to a Board meeting.

> Now, I'm not saying the English directors had this but I'm saying that the Japanese directors, who were a majority on the Board, who controlled the Board, had it, and I can't believe that between all of this, if there were serious issues that the Japanese were concerned with, they would not have raised it through that chain, as opposed to the standard reporting chain that went up to the Board inside Fujitsu. That's all I can say. But I know how detailed it is because I've lived in Tokyo and I've been a recipient of it.

- 14 Q. So that's looking at a reporting line from what's 15 happening in ICL Pathway through to Fujitsu Limited, 16 incorporated in Japan?
- 17 A. Precisely. I mean, it was outside -- it's outside the 18 normal system. Nothing wrong with it. I'm not saying 19 it shouldn't have happened but I'm just saying it's at 20 least as important.
- 21 Q. I want to ask about -- we've discussed the Board of ICL 22 Pathway/ICL Plc. In terms of what sat below that -- so 23 the Management Committee, which we discussed 24 previously -- are you critical of the management team 25 that we referred to earlier in relation to the CSR+

this because it is actually, in my view, really critical -- the way Fujitsu worked was they had software engineers embedded in the development, and there were a large team of them. I can't remember the number. There was actually a legal adviser from Japan. He was a chap called Yasui, who I knew very well. He was an interesting chap, he was qualified in the New York bar and as an English solicitor. So you also had people who -- well, there's the Chief Finance Officer, Adachi, he reported direct to the Chief Finance Officer in Japan.

All of this stuff is a huge amount of information, which is what Japanese like, and it all went through this overseas office, which is about 40 people in Tokyo, and their job is to sit and collate all this information and brief each Fujitsu director before that person gets to the Board meeting. And I know this because when I was in Tokyo, I was recipient of the same thing.

And I'll just tell you this and then I'll stop, I'm sorry, but I talk too long -- they give you what's called a "temochi" -- "te" means hand, "mochi" means hold, and actually it means two things, something you hold in your band, a handbook, or something that holds your hand and looks after you, and what you get is an A5 book, about an inch thick -- it's literally like this --

1 release, are you critical of them for not raising this 2

at the Management Committee?

3 A. You mean an FSMC, a Fujitsu Services Management 4 Committee?

5 Q. No, in the start of your evidence, we discussed the 6 Board and how often that met, and then I understood what you said was there was a weekly Management Committee

7 8 meeting within ICL? A. When it was -- and this is before my time, this 9

10 weekly -- let me be specific. In the times of ICL, 11 there was an ICL Management Committee. We talked about 12 that and I said that, at that time, the Pathway MD, or 13 whatever, did not attend that Management Committee. 14 When we are talking about my tenure, there was a weekly

15 management meeting. The Pathway would not have attended 16 that meeting, it would have been other people and, 17 particularly, once Courtley was there, no operational

people would have attended.

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Where I could criticise -- and this is hypothetical because I don't know -- is whether this was ever surfaced during the preparations for the quarterly business reviews and that I can't tell you but, certainly, the quarterly business reviews that fed into the board didn't contain that. I say maybe they should, maybe they shouldn't, but I don't know.

- 1 Q. Let's break this down.
- 2 A. Yeah.
- 3 Q. Before 2000, so before you're Chief Executive, at ICL
- 4 Plc level, are there weekly management meetings?
- 5 A. No, these were -- there were operational meetings at the
- 6 Group level yes. I suppose you'd call it that. Nobody
- 7 really thought about ICL Plc; they just thought about
- 8 ICL.
- 9 Q. So at the Group level?
- 10 A. At the Group level, yes.
- 11 Q. Just to be clear on the timeline, at that point, was the
- 12 Managing Director of Pathway attending the group level
- 13 management meetings?
- 14 **A.** No --
- 15 **Q**. How --
- 16 A. -- not so far as I can recall. That's all I can say.
- 17 **Q.** From your recollection, so we're clear on this, how were
- 18 issues regarding Pathway raised at the ICL Group level?
- 19  $\,$  **A.** They were raised by the Chief Executive -- Keith Todd,
- 20 in that case -- reporting to the Board.
- 21 Q. So the reporting line would be Managing Director of ICL
- 22 Pathway --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- reports to Keith Todd --
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 MR STEVENS: Let's look at another specific example, then.
- 2 It's FUJ00088036. It's another document the Inquiry has
- 3 seen
- 4 A. I produced this in my second witness statement, I think.
- 5 Q. I think this was more recently provided to you.
- 6 A. Yes, I haven't seen it before, I actually asked Morrison
- 7 Foerster to give me some more information on this and
- 8 that's where I saw it. I didn't see it -- I haven't
- 9 seen it before.
- 10 Q. Didn't see it at the time?
- 11 **A.** No, no. No.
- 12 Q. So it's 2 August 2002 is the date.
- 13 **A.** Yes.
- 14 Q. At this point, you're Chief Executive?
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- 16 Q. If we look at the originator department and the
- 17 contributors, do you recall working with any of those
- 18 people?
- 19 A. They frankly -- let's have a look. No, none of --
- 20 I don't recall knowing any of those people.
- 21 **Q.** This document describes -- let's look at page 9, please.
- 22 It says, "SFS", which I --
- 23 A. I don't know who they are.
- 24 Q. The Security Functional Specification.
- 25 **A.** Okay.

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- 1 Q. -- and then it's Keith Todd's responsibility to consider
- 2 whether to pass that on to the Management Committee?
- 3 A. That's correct, yes.
- 4 Q. At that stage --
- 5 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Excuse me, rather than deal with this in
- 6 the abstract, can we just go back to this particular
- 7 issue relating to EPOSS, to which the Inquiry has
- 8 devoted a significant amount of time.
- 9 Is it your view, Mr Christou, that the issues
- 10 relating to EPOSS were appropriately -- in inverted
- 11 commas -- "managed" by the team that took the decision
- or is it your evidence that the team that took the
- 13 decision should have reported it upwards to someone?
- 14 A. No, my evidence and my belief is that they took the
- 15 appropriate action, and that was the end of it.
- 16 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. You would not have expected them
- to have gone any higher than they did, in effect?
- 18 A. No, I wouldn't.
- 19 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. Okay. I understand. Because it
- seems to me, with respect to you both, that, whether or
- 21 not something goes higher, must relate to the specific
- topic under consideration, rather than a general
- 23 discussion, if I can put it in that way.
- 24 MR STEVENS: Yes, sir, thank you.
- 25 **A.** Yes.

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- 1  $\,$  Q. It describes there a form of remote administration,
- 2 a tool called Tivoli Remote Console?
- 3 A. Yeah.

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- 4 Q. It goes on to say that:
  - "This has led over time to BOC [Belfast Operations
- 6 Centre] personnel relying heavily on the use of
- 7 unauthorised tools (predominantly Rclient) to remotely
- 8 administer the live estate. Its use is fundamental for
- 9 the checking of errors. The tool does not however
- 10 record individual user access to systems but simply
- 11 record events on the remote box that Administrator
- 12 access has been used. No other information is provided
- including success/fail so it is not possible to simply
- 14 audit failures. The use of such technique puts Pathway
- in contravention of such contractual undertakings to the
  - Post Office."
- 17 Were you made aware of that the concerns raised in
- 18 that in particular, that Pathway was in contravention of
- 19 contractual undertakings to the Post Office?
- 20 A. No, I've never seen this document.
- 21 Q. Is this a type of document, or maybe not -- let me
- rephrase that. The issue that's being described, in
- 23 particular "the use of such technique puts Pathway in
- 24 contravention of contractual undertakings to the Post

25 Office", is that a type of issue that you would have

1 expected to be raised to you as Chief Executive? 2 A. It depends whether the Post Office had made any -- if 3 the Post Office had made a formal complaint, a breach of 4 contract notice, for instance, then I would have known 5

> I read this in conjunction with another document, which you showed me, which you may come to later, which is Gareth Jenkins writing earlier about the Secure Shell, whatever it is, the SSH, which is designed to, as it says here, provide an acceptable and agreed level, which I presume must be agreed with the Post Office, of secure access. So reading this, what I see is, well, there was a problem, maybe it was a breach of contract, maybe it wasn't, I don't know. The Post Office appear to have known about it because it says, "acceptable and agreed", so it must be agreed with somebody or other, and it was remedied with this Secure Shell. Whether it's a correct remedy, again, I'm not competent to say, but that's what it looks like to me.

- 20 Q. Well, let's look in more detail at the problem. It's 21 page 15, please, and it describes "Third line and 22 operational support"?
- 23 A. Yes.

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- 24 Q. It describes controls, so:
- 25 "Individuals involved in the support process undergo
- 1 specialists who are very carefully vetted, who are 2 system administrators, but there has to be somebody who 3 can be a system administrator and there aren't very many 4 of them.
- 5 Q. Would you accept that what this is saying is that some 6 people have unaudited, privileged access --
- 7 A. Not --

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- 8 Q. -- with system administration access to all systems --
- 9 A. What I'd accept is --
- Q. -- including Post Office Counters --10
- 11 A. I'm sorry, I beg your pardon. I beg your pardon.

What I would accept is that, at that time, there was an issue and they improved the security systems, on the advice of Gareth Jenkins on his previous document. And, don't forget, we've only just, at this stage, got to complete rollout.

- 17 Q. So here, where we have an issue that's being raised that 18 is said by the technicians to be -- it's warning of a breach of contractual obligations, your evidence is 19 20 this didn't -- you're not critical of it not being 21 raised with you?
- 22 A. If there were no solution to it, or if there had been 23 a formal complaint by the Post Office, I would then have 24 been critical because, if there had been a formal 25 complaint, then that was something that definitely

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1 more frequent security vetting checks."

2 A. Yes.

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Q. 3 "Other than the above controls are vested in manual 4 procedures, requiring managerial sign-off controlling access to post office counters where update of data is 5 6 required. Otherwise, third line support has:

> "Unrestricted and unaudited privileged access (systems admin) to all systems including post office counter PCs ..."

The risks are highlighted further down -- sorry, if you stay there, please -- sorry. It says:

"This exposes Fujitsu Services/Pathway to the following potential risks:

14 "Opportunity for financial fraud;

> "Operational risk -- errors as a result of manual actions causing loss of service to outlets;

17 "Infringements of the Data Protection Act."

18 I mean, this, is, would you accept, a very 19 significant problem going to the heart of ICL's 20 contractual obligations?

21 A. No, I think all he's saying is we need to beef up our 22 security systems and we're doing it. That's the way 23 I read this. But, as I say, I'd never seen the document 24 but this is how I read it: yes, there is a risk. I'm 25 sure you understand that third line support are a few

3 the security which will prevent some issues, and every 4 contract for the development of software is always 5 trying to improve its security. We know nowadays that 6 the most important thing for fixes -- you know if you've 7 got your PC or your smart phone, every so often you get 8 a security update to protect it from outside

should be looked at. What I'm seeing here is

a technical person who is identifying improvements in

9 interference, and this is a more technical and more

10 sophisticated way of doing things with this system. 11 I don't -- I'm not critical of them. I would be

12 critical if the Post Office had sent a letter, that's 13 a different matter, and maybe that should have been 14 surfaced. But I haven't seen a letter.

15 Q. Why is it relevant or why should it come to you if the 16 Post Office raise it?

17 A. If the Post Office raised a formal breach of contract. 18 then that would become a matter that, certainly, we'd be looking at because the first thing would be doing would 19 20 be going and talking to Stuart Sweetman to find out what 21 it was about.

22 **Q.** As part of the responsibility of the Chief Executive in 23 respect of the lawfulness of the company's operations, 24 do you not accept that, actually, where such a serious 25 contractual issue is raised, that should come to you at

- 1 the highest level?
- 2 A. No, I don't, because I think the problem has been solved
- 3 at a technical level.
- 4 Q. Could we move on to Horizon Online, please. It's
- 5 FUJ00095628. This is an email to which you referred
- 6 earlier.
- 7 A. Oh, yes, I know about this.
- 8 Q. If we can go to the second page, please. So it's
- 9 an email from Duncan Tait, you're not in copy. I assume
- 10 you wouldn't have seen this at the time?
- 11  $\,$  A. No, no. Not at all. This is an issue for Duncan Tait,
- 12 not for me.
- 13 Q. It refers to meetings between Post Office and Fujitsu --
- 14 A. Mm.
- 15 Q. -- and it talks about:
- 16 "Their confidence has been knocked due to:
- 17 "[Firstly] Ongoing issues with Oracle stability
- 18 impacting HNG-X stability ...
- 19 "[2] The data centre outage
- 20 "[3] An outage caused by 'Fujitsu operator error'
- 21 last week which caused a 45-minute loss of service."
- We then get some requests from Post Office: (1) is
- 23 to look at P&L for the account to make sure it's
- sustainable and asking for an open book arrangement; (2)
- is for an independent review; and then (3):
  - 69
- 1 POL00028838.
- 2 **A.** Yes.
- 3 Q. It's a document well known to this Inquiry. Firstly,
- 4 can I ask when you first saw this document?
- 5  $\,$  **A.** When you sent it to me, which would have been some time
- 6 in May.
- 7 Q. So looking at the attendance list --
- 8 A. Right, let's have a look.
- 9 Q. It's not dated but the Inquiry understands it's in
- 10 October 2010. Were any of those people in the
- 11 attendance list reporting directly or indirectly to you
- 12 at that stage?
- 13 A. No. Could I ask one question about this, please? When
- 14 I read it, I wasn't clear who originated the document.
- 15 It looked to me like the Post Office did, but they talk
- 16 about "we", and so on. Can you tell me that or?
- 17 **Q.** Well, I'll ask you questions about if you saw it or if
- 18 you didn't and --
- 19 A. Oh, right, okay, but I never saw it, and the only name
- 20 I know, because of all the fuss about it, is Gareth
- 21 Jenkins. None of these reported to me.
- 22  $\,$  Q. Do you know Gareth Jenkins when you were working at
- 23 Fujitsu?
- 24 A. Not that I can recollect. He wouldn't be somebody that
- 25 I would have had direct contact with.

- 1 "Finally, he wants Dave Smith to have some dialogue
- 2 with Richard C ..."
- 3 I assume that refers to you?
- 4 A. Yes, it does, yes.
- 5 Q. "... so they can test the Japanese Board's commitment to
- 6 the account and programme ..."
- 7 A. Mm.
- 8  $\,$  **Q.** Firstly, can you recall whether you were aware of the
- 9 issues described in this email?
- 10 A. No, the answer is I wasn't and I've never seen the
- 11 email. I mean, it would be for Duncan to talk to you
- 12 about that.
- 13  $\,$  Q. So you're saying then you can't recall Duncan Tait
- 14 passing on or discussing these issues with you?
- 15 A. No, well, let me be clear about this. The only one
- 16 I think he would have passed on to me was the dialogue
- 17 with Dave Smith about the Japanese Board. Remember at
- 18 this time I was living in Tokyo and I was responsible
- 19 for the global business group as a whole. I don't
- 20 remember whether we ever had that call, that's all I can
- 21 tell you. But if I had have done, I mean, what the
- 22 purpose was, to talk about the Japanese Board's
- 23 commitment; it wasn't about things like an Oracle
- outage, or whatever it was. That's all I can say.
- 25 Q. I want to look at another document now, please. It's
  - 70
- Q. Now, this document describes what we now know as the
   receipts and payments mismatch bug.
- 3 **A**. Yes
- 4 Q. Were you ever given any information on the bug described
  - in this document that you've now read?
- 6 A. No.

- 7 Q. That document can come down. Thank you.
- 8 Just before this -- that was 2010 -- in May 2009,
- 9 Computer Weekly ran an article on the Post Office
- 10 prosecuting subpostmasters and allegations as to the
- 11 adequacy of the Horizon data to support those
- 12 prosecutions were raised. Were you aware of that
- 13 Computer Weekly article at the time?
- 14 A. No, I wasn't.
- 15 Q. I want to look now, then, at prosecutions, please. Can
- we bring up your second witness statement, page 21, it's
- 17 paragraph 101. You say:
- 18 "As already stated in my first witness statement,
- 19 I had no knowledge of this issue, and I do not recall it
- 20 being raised at any Board meeting when I was present,
- 21 (see paragraphs 75 onwards)."
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. If we just scroll down slightly, please -- thank you --
- 24 you say:
- 25 "I would now, however, like to comment more

specifically on this point, in the light of further
documents not known to me at the relevant time, which
have since been provided to me by Morrison Foerster (at
my request) for the purposes of completing this
statement."

So everything that follows, where, for example, you say, "My understanding is that the requirement in the Codified Agreement", that's your understanding today?

- 9 A. Now, yes. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Not at the time?

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- 11 A. Not at the time.
- 12 Q. Could we please go to FUJ00000071, again, and could we
- turn to page 196, please. We referred to this earlier,
- 14 it's schedule A15, setting out requirements, and we see
- 15 a number there of various requirements?
- 16 A. Yes, yes.
- 17 Q. If we turn, please, to -- apologies.
- 18 If we can go, please, to 291.
- 19 **A.** 291.
- 20 Q. Page 291, please. Thank you. Schedule A16 is the
- 21 "Solutions". So these are the response, in effect, from
- 22 ICL Pathway. Could we look, please, at page 363. If we
- go down to that, please.
- 24 I think I may have an incorrect reference here,
- sorry. If we can go up, please, to reference 393,
  - 73
- 1  $\,$  Q. So this is a "Service Description for Implementation and
- 2 maintenance of security policy and procedures" dated --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- 6 January 2003.
- 5 **A.** Yes.
- 6 Q. In your statement, you say that, to the best of your
- 7 belief, this document contained the first contractual
- 8 requirement on Fujitsu to provide witness evidence in
- 9 litigation.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Again, I understand that's your knowledge now but not at
- 12 the time?
- 13 A. It's my knowledge now. Can I just amplify that.
- 14 I never regard PACE as necessarily requiring witness.
- 15 It required a certification with the potentiality for
- 16 a witness but, when I look at this, it seems to me
- 17 different to PACE.
- 18 Q. Well, let's -- at the time, did you have any awareness
- 19 of PACE certification --
- 20 A. No, no. At the time, I didn't know about PACE --
- 21 I mean, I've said that in my witness statement --
- 22 because I didn't read that schedule.
- 23 Q. Can we turn, please, to page 17?
- 24 A. Yeah, the litigation.
- 25  $\,$   $\,$  Q.  $\,$  If we can have "Litigation Support", please. So we see

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- 1 I think.
- 2 A. (Sotto voce) English and Welsh.
- 3 Q. Just bear with me, I will just find that reference.
- 4 393, please. Page 393, that's it. If you can go up,
- 5 I got my requirements and page numbers mixed up.
- 6 A. Ah, here we are, yes.
- 7 Q. If we could go up, please, so we can see the start of
- 8 the reference. You see there reference 829, and this
- 9 refers to Pathway. It says:
- "Pathway confirms it will ensure that all relevant
   information produced at the request of POCL [Post Office
- 12 Counters Limited] shall be evidentially admissible and
- capable of certification in accordance with the Police
- 14 and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Police and
- 45 Criminal Evidanas (Narthann Insland) Orden 1000
- 15 Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 ..."
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. It goes on to say about data volumes.
- When you were involved in the tendering process,
- 19 would you have been involved in dealing with this
- 20 response or --
- 21 A. I've got no idea whether it was even in the tendering.
- I mean, this is from the Codified Agreement and I never
- 23 read this.
- 24 Q. Could we look, please, at FUJ00001743.
- 25 A. Oh, yes.

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- 1 here that it refers to Post Office submitting Audit
- 2 Record Queries or Old Format Queries, essentially
- 3 a request for ARQ data, as we know it?
- 4 A. Yes.

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- 5 Q. It says (a), to present the record of transactions but:
- 6 "b) subject to the limits set out below:
  - "(i) analyse:
    - "the appropriate Fujitsu Services' Helpdesk records
- 9 for date range ...
- 10 "branch non-polling reports for the branch in
- 11 question; and
- 12 "fault logs for the devices from which the records
- 13 of transactions were obtained ..."
- 14 **A.** Yes.
- 15 Q. Then, if we go down -- thank you -- we see:
- 16 "... request and allow the relevant employees of
- 17 Fujitsu Services to prepare witness statements of fact
- in relation to that query ..."
- 19 **A.** Yes.
- 20 Q. Now, this contractual agreement for Fujitsu employees to
- 21 prepare witness evidence of fact, as a contractual
- 22 service being offered by ICL, or Fujitsu Services
- Limited, do you consider that that should have gone to
- the Board to determine whether it was something that ICL
- 25 or Fujitsu Services Limited wanted to offer or should

1 agree to provide?

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2 A. I think this is a -- I think this is the most serious question of all and it comes back to some of the things that I said in my witness statement. There was no 5 requirement for this particular document to be approved 6 by the Board. If you look at the beginnings, I think it goes as far as Martyn Bennett. When one looks at it by 8 hindsight -- and I'm not saying this to mitigate what 9 I think -- and I've said before -- is a miscarriage of 10 justice, it was not raised to the Board.

> Should it have been raised to the Board? I think the problem with this document is that the requirement for witness statements shouldn't have been dealt with by Security personnel and, in the midst of a security document, should it have been raised to the Board? It wasn't.

> What I say in hindsight is I wish it had but that's hindsight. There are many issues you could have raised to the Board but it chose not to do so.

- 20 Q. Would you accept that this contractual service that's 21 being agreed in this document is outside of the normal 22 course of business for Fujitsu?
- 23 A. No, I wouldn't. No, I think that's not -- well, it's 24 not our business to provide witnesses, certainly we 25 don't provide, or we didn't, in my day, provide expert

something that we would have provided to a customer. We would have said, "Go and get an expert and get them to do it".

So I don't think this is out of the ordinary course of business but, if you went beyond a statement of fact, here's the document, this is what I took off, and you can examine it with all the bits and pieces that are in the earlier section", but that's fact.

Expert opinion, no. That, definitely not. We're not in that business. That's what I think.

- 11 Q. Well, when it says, looking here, "Subject to the limits 12 below, analyse", it's analysing "fault logs for the 13 devices from which the records of transactions were 14 obtained in order to check the records of transactions 15 extracted by that query" --
- A. In order to check the integrity of records. 16
- 17 Q. Integrity of records. Where there's analysis of fault 18 logs, what's your view on that --
- 19 A. Okay, I looked at this, and the fact that the fault log 20 is there is a statement of fact and, when you look at 21 it, you see that there are various faults, so you have 22 to describe them. I think it's important to talk about 23 checking the integrity of the records. I've -- you said
- 24 this elsewhere in my statement but, in my view,
- 25 integrity means uncorrupted, whole and complete, but it 79

1 witnesses. That's absolutely true. When I looked at

2 this, one of the problems, as I understand it, is, of

3 course, that PACE was repealed in -- Section 69 was 4 repealed --

- 5 Q. I'll come back to the question, sorry.
- 6 A. Yes.

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- 7 Q. Is what is being agreed here, the provision of witness 8 statements by Fujitsu employees, outside of the normal
- 9 course of Fujitsu's business at that time?
- A. If it was only a witness statement of fact, that this is 11 a document that we've got off the computer, I wouldn't
- 12 have thought so. I mean, I'm sure that that was
- 13 something that happened in other contracts. I don't
- 14 know but, as long as it was a statement of fact,
- 15 I wouldn't particularly have had a problem with it, you
- 16 know, "This is the document, this what I took off, there
- 17 it is. Make of it what you will", as long as it was
- 18 fact.
- 19 Q. So is it your evidence that, if it's a witness statement 20 of fact, you didn't think it needed to come to the
- 21 board?

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- 22 A. No, I wouldn't. If it was an expert -- let me be clear
- 23 about this: if somebody was saying, "We want a Fujitsu
- 24 witness to be an expert witness, speaking about all
- 25 sorts of things about the system", that was not

1 doesn't mean accurate, which is what we're coming down 2 to: the question of whether there were discrepancies in 3 the cash account.

And I think this is the word that was used, 5 integrity, earlier on when they were in these this other systems specifications, when they were talking about security. It's all about security, not tampered with.

- 8 Q. I understand you've listened to some of the evidence of 9 the Inquiry?
- 10 A. Some of them here, not all, by any means, but I tried to 11 prepare myself as best I could.
- Have you heard, for example, of the Clarke Advice of the 12 13 15 July 2013 --
- 14 A. No, I'm sorry, I haven't. No.
- 15 Q. -- referring to Post Office's use of Gareth Jenkins as 16 an expert witness?
- 17 A. Well, that surprises me and it's not something that I would have expected Fujitsu to do. 18
- Q. If a Fujitsu employee was being used to provide expert 19 20 evidence, my understanding is you think that something
- 21 like that should have gone to the Board?
- 22 A. Definitely, and I would have made sure in those -- or
- 23 me, but what I would expect is that that expert witness
- 24 would have been properly advised by an independent
- 25 solicitor.

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(20) Pages 77 - 80

- 1 Q. Can you explain why, in this case or in this time, the
- 2 use of Fujitsu witnesses, such as Gareth Jenkins, wasn't
- 3 raised at a Board level?
- 4  $\,$  As I've said, because -- when you say "at this time" do
- 5 you mean 2013?
- 6 Q. No, I'm so sorry, at the time of this document, 20 --
- 7 A. Right, what I'm saying is that I don't think that
- 8 witness statements of fact would have been necessary and
- 9 I don't think -- I'm not critical of that. I'm very
- 10 critical of the use of a Fujitsu employee as an expert
- 11 witness if they're not properly advised by
- 12 an independent legal counsel.
- 13 Q. Can you offer a view on why that latter issue didn't
- 14 come to the Board of Fujitsu?
- 15 A. Well, I don't know when it started, so I can't tell you.
- 16 But I suspect it's more ignorance than anything else.
- 17 I doubt that the Security people that you're talking
- 18 here really understood the difference. Their mind is
- 19 always on integrity, untampered with, not corrupted;
- 20 it's not about being an expert witness.
- 21 Q. Could we turn the page, please. It referred to
- 22 limits --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 **Q.** We see at (iv) and (v):
- 25 "Fujitsu Services' obligations ... in (i) and (ii)
  - 81
- 1 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: But I think you do agree with Mr Stevens
- 2 that such activity, if it were to be approved, should
- 3 have been approved by the Board?
- 4 A. I do, yes.
- 5 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine. Thank you.
- 6 MR STEVENS: The matters to which the Chair was just
- 7 referring, who within your reporting line would have
- 8 been responsible for oversight of this Litigation
- 9 Support?
- 10 A. Martyn Bennett, I think, is the correct one. I mean,
- 11 he's a long way down because -- I don't know whether he
- was still there in that time, 2005.
- 13 **Q.** In 2003, is the reporting line from either Martyn
- 14 Bennett or his replacement through David Courtley?
- 15 A. Yes, yes. Through the Managing Director of Pathway to
- 16 Courtley to me. Yes.
- 17 Q. Could we, please, look at FUJ00003534, and this is my
- 18 last topic.
- 19 **A.** Yeah.
- 20 Q. These are actually draft minutes but I want to take you
- to a part of them. It's on 20 August 2002, a meeting of
- the FSMC. Could we look at page 14, please. If we
- 23 could go down to "Relationship with the UK Government":
- 24 "Mr Christou reported that the Government was our
- 25 biggest customer and it was essential that we had a good 83

- 1 above shall be limited, in aggregate, to dealing with
- 2 a maximum of 150 (in aggregate) Record Queries ..."
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. The Inquiry has heard evidence about Fujitsu's
- 5 remuneration in respect of witness evidence produced.
- 6 Did you have any knowledge of that remuneration?
- 7 **A.** No

- 8 Q. That document can come down. Thank you.
- 9 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, just before we do, Mr Stevens,
  - I just want to be clear, Mr Christou, one can haggle
- 11 about the interpretation of contractual clauses, and
- 12 I would just like your help, as a very senior person in
- 13 Fujitsu, as to two matters.
- 14 First of all, in your opinion -- and I stress "in
- 15 your opinion" -- does the clause that we just looked at
- oblige Fujitsu to provide a witness to give opinion
- 17 evidence?
- 18 **A.** No.
- 19 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. So have you got any idea how it
- 20 came to be, if it is the case, that, from approximately
- 21 the mid-2000s, that is around 2004/2005, a Fujitsu
  - 22 employee -- and we all know who it is, Mr Jenkins -- was
  - 23 making witness statements which included opinion
  - 24 evidence?
  - 25 A. I do not know, sir. I do not know.

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- 1 relationship with them. Renegotiating Libra had been
- 2 very stressful ..."
- 3 Just to pause there, that's nothing to do with the
- 4 Post Office, I understand, Libra?
- 5 A. No, this isn't. Nothing to do with the Post Office at
- 6 all
- 7 **Q.** "... and all the Permanent Secretaries were aware of the
- 8 negotiation that had taken place. During the last year
- 9 we had, again, been the topic of conversation as the
- 10 Bull Links
- 10 Pathway and HMCE contracts were being renegotiated.

  11 "While these negotiations were ongoing it was
- "While these negotiations were ongoing it wasimportant not to be too friendly or else we risked
- 13 weakening our position. However, we were now able to
- build on relationships. Mr Christou had visited all the
- permanent secretaries and he had also joined them on
- 16 a training weekend. Consequently, although there was
- 17 room for improvement, we are on good terms with them and
- they are, by and large, all satisfied with the service
- they are, by and large, all satisfied with the service
- 19 Fujitsu Services provide."
- 20 **A.** Yes.
- 21 Q. When you say "all the Permanent Secretaries", there is
- that every Permanent Secretary to each Government
- 23 department or just those to which Fujitsu had contracted
- 24 with?
- 25 A. No, I mean the ones that we were dealing with, yes.

- 1 Q. You go on to say:
- 2 "Mr Christou added that the relationship with the
- 3 DTI was good. He was having talks with representatives,
- 4 both in his capacity as a member of various DTI
- 5 committees, and also as a service provider."
- 6 Α. Yes.
- 7 Q. How often did you meet with representatives of the
- 8 Department for Trade and Industry?
- 9 **A.** Actually, quite often because there were various fora,
- 10 you know, they used to get all the IT people together
- 11 for instance, and we met on numerous occasions. I had
- 12 the Minister's name -- Patricia something, in those
- 13 days? I can't remember the last name but I used to
- 14 spent quite a lot of time with her.
- Q. Patricia Hewitt. 15
- 16 A. That's right, Patricia Hewitt, and there was a Permanent
- 17 Secretary. I'm afraid I can't remember the name. But
- 18 we used to visit them quite regularly because we had
- 19 Elgar with them, which was a very large project.
- 20 At any point when you met with representatives of DTI,
- 21 did you discuss the actual adequacy of the Horizon IT
- 22 System?
- 23 A. No, it was never the topic of discussion. We were
- 24 always talking about our contract with them.
- 25 Q. From 2003 onwards, did you ever meet with
- 1 shorthand-writer whether she'd like a break before
  - Ms Page asks questions, or whether she would prefer to
- 3 have a maximum of ten minutes and then have a lunch
- 4 break, in effect.

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- 5 MR STEVENS: We're fine to continue. sir.
- 6 **SIR WYN WILLIAMS:** Fine. Then sorry to impose a ten-minute
- 7 time limit on you, Ms Page, but I think that's
- 8 reasonably fair in the circumstances.
- 9 MS PAGE: No difficulty at all, sir. Thank you very much.
  - Questioned by MS PAGE
- 11 MS PAGE: I want to ask you a few questions, please, about
- 12 whistleblowing.
- 13 The Bates litigation established as fact that there
- 14 were bugs, errors and defects in the Horizon system 15 which could and did cause errors in Post Office branch
- 16 accounts. Now, you don't appear to accept that that
- 17 means that Fujitsu failed to deliver a product to Post
- 18 Office, an accounting system, that was fit for purpose
- 19 but, nevertheless, there might be those who do. Do you
- 20 understand what I'm saying there?
- 21 A. I understand where you're coming from. I mean, what I'm
- 22 saying is not to mitigate. I've said this before but
- 23 I'll say it again. I do not mitigate the seriousness of
- 24 the miscarriage of justice; that's the first point. But
- 25 the issue to me is, first of all, fitness for purpose

- 1 representatives of the Shareholder Executive?
- 2 A. Could you be more -- the Shareholder?
- 3 Q. Sorry, the Shareholder Executive, a Government agency 4
  - that managed the Government shareholding interest in
- 5 companies, including Post Office Limited?
- 6 Α. No, I didn't know anything about that. No.
- 7 Q. Standing back, having examined the documents that you've
- 8 seen today, do you consider there to have been, in your
- 9 view, any relevant management failings within Fujitsu
- 10 that was relevant to the prosecution of subpostmasters?
- A. I think the issue comes down to this question of -- I'm 11
- 12 sorry to keep on mentioning Gareth Jenkins -- how he
- 13 came to be an expert witness and I can't answer that
- 14 question but I think that's the nub of it.
- 15 I've always felt that it was the processes of
- 16 information flow that led to the prosecutions that were
- 17 the cause to of the problem, rather than, if you like,
- 18 bugs in the system itself but I can't answer that.
- 19 MR STEVENS: Sir. those are all the questions I have.
- 20 Before I turn to see if there are any from Core
- 21 Participants, do you have any questions?
- 22 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: No, I'm fine, thank you.
- 23 MR STEVENS: Ms Page, I think that's it. Five or ten
- 24 minutes' worth of questions.
- 25 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Well, then, can we ask the

- 1 was never part of the Codified Agreement; it was
- 2 specifically excluded. What we did was to agree 3 a specification, agree acceptance tests with the Post
- 4 Office, and that was the basis of the contract.
  - We accept -- I mean, I accept now, having heard
- 6 everything in the appeals against the cases, there were
- 7 bugs. I don't believe that it was the bugs that caused
- 8 the issue. The issue is that these discrepancies
- weren't properly presented in evidence. That's what, 9
- 10 I think. Why it happened I'm not competent to say but
- 11 that's my view.

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- 12 All right, well, what I want to ask you about is
- 13 Mr David McDonnell, who gave evidence to this Inquiry,
- 14 about the shockingly bad development of the EPOSS code
- 15 and Mr Stevens this morning has taken you to the
- 16 documents dealing with how that was managed within
- 17 Pathway, both in 1998 and in 2000.
- 18 Now, I don't need to go back over what you've said 19 already. You don't criticise the way that, what you
- say, the technical issue was managed. Nevertheless, at 20
- 21 the time and subsequently, Mr McDonnell was deeply
- 22 critical of the way that that was managed and he gave
- 23 evidence about the fact that he was sidelined, as
- 24 a result, moved into a different role. So what I want
  - to ask you about is what process was there for him to

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It was really only the testimony of a Panorama

whistleblower, who then became a whistleblower in the

Bates litigation, Mr Richard Roll, that actually started

blow the whistle at the time? What process was there
 for him to take his concerns higher when the management
 of Pathway refused to accept what he was saying?

 Well, in those days, there was certainly no whistleblowing procedure. That's the first thing, and I don't think people thought about it in those days.

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What I will say to you is that I never shut the door to my office. If he had felt sufficiently strongly, he could have come and seen me. That's all I can say. I don't actually know him but, if somebody had come and seen me, then I would have investigated, it might not have meant a different decision, but he didn't. So that's all I can tell you.

13 14 Q. A different area but still on whistleblowing. The 15 Inquiry has now seen ample evidence that Fujitsu support 16 teams were effectively able to tamper with branch 17 accounts, without the subpostmaster knowing, and that 18 wasn't for a short period, that was over many, many 19 years. So, in effect, the security designs put in place 20 just didn't stand up to the reality test: the support 21 teams were given privileged access on what we've seen 22 revved to as a needs-must basis and that continued not 23 only thorough your time, but also for many years 24 subsequently, really all the way through until the Group 25 Litigation.

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1 A. I'm not mitigating that there is a gross miscarriage of 2 justice and, if you think I don't feel for the 3 postmasters and the subpostmasters, you're wrong, I do 4 feel. And I also feel aggrieved that what I felt was 5 a good system has been put into such disrepute. But I'm 6 not responsible for it and I've told you before --7 sorry, perhaps I shouldn't say it like this, perhaps 8 with more respect -- I've said before that the real 9 issue is the way the prosecutions were handled and the 10 flows of information.

Why there were no whistleblowers and what they would have told me if there were any, I don't know, and I'm sorry about that but I can't help you further.

13 14 Q. Let me just ask you this final question: when concerns 15 first started to be raised about the possibility that 16 Fujitsu could insert transactions -- if you don't like 17 "tamper", that's what they were doing -- could insert 18 transactions into branch accounts without postmasters 19 knowing, when those concerns first started to be raised, 20 why was there no concerted effort by Fujitsu management 21 to find out the truth?

A. I don't know when they were raised and you're assuming
 that there was none, and you're insisting on the word
 "tampered", so I'm afraid my answer is I don't know.

25 MS PAGE: Thank you.

4 the process of finding out the truth. Obviously, in all of that time, there were many employees within the 5 6 Fujitsu support team who knew what was going on and knew 7 about the ability to tamper with branch accounts and, 8 indeed, there were many concerns raised from the 9 mid-2000s onwards about it. 10 So, again, why were there no Fujitsu whistleblowers: 11 what happened; why did nobody come forward? 12 A. Well, I'll make two points to you. First of all, 13 I don't like the word "tamper", that's a pejorative 14 term. Secondly, my understanding is -- and I knew 15 nothing about this particularly at the time -- that 16 these alterations were made in conjunction with the Post 17 Office, in order to correct various issues. That's what 18 I saw coming out of the evidence. 19 Why were there no whistleblowers coming forward? 20 You'd have to ask the potential whistleblowers in 21 Fujitsu. All I'm saying to you is that nobody came to 22 me and blew any whistles. 23 Q. You don't take any responsibility? 24 A. No. I'm not --

Q. So you don't --

Those are my questions, sir.
 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms Page.

3 Is that it, Mr Stevens?

4 MR STEVENS: Yes, sir, that's it.

5 Yes, that's it from the Core Participants and

6 Mr Christou's evidence.

7 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.

8 So Mr Christou, thank you very much for making two 9 statements -- written statements, that is -- and for 10 giving evidence to the Inquiry this morning. I'm 11 grateful to you.

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12 I think we'll now adjourn, shall we, and take our13 lunch break so what time shall we resume?

14 MR STEVENS: 1.30, please, sir.

15 **SIR WYN WILLIAMS:** Fine, see you all then at 1.30.

16 (12.30 pm)

17 (The Short Adjournment)

18 **(1.30 pm)** 

19 MR BLAKE: Good afternoon, sir, can you see and hear me?

20 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: I can, thank you.

21 MR BLAKE: Sir, this afternoon we're going to hear from

22 Mr Tait.

23 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.

24 MR BLAKE: As we are starting at 1.30 we are likely to have

25 two afternoon breaks today.

1 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, certainly.

2 DUNCAN ANDREW TAIT (sworn)

3 Questioned by MR BLAKE

4 MR BLAKE: Thank you very much. Can you give your full name

5 please?

- 6 A. My name is Duncan Andrew Tait.
- 7 Q. Mr Tait, you should have in front of you a witness
- 8 statement dated 21 May 2024; is that correct?
- 9 A. That's correct.
- 10 Q. Can I please ask you to turn to page 67 and confirm that
- 11 that is your signature.
- 12 A. It is.
- 13 Q. Thank you. Is that statement true to the best of your
- 14 knowledge and belief?
- 15 A. It is.
- 16 Q. Thank you. That statement has a Unique Reference Number
- of WITN03570100 and that will be uploaded onto the
- 18 Inquiry's website. Just to begin, by way of a little
- 19 bit of background, you started your career at BAE
- 20 Systems in around 1985; is that correct?
- 21 A. That is true.
- 22 Q. You worked for a number of different firms, largely in
- 23 IT related roles?
- 24 A. That is true.
- 25 Q. You joined Fujitsu in 2009?

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- 1 Q. Thank you. From April, you were CEO for UK & Ireland.
- 2 Then, over time, you took more and more countries,
- 3 I think, in 2014, you were CEO for Europe, Middle East,
- 4 India and Africa --
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. -- including the UK at that time?
- 7 A. Including the UK.
- 8 Q. 2015, you were appointed to the Board?
- 9 A. Of Fujitsu in Japan, yes.
- 10 Q. And 2016, you became responsible for the Americas. Is
- 11 that in addition to EMEIA and --
- 12 A. That is in addition to those.
- 13 Q. So your portfolio expanded and expanded as the years
- 14 went by?
- 15 A. It did.
- 16 Q. When did you leave Fujitsu?
- 17 A. I left at the end of July 2019.
- 18 Q. Thank you. During your time at Fujitsu, how significant
- 19 was the Post Office as a customer?
- 20 A. Well, Fujitsu was one -- sorry, Post Office was one of
- 21 the larger clients within the Private Sector Division,
- 22 and formed a reasonable part of Fujitsu, UK & Ireland.
- Obviously, the further you go up the company then it
- 24 becomes a smaller part but nonetheless important.
- 25 **Q.** Thank you. Perhaps we could start with a presentation 95

1 A. I did.

2 Q. I think you came in straight at Managing Director

3 level --

- 4 **A.** I did.
- 5 Q. -- in what was then the Private Sector Division?
- 6 A. Yeah
- ${\bf 7}$   $\,$   $\,$   ${\bf Q}. \,$  In very simple terms, where did that division fall
- 8 within the overall hierarchy of Fujitsu?
- 9 A. So the Private Sector Division reported directly to the
- 10 UK & Ireland's CEO, and there were a number of other
- 11 divisions, there was a Government Business Division, and
- then I think there were two or three divisions that
- delivered services into those so, for instance, there
- was a CORE Division and an Applications Division, where
- the bulk of the people in the business worked.
- 16 Q. I think you've said in your witness statement that the
- 17 Post Office business fell within the Private Sector
- 18 Division because the intention was for it to go private?
- 19 A. Yes, that was my understanding when I joined.
- 20 Q. Thank you. When you were Managing Director, you
- 21 reported directly to the CEO, who was, at that time,
- 22 Roger Gilbert; is that right?
- 23 A. That's true.
- 24 Q. In 2011, you became CEO?
- 25 A. I did, in April 2011.

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- 1 by your predecessor as CEO, if we could turn to
- 2 FUJ00116969. It is a business update that was produced
- 3 by Roger Gilbert. You would have been Managing Director
- 4 at the time that this was produced.
- 5 **A.** Okay.
- 6 Q. Do you recall this document from your time at Fujitsu?
- 7 A. I don't recall it precisely but some of the things -- in
- 8 reading it prior to arriving here today, some of the
- 9 concepts in there I'm familiar with.
- 10 Q. If we scroll down, please, and over to page 3. Thank
- 11 you very much. One of the objectives in 2011 seems to
- 12 have been to increase the number of 30 million plus
- accounts, and we see there a chart separating out
- 14 private sector and Government. We see "RMG", would that
- 15 be the Royal Mail Group?
- 16 **A.** Yes.
- 17 Q. Would the Post Office fall within that category?
- 18 **A.** It would
- 19 Q. So am I right to understand from this chart that, at
- 20 least as at 2011, the Royal Mail Group was one of the
- 21 biggest clients, one of the largest in terms of the
- 22 amount of money?
- 23 A. Yes, it would. This was a -- if I understand the chart
- 24 correctly, this is accounts with revenues of more than
- 25 £30 million per annum.

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- 1 **Q.** There are a relatively small number, we see it separated
- 2 it by private sector and Government, so in the private
- 3 sector, there aren't that many?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. They're not in alphabetical order. Are we to read into
- 6 that that the Royal Mail Group was the most significant
- 7 in terms of income, or is there some other reason, do
- 8 you think?
- 9 A. I don't know the reason for choosing the order of those
- accounts, there would also have been one with Thompson
- 11 Reuters there, which also would have been very
- 12 significant at the time but I don't understand the order
- 13 of those.
- 14 Q. Thank you. Who were your main points of contact at the
- 15 Post Office, both when you were Managing Director and
- then, subsequently, as CEO?
- 17 A. When I first joined, my main point of contact would have
- 18 been the Chief Operating Officer, who was Mr Mike Young.
- 19 Then, when I was promoted to become CEO of Fujitsu, UK &
- 20 Ireland then there would have been number of people --
- 21 I think Lesley Sewell at some point, there would have
- 22 been Ms Vennells -- and, for a period of time after
- 23 that, there would also have been -- Mike Young would
- 24 still have been in the company for a period of time
- 25 after I became CEO.

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- 1 Executive Committee, and I would imagine a member of the legal community as well.
- Q. Thank you. So likely a General Counsel or equivalentwould also attend those?
- 5 A. I think so.

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- 6 Q. Thank you. Can we please turn to your witness statement
- 7 and paragraph 73, it's on page 24. There's no need for
- 8 you to turn to it; it should come up on the screen.
- 9 It's WITN03570100. Thank you. It's page 24 that I'd
- 10 like to start with. I'm just going to take you to two
  - passages from your witness statement. The first is
- 12 paragraph 73. You say there:

13 "I recall being made aware of subpostmasters' claims

regarding Horizon's lack of data integrity shortly after joining Fujitsu. My understanding at the time was that

these claims were unfounded, that Post Office had been

involved in some proceedings against subpostmasters, and

18 that Fujitsu had assisted Post Office with these

proceedings on occasion. I do not know the details of

proceedings on occas[those] proceedings."

Paragraph 75, please, which is on page 27. If we scroll down, just to the next paragraph, please -- thank

23 you -- you say there:

"While I became aware of subpostmasters' claims

shortly after joining Fujitsu, I did not understand that

- 1 Q. So was your liaison/your relationship when you were CEO,
- 2 largely with your equivalent CEO or perhaps COO?
- 3 A. I would say -- it wasn't that rigid from a hierarchical
  - perspective. I would have spoken to the CEO and to
- 5 other members of the Executive Committee.
- 6 Q. Thank you. That document can come down. Can you assist
  - us with the committees within Fujitsu that might look
- 8 into risks arising from your relationship with the Post
- 9 Office? What were the key committees that you would be
- 10 involved in?
- 11 A. In terms of formal statutory committees, there was
- 12 a corporate governance committee that I recall. There
- 13 was also an Audit and Risk Committee. Then there were
- 14 a number -- if you think about those being statutory
- 15 committees, those were the two.
- 16 Q. Thank you. Would the Post Office be a standing item on
- those committees or would they just be raised on an *ad*
- 18 hoc basis?
- 19  $\,$  **A.** Well, the process of managing risk in the company was
- 20 both top-down and bottom-up, so wherever there was risk,
- you would have expected those to be reflected on the
- 22 risk registers.
- 23 Q. Who typically sat on those committees?
- 24 A. It would have been the chairman of whichever statutory
- 25 entity it was and key members of probably of the
  - g
- 1 Fujitsu was assisting Post Office in proceedings against
- 2 its subpostmasters on a regular basis until later.
- 3 Indeed, I do not recall being aware that Post Office was
- 4 being assisted by Fujitsu until at a meeting Ms Vennells
- 5 asked me to thank my team for its assistance with the
- 6 prosecutions. I did not reveal that I was not aware of
- 7 this assistance. I do not recall the date of this
- this assistance. I do not recall the date of this meeting."
- 8 meeting."
  - You started in 2009, you left in 2019.
- 10 A. Yes.

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- 11 Q. When, approximately, during that period did you become
- aware, first of all, that any prosecutions were taking
- 13 place that Fujitsu had a role in?
- 14 A. I think the word "prosecutions" is very specific, as
- 15 I now understand, and I think probably around the time
- 16 Ms Vennells mentioned it to me, at the time you just
- 17 referenced a few moments ago. However, there is
- 18 a document from 2009 when I first joined, which I think
- 19 would also be quite useful to see.
- 20 Q. Yes. Well, we'll go to that document and I'm going to21 take you chronologically.
- 22 **A.** Okay.
- 23 Q. But you say here, "I don't recall the date of the
- 24 meeting". So it seems as though it certainly became
- prominent to you at a meeting with Ms Vennells, and

- really my question is: when, approximately, would that meeting have taken place?
- A. I can't recall when that meeting -- I mean, clearly it
   must have been after Ms Vennells was appointed CEO of
- the Post Office but I don't recall exactly when thatmeeting was.
- 7 Q. Very approximate? We've got a 10-year period to cover.
- 8 A. It must have been around 2012 or '13.
- 9 Q. Thank you. Do you recall when, if at all, the issue of10 prosecutions was raised at Board level within your firm?
- 11 A. I'm not sure it was.
- 12 Q. Not even until 2019?
- 13 A. Do you mean Fujitsu Board in -- I'm know I'm not14 supposed to ask --
- 15 Q. You assist me. At any level of the various Boards thatwe've already heard about, do you think that
- 17 prosecutions were raised?
- 18 A. I don't think so.
- 19 Q. Let's go chronologically and we're going to start with20 your first few months at Fujitsu. Could we turn to
- 21 FUJ00174184, please. We're going to start in October
- 22 2009. I'm going to start with the bottom email. There
- 23 is an email from Suzie Kirkham, I believe she was the
- 24 Royal Mail Group Account Manager at Fujitsu; is that
- something you recall?

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Fujitsu has twice appeared in court to support Post Office. Only once has Post Office conceded its case, and this was at a time when the audit trails were too short to positive sufficient evidence to refute a subpostmaster's claims.

"In recent weeks a number of subpostmasters are again querying the data integrity of Horizon and are claiming that they are owed money by the Post Office due to inaccurate branch accounts. These subpostmasters are talking to the press (London News) and trying to gain some momentum to support their case -- it's even rumoured that the BBC is considering a Watchdog programme on the subject. Post Office is trying to head off this possible escalation of interest by preparing a stock of simple responses to possible questions from the media, or from interest groups. I have summarised below the timeline that details when Post Office asked Fujitsu for assistance in compiling this information."

She then goes on to give a timeline and we see there the bottom two bullet points on the page, it refers to a conference. She says:

"During the conference call [the Post Office] requested from Fujitsu a short paper to describe how Horizon maintains the integrity of the branch accounts when certain issues affect the branch, [for example]

- 1 A. I do.
- Q. Gavin Bounds, can you assist us with who he because wesee his name on quite a few of these emails.
- 4 A. So Mr Bounds was a senior executive who was responsible
- 5 for the Post Office Account, he was what was known as
- a Business Unit Director and would have worked directlyfor me.
- 8 Q. What was your relationship with him?
- 9 A. I was his immediate line manager.
- 10 Q. In terms of your personal relationship; did you get onwell, did you have a free and frank exchange?
- 12 A. Yes, I would say so.
- 13 Q. She says as follows:

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"I have detailed below a brief summary of a subpostmaster claim that Horizon fails to maintain the integrity of branch accounts if the branch experiences technical issues.

"Horizon has been running ..."

She produces a response. We can see, in fact, the subject is "Horizon Data Integrity publicity -- briefing summary". She says:

"Horizon has been running for around 10 years, during which time Post Office has had to handle a number of legal cases surrounding system integrity, mostly from apparently disgruntled or fraudulent subpostmasters.

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blue screen, hardware failure. Report requested to be given to Dave Smith by 2 October."

Then it refers to Gareth Jenkins. Just pausing there, was Gareth Jenkins somebody who you knew personally?

- 6 A. No. I don't believe I've ever met Gareth Jenkins.
- Q. Was he somebody who you ever emailed directly orcorresponded with directly?
- 9 A. I don't believe so, no.
- 10 Q. "[Fujitsu architect] spent the best part of one day11 completing the report. The finished report was passed
- 12 [and it gives the name] before being sent to Dave Smith.
- Report was sent to Dave Smith on 2 October late morning just prior to the second conference call."

15 If we could scroll down, thank you very much:

16 "I spoke to Andy McLean on 5 October", et cetera.

17 That's where it ends, on 5 October.

18 The final paragraph says:

"In summary, our body of evidence is mature, so we're well-placed to help Post Office today. But when 'Horizon Online' is installed in 2010, much of our existing material will become irrelevant, so allegations of system failures in the future may take more work in preparing evidence or explanations."

So a body of work has been gathered and put together 104

1	in order, it seems, to rebut or answer allegations of
2	for example, system failures.
3	We see, if we scroll to the top of the first page,
4	please, it's sent to you by Gavin Bounds, and he sa

please, it's sent to you by Gavin Bounds, and he says:

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"A heads up, in case questions from Roger and/or the client:

"I asked Suzie, RMG [account manager], to summarise our involvement insisting [the Post Office] rebut subpostmasters' allegations (made public) of flawed data integrity caused by Horizon -- leading to inaccurate accounts and thus monies owed. Please see below."

Do you recall receiving this?

14 A. I don't recall seeing it, I recall some of the things 15 coming from it but I've largely relied on the document 16 provided to me by the Inquiry.

17 Q. Relatively early on in your time at Fujitsu, do you recall somebody bringing to your attention concerns that 18 19 are being raised by subpostmasters about flawed data 20 integrity caused by Horizon?

21 A. Could you repeat the question again, please?

22 Q. Absolutely. Even if you don't remember this specific 23 email, the general topic, complaints from subpostmasters 24 relating to data integrity issues and Horizon, was that 25 something that you were aware of?

scenarios, and descriptions as to how those measures apply in each case."

Were you aware that Fujitsu was providing information to the Post Office that related to Horizon data integrity?

- 6 A. I think I was generally aware that Fujitsu was assisting 7 the Post Office.
- 8 Q. Thank you. Page 7, we can see the "Scenarios" are set 9 out in this document. It says as follows:

"It should be noted that these scenarios are all to do with equipment failures, and these will always be visible to Fujitsu through the event logs which are retained."

So it's not a document that, in any way, goes into what we know as bugs, errors and defects; it only relates to equipment failures at this particular time.

17 Α. Okay.

So this isn't a report that you were aware of? 18

19 A. No.

20 Q. No. Could we please turn to FUJ00156064. Can I just 21 clarify, in relation to your earlier answer, were you 22 aware that Fujitsu was at least providing some degree of 23 assurance to the Post Office with regards to the

24 reliability of Horizon data?

25 A. If I go to the email you showed me, the Suzie Kirkham 107

A. I must have been aware because I have this email in 1 2 front of me but it was not a topic of conversation in 3 the meetings I was involved with in my early days in 4 Fujitsu.

5 Q. I'm going to take you, very briefly, to the report 6 that's referred to from Gareth Jenkins in this email. 7 That's at FUJ00080526. This is the report that's 8 referred in to in that summary, it's entitled "Horizon

9 Data Integrity". It's by Gareth Jenkins, we see there

10 at the top it has both Post Office and Fujitsu logos.

11 Do you recall that being quite a common thing for both 12

parties' logos to be placed on documents?

13 I think it would have been normal practice for whichever 14 customer Fujitsu was engaging with.

15 Q. Thank you. If we scroll down to the bottom we can see 16 the date at the very bottom. It has there, this 17 particular version, 2 October 2009. If we turn over to 18 page 5, please, it explains the "Purpose":

> "This document is submitted to Post Office for information purposes any and without prejudice. In the event that Post Office requires information in support of a legal case Fujitsu will issue a formal statement.

"This document is a technical description of the measures that are built into Horizon to ensure data integrity, including a description of several failure

1 email, it is clear in there there is some type of 2 assistance being provided.

3 Q. Yes, relating to the Horizon system?

4 A. Yes.

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5 Q. That is something that you would have been aware of in 6 your early days/months, as Managing Director?

7 A. I think, Mr Blake, having that -- I clearly received 8 that email, so I must have read that email.

9 Q. Thank you. If we could start on page 2 of this 10 document, please, the bottom email in the chain, this is an email from Suzie Kirkham to Gavin Bounds. Now, this 11 12 is the same substance but is actually slightly updated, 13 so I think the first one we saw was called, I think it 14 may have been referred to as a draft, or something along 15 those lines. It's clear that, by 7 December, there has 16 been some small amendments to that form of words?

If we scroll down, please, over the page, you'll see that I took you to the bullet points before and 5 October was the final bullet point. There's now one more bullet point, which says as follows, it says:

"I spoke with Dave Smith on 3 December and he mentioned that the Data Integrity issue had reappeared. It has been taken up by a Welsh MP who also happens to be a Barrister. He is threatening to bring an Early Day Motion in the House. Dave is meeting him in Parliament

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The Po	
on Thursday, 10 December but at this stage didn't feel	1
he needed any attendance by Fujitsu. However, he was	2
alerting us to the fact that this has reappeared."	3
So in that timeline, amongst other things referring	4
to the Gareth Jenkins integrity report, we're now told	5
that issue has been raised, not only, I think, there was	6
7 earlier reference to newspapers but now also	7
Parlimentarians; is that something you would have been	8
9 aware of?	9
0 A. Could you just scroll back up, please?	10
1 Q. Absolutely. In fact, it may assist, if we go up	11
2 a little bit more, we can see the chain. So it seems as	12
3 though the same document, the same briefing has been	13

respond there on 9 December, saying: "Okay, are you on top of this?"

So it seems as though you've been sent the updated version and are following that up.

sent to you again, the updated version, because you

19 A. Yeah.

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- 20 Q. Is that something you recall?
- 21 A. So I'm not sure I would have had read the email. It 22 looked like the previous email I've received, and then 23 I reply all on here to ask are they on top of it.
- 24 Q. Yes. Can we scroll up, please, and I'm going to read 25 you the rest of the chain. Ann Sinclair replies,

this is hotting up -- so we need to be in sync and both using aligned/supporting messages. Suzie -- can facilitate your introductions here."

This is the response from Ann Sinclair, sent to Gavin Bounds and also Suzie Kirkham. She says:

"Gavin -- following discussions with our press folks and Suzie on Monday we have agreed that:

"We need to downplay this situation as much as possible, we don't want to get too drawn in to the debate as we are only a supplier.

"There is a document that addresses all the technical questions that was produced for [the Post Office] for a meeting with MPs last week.

"We should not contact [the Post Office] Press Office.

"If press contact us, we will send them on to the [Post Office] Press Office and not comment [but]

"We will flag to Grayling, (our Public Affairs agency) to get them to keep their ears open for Parliamentary questions etc.

"We'll keep an eye on this and if it looks like the situation is changing and/or becoming higher profile obviously we will review with you."

Was that approach something that you knew about at the time?

1 sending to you, and she says as follows:

"Gavin -- I'll brief the Press Office. We should prepare an FAQ/statement to have in our back pocket if required, and I also want to explore doing some proactive work with them too, [for example] getting some positive stories out there, building some bridges with the journalists who might pick this up."

Then above that, Mr Bounds emails Suzie Kirkham and he says:

"Suzie -- can you liaise with Ann please." 10

That's Ann Sinclair; who was Ann Sinclair?

- A. I think Ann Sinclair was the Marketing Manager for the 12 Private Sector Division. 13
- Q. Thank you. So within your division, you would have been 14 her ultimate manager? 15
- 16 A. She had a dotted line to me and worked a hard line to 17 the UK & Ireland Marketing Leader.
- Q. Thank you. At this stage, you're now not copied into 18 19 this correspondence?
- 20 A. (The witness nodded)
- Q. I'd like to read the above two emails, so the first one 21 22 directly above says:
- 23 "Ann.
- 24 "Can we also have our Press Office hook up with the 25 [Post Office] Press Office team on this too -- I think
- 1 No, it was not.
- 2 Q. Was it something, as the Managing Director of Fujitsu,
- 3 should have been run past you, that kind of a strategy?
- 4 A. Mr Blake, we put in place, to run each of these
- 5 businesses, senior executives and we expect them to be 6 able to run their businesses accordingly.
- 7 Q. Who is the senior executive that would be responsible 8 for this kind of a policy?
- A. The Business Unit Director for Post Office was 9 10 Mr Bounds.
- Q. Mr Bounds, Gavin Bounds? 11
- 12
- 13 He would ultimately report to you?
- 14 Indeed
- 15 Q. But it's your evidence that, in terms of this kind of 16 a strategy, downplaying the situation, it would be him
- 17 who makes the call on that?
- A. Indeed. I mean, I'm not copied so it's difficult to say 18 19 what they're trying to downplay here.
- 20 Q. Yes. The email to you, though, that additional bullet
- point that I took you to, brings in a Member of 22 Parliament is now concerned. Wouldn't issues such as
- 23 that -- so matters affecting the press, Parliament --
- 24 wouldn't they be matters to raise with the Managing
- 25 Director?

- Probably. I'm not convinced I read that email as it 1 Α. 2 looked exactly like the first email that I'd received.
- 3 Q. Yes, but it's clear that Ann Sinclair has read that
  - email and come up with a strategy and discussed it with
- 5 Suzie Kirkham. Is that not something, given that it
- 6 related to, for example, a Parliamentarian, something
- 7 that -- involving one of your biggest customers -- that
- 8 should have reached your level?

- 9 A. I think it depends on the situation.
- 10 Q. Looking at this situation, what is your view?
- A. The situation from reading the email is that there is --11
- 12 there are no hints in here that the data integrity
- 13 issues raised are real. There's a reference that
- 14 Ms Kirkham makes in her email to say that we have
- 15 a strong body of evidence and there is a document
- 16 produced to show how integrity is maintained in Horizon.
- 17 Q. Yes. We also have London News being interested,
- 18 a Watchdog programme potentially on the horizon and also
- 19 an MP interested. In those kinds of circumstances, we
- 20 have your evidence that it didn't ultimately go to you
- 21 in terms of the strategy but, in terms of whether it
- 22 should or shouldn't have gone to you, what is your view?
- 23 A. Depends on the situation, if the situation --
- 24 Q. I'm telling you the situation.
- 25 If the situation is very, very serious and the team
- 1 I would just like to read some of the content to you and 2
  - see if you are familiar. Are you familiar with this
- 3 particular document it all, other than it being provided
- 4 by the Inquiry?
- 5 A. I don't think I've ever seen this but I can see it from
- 6 information you've provided.
- 7 Q. Looking at the circulation list, who is the person that
  - you would have liaised with the most out of all of those
- 9 people or perhaps who is the most senior of the
- 10 distribution list?
- 11 A. Maz Kostuch is probably the most senior person on that
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- 13 Q. Did they have a direct line of reporting to you?
- 14 A. I think Maz did at that time, yes.
- Q. If we scroll down, I'm just going to read to you a few 15
- 16 paragraphs. So it begins with the terms of reference:
  - "Following the occurrence of a transaction being duplicated on the HNG-X branch database, Stuart Rye and
- 19 Paul Roberts were asked to review the counter
- 20 application architecture and design and ensure that it
- 21 fully supports the need to protect the integrity of
- 22 financial transactions.
- 23 "The scope is focused on the integrity of the
- 24 Counter Application in relation to financial
- transactions captured at the Counter. It does not 25

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- 1 believes that they need my involvement in that, then
- 2 I would expect them to escalate it. If they believed
- 3 that there was no integrity issues and that then
- 4 therefore this is something at play in the media but has
- 5 no substance, then I don't -- there would be no need to
- 6 involve me in that.
- 7 Q. Thank you. I'm going to move on now to early 2010, and
- 8 the Horizon Online pilot. In 2010 you were still
- 9 Managing Director?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Were you quite closely involved in the rollout of
- 12 Horizon Online and the pilots of Horizon Online?
- 13 There were several accounts that needed my attention
- 14 during that period when I joined as Managing Director,
- 15 and Post Office was certainly one of them.
- 16 Q. Yes, I mean, compared to, for example, being the CEO and
- 17 your increasing role in wider regions, when you were
- 18 just Managing Director, just of the private company
- 19 area, would you have been relatively involved in the
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- 21 A. Yes, I think that's fair.
- 22 Q. Could we, please, turn to FUJ00093031. We're going to
- 23 see that is a review that took place on the integrity
- 24 of -- we refer to it as Horizon Online, HNG-X. You're
- 25 not on the circulation list, you're not an author, but

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- extend to data migration or other transient issues caused by the switch from Horizon to HNG-X."
- The "Background":
- 4 "The objective of the [Horizon Online] programme is 5 to develop a system with structural and operational
- 6 characteristics that substantially reduce ongoing
- 7 support and maintenance costs with respect to the
  - current Horizon system."
- 9 Just pausing there, were you aware that one of the 10 objectives, or a key objective, of Horizon Online was,
- 11 essentially, to save costs in the everyday operation?
- Α.
- 12 Yes, I was.
- 13 Q. Thank you.
- 14 "A key component of Horizon Online is the Counter
- 15 Application. In [reference] to the Horizon Counter
- 16 Application, the [online] version retains operational
- 17 data, (eg Reference Data) and business logic, but
- 18 transactional information is stored directly in the Data
- 19 Centre."

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- I'll take you to the next paragraph, it says:
- 21 "It is currently in pilot with nine branches."
- 22 So, at this time, 2010, it was only in 12 branches.
- 23 A. Mm-hm.
- 24 Q. "On 28 January 2010, the Data Reconciliation Service 25
  - process detected an error in a banking transaction.

Subsequent investigations revealed that the branch database had two transactions with different [Journal Seguence Numbers] but the same [Session Seguence Number] for a specific counter on that day but the third party banking system only had one transaction. The clerk did not know that a duplicate transaction had been created."

So reading that, it seems as though the person operating the Horizon platform would not have known that there was this error:

"An analysis of the database has revealed one other occurrence, again at Derby, but on a different day and involving a different clerk. This had not been detected by the [Data Reconciliation Service] as it did not contain a banking component and there there is no other business reconciliation which might have spotted it.

"The net effect would be that the Post Office and the branch records would not match. Where this happens, the Post Office investigates the branch and postmaster, with a view to retraining or even uncovering fraud. It would seriously undermine Post Office credibility and possibly historic cases if it could be shown that a discrepancy could be caused by a system error rather than postmaster/clerk action. [More] importantly, the central database as the system of record would be called into question."

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1 Office but also for individuals, any individuals, who 2 are, for example, investigated by the Post Office? 3

A. Oh, without question, yes.

4 Q. Can we turn to FUJ00094392. If we start on the bottom 5 email, please, and if we go over the page slightly, we 6 can see this is an email from Jean-Philippe Prénovost; 7 were you aware of who that was?

8 A. No.

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9 Q. So he was legal counsel, it seems, within Fujitsu, so 10 internal lawyer. He emails Alan D'Alvarez and he says as follows: 11

"Further to our discussion of Friday, please find below the two comments I had raised ..."

This is commenting on the document we've just seen --

17 A. Okay.

Q. -- and he says as follows: 18

"First paragraph, page 2 -- The following section is potentially problematic [and he quotes there]: 'It would seriously undermine Post Office credibility and possibly historic cases if it could be shown that a discrepancy could be caused by a system error rather than postmaster/clerk action. Most importantly, the central database as a system of record would be called into

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1 Were you aware, in broad terms, of issues cropping 2 up in the rollout that had the potential to call into 3 account the accounting integrity?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Were you aware of the potential for an issue with 6 accounting integrity to affect, as we see there, Post 7 Office Investigations?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Again, as the new Managing Director, why wouldn't this 10 have been brought to your attention?

A. I don't know. What I do know is other issues were 11 12 bought to my attention during the rollout but this was 13

14 Q. Reading that final paragraph, that is quite 15 a significant paragraph, isn't it --

16 It seems to be. Α.

17 Q. -- both for your relationship with the Post Office and also in relation to those complaints that we had heard 18 19 about in that earlier correspondence?

20 A. So my understanding, Mr Blake, is this is about HNG-X 21 and not about Horizon.

22 Yes. Irrespective of whether this relates to Horizon 23 Online or what we know as Legacy Horizon, the statement 24 that is contained in that final paragraph is quite

significant both for your relationship with the Post

question'."

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So that's the bit I just took you to. He says as

"As discussed, there is no need to paint this in the worst possible light. I would suggest the following as being accurate without being unduly alarmist: 'If it could be shown that a discrepancy could be caused by a system error rather than a postmaster/clerk action, it could potentially call into question the effectiveness of the central database as a system of record'."

Quite significantly changing the meaning of that sentence; do you agree with that?

13 Α. Yes. I've not seen this document prior to being shared 14 by the Inquiry but --

15 Q. Yes. You're not copied in. If we scroll up above, 16 there's an answer from Mr D'Alvarez and he says as 17 follows:

> "After review with legal (see email below) two amendments have been made to the documents and, in both cases, the sections referred to have been removed as they do not materially add to the primary purpose of the review which is to determine whether the solution, as designed would protect data integrity."

As I say, you're not on this email chain.

25 A. Mm-hm.

1	Q.	Were you aware of a sensitivity within the business	1		reaching out to Richard in his first few days in the
2		about these issues?	2		role.
3	A.	No.	3		"By way of a briefing for Richard, please review the
4	Q.	Again, would it surprise you, as Managing Director, not	4		following:
5		to be aware of these sensitivities?	5		"[Horizon Online] pilot was progressing well and
6	A.	With hindsight, yes, but that was not shared with me at	6		moved into day 1 of high volume pilot (to 215 branches)
7		the time.	7		on Thursday, 25 March. 208 branches were successful
8	Q.	Looking at the recipients here, who would you have	8		rolled out a good outcome."
9		expected to have shared it with you?	9		It then says:
10	A.	So it's largely from what I can see I don't	10		"Then began a catalogue of outages/issues as follows
11		recognise all of the names it's largely a technical	11		
12		team. I would say probably Maz Kostuch, as I said	12		It has a table of different issues: for example the
13		before, is probably the most senior person.	13		first one we see in that middle column:
14	Q.	Were they on any of the kinds of committees that we've	14		"Two [Horizon Online] service outages affecting all
15		been speaking about?	15		branches."
16	A.	Not to my knowledge.	16		If we look at the bottom entry there, there's
17	Q.	Could we please turn to FUJ00174290 and it's the bottom	17		reference to a client meeting:
18		email I'd like to take you to. We're still with the	18		"The client stated at a meeting on 1 April that they
19		pilot and rollout of Horizon Online, 6 April 2010.	19		would not allow High Volume Pilot to move ahead until:
20		Thank you. So it's the bottom half of page 1, please.	20		"a. They had seen the findings of an independent
21		Mr Bounds sends you a list of issues arising at that	21		report on our CS operations giving them assurance
22		time. He says, as follows:	22		that we were correctly resourced and had our events
23		"Duncan, the new [Post Office] CEO, Dave Smith,	23		reporting under control [also]
24		started today. Mike Young mentioned before he went away	24		"b. Fixes were deployed [for various issues]."
25		that if/when the new CEO arrived he would likely be	25		We see in the right-hand side of that, if we scroll
		121			122
1		up slightly that, in terms of the report on operations,	1		pair; horizon Network banking issue; proxy radius server
2		you now have underway a report that's being written by	2		issue affecting ISDN sites.
3		somebody called Rachel Daka. I think you've said in	3		I just want to read to you the paragraph two
4		your witness statement that she wasn't independent, in	4		paragraphs below. He says:
5		the sense that she wasn't external to Fujitsu; you chose	5		"The above reflects significant issues we've
6		to pursue that internally?	6		experienced over a short time span."
7	Α.	3	7		Just pausing there, were you aware of those kinds of
8	Q.	What was the reason for that?	8		issues being experienced in relation to the rollout of
9	Α.	My understanding was the Post Office Account team wanted	9		Horizon Online?
10		to bring someone in with experience in Fujitsu who was	10	Α.	I would have been aware of, I think, most of these
11		independent of the team that was deploying Horizon	11	_	issues.
12		Online and Rachael was well, you can see here the	12	Q.	"Relationships with the Post Office leadership are tense
13	_	Operations Director for our Retail Business Unit.	13		and we are clearly on the back foot. Dave Smith (as in
14	Q.	Number 3, there is reference there to Belfast data	14		the CIO that has just retired from [the Post Office])
15		centres suffering a power surge and then we come to	15		takes with him a maturity of approach and firsthand
16		a list of things that are to be moved to red alert; can	16		experience of the original rollout of Horizon, his
17		you assist us with what red alert was please?	17		council to Mike Young and the [Post Office] ET was
18	Α.	As I recall, red alert was an internal process that	18		[that's 'Executive Team', I think] was that there were
19		account teams could engage with to bring more of the	19		many large issues back then and that these should be
20		company's resources to bear on the particular issue they	20		expected now"
21	0	were facing.	21		Were you aware, we've had a whole phase looking at
22	Q.	There's reference there to two major incidents, one with	22 23		the original rollout, were you aware of significant
23		Horizon Network banking issues, another with MoneyGram	23 24	٨	issues during the original rollout of Legacy Horizon?  No. I was not. Not at this time.
24 25		issues. Below that, we also have other major incidents, debit card authorisation agent failed in a resilient	24 25	A. Q.	It looks as though Dave Smith was trusted because he had
23		123	20	⋖.	124

		The Post Office Hori
1		experienced the first rollout and was likely to be more
2		accepting of issues this time round. Is that was
3		that your understanding?
3	Α.	I'd never met Mr Smith, no.
5	Q.	I think this was an email sent to you; did you have any
	Q.	
6		thoughts on that at the time?  No. I did not.
7	Α.	,
8	Q.	The reference to relationships with the Post Office
9		leadership being tense, what was your understanding at that time?
10		
11	Α.	I would I think that's about right. We were in the
12		middle of a major rollout. That rollout was already
13		significantly delayed and then we have all of these
14	_	technical issues.
15	Q.	Then it says:
16		"However, we do have a strong supporter in Andy
17		McLean, the [Post Office] Service Director whilst not
18		pleased with where we are he advocates a logical
19		cooperative ethic to overcome issues and is concerned by
20		some of the more emotional reactions he is seeing within
21		[the Post Office]."
22		What did you understand by "Emotional reactions"?
23	Α.	Well, had I have sat in the shoes of either
24		a subpostmaster impacted by this, or on the Post Office
25		side, when the rollout is in progress, I would have 125
		.20
1		that Mr Young did raise the view with us that he would
2		rather cancel the Horizon Online programme and he would
3		go back to the previous version of Horizon. He did not
4		want his operation messed up.
5	Q.	Thank you. I'm actually going to take you to that
6		correspondence now. Could we start with the
7		FUJ00095628, please, and we'll start on page 2. Thank
8		you. There's an email from yourself to Roger Gilbert
9		and Gavin Bounds, and you say as follows:
10		"I spoke to Mike Young on Friday morning, he was in
11		good spirits but remains very concerned about [Horizon
12		Online]."
13		Mr Young has made two points. The first is:
14		"The programme was reviewed at Group level with
15		Mike Young, Dave Smith and the Group Legal counsel and
16		FD discussing options. The legal counsel admitted they
17		have few 'levers' to pull but want some reassurance.
18		The Group input was based on the issues and experience
19		they had with CSC."
20		Are you able to assist us with CSC?

A. That would be Computer Science Corporation, now known as

"Mike gave a balanced view of Fujitsu -- good

relationship, excellent track record of stability,

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DXC."

Q. Thank you:

1		I would have had a similar emotional reaction to it.
2	Q.	"Dave Smith (from Parcelforce) started today, and has
3		met with the [Horizon Online Post Office] team. Our
4		contacts tell us that he is likely to take a more
5		cautious stance towards restarting the pilot. The
6		National Federation of SubPostmasters will not allow any
7		more of their members' branches to be migrated to
8		[Horizon Online] for the time being. The likely way
9		forward is that [the Post Office] will look to deploy
10		[Horizon Online] to all their Crown Offices first, to
11		prove that the system works and to persuade the
12		Federation to continue."
13		So it seems as though there were real tensions at
14		this point about even whether Horizon Online was going
15		to be rolled out to various subpostmasters around the
16		country?
17	A.	So I would agree with the significant tensions. I think
18		the question was, when do you at what point do you
19		roll out Horizon to branches, as opposed to do you only
20		partially roll out the new version of Horizon?
21	Q.	Was that ever a threat from the Post Office, though,
22		that they wouldn't proceed full stop with Horizon
23		Online?
24	A.	So I remember meetings and correspondence with Mr Young
25		and certainly some documents provided by the Inquiry,
		126
1		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made
1 2		
		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made
2		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is
2		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to
2 3 4		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain
2 3 4 5		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they
2 3 4 5 6		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow
2 3 4 5 6 7		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that,
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	A.	positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that, potentially, he may pull the plug on the whole thing?
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	A. Q.	positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that, potentially, he may pull the plug on the whole thing?  He never made that clear. It was, I would say, a threat
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that, potentially, he may pull the plug on the whole thing? He never made that clear. It was, I would say, a threat that was left dangling in the air.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that, potentially, he may pull the plug on the whole thing? He never made that clear. It was, I would say, a threat that was left dangling in the air.  "Their confidence has been knocked due to: "Ongoing issues with Oracle stability
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that, potentially, he may pull the plug on the whole thing? He never made that clear. It was, I would say, a threat that was left dangling in the air.  "Their confidence has been knocked due to: "Ongoing issues with Oracle stability "The data centre outage.
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that, potentially, he may pull the plug on the whole thing? He never made that clear. It was, I would say, a threat that was left dangling in the air. "Their confidence has been knocked due to:  "Ongoing issues with Oracle stability "The data centre outage.  "An outage caused by 'Fujitsu operator error' last week  "Mike has asked for the following:  "1. Based on advice from Group Legal counsel Mike feels he wants some assurance that the [profit and loss]
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		positively engaging with [Post Office] and made a difference to the business making its numbers that is years. However, he has doubts about our ability to wrestle the programme to the ground and they remain worried about the later releases of the software as they relate directly to [Post Office's] ability to grow revenue. His words to me were that he has pressure on him to consider a plan B."  Is Plan B what you were talking about before that, potentially, he may pull the plug on the whole thing? He never made that clear. It was, I would say, a threat that was left dangling in the air.  "Their confidence has been knocked due to: "Ongoing issues with Oracle stability  "The data centre outage.  "An outage caused by 'Fujitsu operator error' last week  "Mike has asked for the following:  "1. Based on advice from Group Legal counsel Mike feels he wants some assurance that the [profit and loss] for the account is sustainable over the short and long

What do you understand by "open book arrangement"?

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- A. For Fujitsu to reveal every last cost item that there is 1 2 assigned to the programme, and I think to the whole 3
- 4 Q. "2. He wants an independent review of the processes, 5 tools and resource on the programme to assure themselves 6 we are genuinely up to it.
  - "3. Finally, he wants Dave Smith to have some dialogue with ..."

I think that's Richard Christou?

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Q. "... so they can test the Japanese Board's commitment to 11 12 the account and programme (conference call or [video 13 conference] would work).

> "My view is it would be difficult, based upon where we are now, for us to resist 1 and 2 although there is some risk in those areas."

So the initial discussions have taken place and your initial view is that, in fact, those first two would be difficult to resist. So the open book and the independent review; is that right?

- 21 A. That's fair, yes.
- 22 Q. If we scroll up, please, to the first page. The very
- 23 top of that at page, please. We see an email from Guy
- 24 Wilkerson. Who was Guy Wilkerson?
- 25 A. I think he was a hybrid legal commercial person on the 129
- 1 But do you recall any reluctance to carry out any form 2 of independent review at that stage?
- 3 A. So -- well, I should be clear. My understanding of 4 this, it was an independent review of the programme and 5 not of data integrity, which I think is important, if 6 I understand this correctly. Then, in terms of our 7 concern, the concern would, certainly in terms of open 8 book, have been another opportunity for Post Office to 9 try to reduce Fujitsu's fees or costs into them, which 10 was a consistent theme of the conversations between the 11 two organisations.

The other risk, I think, for us at the time, was the most important thing to do was resolve the Oracle issue and, diverting resources from the programme, then into an independent review, might have reduced their focus on what was the most important thing, which was the successful rollout, of the HNG-X programme.

Let's look at the subsequent correspondence between you. 18 It starts at FUJ00095658. This is a letter to you from 19 20 Mike Young, 10 May 2010, I will read to you a few 21 passages. The second paragraph starts by saying:

> "It was recognised during this review process that our relationship with Fujitsu is of long standing, has thus far proved fruitful to both parties and continues to play a pivotal role in the successful delivery of

> > 131

Post Office Account. 1

2 Q. He says and he's responding there to Vince Fullwood, who 3 I think has forwarded the earlier chain. He says:

"As discussed, this isn't really a great surprise and I'm sure we'd be doing the same thing if things were reversed. As they suggest, they are not entitled formally to an Open Book Review in my opinion but this would be a confidence measure rather than a contractual arrangement on their part.

"They are hyper-sensitised to the stability issue

He then refers to the open book review wasting a lot of time, and it's this final sentence that I want to ask you about. He says:

"An independent review will throw up all sorts of detail issues that can only delay the programme."

17 Were you aware internally of concerns about carrying 18 out an independent review at this stage?

19 So this is an independent review of the account's 20 financials, Mr Blake, if I read this email correctly.

21 Q. What do you think it's limited to that? I mean, if 22 I take you to the discussion -- in fact, I'll take you 23 to the actual correspondence of Mr Young, so we can look

24 at that. A. Okay.

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Post Office's products and services."

But he then goes on, in the next paragraph, to talk about his requests in relation to the Horizon Online programme. He says:

"We would very much like to see the executive correspondence within Fujitsu related to the recent Red Alert. This, we feel, would give us an understanding of how the Executive Management within Fujitsu are aware and responding to some of the problems we have seen in rollout."

So one of his requests is a bit more transparency from Fujitsu. The second, he says:

"Additionally, we would like you to consider bringing in a qualified independent party and asking them to review and audit how the current programme is being run ..."

This last half of the sentence is important, in the context of what you've just been saying:

"... as well as testing resource and skill levels both on the programme itself and other key initiatives that we have under way with Fujitsu."

So it's both looking at resources and skills of those who are running the programme as well as the overall programme itself; is that right?

25 **A**. That's fair.

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Q. Yes. Then your response is FUJ00096312. If we start on page 2, please -- thank you -- this is your response to that letter. So "Thank you for your letter", it starts.
 Three paragraphs down, it says:

"Since your letter, I am extremely pleased with the progress that has been made. We have located the source of the troubles and taken steps to rectify the issues and we have now recommenced the pilot."

Next paragraph:

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"The cause of the issues that delayed High Volume Pilot was deficiencies with the Oracle product code."

You've explained a lot about the Oracle issue in your witness statement, I'm not going to deal with that today. You say, at the end of that paragraph:

"At this crucial phase of the programme, we can see no benefit and will not be pursuing a third party review."

So you are rejecting the proposal for an independent review at that stage.

- A. Yes, it is, and my understanding is, between Mr Young's letter and this, that between Post Office and Fujitsu, there had been an attempt to agree a review with a third party but it had not come to conclusion.
- Q. Was that because of concerns within Fujitsu that
   an independent review would, in the words of
   133

concerns around the programme, including the Daka review during that period of time, and that we're now back -- and it was clear, the real issue with this is the Oracle code and that's now resolved and we're able to deploy the pilot -- sorry, deploy into high-volume rollout.

**Q.** Could we turn to page 1, please, and we have his response. He says:

"It won't surprise you to learn that I am somewhat disappointed that it took so long to formally reply to my correspondence of 10 May and with the apparent 'sea change' on approach to some of our concerns. As my letter intimated, these letters of concern were brought to the fore in a Royal Mail Group Review of the current Horizon contract. My understanding from our weekly calls was that you had taken advice from KPMG as to how you could go 'open book' with us and therefore didn't foresee a problem in doing so. On the issue of having a qualified independent party audit to evaluate Fujitsu Programme execution, along with staffing levels and skills base, I had been briefed that you had spoken to several entities to pursue this endeavour. Indeed, I was told you were close to agreeing terms with one of these. Additionally, in our calls you will recall I had asked whether there was a possibility of the Post Office 'owning' the terms of reference and again, this was

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1 Mr Wilkerson, throw up all sorts of detail issues that 2 can only delay the programme?

3 A. I don't believe so.

4 Q. What was your belief as to the reason why an independent5 review at that stage was not to be agreed to?

A. So during that period you have two things. You have
 about six weeks period of time-ish -- you might correct
 me -- where, between Fujitsu, Post Office and third
 parties to agree a scope and terms of reference, and
 that was not possible during that time.

I think the other thing, Mr Blake, is, by the time that this letter goes back from me to Mr Young, it's clear what the real issue with the programme was and the real issue with the programme was the Oracle code, which has since been fixed.

16 Q. You then continue in this email:

17 "You will have seen the tremendous effort from18 Fujitsu.

"Thank you for your offer of assistance over RedAlert ... that has now been lowered", et cetera.

21 So, effectively, trying to close off the issues that 22 Mr Young has raised in his letter is that a fair -- or 23 to say that they have already been addressed or don't 24 need addressing?

25 **A.** I think that we have taken measures to address the

something you were going to strongly consider.

"As it stands now, I feel I have been led down a journey on a number of months, just so that you can now say, 'no'. This does not reflect well on our relationship and will not be well received in the next review. I have as a matter of course, been keeping both the Post Office Executive and the Group Executive aware of the progress I was told we were making in these areas."

Just pausing there, the evidence that you've given in relation to your response was that things had changed, problems were over by then --

13 **A.** Mm-hm.

14 Q. -- and that they weren't necessary. It seems to have
 15 come as quite a surprise to Mr Young; were you aware of
 16 that?

17 A. I think -- well, you can see from his -- from his email
 18 to me that he is disappointed that we have, at that
 19 point, pushed back on his requests.

Q. There seems to be somewhat of a gulf between you as towhether matters are resolved or not resolved?

A. I would say, Mr Blake, the matters were resolved becausethe programme, at that point, was back up and running,

24 and, as I said, the key area that was causing the issues

in the programme here was the Oracle software code.

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"It is now even more imperative that my Managing Director gets a view from the Japanese Board on just how they feel this relationship is progressing. We would like to see if the meeting between Dave Smith and Richard can be brought forward to a date closer than the current August date.

"In the meantime can I suggest you and I get together in person some time next week and talk thorough where we are."

Were matters ever raised with the Japanese Board along the lines proposed here?

13 My understanding is Richard was aware of the issues we A. 14 were facing with Post Office and was supportive of 15 a meeting with Mr Smith and Mr Young.

16 Q. Are you aware of that taking place?

17 A. I vaguely recall that it did.

Q. Can we, please, turn to FUJ00096238. If we scroll down, 18 19 please, thank you, we can see Andy McLean. Who was Andy

20 McLean?

21 A. I'm not quite sure.

22 Q. Okay. He is emailing Gavin Bounds and raises issues 23 with costs that are being incurred by the overrun. If 24 we scroll over to the first page, we're in the same time 25 period -- we're actually slightly back in time now.

carefully considered -- [so] you know such a precedent if set by [the Post Office] to its subpostmasters might make [the Post Office] liable for compensation to subpostmasters in all future cases where the service is interrupted ..."

Just pausing there, it seems as though you've had a conversation with Mike Young about potentially providing some sort of compensation or money to those subpostmasters who were affected by problems in the rollout; is that right?

A. So my understanding is that Mr Young and I had 11 a conversation where we left with different views of the 12 13 same -- of the same conversation, and Mike was under the 14 impression that we would pay compensation directly to 15 subpostmasters.

Q. Yes. This draft being sent on a without-prejudice 16

17 basis, looking at this and looking at the earlier emails

that I've taken you to, it seems as though, in June of 18

19 2010, things were quite bad between yourselves and the

20 Post Office, potentially leading even to litigation. Is

21 that your recollection?

22 A. I don't know if, at that time, it would have been as 23 tense as earlier on in 2010.

24 So there was a worse time in 2010?

A. I think the early part of 2010 was difficult for both --25

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A. Okay.

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2 Q. We're on 18 June. This is American format, so it should be 18 June 2010, and it's from Mr Bounds to you, and he 3 4 says:

"I will be sending this to Andy McLean at [the Post Office] later today."

It's headed "Without Prejudice", and he says, for

"We are greatly encouraged by the recent restart on [the] pilot rollout and we are hopeful that the programme will now move forward to a successful and uninterrupted conclusion. Despite this, it is acknowledged that getting to this point has caused us to move beyond the period covered by the last arrangements made regarding the schedule and, like you, we would like to discuss this to ensure our financial position is clear."

I just want to read to you that penultimate paragraph there. He proposed to say:

"I have had confirmation from Duncan [regarding] his and Mike Young's conversation, unfortunately no such agreement was reached. Just to be clear, while I can sympathise with the intention behind your suggestion, Fujitsu is not contractually liable in any way, any measures agreed without prejudice would have to be very

1 was difficult for both organisations and for 2 subpostmasters.

3 Q. Again, is that due to issues during the rollout --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- technical issues affecting subpostmasters?

6 A. (The witness nodded) Yeah.

7 MR BLAKE: Sir, I think that's an appropriate time to take 8 our first afternoon break.

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Okay. 9

MR BLAKE: If it could be for ten minutes, please. 10

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes. So where does that take us to? 11

MR BLAKE: 2.50, please. 12

13 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Fine, yes.

14 MR BLAKE: Thank you very much.

15 (2.38 pm)

16 (A short break)

17 (2.51 pm)

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MR BLAKE: Thank you, sir, can you see and hear me? 18

SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Yes, thank you. 19

20 MR BLAKE: Excellent.

21 Mr Tait, just to summarise where we are, we went to 22 a document in 2009 and I think the position was you 23 recognised that there were complaints from 24 subpostmasters relating to integrity and that you were

broadly aware of those, albeit not necessarily paying

- 1 much attention to the particular emails that I took you 2 to; is that right?
- 3 A. I think that's fair.

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- 4 Q. Then 2010, we've seen issues with the pilot and the 5 rollout, and tensions between the Post Office and
- 6 Fujitsu in respect of that.
- A. That's also true. 8 Q. Could we, please, turn now to FUJ00174378. We're still 9 in 2010 but now we're in the summer of 2010, 22 July 10 2010, so a month after the documents that we were just looking at. You are sent an email from Gavin Bounds to 11 12 yourself and others, entitled "Channel 4 [documentary] 13 next week [regarding Post Office] and our Horizon

system -- heads up". It says as follows:

"[Post Office] has just informed us that they are commenting back to Channel 4 on a documentary to be aired next [Friday regarding] the plight of a few subpostmasters who have claimed that Horizon (our system) was the cause of financial irregularities that led to them losing their jobs. This appears to be related to Horizon and not HNG-X and also are not related to the service interruptions we experienced during March/April.

"[Post Office] will send us the comments they have made tomorrow. Verbally [Post Office] has confirmed to 141

1 point would have been a -- was previously Richard's CFO 2 and was now in some type of business assurance role; 3 I don't know who Matsuzawa-san is, Mr Matsuzawa.

- 4 Q. So are they based in the Japanese part of Fujitsu or are 5 they based in the UK?
- 6 A. I think, at that point, Mr Kamata would have been based 7 in London, Mr Harris would also have been based in 8 London, I don't know where Matsuzawa-san was, and the 9 others the other Japanese people I don't know, it looks 10 like they were based in London. Roger Gilbert was my 11 boss in London; Steve Clayton was, I believe, Roger's 12 CFO based in London; Richard Christou, at that point, 13 was probably on his way to Japan or already being in 14 Japan; and Philip Oliver, I believe, was also based in 15
- Q. Thank you. The author says: 16

London.

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"Although it is not clear if we are involved in this matter at this moment, I would like you to work with Roger and his team to clarify what is going on. This article has been already picked up by [Fujitsu] Tokyo."

We will scroll down and see what the story is but, when it says "picked up by [Fujitsu] Tokyo", typically how would that happen?

24 I guess Fujitsu Tokyo would either have picked up 25 something in the media or would have been informed by 143

1 us that these cases are known to them and they see no 2 cause for concern. In case we are approached -- as 3 usual -- we should refer all questions back to the [Post 4 Office] PR team."

Do you recall receiving this email?

6 A. I do not.

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- 7 Q. Do you recall, in general terms, there being a Channel 4 8 documentary in July 2010?
- 9 A. I didn't watch it.
- 10 Q. Do you recall there being a documentary at that time, 11 learning about it around that time?
- A. I received the email, Mr Blake, so I must have been 12 13 aware at the time.
- 14 Q. Mr Bounds, he wasn't a technical expert at Fujitsu, was 15 he?
- 16 No. Α.

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- 17 Q. Could we, please, turn now to FUJ00156195. Very similar 18 time, we're now on 5 August. If you scroll down to the 19 bottom of page 2, please. Thank you. We have an email
- 20 from Roger Gilbert to you and Mr Bounds asking for you
- 21 and Gavin to provide a brief on what follows below. Can 22 you assist us with who is on the distribution list
- 23 below, please, where they are, which office they are in?
- 24 A. Sure. So Mr Kamata was essentially Mr Christou's Chief 25 Financial Officer; Brian Harris, I think was -- at that 142

1 Fujitsu in Europe or very occasionally a customer might 2 have written directly to senior executives in Japan.

3 Q. Thank you, if we scroll down, we can see that it's 4 a news article, "Post Office faces legal action over 5 accounts IT", and it refers there to Accountancy Age. 6 It says:

> "Accountancy Age has learned a group of subpostmasters have joined together to bring legal action against the Post Office. Court papers are expected to be filed in the coming weeks.

"The action originates with the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance and is over the use of [Fujitsu] accounting software made for the Post Office by Fujitsu.

"A number of subpostmasters have lost their positions over alleged accounting irregularities, while some have also faced fraud allegations in the courts.

"But the subpostmasters claim that errors in the system software are to blame."

19 If we scroll down to the bottom of that page, it 20 savs:

> "The JFSA has expressed concern that the accounts of any subpostmasters have not been examined for up to eight years, which it believes would highlight the system's problems."

At the bottom of the page, it says:

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"Allegations about Horizon first appeared in October last year when 30 subpostmasters came forward ..."

Then it has at the bottom, "IN OUR VIEW", so that's in Accountancy Age's view, if we scroll down to the bottom of the page, please:

"IN OUR VIEW

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"Rarely has there been a more pressing need for a forensic accountant to audit an accounting system. With a High Court battle on the cards, and various smaller courts around the country all calling for an audit, the Post Office now faces compelling claims to undertake a serious audit of its IT. The argument is becoming almost impossible to ignore."

If we go back to page 2, please. Just below that, we have the CEO of Fujitsu sending this to you and to the COO, Gavin Bounds, asking for a brief. Then we have, on page 1, the brief. I'm going to take some time to take you through this email. So Mr Bounds has sent it to you:

"Roger/Duncan ..."

So to the CEO and to you:

"Summary -- no cause for immediate concern, this is the latest in a long line (even preceding automation) of articles and/or challenges to [the Post Office] regarding its accounting systems."

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has been found to be at fault although the judge has left open the possibility that if there is an error anywhere, it is only likely to be in the processes which are Post Office's. The defence counsel is currently using this to request further system information but the general view is that he is fishing for problems rather than having any particular proof of error."

The next paragraph:

"Post Office is handling the case and all communications with the public ... [Post Office's] position (validated yesterday and today) is that they are not going to respond to this article on the basis that Accountancy Age only has a small circulation -although they are also aware that it is on the web. Their view is that if they respond to every article on this topic it only as credence to the claim. Post Office also stated that they are confident that the integrity of the Horizon system is secure. They will always investigate every case that is raised by the subpostmasters and to date they have never found the system to be flawed. If necessary, Post Office will fight each individual case through the courts. In all formal responses to these allegations, Post Office never mentions Fujitsu unless they are asked to provide an expert witness."

effectively franchises. Postmasters are mainly paid 4 based on the number of transactions of each type that 6 they perform. Post Office takes a fairly firm stance with any accounting discrepancies to prevent fraud but

there is a steady stream of court cases and almost

"Post Office owns relatively few of the actual post

office branches in the UK, most of the branches being

He sets out the Fujitsu position:

9 weekly stories in the minor or local press covering 10 those cases.

> "Fujitsu is obligated to support Post Office, where requested to do so, by either providing system information to support the cases or, in some cases, expert witnesses to testify as to the measures within the systems to ensure that the data being relied on is as originally entered. This has been going on for a number of years with little incident.

"As reported in the article, recently accused postmasters have become more organised and a case in West Byfleet is being used to test potential arguments."

That's the prosecution of Seema Misra.

22 A.

23 Q. "We have been providing information and an expert 24 witness at Post Office's direction. The outcome so far 25 is understood to be that neither Post Office nor Fujitsu 146

I just want to read to you this final paragraph: "They did recently issue a private statement to

Channel 4 ..."

4 So that's the Channel 4 programme --

5 A. Okav.

6 Q. -- that was mentioned in that earlier email:

"... after which they withdrew a programme they were planning on the subject."

9 So the Channel 4 notification on the 22 July seems 10 to have not have taken place --

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. -- it seems to have been withdrawn:

> "This is included below and has been released to us on the basis that we do not circulate this beyond those executives with an immediate need to know."

This the private statement that was released to Channel 4:

"As discussed here is a copy of the statement that was sent to Channel 4 News the other week. I am happy for you to use this in order to address the concerns of your executives in Japan ..."

Just pausing there, do you recall concerns being raised by executives in Japan at this stage?

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24 A. So I don't know. I'm assuming this refers to the Japanese people referenced in the email or in 25

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- communication with the Post Office. I don't know. 1
- 2 Q. Did you at this stage have any communications with 3 executives in Japan about --
- 4 A. I didn't, Mr Blake, but my reporting line was through to
- 5 Mr Gilbert, then he reported to Richard Christou and
- 6 Richard Christou was on the Executive Committee of
- 7 Fujitsu in Japan at that time.
- 8 "... however, I need to ask that this doesn't get
- 9 circulated around Fujitsu or appear in any way in
- 10 internal publications -- this is because [Channel 4]
- didn't run the article so our statement [hasn't] been 11
- 12 publicly released."

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Their statement said:

"Virtually all the UK's 12,000 post office branches operate entirely professionally, using the Horizon system, without any accounting discrepancies and without accumulating abnormal debts, and it is clearly in the interests of both our customers and the vast majority of subpostmasters that in the very few instances where there is evidence that the finances of a branch are not properly managed or where money has gone missing, Post Office Limited must fully investigate, and take necessary action, including legal action in the last resort. The decision to prosecute is not taken lightly

and in every case where action has been taken no court

1 Horizon. This is unlikely to prevent similar 2

investigations into the replacement system at a later

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- 3 stage."
- 4 So bringing everything that we've been looking at 5 together, within your first year at Fujitsu, you were 6 aware of complaints from subpostmasters relating to
- 7 Horizon integrity, correct?
- 8 A.
- 9 Q. You were aware of publicity in trade magazines and in other articles as well?
- 10 A. Yes.
- You were aware of Fujitsu providing some support to the 12
- Post Office, albeit unclear the extent of that support? 13
- 14 A. Yes

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- Q. It didn't register with you that that included 15
- 16 prosecution support at that stage; is that right?
- 17 A. Also true.
- 18 Q. I think in your witness statement, you've said that you
- 19 only vaguely recall this particular issue; is that
- 20 right?
- A. That is also right. 21
- 22 Q. Given that it's been raised, picked up by Fujitsu in
- 23 Tokyo, given all of the details that we see here, why do
- 24 you think it was not a significant issue on your
- 25 particular agenda?

1 has found evidence to believe that the Horizon system's 2 integrity to be deficient."

3 Just pausing there, we're now in August 2010. By that stage, were you aware that Post Office was 4 5 prosecuting subpostmasters based on Horizon data?

- 6 Yeah, I'm not sure I was.
- 7 Q. Even on receiving this?
- 8 A. Even on receiving this.
- I'll read to you the final paragraph of that statement, 9 Q. 10 they say:

"We are continuing to upgrade the system to make sure it meets the growing demands of the financial services products provided by today's post offices. Whilst implementing changes it will inevitably have caused some inconvenience, it has not in any way affected the integrity of the system, which is fundamentally more accurate and less open to abuse than the old-fashioned paper based systems it replaced'.

"Finally, Post Office does not publish details of prosecutions of subpostmasters."

Mr Bounds continues, he says:

"It is also worth noting that Horizon is due to be retired and replaced by [Horizon Online] in the next month or so -- this is primarily for cost saving reasons and was not driven by any technical problems with

- Because, if I go back to the emails when I first joined
- 2 the company, it's evident from the Chief Operating
- 3 Officer of the Post Office that he says Horizon is
- 4 great, stable and the users have nothing but praise for
- 5 it. You can see that in some of the documents you've
- 6 provided for me. The Suzie Kirkham note is clear that
- 7 we have -- that Fujitsu has a strong body of evidence
- 8 that there are no integrity issues. And then, when you
- get each of these events, like the Channel 4 programme 9
- 10 you referred to and this, it's made clear by senior
- executives inside Fujitsu, and I think, also as I said 11
- 12 from the customer, that there is no issue.
- 13 Q. In quite a few places in your witness statement you rely
- 14 on assurances from the Post Office that there aren't
- 15 issues.
- 16 Yes. Α.
- Isn't that looking at it from the wrong way round? 17 Q.
- 18 No, I don't believe it is.
- 19 We saw, for example, in 2009 Gareth Jenkins providing Q.
- 20 that Fujitsu integrity report. So there's certainly
- 21 information going from Fujitsu to the Post Office to
- 22 reassure them about the integrity of Horizon. So isn't
- 23 saying Post Office didn't raise any problems, isn't that
- 24 the tail wagging the dog?
- 25 A. My view, Mr Blake, is system integrity relies on two

1 fundamental components: the first one is that the 2 supplier must do their utmost to make sure that system 3 works and to monitor it accordingly and, at the same 4 time, it is the responsibility of the customer also to 5 take seriously the issues that are raised by their 6 customers. And when you put those two things together, 7 as it did for the vast majority of customers that 8 I engaged with, that worked.

So it is the responsibility of both organisations to make sure that this system works and to engage with each other genuinely and openly when there are issues.

12 Q. In terms of your organisation, providing that13 reassurance, where were you getting that from?

point, I was being given a reassurance.

- 14 A. I was getting that up the line but, if I take a step
  15 back, so I could have been made aware of integrity
  16 issues in a number of ways: so our governance processes,
  17 through escalations up through the line, either the
  18 technical line or the business line that reported to me,
  19 and I was getting blanks from each of those particular
  20 lines, where I could have been alerted, or more to the
- 22 Q. Who by?

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A. Well, you can see some of the names we've discussed so
 far, who have been referenced in the documents so far
 today.

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- A. I'm not sure I would call my relationship with Mr Young
   close in a chummy way, and you can see from some of the
   documentation this morning that it was the opposite of
   that at times.
- 5 Q. Who was Stephen Long? Can you remind us?
- A. So if my memory serves me correctly, at this point,
   Mr Bounds has moved off the Post Office Account,
   post-the successful deployment of Horizon Online, and is doing another role inside the Private Sector Division,
   and he has been replaced by Mr Stephen Long.
- 11 Q. Thank you. The Inside Out South report is the Nick
   Wallis report where it begins with looking at Seema
   Misra's case, so the case that we've already seen
   referenced in that email.
- 15 **A.** Yes.
- Q. She was in prison at the time, it has her husband crying in that programme; it then moves on to Jo Hamilton's case and interviews her; complaints about your product, the Horizon system; also interviews with Parliamentarian James Arbuthnot expressing his concerns. I think you've said in your statement that you don't recall watching that programme; is that right?
- 23 A. That is right.
- 24 Q. Again, the Managing Director of a company that provides
   25 a system that is at the centre of the complaints linked
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- Q. We'll look at more but let's say at this stage who, inparticular, are you getting reassured by?
- 3 A. Well, I'd say, so far, principally, you can see two4 people. You can see Mr Bounds and you can see Mr Young.
- 5 Q. So Mr Bounds from the Fujitsu side and Mr Young from the6 Post Office side?
- 7 **A.** Yes.
- Q. Could we please turn to FUJ00174417. We're now in
   February 2011. You're still Managing Director, you
   haven't yet become CEO at this stage?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. An email from Mr Young to yourself and also to Stephen13 Long and it says:
- 14 "Guys

I need you to take a look at this if you haven'tseen the programme already."

He forwards you the link to the Inside Out Southprogramme. He says this:

"Undoubtedly, Horizon integrity remains a core to our safe operation and, to date, nothing has surfaced that suggests there is any evidence that the system is flawed in any way. Can we briefly just talk through these latest developments."

Now, first of all, "Guys", quite an informal, close relationship, it seems?

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- to a BBC article -- so not just now a small trade
   magazine of any sort, a respected national
   broadcaster --
- 4 **A.** Yes.

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- 5 Q. -- why is it that you wouldn't have looked at that?
- A. I think it's in that the paragraph, just underneath the
   link to the iPlayer, in the second line, you can see well, sorry, let me read:

"... nothing has surfaced to suggest there is any evidence that the system is flawed in any way."

11 Mr Blake, this isn't from someone relatively junior 12 in the Post Office; this is the Chief Operating Officer 13 of the Post Office.

- Q. But the reporting is about your product. How is it that
   you don't have curiosity about what the BBC are saying
   about your own product, irrespective of what the client
   is saying?
- A. Mr Blake, I think I showed curiosity in my job day to
   day and had this have had a sense in here that I should
   have dug further, after being reassured now on several
   occasions there were no issues, this does not tell me,
- "Duncan, you need to take a deeper look into this".
- Particularly, I am being reassured by a very seniorcustomer.
- 25 **Q**. We saw at the very beginning that chart that showed the 156

(39) Pages 153 - 156

1	important customers for Fujitsu, the £30 million plus
2	customers: a very small number of customers. Was there
3	regular reporting about your other customers that's
4	critical of your product?

A. I would have issues raised to me quite regularly and, depending on how they came to me and my assessment then from what I saw, I would intervene. I intervened during this period of time, personally, on a very serious issue with Thompson Reuters, which meant that we ended up between the two of us cancelling our agreement.

I remember another issue with a customer where there'd been one issue in an account balance in about 10 years that was escalated to me and that was one issue in 10 years, and we resolved that issue within about three weeks.

- 16 Q. Had those been raised by Computer Weekly, you being
  17 a computer firm; had they been raised by the BBC, the
  18 national broadcaster?
- A. On the second example I gave to you then, no, it hadn't,
   because the customer had spotted the issue with
   an account balance and brought it to Fujitsu's
   attention. On the first matter, I believe the Thompson
   Reuters issues were in certain trade press, but I can't
- **Q.** Here we are, the BBC having an entire episode dedicated

a receipts and payments mismatch and also resulted in discrepancies being lost."

Just pausing there, before you made a distinction between issues relating to Legacy Horizon and Horizon Online, now we have an issue with Horizon Online.

A. Okay.

7 Q. Rollout has taken place by this time:

"The background to this is the fact that there was a BBC documentary broadcast on Monday, 7 February 2011 reporting on postmasters being unhappy about being pursued for losses by postmasters on Horizon.

"It should be noted that the issues described here relate to [Horizon Online] and that the implementation of the accounting mechanisms in the two systems is totally different (but they do produce the same reports and support the same business process)."

If we go over the page, there is a summary of what the receipts and payments mismatch is. The first bullet point says:

"There will be a receipts and payments mismatch corresponding to the value of discrepancies that were 'lost'.

"Note that if the user doesn't check their final balance report carefully they may be unaware of the issue since there is no explicit message when a receipts 159

to the cases of subpostmasters, including one who was currently in prison. On reflection, was that not a link that you should have pressed, not just in hindsight, but simply knowing what you knew at the particular time?

- A. I wished I had looked at this. It might have given me
   a different perspective. But, at the time, both through
   my -- the line through to me and the line from the
   customer to me, and our business assurance systems,
   there were no red flashing lights that said I should get
   involved any more than I did.
- 11 Q. Do you not see that as a lack of curiosity at this time,12 given that you were sent that link?
- 13 A. No, because of the sentence that's immediately14 underneath the link.
- 15 Q. I'm going to take you to some documents that are around the same kind of time, so we can see what was going on at Fujitsu around that time. Can we start with
  18 FUJ00081527. So this is 11 February. It's a report that has been written by Gareth Jenkins on what is known as the receipts and payments mismatch bug,
  20 "Introduction":

"The purpose of this note is to document a request we have had from Post Office in terms of presenting details of what happened as a result of a bug in [Horizon Online] in September 2010 which caused

and payments mismatch is found on the final balance ..."

Then three bullet points:

"The local suspense will have no knowledge of this specific discrepancy.

"The opening figures for the discrepancies in the new period will be zero rather than the actual value of the discrepancy.

"[Third] The data used for the BTS will also have a zero value for discrepancies at the end of the period. When the BTS is produced, this will result in a similar receipts and payments mismatch."

At the bottom of the page here, it says:

"The problem appears to have affect 62 branches and details have been provided to Post Office Limited of all the BTS and SU Rollover Reports for these branches until they were clear of the issue."

Looking at this, it seems as though certainly Fujitsu were aware of a bug that affected accounting integrity in 62 branches; would you accept that?

- **A.** Yes
- **Q.** Was this something that you were aware of at the time?
- 22 A. I was not.
- Q. Could we please turn to POL00028838. This is an earlier
   report from 2010 on the same issue: the receipts and
   payments mismatch issue. Can you assist us, in terms of
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(40) Pages 157 - 160

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1	the attendees, were there any there who were
2	sufficiently senior to report to you?

- 3 **A.** No.
- 4 Q. We can see for example, Mike Stewart, "Fujitsu SDM"; can you assist us with what the "SDM" might be?
- 6 A. That I believe stands for Service Delivery Manager.
- 7 Q. Thank you. So none of those people would report to you.
- 8 Would they in some way be in the reporting line to you,
- 9 though?
- 10 A. This is in 2010, I think you were saying.
- 11 Q. Yes.
- 12 A. No, the way Fujitsu UK were structured then was that the
- 13 technical resources worked for outside of my line, so
- 14 they reported -- there were two divisions that I think
- 15 were relevant to Post Office. There was the
- 16 Applications Division and there was a division called
- 17 CORE. This where all the technical and monitoring
- 18 people who run the services, they were based in those
- 19 two divisions, I run private sector, and those three
- 20 divisions report directly to Mr Gilbert. So the
- 21 technical people would not report to me until I was made
- 22 CEO of Fujitsu.
- 23 Q. So up until April 2011, they wouldn't report to you but,
- by April 2011, they would all report to you.
- 25 A. That is true.

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1 Solution One, and that was:

"Alter the Horizon branch figure at the counter to show the discrepancy. Fujitsu would have to manually write an entry value to the local branch account.

"Impact -- When the branch comes to complete next trading period they would have a discrepancy which they would have to bring to account.

"Risk -- This has significant data integrity concerns and could lead to questions of 'tampering' with the branch system and could generate questions around how the discrepancy was caused. This solution could have moral implications of Post Office changing branch data without informing the branch."

Now, this is the 2010 document, and we've also seen the 2011 document.

- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. As Managing Director in 2010, or as CEO in 2011, would18 you have expected that the receipts and payments
- 19 mismatch issue would have been brought to your
- 20 attention?
- A. I would expect discrepancies of this nature to have been
   raised up the line inside Fujitsu, yes.
- Q. Would you have been expecting them to be raised alongthe line to you?
- 25 A. Yes.

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Q. Yes. This is detailed in the other note that I've taken you to, the later note, but I'll just go through a few points in this, and this is a document the Inquiry is very familiar with, "What is the issue?":

5 "Discrepancies showing at the Horizon counter 6 disappear when the branch follows certain process steps, 7 but will show within the back end branch account. This 8 is currently impacting ... 40 branches."

9 So in 2010 it was only 40 branches and then the 10 number seems to have grown on the --

- 11 A. Yes, okay.
- 12 Q. Can we go over the page, please, "Impact":

"The branch has appeared to have balanced, whereas in fact they could have a loss or a gain.

"Our accounting systems will be out of sync with what is recorded at the branch.

"If widely known could cause a loss of confidence inthe Horizon system by branches.

"Potential impact upon ongoing legal cases wherebranches are disputing the integrity of Horizon data.

21 "It could provide branches ammunition to blame22 Horizon for future discrepancies."

23 If we scroll down, we see there various solutions 24 that are proposed, and one that the Inquiry has looked 25 at in quite a lot of detail is that first solution,

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- 1 Q. Is that both in 2010 and in 2011?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Why do you think it was that it wasn't raised with you?
- 4 A. I do not know. And it looks -- and Mr Blake, I can --
- just to make sure I understand the document correctly,
- 6 this also looks like this is Post Office personnel on
- 7 here as well as Fujitsu personnel --
- 8 Q. That's correct.
- 9 A. -- and that could have triggered an escalation, either
   10 up the customer organisation or up the Fujitsu line.
- 11 Q. Yes, and doesn't appear to have?
- 12 **A.** No.
- 13 Q. We're still looking at exactly the same time period.
- 14 Could we please turn to FUJ00156432. You'll recall the 15 receipts and payments mismatch document from Gareth
- 16 Jenkins was 11 February 2011.
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. The first one that I took you to. I'm going to be19 sticking to 11 February 2011, and we have there another
- 20 report that has been drafted by Gareth Jenkins and this
- 21 is in relation to an ongoing court case. It says:

"I have been asked by Post Office Limited to produce
 a [report] to 'Technical expert's report to the court
 prepared by Charles McLachlan, a Director of Amsphere

25 Consulting Limited', which I received on Thursday,

1 11 February 2011." 2 I think it is your evidence that you had no idea, at 3 this time, that that was going on, that Mr Jenkins was 4 at assisting in court cases providing evidence, 5 responding to, in this case, an expert's report. 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. That was the case of McQue. Could we please turn to 8 POL00329433. We're still on 11 February. It seems 9 quite a busy day. POL00329433. This is a letter 10 produced by the Criminal Law Division of the Royal Mail Group to a defendant in a criminal case, so that's 11 12 Ms McQue, Carlisle Crown Court: 13 "As you are aware when the matter was last before 14 the court the court ordered a final defence expert 15 report", et cetera. 16 If we go down to the bottom of the page, it makes 17 clear in this letter that: 18 "Although the prosecution and defence experts have 19 endeavoured to produce a joint report this cannot be 20 21 So the experts have produced their reports and 22 they're in disagreement about the Horizon system? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Could we please turn to FUJ00156443. We're still on 25 11 February. I'm not suggesting you saw this particular 1 it's your evidence that you weren't aware of that? 2 A. That is also true. 3 Q. Could we turn to FUJ00153750. This is all -- even this email, the end of this chain, is the same date --4 5 11 February 2011. 6 A. Okay. 7 Q. So this is still while you are Managing Director of the 8 private part of Fujitsu --9 A. Q. -- with Post Office as one of your main clients? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. If we please turn to page 3., back to 7 February, so the 12 day of the BBC broadcast, and this Penny Thomas; did you 13 14 know Penny Thomas? A. No, I did not. 15 Q. No? She, if we scroll down, was a Security Analyst at 16 17 Fujitsu. She is emailing colleagues. If we scroll up we can see to Gareth Jenkins, and others. We have 18 19 already seen Jean-Philippe Prénovost's name, I think he 20 was a lawyer. Do you recognise any of those names at 21 22 A. I think the only name that would have been somewhat

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19 June 2024 document at all. This is Post Office --Okay. -- correspondence, a Royal Mail correspondence. Again, more Royal Mail correspondence, this time in the case of Humphrey, same date. The letter says as follows: "Both defendants pleaded guilty on 11 December 2009, however the calculation of the total loss was disputed and the case proceeded to a Trial of Issue ..." That finally came before the court and it outlines there the sentence that was imposed. So Mr Humphrey was sentenced to 27 months' imprisonment; Mrs Humphrey was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. If we scroll down please, we can see in the letter the lawyer from Royal Mail says: "This is another case where Horizon was challenged which resulted in a considerable amount of additional work by Gary Thomas. His efforts, together with those of Gareth Jenkins (Fujitsu), are evidenced by the successful outcome in this case." So it's very clear that on 11 February, or on or around 11 February, there is direct assistance from Fujitsu --Yes Q. -- in relation to criminal prosecutions, and I think Penny Thomas says as follows, she says: "All "There was an interesting article featured on the local radio station, BBC Surrey, this morning and I listened while travelling to work. "Misra, a convicted subpostmistress, now pregnant and serving a jail sentence in Bronsville [sic] Prison for theft and false accounting from the West Byfleet planning to take civil action against the Post Office

Post Office and 55 other subpostmasters/mistresses are because of the flawed accounting system used at the Post Office outlets. There are to be 6 test cases, South Warnborough was identified as one.

"There was an emotional interview with Davinder Misra (the husband) who stated that the system was losing money right from the beginning, they couldn't find the problem, and neither could the auditor who was sent from the post office.

"A spokesperson from the Post Office stated that the Horizon system was 'absolutely accurate and reliable and all times'. Robust testing procedures had been undertaken

"Jonathan Lord, MP for Woking is concerned and will ensure a full financial investigation, absolutely independent, is carried out. He stated that the 168

A. I think he was based in London. 167

familiar at the time would be Guy Wilkerson.

Why would his name have been familiar?

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processes which the Post Office employed where discrepancies arose should be fair, and conducted in a prompt and proper way; these Post Office procedures are to be looked at closely."

If we scroll up we can see that Jean-Philippe Prénovost has sent that on to David Jones, who was, I think, the Head of Legal at Fujitsu; is that right?

- A. I think the Head of Legal at that time would have been David Roberts and Mr Jones would have reported directly 10 to him, I think.
- Q. Thank you. He says: 11

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"Further to Penny's email below, we've been informed that [the Post Office] are making noises about commissioning an independent evaluation of the Horizon system with a view, presumably, to putting all integrity issues to bed once and for all.

"The team is not at all inclined to accept this request (especially bearing in mind that the system is now defunct) but they have sought official guidance on how they should deal with the request. Given the link with ongoing/potential litigation, are there any particular issues you will be concerned about and would like to raise at this stage?"

So Penny Thomas, from this, a security analyst, has heard the BBC report.

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1 "Hi David,

> "The suggestion (I understand it has not been officially requested) has come directly from Mike Young (the highest level of engagement).

"We are of course aware of the contractual obligations and, as this does not form part of them, the team would be more interested in any other considerations."

So it seems as though the request has come directly from Mike Young, he was one of your direct liaisons, wasn't he?

- 12 Α.
- 13 Q. So how is it that you were not aware of that at this 14 time?
- A. I don't know. 15
- Q. I mean, something seems to have gone fundamentally wrong 16 17 at Fujitsu for this level of information not to be 18 provided to you, hasn't it?
- 19 A. I would have expected Mike to come to me or the then 20 leader of the Post Office Account from Fujitsu with that
- 21 request.
- 22 Q. Is it likely that he did go to the leader of the Post
- 23 Office Account and it simply hasn't, for some reason,

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- 24 been raised with you?
- 25 There is a possibility of that but I just don't know. A.

Yeah. A.

- 2 Q. I think you said you weren't even aware of the report, other than the link being sent to you; is that right? 3
- 4 A. That is right.
- Q. Were you aware, at this stage, of the Post Office making 5 6 noises about commissioning an independent evaluation of 7 the Horizon system?
- 8 A. I was not.
- 9 Q. Is that surprising, given that you were the Managing
- 10 Director of a division where Post Office was one of your 11 key clients?
- 12 A. I had regular meetings with Post Office, as I think the
- 13 Inquiry can see, and I would have imagined they would 14 have brought that up with me.
- 15 Q. Is it strange that a lawyer within Fujitsu would be 16 aware of that but you would not be?
- 17 A. I just -- I don't know, Mr Blake. You'd have to ask 18 them.
- 19 Q. If we scroll up, please, email from David Jones, saying:

20 "Hi -- have you looked at the contract and our 21 security service obligations? I expect there will be 22 some cooperation obligations ...

23 "Who is making the request from [the Post Office] 24 and is it at the right level of engagement?"

If we scroll up above:

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If we scroll up, the response is:

2 "You are aware that we have or had a banking 3 indemnity in place that would mean, if I recall it 4 properly, that if the outcome of the investigation were 5 adverse that Fujitsu might have some liability to [the 6 Post Office]."

> Pausing there, as Managing Director, would it not have been important for you to have been aware that potentially Fujitsu was on the line for some liability in respect of these issues?

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- 11 A. I think our view, or certainly my view, would have been,
- 12 if there was an issue with the software that's causing
- 13 counter balance issues, which then leads to people being
- 14 prosecuted, it didn't matter what the consequences were;
- 15 we should have got to the root cause of that.
- 16 Q. Why, as at 11 February 2011, do you think that wasn't 17 happening?
- 18 A. I do not know.
- 19 Q. Then he raises clause 16, and 16.3, says:

20 "Fujitsu Services shall offer all reasonable 21 assistance to Post Office in preventing fraudulent use 22 of the services, the HNG-X development, the Associated 23 Change Development, the Horizon Service Infrastructure,

24 and the PostShop infrastructure by Post Office's

25 employees and agents.

1		"Surely this means we can't refuse their request in
2		any event"
3		So it certainly looks as though, within the Legal
4		Team, they think that if the Post Office are requesting
5		an independent investigation, you couldn't refuse that
6		request.
7		If we scroll up, there's just a discussion of
8		whether or not that means that Fujitsu can refuse.
9	A.	Okay. Mr Blake, I think around this time, if I may,
10		I was also involved in a negotiation with another
11		customer that did involve Fujitsu exiting an account,
12		and cost about £38 million. It was the right thing to
13		do for both the customer and for Fujitsu. It generally
14		takes a more rounded view to come up and to
15		a conclusion on a purely legal view.
16	Q.	What is the relevance of that?
17	A.	Well, the relevance of that is that, where there were
18		issues, Fujitsu faced up to them.
19	Q.	But it seems, from your account, you weren't aware of
20	_	the issues?
21	Α.	I was not aware of I was not aware of this
22	Q.	I mean, we've seen
23	Α.	on Post Office
24	Q.	article, after article, after article, how can it be
25		that, at this stage, you weren't aware; what went wrong?  173
		•
1	Q.	FUJ00174418 is simply a covering email from Charles
2	Œ.	Matcham, who was within your division; is that correct?
3	Α.	Yes, he was.
4	Q.	"Draft Letter to Paula":
5	α.	"Needs work but you get the idea"
6		It was sent to you and others. I'd like to take
7		you so that's same day, 11 February 2011, so the same
8		day as all of these other things that I've been showing
9		you
10	A.	Yes.
11	Q.	were going on. A day when Gareth Jenkins wrote those
12		two reports that we've seen?
13	A.	Yes.
14	Q.	A day when there's various discussions going on about
15		an independent investigation being carried out and
16		whether that has to take place. The day when Royal Mail
17		is drafting memos about success being down to, amongst
18		other things, Gareth Jenkins' efforts from Fujitsu.
19	A.	Okay.
20	Q.	Let's look at the draft letter. That's FUJ00174419:

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"Dear Paula,

"I thought the timing was appropriate to write to

you and inform you of our plans and objectives for the

account and take the opportunity to introduce the two

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senior executives appointed to support your business and

1	A.	It is difficult to it's difficult to say for me to
2		comment. We had good governance in place, we had good,
3		open lines of communication with the customer, we had
4		the opportunity to escalate up and down the
5		organisation, so difficult for me to say.
6	Q.	You've got here people who were actually involved in the
7		prosecution of subpostmasters, so we've got Gareth
8		Jenkins, Penny Thomas, all in this email chain, all
9		aware of the BBC reporting. So they had been involved
10		in Seema Misra's case, as an example?
11	A.	Right.
12	Q.	How can it be that somebody from that team didn't raise
13		it up to the Managing Director?
14	A.	I do not know how it did not come to my attention, nor
15		up the other line to the then CEO of Fujitsu, to Roger's
16		attention either.
17	Q.	We've looked at a lot of correspondence from
18		11 February. I'm going to stay with 11 February and
19		I want to look at correspondence that was actually going
20		to Paula Vennells at the Post Office.
21	A.	Okay.
22	Q.	So could we start with FUJ00174418. All this is is
23		a covering email. You've seen the draft letter to Paula
24		Vennells, you address it in your witness statement.
25	A.	Okay.
		174
1		lead on behalf of Fujitsu."
2		It continues, I won't read it all, but perhaps we'll
3		look at the paragraph that begins:
4		"Back in August 2010 I attended a video conference
5		with your predecessor Amongst other important

look at the paragraph that begins:

"Back in August 2010 I attended a video conference
with your predecessor ... Amongst other important
matters, a paper previously submitted to David was
discussed and endorsed. The brief document set out the
principles of working jointly to explore the mutual
benefits of developing our existing Horizon Online
contract to ensure future alignment to Post Office

12 So discussing potential future avenues of business.

13 A. Yes.

strategic plan."

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Q. "... Fujitsu has proactively invested in the development
of a compelling proposal through a dedicated team
working out of our Centre of Excellence in Slough. Our
intention is to present our proposition to you in early
March and gain your agreement ...

"To facilitate this Fujitsu has assigned two senior executives ..."

Then it goes into or proposes a brief summary of their experience and expertise, as set out.

If we scroll over the page you can see it's been drafted in your name.

I think you say in your witness statement that you 176

1		recall sending a letter along these lines.
2	A.	I do.
3	Q.	Yes. The focus in that letter is on future work
4		together, isn't it?
5	A.	It is.
6	Q.	There's nothing in there about recent press reporting of
7		the type that we've just been seeing?
8	A.	I agree.
9	Q.	There's nothing in there about complaints from
10		subpostmasters about accounting integrity or anything
11		along those lines; is that right?
12	A.	That is right.
13	Q.	Nothing in there about prosecution support?
14	A.	That is also right.
15	Q.	Could we please turn to POL00017555. I'm sticking now
16		with what you might call general picture at the time.
17		You're not copied into this email, this isn't something
18		you would have seen at the time, but just to see the
19		kind of work that, on 14 February so a few days
20		later Gareth Jenkins was involved in. We're still on
21		the case of McQue and he is referring to the expert
22		reports. He says:
23		"That is the information I have given to Charles
24		about Callendar Square."
25		Were you aware of the Callendar Square bug at this 177
1	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Mr Blake, I'm getting a bit anxious about
2		when the second break is
3	MR	<b>BLAKE:</b> Yes, that is actually a convenient time. So we
4		could take it now.
5	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
6	MR	<b>BLAKE:</b> Could we come back just before 4.00?
7	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Yes.
8	MR	<b>BLAKE</b> : Yes, 3.57, please. I need those three minutes,
9		if that's okay.
10	(3.4	17 pm)
11		(A short break)
12	(3.5	57 pm)
13	MR	BLAKE: Thank you.
14		Mr Tait, I'm going to move to 2012, so about a year
15		into your time as CEO. Could we please look at
16		FUJ00168511. 13 April 2012. Gavin Bell, who is,
17		I think, a member of the client Executive Team; is that
18		right?
19	A.	Yes.
20	Q.	He has met Paula Vennells on the train and spoke about
21		number of points and it's the third point I'd like to

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draw your attention to. He says:

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"She then asked about some of the recent systems incidents and transaction integrity. I have provided a very high level response of how the Reconciliation

time? 1 2 A. No. Q. 3 "I have not sent him anything further since it is 4 irrelevant to this case (as he accepts). However his point is that if we had an accounting discrepancy in 5 6 Callendar Square, then that implies that it is possible 7 to have an accounting discrepancy in Rinkfield", which 8 is the particular branch. 9 A. Okay. 10 Q. "I have to accept that that is possible. However the 11 Callendar Square issue as such is irrelevant in Rinkfield and this is accepted by Charles." 12 13 So an acceptance there by Mr Jenkins that the bug in 14 Callendar Square is essentially relevant, insofar as it 15 implies that it's possible to have an accounting 16 discrepancy elsewhere, even if that particular bug is 17 not the one in play. 18 A. Okay. 19 Q. Okay. But these weren't issues that you were in any way 20 aware of in 2011? 21 A. You are right. 22 Could we turn, please, to POL00017555. 23 Sorry, actually, I'm going to move on to -- so you 24 became CEO in April of that year? 25 A. Of 2011, yes. 178 1 Service we provide catches any issues and offered her 2

and Lesley Sewell a visit to Bracknell to meet [the] team. She then went on to say that she has had enquiries from Oliver Letwin MP ... and James Arbuthnot ... about system outages and a [Freedom of Information] request on a particular subpostmaster. She said that she might invite Duncan to a meeting with these MPs when she meets them next." Do you recall that, within that time during the

first year of your time as CEO, the key client was raises issues to do with Horizon integrity?

12 A. If that question, Mr Blake, is do I recall this 13

conversation with Mr Bell, I do.

14 Q. Did that make you take any additional steps? We've 15 heard that no investigation had taken place at Fujitsu 16 up until that point. Did that trigger any particular 17 investigations?

A. Again, I think if you read the second sentence in that 18 paragraph, it's "I provided a very high level response 19 20 about how the Reconciliation Service catches any

21 issues". So I think, from reading that, that sentence,

22 that doesn't say to me that we need to take any further 23 investigation.

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24 Q. But, if your key client raises in that particular 25 conversation, issues to do with transaction integrity,

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- was that not something, given all the history we've been through already, something to look into a bit further at that stage?
- 4 A. If Ms Vennells was not satisfied with Mr Bell's response
- to her questions, I believe they were on the train, then
- 6 she could have come directly to me.
- 7 **Q.** Can we turn to FUJ00168523. We're in June 2012 at the
- 8 bottom email, please. "Urgent Post Office BBC". You
- 9 email Simon Carter; who was Simon Carter?
- 10 A. By then, I believe Simon Carter would have been the headof marketing for Fujitsu UK.
- 12 Q. "... there's an article on BBC regarding Post Office and
- 13 concerns over the Horizon system. It's an old
- 14 allegation which I believe is totally false, however, it
- is on the news.
- 16 "Can you alert the IB ..."
- 17 What was IB?
- 18 A. That was the -- Fujitsu was split in -- essentially
- 19 then, into Japan and outside of Japan, and the bit
- 20 outside of Japan was called International Business or
- 21 IB.
- 22 Q. "Can you alert the [International Business] and Japanese
- 23 teams please. I suggest we ensure that we are aligned
- 24 with [Post Office] press team and also have a drawer
- 25 statement ready to go."

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- 1 you to Helen Lamb. Who was Helen Lamb?
- 2 A. Helen Lamb, at that point, would have been running
- 3 a division called Business and Application Services,
- 4 which is where the Horizon code would have been run out 5 of.
- 6 Q. "Helen, what's this POL stuff about please?"
- 7 Do you recall the answer to that?
- 8  $\,$  A. I don't recall the answer. I vaguely recall sending the
- 9 email but don't recall the answer.
- 10 **Q.** In your statement, and today, I'll read a few passages
- 11 from your statement.
- 12 A. Okay.
- 13 Q. You know the evidence you've given today but you said,
- 14 for example, "I received repeated assurances", Post
- 15 Office was confident internally, and Post Office
- 16 reassured you?
- 17 **A.** Yes.
- 18 Q. We've seen here article, after article, after article,
- 19 mentions of Members of Parliament, BBC, Computer Weekly,
- you being a computer company. Did you ever, in that
- 21 period, seek to investigate whether there was any
- 22 substance in those reports: a significant investigation,
- 23 not just reassurance from an individual?
- 24 A. Yes. Mr Blake, I'd go back to what I said before, that
- 25 when I joined, I had the Kirkham email that brought --

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Drawer statement, is that not suggesting something new, but a standard statement?

- 3 A. I think it is a pre-prepared statement, is the way4 I understand drawer statements.
- Q. "It is an old allegation which I believe is totallyfalse ..."
- Did you, at that point, instigate any newinvestigations internally?
- 9 A. I don't believe, as a result of this, no.
- Q. That's another BBC report, national report, on Horizon
   integrity. I'm going to take you to another report, six
   months later. Can we please turn to FUJ00174576. News
- 2 Summary if we carell down sticking to that page
- Summary, if we scroll down, sticking to that page,Wednesday, 2 January:

"Computer Weekly -- Post Office admits that the Horizon system needs more investigation.

"... Years of struggle from campaign groups has forced the Post Office to look again at a computer system which has been blamed for subpostmasters being wrongly accused of false accounting. Despite numerous complaints the Post Office has consistently stated that there is no fault with the Horizon system. But [subpostmasters] claim problems with the technology could be generating unexplained losses."

We see at the top of the page, please, an email from 182

1 stated no issues. The recollection -- the email from

2 Mr Bounds after his meeting with Mr Young, that said

3 Horizon was great, stable and that the users only had

4 praise for it. And then when each of these media events

5 happened during 2010/early 2011, you can see in those --

6 in each one of those, it is no cause for concern, no

7 cause for immediate concern, no flaws in the software

8 from Mr Young's email to me in early 2011. It would

9 have been unusual, I think, to have conducted further

10 research at that point when you had that level of

11 reassurance.

- 12 Q. Why would the national media be so wrong about it?
- 13 I mean it's like Groundhog Day. It's year, after year,
- after year, exactly the same thing comes up. There's
- 15 a national report about Horizon integrity, and all there
- is is an email with a line that says everything is okay.
- 17 Why wouldn't you, as Managing Director, and then CEO,
- not actually put in place a significant investigation
- 19 into that issue?
- 20 A. Mr Blake, we had good governance in place. We had
- 21 delivery assurance in place. We had assurance teams to
- govern new customer opportunities and the extensions of
- 23 Horizon over time. We had Audit and Risk Committees in
- 24 place and each one of these could have brought to the
- 25 attention of the -- to Fujitsu's CEO prior to me and

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1	during my period, that we needed to do something about
2	it. Now, with hindsight, we absolutely should have done
3	something about it because the media were absolutely
4	spot on.

Could we please turn to FUJ00168649. That summer, therewas a meeting with Paula Vennells:

"Detailed below is a readout from the meeting between Duncan and Paula last night."

I don't need to take you into any detail in that.

I mean, there's no mention there of Horizon integrity issues. Is that likely, is that your recollection of those kinds of discussions you had with Paula Vennells?

- 13 A. Yes. Yes, what you're saying is true.
- 14 Q. Again, it's very much focused on new initiatives,15 looking forward, rather than looking back at past

16 problems.

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- A. Pretty much. I think in the operations section, you can
   see that Paula praised the high quality of our
   operational performance, so that is a here-and-now
   comment, not about the future.
- comment, not about the future.
  Q. Can you turn to FUJ00174662, and this the briefing note for that meeting. There's a section on business as usual operations. If we scroll down, new initiatives, scroll down, CSR. There's a section on risk over the page. Priorities and then risks. Nothing in the risks

185

- A. This goes back, Mr Blake, to what would have happened with other customers, that if they'd had concerns over integrity that would have been a very sensible thing to do. I mean, I don't recall the exact details of the conversation but that Fujitsu would provide assistance as necessary.
  - Q. Can we turn to FUJ00174708, please. It's the bottom of the page. We're now in July 2013, and there is a report from your meeting, it says:

"Duncan met Paula Vennells this morning to discuss the role of Horizon in [the Post Office]'s future strategy and the IPR issue.

"As part of that Duncan shared the contents of his brief [including]:

"Horizon is an invested and stable platform

"Very low cost ...

"Second Sight has shown it to be safe, secure

"Benchmarked

"We have an industry littered with disasters of service outages, programmes taking twice as long as planned with massive costs where organisations have replaced systems ...

"There was quite a lot of discussion around this and Paula said ... 'that all sounds good but why do my team tell me that working new reference data through the

section about issues with Horizon integrity or complaints from politicians or the media. The only point in this that relates to those kinds of concerns is the very bottom. We can see at the bottom of the page there is reference to Second Sight:

"A number of queries have been raised, all of which have been answered and no irregularities identified.

One allegation is proving more challenging relating to a suggestion that alterations to the branch database holding subpostmaster balances could be made on Fujitsu premises."

So that's the remote access issue:

"We have been asked to provide further details related to systems controls/access and audit records for balance corrections. This will be available next week."

So, again, no significant issues being raised in that meeting. Do you recall any meeting between you and Paula Vennells at which serious issues relating to complaints from subpostmasters or relating to the integrity of Horizon were raised?

- A. The time I recall would have been when Ms Vennells said that she would -- she had had complaints around integrity and would have to commission an independent review.
- 25 **Q**. What was your response to that?

system take a long time and the platform is not agile'."

Then it sets out some responses. Just pausing there. Do you recall ever giving bad news to Paula Vennells about the integrity of the Horizon system or bugs, errors and defects with the Horizon system?

A. I don't think any of my briefs gave me data that that
 would have pushed back on Ms Vennells in that regard.
 I think you can see, Mr Blake, in other conversations
 that Ms Vennells and I had, that they were robust.

10 Q. As robust as the system? When you say they were robust,
11 I mean, let's look at that penultimate sentence:

12 "I'm not sure if this is a difficult task or not but 13 as you well appreciate we have to respond to this with 14 some urgency and the story needs to be good."

The suggestion being that one of your most important clients needs to be told a good story and that there is some reluctance within the company to share bad news.

18 Was that something you experienced or not?

A. No, we had very robust conversations between the two
 organisations and my understanding is this here refers
 to the agility of the system.

22  $\,$  Q. We can see the response. That's at FUJ00174721:

"Paula

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24 "Thank you for taking the time to meet me on25 Thursday [this is 8 July] ...

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"Overnight pricing changes are now possible ...
 "We also have made good progress 'opening up
 Horizon'."

Then I'll take you to the final paragraph:

"As I followed up on the questions you raised it became evident to me that close collaboration between our teams is working well. Horizon is evolving at pace to better position the Post Office for [enhancing] agility and growth. Therefore, it might be worth organising a briefing for your key executives on Horizon's new capabilities and planned enhancements."

It's again looking to the future and what can be achieved from Horizon.

Given all the things that we've discussed, all those newspaper articles, media reports, why do you think it is that we don't see those kinds of matters being raised in depth and discussed between you, real concerns, you reassuring Ms Vennells, for example, about issues of system integrity; do you think those exist, those emails?

- A. I don't know, Mr Blake. Can I just check the date ofthis exchange, please?
- 23 Q. This is 8 July 2013.

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A. 8 July 2013, and the Second Sight investigation is upand running at this time?

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- Q. What about the media reporting and those issues that are raised there, complaints from subpostmasters? Do you think that was ever discussed in-depth with your -- with Ms Vennells?
- A. I don't believe that was discussed between me andMs Vennells.
- 7 Q. The various emails we've seen today about bugs, errors
   8 and defects, you've said you weren't even aware of them,
   9 let alone being able to pass those on to Ms Vennells?
- 10 A. Lagree.
- 11 Q. Two very quick topics, the first is prosecution support.
- SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Before we get there, Mr Blake, the
   8 July, actually, Mr Tait is the date that Second Sight
   published its Interim Report. Was that sent to you on
   or about that date?
- A. I've never seen the report, sir, only a feedback from
   members of my team based upon what Post Office
   personnel -- I think Ms Sewell -- had given them.
- 19 SIR WYN WILLIAMS: Right. All right, thank you.
- 20 Sorry, Mr Blake. Carry on.
- 21 MR BLAKE: Not at all.
- 22 Prosecution support. Did you know that Fujitsu 23 provided what we know as ARQ data, audit data, to the 24 Post Office?
- 25 A. Not until after I left Fujitsu.

ເຣu. 191 1 Q. Yes.

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Davidson, the talks about the initial findings from
Second Sight, and it is another reassurance for me about
how Horizon is working.

A. And I have the previous month had an email from a James

Q. But these are all external reassurances. Nothing within
 Fujitsu. Nothing has been set in train within Fujitsu
 to investigate those various complaints, and nothing
 being passed from you to Ms Vennells about reassurances
 regarding the system.

I mean, let's look at the response. If we turn to FUJ00174724. 8 July, this is the response at the bottom that's been sent on Paula Vennells' behalf. The series of emails that the Inquiry has seen to date are all looking at small improvements perhaps, looking at future work together but there doesn't seem, certainly from what we've seen so far, to be any detailed correspondence between you and your equivalent at the Post Office about these Horizon integrity issues.

Is that, do you think, because they don't exist or
 because we haven't yet seen them and do they exist?
 What is your recollection of this period of time?
 A. I don't believe there is email correspondence between

24 Ms Vennells and I regarding integrity issues but I don't know.

190

- Q. What was your understanding of the role of Gareth
   Jenkins while you were at Fujitsu?
- 3 A. I was not aware of Mr Jenkins' role while I was at4 Fujitsu.
- Q. Could we turn to POL00382242, please. This is a Post
   Office document, so I don't expect you to have seen this
   document but it is a brief for a meeting with yourself
   on 11 November 2013. I believe you've only seen it very
   recently.

10 It's the final page I'd like to take you to and the
11 last two paragraphs. Were you aware of something called
12 Project Sparrow at the Post Office?

13 A. I don't believe so.

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14 Q. Within this brief, it says:

"The Post Office Criminal Law Team needs to find an independent expert to give evidence about the Horizon system which was previously provided by Fujitsu's Gareth Jenkins.

"Lesley and Susan Crichton have raised this with Fujitsu. The Legal Team have a meeting arranged with Fujitsu to discuss this requirement, this will happen on 21 November. Following this we will have a better understanding of Fujitsu's view, any impacts and what the next steps will be."

First of all, do you recall a meeting on 11 November 192

1		2013?
2	A.	I don't, no. I do remember, at the time, we had
3		an issue with this home phone and broadband contract
4		that was causing a great deal of tension between Post
5		Office and Fujitsu.
6	Q.	I think you've said you don't even recall any issues
7		with Gareth Jenkins. Do you recall, at a meeting,
8		anybody raising with you the need for a new independent
9		expert?
10	A.	I do not.
11	Q.	Remote access, and I can deal with that very briefly.
12		You address it at paragraph 102 of your witness
13		statement. I'm not going to turn to that.
14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	When did you first become aware of the ability for

Q. When did you first become aware of the ability for
 Fujitsu to remotely access subpostmasters' branch
 accounts?

a facility called "remote access" or "privileged access"
 would have been necessary because problems can occur in
 systems like this that would need fixing. So I would
 say generally aware from when I first became involved in

Mr Blake, I would say, in systems like this, having

23 Fujitsu.

Q. Can we turn to FUJ00174422. I'm just going to take youto two documents from 2011.

193

"DT is meeting Paula Vennells and Mike Young on 18 August -- the agenda is the Ernst & Young audit. It was a key challenge for [Ernst & Young] to audit a shared service generally. We were really proactive in helping them through this."

You recall having a meeting with Paula Vennells to discuss this issue?

8 A. I'm not sure I do but I do recall Ms Vennells raising
 9 the EY audit with me and asking Fujitsu to resolve the
 10 issues prior to her next Board meeting.

11 Q. I think you say in your statement that you taskedMr Bounds with this; is that right?

13 **A.** Yes.

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Α.

14 Q. Were you aware of that review actually taking place?

15 A. The EY review, or the consequent Fujitsu review?

16 Q. No, the consequent Fujitsu review.

17 A. My understanding is that that review and the actions18 were put in place and successfully executed.

19 **Q.** Who do you recall carrying out the review?

20 A. I do not know who conducted the review.

21 Q. Did you see the review once it had been completed?

22 A. I did not.

23 Q. Did you check to make sure that it had been undertaken?

24 **A.** I did.

25 **Q.** You did?

1 A. Okay.

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Q. This email is 1 June 2011. Do you recall, in 2011,
 Ernst & Young recommending a review of what was called
 privileged access?

A. I recall Ms Vennells asking me for our organisation to
 take action against the EY audit in preparation for the
 next Board meeting.

8 Q. Yes. So we have, in this email that's sent to you:

"The audit referred to in Mike Young's mail was part of the annual audit carried out on Post Office by Royal Mail Group auditors Ernst & Young."

It sets out the main points. It says:

"In general, Ernst & Young were satisfied with the robust user management processes for HNG-X system access. However, observations were made of the user management processes, specifically with regard to the segregation of duties between developer and system administrator roles. It was recommended that a review of privilege access is undertaken and that the processes around user management are strengthened."

In your statement, you then refer to another document, and I'll just take you to that. It's FUJ00174428, and it's a reference to a meeting with Paula Vennells. It says, "Info". If we scroll down slightly, it says:

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A. I believe so. I would have managed this by exception
 and, if Mr Bounds or the team had not -- had had issues,
 then they would have spoken to me about it.
 Q. So is it likely that there will be a document in

existence that is around this time, reviewing the issue
 of privileged access?
 A. My understanding is there should be some documentation

that shows Fujitsu taking action based upon the EY report, though I'm not sure I've seen it, Mr Blake.

9 report, though I'm not sure I've seen it, Mr Blake.
10 Q. Thank you. One final document. It's POL00024828. If

we could start on page 5, please. The Inquiry has seen quite a lot of correspondence about the issue of remote access in 2014/2015 and we can see, on page 5, a response from 2014 that had been provided by Fujitsu. The summary is set out just below. I'll just read out

the first bullet point and that's a summary of Post
Office's understanding of the position based on the

responses that had been provided below from Fujitsu:

"There is no ability to delete or change records

"There is no ability to delete or change records a branch creates in either old Horizon or Horizon Online. Transactions in both systems are created in a secure and auditable way to assure integrity, and have either a checksum ... or a digital signature ... are time stamped, have a unique sequential number and are securely stored via the core audit process in the audit

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1 vault ' 2 Were you aware of a dispute between the Post Office 3 and Fujitsu about the information that Fujitsu had given relating to remote access? 4 5 A. I was not. 6 Q. If we scroll up, we can see there's an email, 7 an internal email within Post Office, so, again, you 8 wouldn't have seen it. It's page 4, the bottom of 9 page 4. It's an email from Jane MacLeod to Andrew 10 Parsons, so internal lawyer to external lawyer. She says as follows: 11 12 "Separately, Paula has suggested that she speaks to 13 the UK CEO of Fujitsu (Duncan Tait), and my suggestion 14 would be that she: 15 "Alerts him to the fact and timing of the response 16 letter ..." 17 This is a response letter in the litigation. 18 A. Okay. 19 "Notes that the question of remote access is still 20 a live issue and major concern to the claimants 21 "Notes the work being undertaken by Deloitte to 22 review access rights and controls 23 "Expresses the desire that [Fujitsu] (continue to) 24 work constructively with Deloitte and flags that if the 25 Deloitte work uncovers a different position to that 197 1 are all of my questions. 2 Α. Thank you. 3 MR BLAKE: There are ten minutes of questions from Mr Stein. 4 Thank you. 5 Questioned by MR STEIN MR STEIN: Mr Tait, I'm going to take you to a document 6 7 which is FUJ00080526. Can we go straight to page 5, 8 please, of that document. Thank you. 9 Now, this document is dated 2 October 2009. It's 10 drafted by Gareth Jenkins, entitled "Horizon Data Integrity". Okay? 11 12 A. Okay. 13 Q. It's a document we know you're familiar with, as you 14 dealt with it, as you were asked to look at it by the 15 Inquiry, and you refer to it at page 13, paragraph 36, 16 of your statement. Okay? 17 Now, this document had a circulation list that 18 included Suzie Kirkham who you've mentioned a couple of 19 times. She's someone that, when you came into your role, she drew to your attention the fact that there 20 21 were issues that were ongoing in the press in relation 22 to claims --

Inquiry, and you refer to it at page 13, paragraph 36, of your statement. Okay?

Now, this document had a circulation list that included Suzie Kirkham who you've mentioned a couple of times. She's someone that, when you came into your role, she drew to your attention the fact that there were issues that were ongoing in the press in relation to claims -
A. Yes.

Q. -- about the integrity of the Horizon system. Okay?

A. Okay.

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21 **A**.

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1 which [Fujitsu and Post Office] have publicly stated 2 over the years, then we will need to consider carefully 3 how to manage the impact ..." 4 A. Okay. 5 Q. Did a conversation ever take place with Paula Vennells 6 relating to remote access? 7 A. I've no recollection of that conversation. Q. Were you aware at all of the issue of the Post Office 8 9 placing blame on Fujitsu for giving an incorrect answer 10 in relation to the issue of remote access? A. Not to my recollection. 11 12 Q. My final couple of questions. 13 The litigation, more broadly: were you aware of 14 Gareth Jenkins' role in the civil action and the Group 15 Litigation? 16 A. No, I was not. 17 Q. Did you ever have any discussions with anybody about whether he should or should not be, for example, 18 19 a witness in that litigation? 20 A. I did not. 21 Q. Have you experienced Fujitsu employees being concerned 22 about being used to give evidence in that Group 23 Litigation? 24 A. No. MR BLAKE: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr Tait. Those 198 1 We also know it's a document that is shared between 2 Fujitsu and the Post Office. All right. 3 Now, this document, I'll summarise it. At no part 4 of this document is a mention of software bugs, errors 5 or defects. It pretty simply says things along the 6 lines of: if you turn off the system and bring it back 7 on, what happens. It is very technical in that sense. A. Okay. 8 Q. It doesn't deal with software issues or bugs. Now, did 9 10 you notice that when you read through this document 11 after it had been brought to your attention? A. So, Mr Stein, you're right: I only saw this in 12 13 preparation for the Inquiry, and it seems to be quite 14 a technical document that describes how integrity is 15 ensured in Horizon Online. But I had no other 16 recollection than that. 17 Q. Right. Well, take it from me: it doesn't refer to 18 software bugs. 19 Now, your background work has been in relation to IT systems; do you agree? 20

**Q.** Sometime ago, but that's what you've done in the past.

Q. Now, all large-scale systems, such as Horizon have

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(The witness nodded)

software bugs, don't they?

- A. They do. 1
- 2 Q. Right. In relation to the Horizon system, Fujitsu
- 3 operated a service line at four levels. Part of those
- levels were to do with the fixing of software bugs, 4
- 5 issuing patches, notifying the Post Office of those bugs
- 6 as it went along; do you agree?
- 7 A. lagree.
- 8 Q. Right. So why do you think that this report from
- 9 Mr Jenkins does not mention bugs?
- 10 A. I have no idea, Mr Stein. I think it would be
- a question for Mr Jenkins. 11
- 12 Right. Well, let's go to the mismatch bug document, Q.
- 13 please. The document is familiar to this Inquiry.
- 14 POL00028838. Can we go to the bottom of page 3 of that
- 15 document. Can we have a look at Solution One. Can we
- 16 just refer to that, please.
- 17 Now, you'll see it's being said here that there are
- 18 three potential solutions to apply to the impacted
- 19 branches and then the recommendation is that Solution 20 Two should be progressed. Now, this is a joint meeting,
- 21 as you pointed out to Mr Blake, between the Post Office
- 22 and Fujitsu, all right?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. It's not, as an example, a note of a meeting in a pub 24
- 25 after a few drinks, okay?

- 1 this as being an option?
- 2 A. No, it is not.
- 3 Q. No. Try it the other way round. Are you slightly
- 4 surprised about the Post Office considering this as
- 5 a possible option in relation to fixing a branch account
- 6 for one of their subpostmasters?
- 7 A. I would give you the same answer.
- 8 Q. Let's move further up the page, please, to the bottom of
- 9 page 2, I think it is, "Impact". Now, let's have
- 10 a quick look at the impact section. So this is the
- 11 impact of this branch. Now, the mismatch bug, we all
- 12 know -- I've described it in earlier questions for other
- 13 witnesses -- being a submarine bug. What I mean by that
- 14 is it can affect branch accounts and it doesn't appear
- 15 to be apparent to the subpostmaster/mistress. So
- 16 "Impact":

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"The branch has appeared to have balanced, whereas in fact they could have a loss or a gain.

"Our accounting systems will be out of sync with what is recorded at the branch.

"If widely known could cause a loss of confidence in the Horizon system by branches ..."

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23 So this is not good news. Do you agree?

- 24 I agree.
- 25 Q. All right. It then goes on to say:

A. Okay.

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2 Q. It's a proper meeting between two large organisations: one a worldwide brand and the other one is a very 3 well-known UK brand. So let's have a look at the 4

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"Solution One -- Alter the Horizon branch figure at the counter to show the discrepancy. Fujitsu would have to manually write an entry value to the local branch account.

"Impact -- When the branch comes to complete next trading period they would have a discrepancy which they would have to bring to account.

"Risk -- This has significant data integrity concerns and could lead to questions of 'tampering' with the branch system and could generate questions around how the discrepancy was caused. This solution could have moral implications of Post Office changing branch data without informing the branch."

All right?

So we can see what's being said here. Let's put it fairly crudely, if you don't mind. This basically says one of the possible solutions could be, "Let's fix the branch accounts without telling the branch subpostmaster and see if we can get away with it". Now, is that what you expect of Fujitsu staff members, to even consider 202

"Potential impact upon ongoing legal cases where branches are disputing the integrity of Horizon data

Now, given what we know about this document, which appears to include a possible fix which, unless I'm very wrong, would lead to a conspiracy to false account between two large organisations, what this is saying is this, isn't it: that, if this gets out, it's going to muck up legal cases where branches are correctly saying there's a problem with the system? "We'd better not tell them", in other words. That's what's being considered between two important, well-known brands.

How did that happen, Mr Tait, under your lead? A. I have no idea, Mr Stein, but this is not how I would

14 15 expect either organisation to work.

Q. You've been asked question after question by Mr Blake 16 17 here, who has been saying, "Well, what happened? What 18 happened? Why weren't matters dealt with by your 19 office? Why didn't you take notice of what was going on 20 under your leadership?"

> Now, there are two answers to this. Either you failed utterly in your leadership or the staff beneath you failed utterly to tell you what was going on. Which answer would you prefer: your failure or your staff's failure?

1	Α.	I don't think it's a question of which I would prefer.	1	(The hearing adjourned until 9.45 am the following day)
2	Q.	Well, which was it, Mr Tait?	2	
3	A.	I think, from the documents that were given to me, I was	3	
4		reassured about Horizon.	4	
5	Q.	Reassured by the same people, at least some of the same	5	
6		people, that were involved in relation to the mismatch	6	
7		bug and what was going on?	7	
8	A.	I think Fujitsu Executives and Post Office Executives.	8	
9	MR	STEIN: Thank you, Mr Tait.	9	
10	THE	E WITNESS: Thank you.	10	
11	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Is that it, Mr Blake?	11	
12	MR	BLAKE: Yes. Yes, it is.	12	
13	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Then, thank you very much, Mr Tait, for	13	
14		providing your written evidence and for giving oral	14	
15		evidence during the course of the afternoon. I'm	15	
16		grateful to you.	16	
17	THE	E WITNESS: Thank you, sir.	17	
18	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: So tomorrow we have a potentially busy	18	
19		day again, Mr Blake. I think Mr Ward is first up, and	19	
20		he is remote; is that correct?	20	
21	MR	BLAKE: That's correct sir, yes.	21	
22	SIR	WYN WILLIAMS: Oh, it is correct. Right. All right,	22	
23		then. 9.45 in the morning.	23	
24	MR	<b>BLAKE:</b> Thank you very much, sir.	24	
25	(4.3	35 pm)	25	
		205		206

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