

OPUS 2

INTERNATIONAL

Alan Bates & Others v Post Office Limited

Day 14

June 4, 2019

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1 Tuesday, 4 June 2019
 2 (10.30 am)
 3 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: May it please your Lordship, can
 4 I start by thanking you for kindly agreeing to adjourn
 5 this hearing on Wednesday of next week to suit my
 6 personal circumstances.
 7 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Not at all.
 8 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I would also like to thank my learned
 9 friend who I know has difficulties the following week as
 10 a result. I would like that to be put on record because
 11 I'm most grateful.
 12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Can I therefore check. We are sitting
 13 four days this week, which is all going to be the
 14 claimants' expert being cross-examined by you, and then
 15 we are sitting the three days next week identified in
 16 the email of yesterday?
 17 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, I believe so, yes.
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: And that is Dr Worden being
 19 cross-examined by Mr Green.
 20 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes.
 21 MR JUSTICE FRASER: The dates, times etc for closings etc
 22 remain unaffected?
 23 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes.
 24 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Thank you.
 25 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, one other matter I should

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1 mention. Dr Worden's supplemental statement, there has
 2 been no substantive engagement between the experts on
 3 that statement, as I understand it.
 4 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Which statement?
 5 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I should say his report. The report
 6 that was sent to your Lordship a couple of weeks ago if
 7 your Lordship recalls.
 8 MR JUSTICE FRASER: But you are not making an application?
 9 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I have no application to make and
 10 I was going to tell your Lordship that.
 11 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Well, that's one of the points which --
 12 I know you suggested there was nothing unconventional
 13 about what Dr Worden had done but his covering email
 14 explained what application you would or would not be
 15 making. I don't know if you have seen that covering
 16 email, it is the one that was forwarded on by the court.
 17 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I am sure I have seen it, my Lord, but
 18 not recently.
 19 MR JUSTICE FRASER: All right. But the situation is you are
 20 not making an application?
 21 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I have no application to make.
 22 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Understood. Is there anything else that
 23 you would like to mention?
 24 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, no.
 25 MR JUSTICE FRASER: There is something I have to mention, it

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1 has probably been somewhat lost in the mists of time
 2 given the circumstances of March, but you were in the
 3 middle of doing a privilege redaction review.
 4 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes.
 5 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Has that now been completed?
 6 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, yes. There were documents
 7 were sent over to Freeths a number of weeks ago now in
 8 accordance with your Lordship's deadline.
 9 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I wonder if at some point, not now, you
 10 could just give me a summary -- I think there were 30
 11 documents you were looking at?
 12 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I certainly will, my Lord.
 13 MR JUSTICE FRASER: If you could just give me a summary of
 14 the number of documents there were, which went into
 15 which category and which were disclosed, I would be very
 16 grateful.
 17 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I will have to go back and review --
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I expected you would so I was not
 19 expecting an answer.
 20 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Would your Lordship like that done
 21 this week? Perhaps we could do it on Friday after --
 22 MR JUSTICE FRASER: It doesn't have to be this week.
 23 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I'm grateful.
 24 MR JUSTICE FRASER: The best thing actually, why not if it
 25 could just be distilled into writing and then maybe send

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1 an email on Monday.
 2 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, yes, that will be done.
 3 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Then the other thing, which is for both
 4 the parties, not just you. I'm producing judgment
 5 number 5, which is the written reasons for all of the
 6 rulings last week. It is substantially finished. It
 7 resolves the outstanding point on the order about
 8 detailed assessment. I'm hoping to send it out by the
 9 end of today, depending on how long it takes me finally
 10 to proof read it. If it is not at the end of today it
 11 will be first thing tomorrow morning, and then based on
 12 what that says I will just expect the order to be
 13 produced in due course.
 14 I do not think there's any other housekeeping,
 15 unless you have got some, Mr Green?
 16 MR GREEN: My Lord, no.
 17 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Thank you very much,
 18 Mr de Garr Robinson.
 19 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, there is one minor change to
 20 the agreed reports between the experts.
 21 MR JUSTICE FRASER: The joint statements?
 22 MR GREEN: The joint statements. It is at {D1/5/10}.
 23 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Which joint statement is this?
 24 MR GREEN: This is the fourth joint statement of
 25 4th March 2019.

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1 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Yes.
 2 MR GREEN: In the light of considering some further
 3 documents the experts have agreed that at 11.1, where it
 4 says "evidence from several PEAKs indicates that
 5 whenever Fujitsu", it should be "usually", qualifying
 6 that. And we will produce for your Lordship a revised
 7 statement of that sentence that the experts are happy
 8 with that makes --
 9 MR JUSTICE FRASER: They have both agreed that, though?
 10 MR GREEN: They have agreed that orally this morning, so
 11 that's why we don't have a written updated version, but
 12 we will produce a written version reflecting that
 13 agreement as soon as we can.
 14 My Lord, may I now call Mr Coyne.
 15 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Yes.
 16 MR JASON PETER COYNE (sworn)
 17 Examination-in-chief by MR GREEN
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Have a seat, Mr Coyne, if you would.
 19 MR GREEN: My Lord, there are hard copies of Mr Coyne's
 20 statement arriving shortly. He is without them at the
 21 moment, for which we apologise, but they will be here
 22 shortly. He says he is content to proceed with them on
 23 the screen.
 24 Mr Coyne, you have made two reports?
 25 A. Yes, that is correct.

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1 Q. The first appears to be at {D2/1/1}.
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. If we go to page {D2/1/167} of that report, is that your
 4 signature?
 5 A. Yes it is.
 6 Q. And do you believe the contents of that statement to be
 7 true?
 8 A. Yes, I do.
 9 Q. Then you served a revised version of your supplemental
 10 report?
 11 A. Yes, I did.
 12 Q. And if we look at {D2/4.1/1}.
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. If we go please to page {D2/4.1/266} of that report, is
 15 that your signature?
 16 A. It is indeed.
 17 Q. Does that reflect the corrections that you made on
 18 6th March?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Subject to those corrections now included in that
 21 revised report, do you believe the contents to be true?
 22 A. I do.
 23 Q. There are also four joint reports.
 24 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Joint statements.
 25 MR GREEN: Joint statements which are at {D1/1/1}.

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And {D1/2/1}.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. {D1/4/1}.
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And {D1/5/1}.
 7 A. Yes, that is correct.
 8 Q. Could we just look, please, at {D1/5/10}, at 11.1.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You will have heard the qualification. Is that
 11 something that you have spoken to Dr Worden about?
 12 A. Yes, I have spoken to him this morning just before the
 13 start of court.
 14 Q. And what have you agreed about that?
 15 A. We have agreed that the word "whenever" overstates the
 16 position and it would be better to say "usually".
 17 Q. I'm very grateful. Subject to that, is there anything
 18 in those reports that you would wish to change or depart
 19 from?
 20 A. No.
 21 MR GREEN: I'm most grateful. My Lord, I have no further
 22 questions.
 23 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Mr de Garr Robinson.
 24 Cross-examination by MR DE GARR ROBINSON
 25 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Mr Coyne, if I could ask you first of

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1 all to go to bundle {C1/1/1}. This is a list of the
 2 Horizon Issues.
 3 A. Yes, I have that.
 4 Q. And the first set of issues are headed "Bugs, errors and
 5 defects in Horizon", for shorthand I will call them
 6 bugs.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. I would like to look at four issues in particular.
 9 Issue 1:
 10 "To what extent was it possible or likely for bugs
 11 ..."
 12 Of the nature alleged at certain paragraphs of the
 13 generic particulars of claim and referred to in certain
 14 paragraphs of the generic defence.
 15 "... to have the potential to cause apparent or
 16 alleged discrepancies or shortfalls relating to
 17 subpostmaster's branch accounts or transactions, or ...
 18 to undermine the reliability of Horizon accurately to
 19 process and to record transactions as alleged ..."
 20 In certain paragraphs of the generic particulars of
 21 claim. You see the references there to the generic
 22 pleading?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. I take it you read the relevant paragraphs of those
 25 pleadings?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Issue 3, if we could just read that:
 3 "To what extent and in what respects is the Horizon
 4 System 'robust' and extremely unlikely to be the cause
 5 of shortfalls in branches."
 6 At the bottom there's more references to paragraphs
 7 of the generic pleadings. You have read those as well,
 8 haven't you?
 9 A. Yes, I have.
 10 Q. In order to clarify what these issues actually mean?
 11 A. In order to provide the context of the questions.
 12 Q. I'm grateful. Then paragraph (4):
 13 "To what extent has there been potential for errors
 14 in data recorded within Horizon to arise in (a) data
 15 entry, (b) transfer or (c) processing of data in
 16 Horizon?"
 17 Then over the page at {C1/1/2} at issue (6):
 18 "To what extent did measures and/or controls that
 19 existed in Horizon prevent, detect, identify, report or
 20 reduce to an extremely low level the risk of ..."
 21 Those specified errors.
 22 I am sure you will agree the issues I have just read
 23 out are very important issues for the purposes of these
 24 proceedings?
 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Would you agree they are probably the most important
 2 issues for the purposes of these proceedings?
 3 A. I'm not sure whether they are the most important but
 4 they certainly are --
 5 Q. They are of central importance, yes?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. I would like to look briefly at the context that you had
 8 regard to when interpreting them. Could I ask you now
 9 to go to the pleadings bundle which is at bundle
 10 {C3/1/1}. These are the generic particulars of claim
 11 and I'm going to go to a few paragraphs. First of all,
 12 page {C3/1/8} of that document and paragraphs 22 to 24.
 13 22:
 14 "Prior to disclosure and expert evidence, the
 15 Claimants are unable to provide detailed particulars of
 16 bugs, errors or defects which were or may have been the
 17 cause of any discrepancies or alleged shortfalls
 18 attributed to them by the Defendant, but will be able to
 19 plead further thereto following disclosure or the
 20 provision of information relating thereto by the
 21 Defendant."
 22 Skipping over the last sentence.
 23 Then 23:
 24 "However, the Claimants aver that there were a large
 25 number of software coding errors, bugs or defects which

1 required fixes to be developed and implemented. There
 2 were also data or data packet errors. There was a
 3 frequent need for Fujitsu to rebuild branch transaction
 4 data from backups, giving rise to the further risk of
 5 error being introduced into the branch transaction
 6 records."
 7 Then there is a reference to the known error log.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Then various specific things are relied upon in
 10 paragraph 24 which I would ask you to just cast your eye
 11 down so you can see what's being alleged.
 12 A. Mm. Yes.
 13 Q. {C3/1/9}.
 14 So the context in which these issues arise is the
 15 overall question as to whether the problems which are
 16 alleged here affected the claimants, created false
 17 shortfalls in their accounts, would you agree with that?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. If we can then move on to the generic defence and that's
 20 at bundle {C3/3/1}, behind divider 3.
 21 If we can go to page {C3/3/21}. Picking it up at
 22 paragraph 50, just in the individual subparagraphs, this
 23 is what the defendants are saying in response to that
 24 case. (1):
 25 "All IT systems experience software coding errors or

1 bugs which require fixes to be developed and
 2 implemented. As is noted in paragraph 53 and 54 below,
 3 there are robust measures in place in Horizon for their
 4 detection, correction and remediation."
 5 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I think we jumped forward a bit quickly.
 6 Can we go back a page, please.
 7 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: It's paragraph 50.
 8 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Yes, you were reading from 50 and
 9 page 21 was on the screen, but before you finished
 10 reading we jumped to page 22.
 11 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I see. I'm grateful, my Lord. I'm
 12 sorry, I was not looking.
 13 MR JUSTICE FRASER: That's understood, don't worry.
 14 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Then it says at (2):
 15 "All IT systems involving the transmission of data
 16 over the internet experience data or data packet errors
 17 during transmission and such systems routinely have
 18 protective measures in place to prevent such errors
 19 creating any difference between the data transmitted and
 20 the data received and retained by the recipient.
 21 Horizon has robust controls making it extremely unlikely
 22 that transaction data input in a branch would be
 23 corrupted when being transferred to, and stored in, Post
 24 Office's data centre in a manner that would not be
 25 detected and remedied."

1 So you will see that here Post Office are not saying
2 it didn't happen, but what they are saying is there is
3 a risk of it happening but for each occasion on which
4 data is input it is extremely unlikely that the data
5 would be corrupted. Do you see that?

6 A. I do see that.

7 Q. If we could move on to page {C3/3/22} now, picking it up
8 at paragraph 53, it is said:

9 " ... it is a truism that errors or bugs in an IT
10 system and data or data packet errors have the potential
11 to create errors in the data held in that system.
12 However Horizon has at all material times included
13 technical control measures to reduce to an extremely low
14 level the risk of an error in the transmission,
15 replication and storage of the transaction record data.

16 Then there is a list of the current measures.
17 Again, not saying that it didn't happen. There is
18 a risk but in any given case that risk is extremely low,
19 do you see that?

20 A. I can see the words that are being said, yes.

21 Q. So robustness -- we can move on to paragraph 54 on page
22 {C3/3/23}:

23 " ... in addition to the technical controls referred
24 to above, there are several operational procedures and
25 practices conducted by Post Office and subpostmasters

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1 that serve to increase the reliability of the data
2 stored in the central data centre as an accurate record
3 of the transactions entered on branch terminals.

4 Then there is a list of those. So you will see that
5 what's being said is that the robustness of the system
6 is said to be affected both by technical measures and by
7 human measures. Do you see that?

8 A. Yes, I can see that. That is what is said, yes.

9 Q. Then over the page at {C3/3/24} and paragraph 55:

10 " ... Post Office admits that, like all other IT
11 systems, Horizon is not a perfect system which has never
12 had any errors or bugs. However, as indicated in
13 paragraphs 53 and 54 above, it has robust systems in
14 place to identify them, fix them and correct their
15 consequences (if any)."

16 Were those the paragraphs that you looked at when
17 you were deciding how to interpret the issues that we
18 have read to each other?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Before you decided on the approach that you would adopt,
21 you reflected on the issues thrown up by those
22 paragraphs, yes?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. They made it clear, didn't they, that the critical issue
25 was not whether it is possible or likely for bugs to

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1 have the potential to cause false shortfalls in branch
2 accounts over the life of Horizon, that was in fact
3 admitted. The critical issues were the extent to which
4 it was and is likely that bugs cause false shortfalls in
5 any given set of accounts. Do you accept that?

6 A. I don't really see the difference between the two
7 statements that were made there. The question was
8 whether it was possible or likely and the extent to
9 which it was possible or likely.

10 Q. Well, let's -- given that it is admitted that there have
11 been occasions where these things have happened in the
12 life of Horizon, to ask is it possible or likely that it
13 has happened within the life of Horizon is a rather
14 uninteresting question, isn't it?

15 A. But along with the statement that defects were
16 acknowledged was a statement that there has only been
17 three defects.

18 Q. No, Mr Coyne. I ask you to address my question, please.
19 If you could focus on what I asked you.

20 Given it was admitted that there have been occasions
21 when these things have happened, to answer the question:
22 is it possible or likely that these things have happened
23 by saying "yes" isn't a very helpful answer, is it?

24 A. If the answer was just simply "yes" and with no further
25 context then I agree that that would ...

15

1 Q. The critical issue that's raised by the four issues that
2 I have read to you is the word "extent" and the word
3 "likelihood" and the word "risk", isn't it?

4 A. They certainly are critical elements that would need to
5 be reviewed, yes.

6 Q. What you were being asked to do by those issues is to
7 give your opinion to the court on the extent to which it
8 was and is likely that bugs caused shortfalls in any
9 particular set of accounts?

10 A. Well, across the accounts of subpostmasters, yes.

11 Q. The extent to which various measures in place reduce
12 the risk faced by any given subpostmaster when doing
13 a transaction or when producing a particular set of
14 accounts, yes?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That's the critical question on which the court needs
17 your assistance, would you agree?

18 A. It is one of the critical questions, yes.

19 Q. Could you identify a question which you say is more
20 critical than that in the context of these proceedings?

21 A. I haven't taken a view on -- I have taken each of the
22 Horizon Issues that's put to me with equal priority.
23 I haven't set out to decide a prioritisation for them.

24 Q. Very well, I understand. But you will then at least
25 agree with me this far: that in asking you to give your

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1 opinion on the issues we have read, what you're being
 2 asked to do is to advise the court on the extent to
 3 which problems had happened -- or problems were likely
 4 to happen in relation to any given situation, the extent
 5 to which those problems were likely to have been caught
 6 by countermeasures in that situation, and the overall
 7 question of the extent to which Horizon is robust and
 8 extremely likely to be the cause of a shortfall in that
 9 given situation. Would you agree with that?
 10 A. I don't believe countermeasures were asked in the
 11 questions, but broadly with what you say, yes --
 12 Q. When I say countermeasures, you can take me as saying
 13 controls and measures if you want --
 14 A. Okay.
 15 Q. Subject to that correction, you would agree that that
 16 was the essential question being raised in the four
 17 issues that I read to you?
 18 A. I believe they were the questions that were asked and
 19 I believe that in providing my reports I seek to address
 20 those. I have answered those.
 21 Q. Very good. So you accept these issues are of practical
 22 importance to this trial?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. So that the court's judgment in this case, when the time
 25 comes later on to try claims by particular claimants,

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1 that the accounting shortfalls which he or she is
 2 complaining about was actually caused by Horizon?
 3 A. Sorry, could you put that question again, please.
 4 Q. I may have made a grammatical mistake in my question.
 5 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I'm not really sure that's a question
 6 for the expert anyway.
 7 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Very good. But important questions
 8 are: when a claimant did a transaction in the period
 9 covered by a particular set of accounts containing
 10 a disputed shortfall, what risk did he face of Horizon
 11 creating errors in the recording, transmission or
 12 storage of records of those transactions, and how likely
 13 was it that Horizon calls a false shortfall in those
 14 accounts? Would you agree that those questions, the
 15 Horizon Issues I have read to you, the resolution of
 16 those issues will be of assistance in deciding that
 17 question?
 18 A. No, I don't believe that that's something that we have
 19 been asked to calculate or assess.
 20 Q. No, I'm not asking you, Mr Coyne -- I'm not suggesting
 21 to you that you have been asked to decide on whether any
 22 particular claimants' claim is right or not, what I'm
 23 suggesting to you is that the context in which these --
 24 given the context in which these issues arose -- were
 25 drafted, and given the pleadings by reference to which

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1 they were drafted, it was obvious that the purpose of
 2 those issues was to assist the court so that it could
 3 use the judgment that will be produced in this trial as
 4 a basis for making ultimate decisions in ultimate breach
 5 claims by claimants?
 6 A. In a later trial?
 7 Q. Yes.
 8 A. Yes, I was aware of that.
 9 Q. Isn't that the main reason why we are here?
 10 A. Well, it is certainly a reason why we are here, yes.
 11 Q. To enable the court to make useful findings as to the
 12 general likelihood of any transaction being wrongly
 13 recorded in a particular case?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And as to the general likelihood of any particular set
 16 of accounts containing false shortfalls because of
 17 Horizon?
 18 A. I don't believe either of those two statements appeared
 19 in the issues for the technical experts, did they?
 20 Q. So you don't believe that when you were asked in the
 21 Horizon Issues -- let me see if I can find them -- at
 22 {C1/1/1}:
 23 "To what extent was it possible or likely for bugs
 24 [and so on] to have the potential to cause apparent or
 25 alleged discrepancies or shortfalls?"

19

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. You don't think you were being asked to give an opinion
 3 as to the extent of the likelihood of that happening in
 4 any given case?
 5 A. Yes, but I have not placed any focus on any particular
 6 branch accounts for any subpostmasters or claimants.
 7 Q. But you weren't focused on the entire life of Horizon.
 8 There are two ways that one could construe the question
 9 "To what extent was it possible or likely for bugs" and
 10 so on. One is was it possible or likely for bugs to
 11 have done that thing at any time during the life of
 12 Horizon? And I think we have already agreed that the
 13 answer to that is trivial because we know it already.
 14 A. Sorry, I do not think I agree with that. I think
 15 because we are talking of situations, bugs, errors and
 16 defects that occurred throughout the life of Horizon,
 17 you do have to look at the entire life cycle from when
 18 it was first used by subpostmasters all the way up to
 19 the near current date.
 20 Q. I'm not suggesting that you don't have to look at
 21 whether bugs have arisen during the life of Horizon.
 22 What I'm suggesting to you is the practical purpose of
 23 these issues, the question you are being asked, is to
 24 what extent is it likely that those bugs are going to
 25 cause shortfalls in any given case?

20

1 A. Yes, I agree with that.
 2 Q. Thank you. So the focus was not just on the number of
 3 bugs in Horizon, the focus was on bugs which were likely
 4 to affect branch accounts, yes?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And also on whether there were -- I'm going to call them
 7 countermeasures, I hope that's not controversial, which
 8 were likely to catch and correct their impact, yes?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Either straightaway or after some time?
 11 A. Typically if you were going to design a countermeasure
 12 you would want to have it finding the defect
 13 straightaway. If it was only going to find it some time
 14 later it would be of limited value.
 15 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Mr de Garr Robinson, just on your term
 16 "countermeasures".
 17 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes.
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I understood that to have a specific
 19 meaning within the IT world. Are you using it in
 20 a technical meaning or are you using it as a generic
 21 term?
 22 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I'm using it as a term to refer to
 23 measures and controls in existence, both technical and
 24 human measures and controls, which are designed or have
 25 the effect of identifying bugs in Horizon or identifying

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1 the consequences of bugs in Horizon so that they can be
 2 looked at and fixed.
 3 MR JUSTICE FRASER: So that's the way counsel is going to
 4 use the term "countermeasures".
 5 A. Thank you, my Lord.
 6 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: And this trial, the issues that we
 7 have been discussing, are designed to enable the experts
 8 to grapple with that question, yes? Whether
 9 countermeasures are likely to catch and correct the
 10 impact of any bugs that may have arisen in the system?
 11 A. Agreed.
 12 Q. And countermeasures aren't limited to a process of
 13 stopping the bug as soon as it appears. Sometimes
 14 countermeasures only catch the symptoms or the
 15 consequences of a bug, you would accept that, wouldn't
 16 you?
 17 A. Typically countermeasures are a design aspiration. When
 18 you sit down to design a computer system and what
 19 controls are in place, then you would consider what
 20 controls are required, where to position them. Should
 21 it be the case that the controls fail do you have
 22 a human aspect doing a secondary check? It could go all
 23 the way to employing auditors to re-check figures. You
 24 could go on ad infinitum with --
 25 Q. So you accept, then, that these controls or

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1 countermeasures, whatever you would like to call them,
 2 some of them have the effect of stopping the bug in its
 3 track. Well, some of them have the effect of stopping a
 4 bug arising in the first place?
 5 A. The best way of dealing with defects is to ensure that
 6 they don't arise in the first place --
 7 Q. And --
 8 A. Sorry, if you would allow me to just finish.
 9 Q. Sorry.
 10 A. So what you would do is throughout your testing regimes
 11 you would flush out all of the defects at that point in
 12 time, and you would put in controls to ensure that if
 13 a defect does trigger, there is a way that you are
 14 alerted to it and it is fixed as soon as possible.
 15 Q. Yes. So one of the objectives is to have a testing
 16 regime which picks up as many bugs as possible?
 17 A. Indeed.
 18 Q. But I think you accept that it is impossible to have
 19 a testing regime that picks up all of them?
 20 A. It is impossible to have a testing regime that picks up
 21 all of them and that is why you have a process of
 22 categorisation and you would allow a product to go live
 23 if -- one of the terms that's used -- all severity 1 and
 24 severity 2 defects have been dealt with. Severity 3
 25 might be largely cosmetic and you would allow a system

23

1 to go live with cosmetic defects.
 2 Q. That's not quite what I'm asking you. You accept there
 3 are going to be bugs which arise in the operation of any
 4 IT system which would simply evade any test that any
 5 human being can devise?
 6 A. There's always going to be bugs that are unknown to be
 7 within the system at the point that you go live and they
 8 are only discovered sometimes weeks afterwards,
 9 sometimes years afterwards.
 10 Q. Yes. And then -- so that's one line of defence. Then
 11 there are other lines of defence when a bug does arise
 12 because it hasn't been tested for. There are principles
 13 such as defensive programming, and so on, which try and
 14 stop the bug working its way through the system and
 15 producing false results at the end?
 16 A. Defensive programming is typically to stop the bug ever
 17 occurring. It isn't the trigger mechanism; what happens
 18 after the bug is triggered.
 19 Q. Isn't one of the aspects of defensive programming having
 20 little units of programmes which require data to be
 21 transferred from one programme to another programme to
 22 another programme, and every time you transfer from one
 23 unit to the other checks are done to ensure the figures
 24 are correct?
 25 A. Yes, to ensure that a bug doesn't have an impact on the

24

1 user --

2 Q. So one aspect of defensive programming is not just to

3 prevent bugs, it is to ensure the bug doesn't

4 propagate --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- when it manifests itself and produces an error in

7 data, yes?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So we have one set of measures which is designed to

10 prevent bugs occurring in the first place?

11 A. Mm.

12 Q. We have other measures which are designed to prevent

13 bugs causing problems in data at the user end, if I can

14 put it that way. But again no system of countermeasures

15 is perfect, there will always be bugs that get through?

16 A. Agreed. I completely agree.

17 Q. Then you have other measures which are designed to pick

18 up the problems which have been caused at the user end.

19 You have measures that are designed to assist in the

20 identification of the fact that there is a problem in

21 data such that it needs to be looked at and corrected if

22 it is wrong?

23 A. Yes, that's typically called impact management. So you

24 understand what the impact might be of the bug that you

25 have seen and you work out a process of resolving the

1 consequential impact of it .

2 Q. That's precisely -- and of course I'm reminded that many

3 of those countermeasures also pick up and correct for

4 user errors as well. They can sometimes have a dual

5 effect?

6 A. Yes, you can design the software in such a way that it

7 reduces the amount of user errors or the potential user

8 errors. One such that's appeared in this case is about

9 double typing high value cheques when they are remmed

10 into the system. So if it is a high value, potentially

11 you should type that in twice rather than in once.

12 Q. All of these things that we have just been discussing in

13 general terms is precisely what the concept of

14 robustness addresses, isn't it, in the IT industry?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That a system isn't merely reliable when conditions are

17 normal-- I think the technical term is nominal-- but

18 robust performance takes over if and when conditions are

19 abnormal or off nominal, when they become adverse and

20 errors are created, yes?

21 A. Yes, you would want a system to fail safely. So it is

22 acknowledged that there could be failures and it is what

23 you do when that system fails .

24 Q. So robustness is the very concept which underlies the

25 issues we have been discussing for the last half hour,

1 yes?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I think that's what you agree in the joint statement.

4 If we could go to the joint statement, it is at bundle

5 {D1/1/8}. This is paragraph 2.3, issue 3.

6 This is what you agreed with Dr Worden before any

7 reports were produced at all :

8 "There are different dimensions of robustness, such

9 as robustness against hardware failure, software defects

10 and user error. The robustness of the system also

11 depends on the process around it .

12 "Robustness does not mean perfection; but that the

13 consequences of imperfection must be managed

14 appropriately."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Then over the page {D1/1/9} you suggest your own

17 interpretation of robustness. You say:

18 " ... I have applied the following definition of

19 robustness:

20 "... namely, the ability of a system to perform

21 correctly in any scenario, including where invalid

22 inputs are introduced, with effective error handling."

23 So those adverse conditions you refer to, that would

24 include bugs in the system itself, wouldn't it?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So withstanding them would include managing their

2 consequences appropriately, yes?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. I think that's also what you say in the third joint

5 statement that was agreed some time later. That is at

6 {D1/4/2}. It is the second paragraph:

7 "From our experience of ..."

8 A. Sorry, I do not think I have the right --

9 Q. Sorry, it is {D1/4/2}.

10 MR JUSTICE FRASER: If you look at your screen you will see

11 what the witness is seeing.

12 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: It is {D1/4/2}.

13 At the bottom of the page, do you see that?

14 A. Yes, I do.

15 Q. Second sentence of the second paragraph:

16 "We agree that 'robust' does not mean infallible and

17 therefore horizon has and will continue to suffer

18 faults. Robustness limits the impact of those faults

19 and other adverse events."

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. If you go over the page to page {D1/4/4},

22 paragraph 3.13, third box down, third row down:

23 "Countermeasures work by limiting the impact of

24 Horizon bugs/error and defects on branch accounts.

25 "Countermeasures do not always eliminate the effects

1 of adverse events (they are not perfect) ..."
 2 Do you agree with that?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. No IT system ever has perfect countermeasures?
 5 A. I agree.
 6 Q. But they are often effective in the area where they are
 7 deployed and that's why they become basic elements of
 8 practical IT system design.
 9 Incidentally, isn't that what Dr Worden was saying
 10 in the first statement? If we can go back to the first
 11 joint statement, which is {D1/1/9}, and look at page 9
 12 of that statement, you will see in the bottom half of
 13 the screen we have got Dr Worden's comments?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. So you indicate your definition of robustness in the
 16 top, and below he says:
 17 "The definition of 'robust' proposed above by
 18 Mr Coyne is not adequate for reasons given below. The
 19 term 'robust' is not, as implied in para 3.1 of the
 20 outline, either ill-defined or a piece of IT public
 21 relations. Robustness (which is closely related to
 22 resilience) is an engineering objective, and large parts
 23 of project budgets are devoted to achieving it."
 24 Would you agree with that?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. "it receives its meaning in the phrase 'robust against
 2 ... [some risk or threat]' ..."
 3 Would you agree with that?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. "... and there are a large number of risks that business
 6 IT systems need to be robust against - such as hardware
 7 failures ..."
 8 If we go over the page {D1/1/10}:
 9 "... communications failures, power cuts,
 10 disasters, user errors or fraud. These are the
 11 dimensions of robustness."
 12 Do you agree with that?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. "In all these dimensions, robustness does not mean 'be
 15 perfect'; it means 'address the risks of being
 16 imperfect'. The extent of robustness is to be
 17 interpreted as: in how many dimensions was Horizon
 18 robust? And: in each dimension, how large were the
 19 remaining risks?"
 20 Would you agree with that?
 21 A. That is a little imprecise. I don't really understand
 22 the reference to the dimensions. The dimensions aren't
 23 defined.
 24 Q. He talks about dimensions before, hardware failures --
 25 he talks about different risks that are faced by the

30

1 system. But let's not get bogged down in dimensions.
 2 The critical question, could I suggest to you, in
 3 robustness, is how large were the remaining risks after
 4 the relevant countermeasures have been brought into
 5 account? Would you agree with that?
 6 A. I'm not sure I would agree that that is the critical
 7 question, no. Certainly consideration does need to be
 8 given to how, once a risk triggers, it is dealt with.
 9 Q. Let me get this straight. You are not agreeing that
 10 when determining whether a system, an IT system, is
 11 robust that a critical question is how large are
 12 the risks remaining after you have had regard to the
 13 countermeasures?
 14 A. But when you talk about how large are the risks, that
 15 quantification is something which I don't believe is
 16 possible. It is not possible to quantify risk in such
 17 a way.
 18 Q. So please explain, Mr Coyne, how else would you grapple
 19 with the question of robustness? You agree robustness
 20 is an important concept?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. You agree it is deployed very frequently in the IT
 23 industry?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. It is a subject of academic study, isn't it?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And there are university courses on it?
 3 A. There may well be, I'm not aware --
 4 Q. Yes. So given that, and given that the essential
 5 purpose of this doctrine is to determine how well
 6 systems guard against problems caused by -- it could be
 7 human error, it could be bugs, it could be any adverse
 8 conditions of that sort, isn't it obvious, doesn't it
 9 follow as night follows day, that the ultimate question
 10 being wrestled with by the concept of robustness is how
 11 well are the risks faced by a system guarded against?
 12 In other words, what are the risks remaining after you
 13 have taken the countermeasures into account?
 14 A. Yes, and typically that analysis, what you talk about
 15 there, is conducted in the design process of a system at
 16 the start where you would then go to build a system
 17 after you are satisfied that it has all the design
 18 characteristics and control measures in place. So it
 19 achieves a particular level that you are satisfied with
 20 and then you go to actually build the solution. That is
 21 different to then having a system already in place and
 22 looking back at it and trying to decide what its level
 23 of robustness was.
 24 Q. Sorry, I'm not sure I understand what you are saying,
 25 Mr Coyne. Are you saying it is possible to define

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1 a level of robustness that you want when you are
 2 designing the system, but it is not possible to decide
 3 whether you have achieved that level after you've built
 4 it?
 5 A. What I'm saying is when you set out to build the system
 6 and you have the design processes and control measures,
 7 you will take a view whether you are satisfied with the
 8 level of risk within that build. It won't have
 9 a number, it will be subjective, but there will be
 10 a decision on whether there is the appropriate level of
 11 robustness -- to use the phrase that we have termed
 12 here -- and if everybody is agreed at that level of
 13 robustness the build will then take place. But it is
 14 a subjective view.
 15 Q. I'm interested in your suggestion, Mr Coyne, that there
 16 won't be any numbers. You say you are a qualified
 17 PRINCE2 practitioner, yes?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. I have seen a number of PRINCE2 documents and we can
 20 take you to some tomorrow if this is necessary. But
 21 what those documents make very clear is that in engaging
 22 in the process of determining the risks -- managing the
 23 risks to a given project, you do absolutely attach
 24 numbers to particular risks. You have graphs, don't
 25 you? You draw graphs up and you assign values to

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1 particular risks?
 2 A. Typically each risk will have an impact rating, often
 3 between 0 and 5 but it could be different, and there is
 4 a likelihood of that impacting, and typically you would
 5 multiply one by the other and that gives you a number.
 6 But that is far too simplistic for something at the
 7 level of analysis that we are talking about here.
 8 Q. What I'm suggesting to you, Mr Coyne, is previously you
 9 said when you are designing a system and considering
 10 the risk to which you wanted the system to be subject,
 11 the level of risk which you were willing to accept, it
 12 is a subjective view and it doesn't involve any numbers.
 13 What I'm suggesting to you, Mr Coyne, is it absolutely
 14 does involve numbers and indeed the very process you
 15 have just described shows it involving numbers. Would
 16 you agree with that?
 17 A. Right, so what I set out with regard to numbers there
 18 was a very simplistic way of measuring isolated aspects
 19 of risk. That is used in PRINCE2. But you can't
 20 necessarily scale up looking at simple isolated risks
 21 and apply it to something retrospectively such as
 22 Horizon.
 23 Q. You are raising two completely different issues. The
 24 first issue is the retrospective issue.
 25 A. Right.

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1 Q. And the second issue is numbers.
 2 A. Right.
 3 Q. You accept, don't you, that when designing a system you
 4 absolutely do -- you identify the risks which you want
 5 the system to guard against and you assign numbers to
 6 the adequacy of the risk to which the system is guarding
 7 against and you perform calculations with a view to
 8 ascertaining whether the system is the kind of system
 9 that you want, yes?
 10 A. No, not really. When you are talking about
 11 countermeasures or controls, they will be functional
 12 design aspects and there will typically be a list of all
 13 functional design aspects and nonfunctional design
 14 aspects.
 15 The types of risks that are monitored through the
 16 design and implementation of an IT project are often
 17 things such as delay, the lack of resources, the failure
 18 of hardware, and it is those aspects that you would
 19 attribute a numerical value, and then also a numerical
 20 value which is likelihood.
 21 So yes, they are both in the same area as risk, but
 22 one is dealing with very simplistic isolated elements
 23 and the other is dealing with the whole operation of
 24 a system.
 25 Q. You have not said that before, so far as I'm aware. You

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1 are suggesting that PRINCE2 can only involve simple
 2 calculations, it doesn't involve quite elaborate
 3 calculations involving a wide array of risk
 4 calculations?
 5 A. I'm not saying that you can't make PRINCE2 more
 6 elaborate. Typically in my experience people will
 7 measure risk within PRINCE2 between 0 and 5, so it is
 8 not very granular, but there's nothing to say that you
 9 couldn't have some more scientific way of doing it.
 10 Q. Are you suggesting that doesn't happen in practice,
 11 because I would like to suggest to you it does, and
 12 there are quite complex projects where there are quite
 13 elaborate calculations made. Would you accept that?
 14 A. I am sure there may well be.
 15 Q. Just to very briefly talk about your retrospective
 16 point. If you are brought in to design a new element to
 17 a system, around an existing system, and you are being
 18 asked to calculate the risk of that system not operating
 19 accurately in collaboration with the legacy system
 20 that's remaining, when performing that calculation risk
 21 you will look at the past, won't you? You will look at
 22 how the legacy system operates, how reliable the outputs
 23 are out of the legacy system, all sorts of things which
 24 are based upon looking back at retrospective events,
 25 yes?

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1 A. Yes, I would certainly look if there has been any
 2 historic defects within the system, because in the
 3 example that you are giving it is a system that is
 4 already live that is being extended. So I would look
 5 back at how the good the testing has been in the past,
 6 whether bugs have escaped the testing. I would look at
 7 how many defects there have been in any given launch or
 8 release. I would look at how, when bugs are detected,
 9 they are dealt with, what the mitigation of those would
 10 be. There would be an assemblance of all of those
 11 elements.
 12 Q. Thank you. So what you describe as an assemblance would
 13 be an examination, a review, of the data relating to
 14 past performance --
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. -- with a view to ascertaining a risk that you face in
 17 the future, yes?
 18 A. It would certainly help set the context. It might well
 19 be that simply looking backwards at a project, whilst it
 20 might be helpful to set the context, it might well be
 21 that the way you are going to approach this new project
 22 is different, it might have different vendors that are
 23 involved, the supporting mechanism might be completely
 24 different, which might be a factor in the scenario. We
 25 have Atos that were involved in certain aspects of the

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1 support, we have Fujitsu that were involved in certain
 2 aspects of the support. Post Office had a supporting
 3 function and had a reconciliation function but that may
 4 well have changed over time. So it is important to
 5 understand what processes were in place at various
 6 times.
 7 Q. Yes. And forming that understanding, can I suggest to
 8 you that invariably you will be looking at past
 9 performance?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Even, for example, if you are bringing in a new system
 12 that is designed to be compatible with an old system, as
 13 well as looking at the data relating to the past
 14 performance of the old system you would also look at the
 15 data relating to the past performance of the new system
 16 if there is some, wouldn't you?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. So quite often when performing what you describe as
 19 a prospective risk analysis you would often look at
 20 historical data and look at historical performance,
 21 wouldn't you?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. I'm very grateful.
 24 If we can now move to bundle {D3/1/11}, this is
 25 Dr Worden's first report. If I could pick it up at the

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1 bottom of the page, paragraph 48. Dr Worden has just
 2 listed three of the issues that we have just been
 3 discussing, and then he says in paragraph 48:

4 "In my opinion the most important of these is
 5 issue 3 which encompasses a large and mature area of
 6 modern IT practice."

7 Do I apprehend from the evidence you have already
 8 given that in your opinion the most important of these
 9 issues is not issue 3?

10 A. I don't see any as being more important than others.

11 Q. You would accept, though, that issue 3 encompasses
 12 a large and mature area of IT practice, yes?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Then he says:

15 "Nearly all business IT systems need to be robust --
 16 as the business depends on them -- and there is a large,
 17 mature and tested set of techniques for achieving
 18 robustness."

19 Do you agree with that?

20 A. Yes. It is a generic statement of the industry rather
 21 than this particular project.

22 Q. Then if we could move on to page {D3/1/96} in the same
 23 document. Paragraph 374. He sets out there -- I will
 24 ask you to read it to yourself -- points that are
 25 similar to the points that we have seen in the first

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1 joint statement and he adds at the end:

2 "Robustness of IT systems is a large and mature
 3 topic."

4 And I understand you would agree with that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So what this all shows is that there is a well
 7 understood body of practice and learning on how to
 8 achieve robustness, yes?

9 A. Say that again, please?

10 Q. There is a well understood body of practice and learning
 11 on how to achieve robustness in IT systems?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And it is possible to benchmark a system by reference to
 14 other comparable systems which are deployed in the
 15 industry, yes?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You say that I think in your first statement. Perhaps
 18 if we could look at that {D2/4.1/154}, page 154,
 19 paragraph 5.99.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. I'm so sorry, Mr Coyne, I'm taking you all over the shop
 22 and I'm wasting time. I do apologise. Something seems
 23 to have gone wrong in my note. Could you give me one
 24 moment?

25 A. Certainly. (Pause)

40

1 Q. Yes, let's go back to {D2/1/78}. It is page 78, as
 2 I indicated first of all, and it is paragraph 5.91. You
 3 say -- this is in your first report:
 4 "... I have estimated the likely level of the
 5 robustness of Horizon and benchmarked this against
 6 industry standards based upon a review of the evidence
 7 available including the known error log (KEL) and PEAK
 8 system."
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Your conclusion, having done that benchmarking exercise,
 11 is that Horizon is robust, isn't it?
 12 A. I said relatively robust, yes.
 13 Q. Well, let's look at exactly what you say. It is bundle
 14 {D1/4/2}, paragraph 3.1:
 15 "From our experience of other computer systems ..."
 16 This is at the top of the second paragraph.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. "... Horizon is relatively robust."
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. So that's your considered view about the Horizon system,
 21 isn't it?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. On the basis of all the evidence that you had seen?
 24 A. Yes. In my first report I stated that. In my second
 25 report I explained that in light of the evidence that

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1 had been disclosed between the two reports, that the
 2 Horizon system wasn't as robust as I initially
 3 considered.
 4 Q. But your overall view after that process is set out in
 5 the passage we just looked at?
 6 A. It is.
 7 Q. Your view is Horizon is relatively robust, and I would
 8 like to explore that if I could. We agreed that
 9 robustness is a mature topic which is the subject of
 10 academic study and has well understood practical
 11 principles. Would you agree?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. You say that from your experience of other systems
 14 Horizon is relatively robust. So you are saying that
 15 you have considered comparable systems of which you have
 16 experience?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. These are systems with which you are familiar?
 19 A. Indeed, yes.
 20 Q. And you have compared Horizon's robustness with the
 21 robustness of those systems, and compared with those
 22 systems Horizon is relatively robust, yes?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Let me tell you what I think you are saying here and you
 25 will correct me if I'm wrong. It has a good level of

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1 robustness compared with some systems?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. In the top quartile, maybe?
 4 A. That's not the assessment that I believe I have made.
 5 Q. Certainly in the top half, would you agree?
 6 A. No, I don't think I want to be drawn on where it is
 7 positioned.
 8 Q. If I were to tell you that when I go running I'm
 9 relatively fast, isn't that what I would be saying, that
 10 I'm faster than most people I run with?
 11 A. Yes. For context, I have worked on a number of systems
 12 in banking, in manufacturing, and Horizon compares well
 13 with those systems, with the context that we have added
 14 here that it is not free from defects and the impact of
 15 those defects is very important to consider but it is
 16 relatively robust --
 17 Q. So --
 18 A. Sorry, if I could just add to that.
 19 Q. Yes, of course.
 20 A. What must be considered is that we are talking about
 21 Horizon as it is today and the processes that are in
 22 place today, but there has been quite a long journey to
 23 get to the position that it is now --
 24 Q. I'm going to ask you about that later, Mr Coyne, but you
 25 have made the point and I understand it.

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1 A. Okay.
 2 Q. If I understand you correctly, you are saying that if
 3 there is a spectrum of comparable systems in the world
 4 today from 0 to 10, Horizon is towards the upper end.
 5 You don't want to commit yourself to whether it is in
 6 the top 25%, but it is towards the 10 end rather than
 7 the 0 end?
 8 A. Yes, but what you have got to take care -- and
 9 benchmarking against systems that are in similar
 10 contexts. There are of course systems that are dealing
 11 with flag management, I used to work at
 12 British Aerospace looking at their military aircraft
 13 programming. There was a whole different spectrum of
 14 robustness that was required there. I have also worked
 15 in health care where you are talking about life critical
 16 systems. Horizon doesn't compare anywhere near those
 17 sorts of systems. What I'm talking about is Horizon
 18 when benchmarked against systems of similar context, so
 19 in retail, in banking and things like that.
 20 Q. And these are systems where there are large numbers of
 21 users?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And a great complexity in the transactions being
 24 performed?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And these are systems which have measures and controls
2 to achieve robustness?
3 A. That aim to achieve robustness, yes.
4 Q. Could you just define which sectors you are talking
5 about as being comparable for the purposes of your
6 judgment?
7 A. So point of sale systems, something where a transaction
8 is taking place over the counter, is certainly
9 comparable. Banking has elements of it, where automated
10 payments are being transferred to different
11 organisations, so that is certainly comparable as well.
12 Stock control, things like that.
13 Q. And you are talking about large businesses with lots of
14 users and lots of complexity, yes?
15 A. Yes, at a similar scale to what is seen in Horizon.
16 Q. We have been talking about measures and controls or
17 countermeasures. Dr Worden identified 18 of them in his
18 first report, didn't he?
19 A. Mm.
20 Q. You will see that he says he has defined three letter
21 acronyms for each of them?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. And he says specifically, doesn't he, that most of these
24 acronyms are not commonly used in the industry?
25 A. I think he did say that, yes.

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1 Q. But in your second report you suggest that he might be
2 giving the false impression that they are commonly used
3 in the industry, do you remember saying that?
4 A. Certainly in my report I point out that they aren't used
5 in the industry.
6 Q. Let's see what you actually say. It is at bundle
7 {D2/4.1/141}, paragraph 5.67:
8 "Whilst Dr Worden acknowledges these acronyms are
9 mostly not used in industry, he has used them throughout
10 his report which gives the impression they have a
11 standard meaning and scope."
12 Do you think that is a fair thing to say? He
13 specifically says in his report that they don't.
14 A. Well, I actually think that if you do attribute acronyms
15 to things there is a danger that the perception is that
16 they are read as being industry standard terms.
17 Q. Even in circumstances where he specifically says that's
18 not the case on at least two occasions in his report?
19 I mean why did you feel it necessary to say that,
20 Mr Coyne, in circumstances where Dr Worden had already
21 made it clear?
22 A. I'm not sure.
23 Q. Anyway, you go through his 18 countermeasures over the
24 page {D2/4.1/142}, there is a table that goes on, and it
25 is fair to say you disagree whether one of them is

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1 a standard countermeasure, you disagree that manual
2 workarounds count as a standard countermeasure?
3 A. Yes, I don't believe that a manual workaround can be
4 a --
5 Q. But for others you accept they are typical standard
6 features in IT systems design?
7 A. Yes, certainly when you are designing a system, some of
8 the aspirational features that you want to build in
9 there would be contained within these controls.
10 Q. Mr Coyne, you have used the word "aspirational" several
11 times now and I'm just wondering whether you're trying
12 to drum home a theme. If you want to make a point about
13 aspiration I don't want to stop you making it, but you
14 do throw this word in quite a lot to your answers and
15 I'm wondering what point you're trying to make by the
16 word "aspiration"?
17 A. I'm just pointing out that when you start a project and
18 you build something, you go through a workshop typically
19 of setting out what your design aspirations are. That
20 is just a term I use when I'm conducting workshops with
21 people going through things.
22 Q. I see. Your judgment on the robustness of the Horizon
23 system takes all these countermeasures that Dr Worden
24 refers to -- with the possible exception of
25 workarounds -- into account, doesn't it?

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1 A. Yes.
2 Q. It is necessary to do so to form a judgment on
3 robustness, isn't it?
4 A. I'm not sure that you need to consider -- I'm not sure
5 that you need to decide that this is the subset of
6 factors that you are going to consider before you come
7 up with a calculation of robustness.
8 Q. Mr Coyne, didn't one of the Horizon Issues specifically
9 ask you to consider whether controls and measures in
10 Horizon reduced certain problems to an extremely low
11 level of risk?
12 A. It certainly -- yes, it did.
13 Q. And I think we have established, it has taken an hour to
14 do this, I think we have already established that when
15 making an overall judgment of robustness you both
16 consider how the system operates and then consider how
17 the countermeasures designed into the system also
18 operate?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. With a view to coming to an overall decision as to the
21 robustness of the system?
22 A. Yes.
23 Q. Thank you. So in forming a judgment about robustness it
24 is necessary to form a judgment also, isn't it, about
25 how the countermeasures, what Dr Worden calls the

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1 robustness countermeasures, how those countermeasures
 2 were designed and operated in practice, yes?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. A key element of robustness is considering how a system
 5 limits the extent of the impact in this context, in the
 6 context of the Horizon system, and the issues we are
 7 considering, namely, does Horizon cause shortfalls in
 8 branch accounts. A key element of the robustness
 9 question is considering how the Horizon system limits
 10 the extent of any impact on branch accounts, yes?
 11 A. Yes. Certainly you need to establish what the impact is
 12 and, secondly, you should take steps that if it is ever
 13 going to happen again you reduce that impact.
 14 Q. So in forming a judgment on robustness you have first of
 15 all to see -- let's take a bug. A bug happens and the
 16 first question you ask is: did that bug or could that
 17 bug have had an impact on branch accounts?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Then you form a judgment on whether and to what extent
 20 the countermeasures in place in the Horizon system would
 21 have enabled that impact to be identified and fixed,
 22 yes?
 23 A. No, I think you would look at whether it did -- whether
 24 any countermeasure or control did prevent it from having
 25 a consequential impact, not whether it should have.

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1 Q. Well, whether it would have?
 2 A. Or whether it would have.
 3 Q. You don't consider whether it would have, you consider
 4 whether it did?
 5 A. Well, if it did there would be evidence that it did. It
 6 would be documented.
 7 Q. But in some cases it will be blindingly obvious, won't
 8 it, Mr Coyne? Let me give you an example, remming.
 9 A Post Office example. Remming in and remming out.
 10 Money is sent from Chesterfield to a branch.
 11 Chesterfield has a record of the money it sends over.
 12 The branch receives the money and types in -- or usually
 13 it is a barcode actually, but it records on the Horizon
 14 system how much money the branch has received.
 15 You are aware, aren't you, that there is
 16 an automatic system that checks Chesterfield's figures
 17 against the branch's figures?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Are you suggesting that every time over the last
 20 20 years there has been a discrepancy between
 21 Chesterfield's figures and the branch's figures, are you
 22 suggesting that it is necessary for you to see the
 23 evidence of what happened next, of whether a transaction
 24 correction was sent and what the evidence was in
 25 relation to that branch? Are you really suggesting

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1 that's necessary?
 2 A. No, because in a typical scenario where the systems
 3 operate as they should, as they are designed, then the
 4 positioning of the countermeasures that you have put in
 5 place would pick up on that so that would work
 6 absolutely fine. In the scenario where the system
 7 doesn't operate as expected there is a bug, error or
 8 defect or communication fault, then a different set of
 9 scenarios will likely be encountered and it is
 10 understanding then what happens that is important.
 11 Q. Let me get this straight. You are suggesting that there
 12 are cases when you can take it as read, the situation is
 13 such that you can take it as read that a problem will be
 14 identified and it will be fixed. But you are suggesting
 15 there are other situations where you can't take it as
 16 read where specific evidence is needed, is that right?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Okay. But nonetheless, although you say that is
 19 necessary, it is your considered opinion that the
 20 Horizon system that you now see is robust, yes?
 21 A. Relatively robust, yes.
 22 Q. Thank you.
 23 If I could look at the third joint statement again
 24 which is at -- let's go to your first report, actually,
 25 which is {D2/1/26}. At paragraph 3.7 you say:

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1 " ... whilst the present-day version of Horizon,
 2 supported by manual human support may now be considered
 3 as relatively robust in the spectrum of computer systems
 4 used in businesses today it has undergone major
 5 modifications ..."
 6 And in forming that judgment, if I can go down to
 7 paragraph 3.9, you say:
 8 "Fundamental in determining the robustness of
 9 Horizon is gaining an understanding of the Post Office
 10 (and Fujitsu) manual business processes applied when
 11 determining and handling the effects of bugs ..."
 12 So may I take it that the judgment that you record
 13 in paragraph 3.7 is based upon an understanding that you
 14 have gained of the processes you describe in
 15 paragraph 3.9?
 16 A. Well, one of the challenges is that we do have
 17 an understanding of business processes for many parts of
 18 the Horizon support system, we don't have it for all,
 19 and one of the key elements is when it comes to
 20 reconciliation, so the recovery of a situation that
 21 occurs when a bug, error or defect has had an impact on
 22 branch accounts, there is a need for reconciliation and
 23 we don't have that part. So the closed loop, we are
 24 unable to close that loop.
 25 Q. I'm finding it difficult to understand what you are

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1 saying. Are you saying that you are in a position to
 2 make a judgment that Horizon is robust or are you saying
 3 that you aren't?
 4 A. I'm saying that based on the information that's
 5 available it is relatively robust.
 6 Q. Thank you.
 7 A. What I'm also saying is subject to other documentation
 8 or other parts of the process that has not been
 9 disclosed at this stage, the situation may improve or it
 10 may well be a worse situation.
 11 Q. Mr Coyne, if I can suggest to you that makes no sense
 12 whatsoever. You have made a judgment. You have already
 13 confirmed I think more than once --
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. -- that it is your considered opinion that the Horizon
 16 system as it exists at the moment, with all its
 17 countermeasures, is robust?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. In those circumstances you can't be suggesting, can you,
 20 that there's evidence out that there that you haven't
 21 seen that may mean that that judgment is completely
 22 wrong?
 23 A. I don't see why that can't be the position. There may
 24 well be documentation and there is documentation that
 25 must exist with regard to reconciliation within

1 subpostmasters' accounts after a bug, error or defect
 2 has occurred and outstanding the outcome of that will
 3 have an impact on the statement of robustness.
 4 Q. Mr Coyne, when you talk about reconciliation you are
 5 talking about the reconciliation that occurs between
 6 transactions as transferred from the Horizon system into
 7 Post Office systems and those transactions then being
 8 compared with the transactions that are recorded by
 9 banks, financial institutions and other Post Office
 10 clients, is that what you are talking about?
 11 A. No, sorry, specifically what I'm talking about here is
 12 when a bug, error or defect occurs, as we have seen
 13 here, there is the identification of a discrepancy on
 14 a postmaster's account, and that's in the evidence.
 15 What we then don't see is how, if at all, that was dealt
 16 with.
 17 Q. Just to be absolutely clear, you are not suggesting that
 18 you think that when a bug was identified and
 19 discrepancies were spotted in accounts, you are not
 20 saying you think the accountancy discrepancies were not
 21 dealt with, you are not saying that, are you?
 22 A. No, I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is they were
 23 identified typically by Fujitsu, and I don't know what
 24 the process was, and Fujitsu will say that they don't
 25 know because it appears in all the documents, they don't

1 know what Post Office does to correct that. That is a
 2 missing part of the evidence. So I'm not saying I think
 3 Post Office do nothing about it, I'm simply saying
 4 I don't know what that process was.
 5 Q. Right. You are not suggesting that you think, on the
 6 basis of documents you have seen, that it is likely that
 7 Post Office do nothing about it? You are not saying
 8 that, are you?
 9 A. No, I'm saying the opposite. It is likely that they do
 10 something about it. I'm saying there is no evidence
 11 available to --
 12 Q. I'm grateful. Then that explains what I was trying to
 13 explore with you. That explains why you feel able to
 14 judge, as you do in paragraph 3.7, that Horizon is
 15 relatively robust. On the basis of the evidence you
 16 have seen --
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. -- including the evidence you have seen of the Fujitsu
 19 processes and other documents including Post Office
 20 processes, you are happy, and it is your considered
 21 view, that Horizon is relatively robust?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Thank you. Now let's get back to what it means --
 24 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Mr de Garr Robinson, we are going to
 25 have a break at some point. Is now a good time?

1 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: It is a perfect time.
 2 MR JUSTICE FRASER: We will come back in at 11.55 am.
 3 Mr Coyne, you are in the middle of giving your
 4 evidence. I am sure you have heard me say this before.
 5 You are not to speak to anyone about the case and this
 6 applies throughout the week because you are going to be
 7 there all week. I know you know it, I might bore you
 8 senseless by repeating it every time we stop. You don't
 9 have to stay in the witness box but don't talk to
 10 anybody else about the case.
 11 We will come back in at 11.55 am.
 12 (11.51 am)
 13 (A short break)
 14 (12.00 am)
 15 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Mr Coyne, getting back to what it
 16 means for Horizon to be relatively robust. You have
 17 described the systems which you say are comparable to
 18 which you have compared Horizon. The systems that you
 19 are talking about, they are usually in the private
 20 sector, I apprehend?
 21 A. No. No, across --
 22 Q. Okay, across both. But the kind of businesses you are
 23 talking about, banking, retail, those are private
 24 sector?
 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Those sorts of systems have quite exacting requirements
 2 of robustness, don't they?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. No system can be perfect, everyone agrees that, but the
 5 large and complex businesses that use these sorts of
 6 systems, they don't have much tolerance for widespread
 7 errors in data entry, processing or storage, do they?
 8 A. No, that is right. They certainly strive to remove that
 9 wherever possible.
 10 Q. Given the number of transactions and the importance of
 11 handling and accounting those transactions properly,
 12 those businesses require the overwhelming majority of
 13 their transactions to be handled and accounted for
 14 properly, don't they?
 15 A. They do indeed, yes.
 16 Q. They can only afford for a tiny proportion to suffer
 17 from lasting errors, yes?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Air traffic control and medical machines, frankly they
 20 can't afford any errors at all.
 21 A. Indeed.
 22 Q. But the kind of systems we are talking about, their
 23 tolerance for errors is very low, yes?
 24 A. Certainly it will be fractions of a percent of the total
 25 transaction, whatever the transaction might be, yes.

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1 Q. Any significant level of non-transient errors would be
 2 quite a serious threat to their businesses, wouldn't it?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. It would be a threat to their customer base, a threat to
 5 their manageability, a threat to their manpower
 6 requirements, having to run around dealing with
 7 problems, a threat to their operating costs, a threat to
 8 their profitability, and given that businesses operate
 9 in a competitive world where other businesses are happy
 10 to displace them, it could be a threat to their very
 11 survival, would you agree?
 12 A. It could be. They are quite generic statements but
 13 I don't disagree with any of them.
 14 Q. Those are the businesses to which you have compared
 15 Horizon, yes?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. So when you say the Horizon system is relatively robust,
 18 you are saying that in the overwhelming majority of
 19 cases where conditions are both normal and adverse it
 20 works reliably, yes?
 21 A. Yes, the vast majority of all the transactions that flow
 22 through the Horizon system will work successfully.
 23 Q. And although there are occasions when it doesn't, those
 24 represent only a tiny proportion of the work that it
 25 does, correct?

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1 A. Yes, it will be a small fraction of the work that it
 2 does, yes.
 3 Q. Even within that tiny proportion, a large majority of
 4 the problems thrown up are picked up and corrected by
 5 the various systems in place that are designed to do
 6 precisely that?
 7 A. Certainly many of the ones that go wrong for one reason
 8 or another appear to be picked up. There are examples
 9 where they don't appear to have been picked up and
 10 examples which appear to have an impact.
 11 Q. That is a very important opinion, isn't it, in the
 12 context of this case?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. For the purposes of this trial?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. That being the case, Mr Coyne, I wonder why you haven't
 17 actually spelt out that in your reports or your joint
 18 statement?
 19 A. I believe that I have. Have I not?
 20 Q. It may be unfair, Mr Coyne, but my sense is that in both
 21 your reports you tried to give a rather different
 22 impression, an impression of a system which is beset by
 23 problems, the sheer volume of which means it cannot
 24 sensibly be regarded as reliable. Would that not be
 25 fair?

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1 A. I don't believe that that's fair, no.
 2 Q. Let's have a look at your first report. If we could go
 3 to bundle {D2/1/25}. This is the report -- your first
 4 report that you produced in mid-October. And if we look
 5 at paragraph 3.1 --
 6 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I do not think we are on the right page
 7 on the common screen.
 8 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: {D2/1/25}.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You recite the agreement in paragraph 3.1 contained in
 11 joint statement 1?
 12 A. Mm.
 13 Q. You say in paragraph 3.2:
 14 "Each discovered bug ... could have remained
 15 unresolved in Horizon for varying periods of time."
 16 And you add that there is a possibility of other
 17 bugs.
 18 A. Mm.
 19 Q. Then you say this in 3.3:
 20 "The sheer volume of known error logs and
 21 reconciliation reports confirm the wide-ranging extent
 22 of the impact of such bugs ... This evidence
 23 demonstrates that such bugs ... would undermine the
 24 reliability of the Horizon system to accurately process
 25 and record transactions."

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1 That seems quite an ominous statement to make given
 2 the propositions that you have just agreed with me
 3 a minute and a half ago, Mr Coyne. Do you not see
 4 a tension?
 5 A. Yes, I think I do actually. At that point in time we
 6 had a document set that consisted primarily of known
 7 error logs. I think the PEAKs had only just been
 8 disclosed a few days --
 9 Q. Weeks?
 10 A. Sorry?
 11 Q. Would it not be weeks?
 12 A. I don't know exactly how many.
 13 Q. I'm sorry, I interrupted you. Please carry on.
 14 A. Perhaps if we establish what the date was. I think we
 15 do mention it in the reports.
 16 Q. Yes. Please carry on. I interrupted you and
 17 I shouldn't have.
 18 A. So what we are saying there is the full picture was yet
 19 to be revealed and that it may well undermine the
 20 reliability of Horizon.
 21 Q. So are you suggesting, Mr Coyne, that when you produced
 22 your first statement you were doubtful about whether it
 23 was robust?
 24 A. Mm.
 25 Q. And it is when you produced your second statement, when

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1 you had more opportunity to look at the PEAKs and so on,
 2 that you formed the impression that it was robust after
 3 all?
 4 A. I had a different concern when it came to create my
 5 supplemental report because there was the discovery of
 6 far more defects than it was originally said existed.
 7 When putting together my first report I thought the
 8 analysis had already been done to establish that there
 9 were only three defects. I discovered a fourth defect
 10 but then shortly afterwards discovered many more. It
 11 was also the case that I had seen a number of reports
 12 about improvement of the processes that was in place.
 13 But then it transpires that when we saw some of the
 14 witness statements that those processes, those
 15 improvements in processes, hadn't been adopted.
 16 So there was a number of other factors that were
 17 brought in place that confirmed that there was large
 18 elements of unreliability. That doesn't take away my
 19 overriding statement that the Horizon system is
 20 relatively robust.
 21 Q. Mr Coyne, one of us is confused and it might be me.
 22 I had taken you to paragraph 3.3 and suggested to you
 23 that the impression, the strong impression given by
 24 paragraph 3.3 was that Horizon wasn't very robust at
 25 all. My understanding of your answer, and it may have

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1 been a false understanding on my part, was you said,
 2 well, at that stage we only had the PEAKs for a few
 3 days, and the impression I got was you were saying it
 4 was only later I realised that Horizon was relatively
 5 robust. So I suggested -- I asked you about that. And
 6 then what you actually said was, no, no, in my later
 7 report I thought Horizon was less robust.
 8 So at the time of this report your view as to the
 9 robustness of Horizon was at its zenith, was it?
 10 A. Could you clarify what you mean when you say zenith.
 11 Q. It was at its peak. This was at a time when you thought
 12 Horizon was very robust and it is only later that you
 13 then downgraded it to relatively robust?
 14 A. There's different aspects of it. This is the
 15 complication with robustness, it isn't an entity that
 16 can be measured by one simple set of criteria.
 17 Q. All I'm trying to ascertain with you, Mr Coyne, is why
 18 on the one hand you were saying at the time of this
 19 report you thought that Horizon was relatively robust,
 20 you felt able to include -- to say what you said in
 21 paragraph 3.3, which gives a completely different
 22 impression. I would like you to explain how you felt it
 23 appropriate to do that.
 24 A. What I said there is correct, that the bugs, errors and
 25 defects that we see, when they trigger they would

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1 undermine the reliability of Horizon and did undermine
 2 Horizon's reliability.
 3 Q. What you say is -- look at the first sentence:
 4 "The sheer volume of known error logs and
 5 reconciliation reports confirm the wide-ranging extent
 6 of the impact of such bugs ..."
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. So first of all you say that there is a huge volume of
 9 KELs showing bugs with branch impacts, do you?
 10 A. Typically the KELs show that PEAKs exist that have had
 11 branch impacts, but the KEL is the knowledge document.
 12 Q. You appear to be saying there, Mr Coyne, and it may be
 13 that I'm not being clear enough. Let me be absolutely
 14 clear. You appear to be saying there that there is
 15 a large volume of KELs which demonstrate bugs in the
 16 Horizon system which had branch impacts. Is it the case
 17 that at the time you wrote this report you had seen
 18 a large number of KELs showing bugs with branch impacts?
 19 A. Right, it is important to understand -- in order to
 20 answer that, it's important to understand the
 21 relationship between KELs and PEAKs. A KEL is
 22 a document which is often updated with new knowledge
 23 that will enable Fujitsu's support department to better
 24 support the users as and when they find a particular
 25 defect on the system. Contributing to that KEL is

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1 a number of PEAKs. There might only be one occurrence
 2 of a PEAK that leads to a KEL, there might be twenty or
 3 thirty different PEAKs that contribute to a KEL. So the
 4 fact that we had the KELs at that point in time and
 5 those KELs indicated problems, and there were a number
 6 of PEAKs that hadn't yet been fully examined and I set
 7 out that in my report, but of the PEAKs that had been
 8 examined there were PEAKs that suggested impact on
 9 branch accounts.

10 Q. Let me ask my question again but I will do it in
 11 a different way. Let's cross out the word "and
 12 reconciliation reports" in the first sentence so it now
 13 reads:
 14 "The sheer volume of [KELs] ... confirm the
 15 wide-ranging extent of the impact of such bugs ..."
 16 So you are referring to a large volume. It's not
 17 just a number, a significant number, you're saying
 18 a large volume. It's a substantial body of KELs --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- confirming the wide-ranging extent of the impact of
 21 bugs.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is that the case, that you had seen a large volume of
 24 KELs indicating the wide-ranging extent of the impact of
 25 bugs?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How many?

3 A. A number are listed in this report but I don't know
 4 precisely what the number is.

5 Q. And when you say impacts, you are talking about branch
 6 impacts, aren't you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So you are saying there was a large number of KELs which
 9 you had already seen at the time of this report that
 10 confirmed that there were bugs, wide-ranging bugs -- or
 11 confirmed bugs which had a wide-ranging impact on branch
 12 accounts?

13 A. Yes. Certainly within the KELs there was reference to
 14 discrepancies which appeared to be on branch accounts.

15 Q. Mr Coyne, I would like to suggest to you that in the
 16 whole of this report that goes on for over 200 pages,
 17 you refer to very few KELs that actually confirm the
 18 existence of branch impacts?

19 A. There is a table I believe at the back of this report
 20 that sets out the number of KELs.

21 Q. What page would that be? I may not have it in hard
 22 copy.

23 A. Appendix G.

24 Q. What page?

25 A. 200, I believe.

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1 MR JUSTICE FRASER: {D2/1/213} is appendix G. Could you
 2 give me one second, please. (Pause)

3 Go ahead, they are just going to sort out my
 4 screens. The common screen is fine, it's my custom
 5 screens.

6 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Mr Coyne, I have looked at the bug
 7 table in the second joint statement of the experts.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The bug table in joint statement 2 is a table which sets
 10 out the bugs that you have identified which you believe
 11 show evidence of branch impacts, yes?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. That table, if my calculations are correct, only refers
 14 to four bugs that you had identified in your report in
 15 addition to the three bugs that had been accepted by --
 16 already disclosed by Post Office.

17 Now, what I would like to understand is do you
 18 accept in principle that that's the position?

19 A. I don't I don't know if that's the number. That is a
 20 number you have calculated, haven't you?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. I haven't done the calculation.

23 Q. There are 29 bugs in the bug table.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Many of those bugs were only identified either by

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1 Dr Worden in his report or by you in your second report,
 2 yes?

3 A. I believe Dr Worden only identified the three bugs that
 4 had already been identified.

5 Q. That's not -- perhaps we will come to that in due
 6 course, Mr Coyne. In fact, Dr Worden -- I think the
 7 number may be nine, something like nine bugs he had
 8 identified in his first report that are now to be found
 9 in the joint statement. Did you not appreciate that was
 10 the case?

11 A. I don't know whether that's correct or not.

12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: But the KELs you were being asked about
 13 volume, they are the ones listed in appendix G?

14 A. Yes.

15 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: What I'm suggesting to you, Mr Coyne,
 16 is very few of these KELs have turned up -- or the bugs
 17 to which you say these KELs relate, very few of them
 18 have turned up in the joint statement bug table.

19 A. Right, okay. I'm not sure that is correct.

20 Q. I'm suggesting to you, Mr Coyne, that you had not seen
 21 a large volume of KELs showing branch impact -- showing
 22 bugs with branch impacts at the time you wrote this
 23 report?

24 A. Well, I believe a number of these KELs that are
 25 contained within this appendix have impact.

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1 Q. Are you suggesting that all of these KELs relate to bugs
2 which had branch impact?
3 A. Many do, but what you have to remember about the KEL is
4 the KEL doesn't specifically relate to the branch.
5 That's typically the PEAK.
6 Q. Let's not talk about -- I'm just trying to analyse what
7 you said in paragraph 3.3 of your report. You said the
8 sheer volume of KELs confirm the widespread branch
9 impact. And I'm suggesting to you, Mr Coyne, that you
10 had not seen a huge volume of KELs which confirmed
11 branch impact at the time. You just hadn't.
12 A. That paragraph would be better if it said: the large
13 number of KELs that I have reviewed and a portion of the
14 PEAKs that have recently been disclosed and I have
15 reviewed dot dot dot, and carry on with that paragraph.
16 That would be nearer --
17 Q. If we look at page 214, for example, it starts with "Pin
18 pad", pin pad errors. So you have six pin pad errors.
19 {D2/1/214}
20 A. Yes.
21 Q. You are not suggesting those pin pad errors had branch
22 impact, are you? Those pin pad errors meant the branch
23 couldn't do business with a particular customer. They
24 didn't actually create an error in branch accounts, did
25 they?

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1 A. It is possible they might. We would have to go through
2 and look at the detail.
3 Q. So you are suggesting that there are errors in pin pads
4 which are covered by KELs which have created branch
5 impacts, are you?
6 A. Yes.
7 Q. Because what's curious is I don't believe there are any
8 of those in the bug table in JS2.
9 A. Yes, I believe there was the scenario where it was
10 remembering the account of the last person that should
11 have been paid. So was it the allpay defect? The
12 payment that should have gone to other beneficiaries was
13 all sent to allpay instead because of a defect?
14 Q. I will have to look at that later.
15 Going back to page 25, paragraph 3.3, you explained
16 that you think you had seen already, by the time of your
17 first report, a large volume of KELs showing widespread
18 branch impact {D2/1/25}, and you say that it is not the
19 KELs so much as the PEAKs that refer to them, is that
20 how you put it?
21 A. KELs indicate that there was a defect and it is
22 typically the PEAKs that record the particular branch
23 impact. So by looking at either you can tell there was
24 a problem, but it is only when you look at both the KEL
25 and the related PEAKs that you understand the scope of

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1 the problem.
2 Q. Wouldn't it be fair to say though that when you look at
3 a KEL, generally speaking the KEL which deals with it --
4 and KELs deal with all sorts of things, including things
5 that are not bugs at all. But when you look at a KEL,
6 generally the KEL will explain what the impact of the
7 problem is, the nature, the practical consequence of the
8 problem that has to be dealt with, would you accept
9 that?
10 A. Yes. It might, for example, say there is a bug and we
11 believe this is going to cause a discrepancy and we have
12 spotted it in eight branches, but it won't tell you what
13 the impact on those eight branches is. For that you
14 have to go to the particular PEAK.
15 Q. Generally speaking then, if there is a KEL that
16 addresses a bug that has a branch impact, generally it
17 will tell you?
18 A. Generally speaking.
19 Q. On the vast majority of occasions, yes?
20 A. I'd prefer to stick with generally speaking. I don't
21 know if it is the vast majority.
22 Q. Okay. You then say in paragraph 3.3 -- let's cross out
23 "known error logs", you now say:
24 "The sheer volume of ... reconciliation reports
25 confirm the wide-ranging extent of the impact of such

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1 bugs ..."
2 So you are suggesting here that reconciliation
3 reports are good evidence of bugs in Horizon which had
4 branch impacts, are you?
5 A. Yes, there was a response to a question that I asked
6 about reconciliation, I don't know exactly how it was
7 phrased, but I asked for the number of reconciliation
8 problems that required manual intervention, and the
9 answer I was given was that it was hundreds of thousands
10 per week, I think was the --
11 Q. 10,000 a week that have to be F99ed, do you remember
12 that?
13 A. Yes.
14 Q. What is a reconciliation report?
15 A. Where there has been a problem within the system for one
16 reason or another and the transaction has not proceeded
17 to completion as it would originally have expected.
18 Q. Let me put to you what a reconciliation report is just
19 to save some time. When a transaction is done in
20 Horizon and the basket is committed to the system, the
21 transaction goes into the branch accounts, yes? That
22 transaction goes into the branch database.
23 A. Mm.
24 Q. And then copies of those transactions are then
25 transmitted through systems such as the TPS system,

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1 could you explain what the TPS system is?
 2 A. Transaction processing system.
 3 Q. What is the TPS system? What does it do?
 4 A. It sends -- well, it decides what payments need to go to
 5 what particular beneficiaries .
 6 Q. Is that right? Doesn't it transmit information relating
 7 to these transactions that had been committed to the
 8 BRDB to Post Office 's back-end systems?
 9 A. That is right.
 10 Q. And isn't it Post Office 's back-end systems, like
 11 POLSAP, like Credence and so on, isn't it those systems
 12 that then do the steps that are needed to ensure that
 13 payments are made by financial institutions and so on,
 14 is that right?
 15 A. Yes, there is a harvesting process which will pick up
 16 various transactions and will put them in certain
 17 buckets, and then there are various processes that goes
 18 on with those.
 19 Q. And the harvesting process is a process by which --
 20 well, what happens is transactions go into the TPS
 21 system and they are then propagated into POLSAP and
 22 other management information systems that are maintained
 23 by Post Office , yes?
 24 A. Records of those will do, but then a number of the
 25 transactions will then go on to -- for example, if it is

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1 a bill that's being paid it will go on to agree that
 2 payment with whoever the party is.
 3 Q. What happens then is -- generally the financial
 4 institutions making payments have received messages
 5 direct from things like the pin pad?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And what then happens is the financial institution has
 8 its own record of the transactions it thinks are being
 9 done?
 10 A. That is right.
 11 Q. And Post Office has its record of the transactions it
 12 thinks are being done?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Those records are maintained on Post Office 's systems?
 15 A. Agreed.
 16 Q. And then there is a reconciliation process by which
 17 those systems are automatically reconciled to see
 18 whether they agree with each other?
 19 A. They should be automatically reconciled, yes.
 20 Q. That is what you describe as reconciliation , and that
 21 process generates reconciliation reports, doesn't it?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. And when there are exceptions, then in those
 24 circumstances there are reports indicating transactions
 25 where some of the information which Post Office has

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1 about them, it differs from some of the information that
 2 the financial institution has about them?
 3 A. Yes, something has gone wrong with the process.
 4 Q. Yes. And it might be that some attributes are missing
 5 that have nothing to do with the basic transaction
 6 details?
 7 A. It could be any aspect of it --
 8 Q. It could be time stamps, it could be anything.
 9 A. It could be value, it could be anything.
 10 Q. It could even be that there has been a delay in the
 11 financial institution or POLSAP receiving the necessary
 12 information, couldn't it?
 13 A. It could. I think it is safe to say that something has
 14 gone wrong, the process hasn't operated as it was
 15 designed, and an intervention needs to take place to
 16 correct the transaction .
 17 Q. What happens is a reconciliation process is
 18 automatically undertaken, exception reconciliation
 19 reports are generated which demonstrate where there are
 20 exceptions that need to be looked at?
 21 A. I'm not sure a reconciliation process is automatically
 22 undertaken.
 23 Q. Mr Coyne, when you have 3 million transactions that are
 24 on the Bank of Ireland 's books and 3 million
 25 transactions that are on Post Office 's books, you don't

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1 have a human being comparing those two sets of
 2 transactions , do you?
 3 A. No, but that's when it is working as expected. When
 4 something has gone wrong this is the reconciliation
 5 process that I'm talking about there.
 6 Q. We are getting bogged down in a way that I'm finding
 7 quite surprising. The process by which lists of
 8 transactions are reconciled is automatic, isn't it? It
 9 is electronic?
 10 A. Yes, when everything is working fine it is automated.
 11 Nobody needs to get involved.
 12 Q. The process of reconciliation is the process of
 13 comparison between the two sets of data?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. That process is electronic , isn't it?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And then what happens is there is a report generated on
 18 a regular basis which identifies reconciliation
 19 exceptions where for some reason, for the reasons we
 20 have already discussed, there isn't a full
 21 reconciliation and something has to be looked at?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. We have discussed some of the reasons for that?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. And that's where a manual element can become involved?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Sometimes there can be one error which explains 1,000 or
 3 2,000 reconciliations exceptions?
 4 A. Possibly, yes.
 5 Q. And there will be a delay in the transaction getting
 6 through to the bank, or it will be when it did go
 7 through to the bank there was a time stamp missing so
 8 the two didn't match. There could be something like
 9 that that could explain an awful lot of them?
 10 A. There could be a range of different things that are
 11 wrong with the transaction.
 12 Q. And that's when someone has to go and look to see if
 13 there is a problem?
 14 A. Yes, and that is the number that I'm referring to
 15 because it was suggested that that was in the many
 16 thousands.
 17 Q. But I don't understand, Mr Coyne, why you think that the
 18 existence of reconciliation reports confirms the
 19 wide-ranging extent of the impact of bugs in Horizon
 20 which are having an impact on branch accounts?
 21 A. I have worked and designed banking systems, stock
 22 broking systems. I have never seen the need for tens of
 23 thousands of transactions per week to have a human
 24 intervention. That suggests that something is going
 25 wrong. It is working outside of process on a larger

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1 scale than I would have expected.
 2 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Can I just ask you, at {Day14/77:17} of
 3 today's transcript you said "it was suggested" that it
 4 was in the many thousands. Can you just tell me, "it
 5 was suggested" doesn't really help me because I don't
 6 know who suggested what to whom.
 7 A. Sorry, my Lord. I asked the question as part of
 8 a request for information.
 9 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Yes.
 10 A. And the response that I was given by Post Office's
 11 lawyers was -- I believe it was ten thousand.
 12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: So that is what you are referring to?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 MR JUSTICE FRASER: All right.
 15 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Now Mr Coyne, there are many, many,
 16 many possible explanations for reconciliation exceptions
 17 that have nothing to do with bugs in Horizon causing
 18 shortfalls in branch accounts, aren't there?
 19 A. There could be, yes.
 20 Q. There's no reason to think -- the fact that there are
 21 any scale of reconciliation exceptions does not
 22 demonstrate, does not show or confirm, that there are
 23 any bugs which have an impact on branch accounts, does
 24 it?
 25 A. It certainly could do if the system is having that level

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1 of failure to reconcile then there is something wrong.
 2 It is operating outside of the process it should
 3 operate --
 4 Q. Well, I will -- how is it that you are able to judge
 5 that, Mr Coyne? Do you know what range the system was
 6 designed for?
 7 A. No, but I have experience of similar systems and I don't
 8 believe that such a high level of manual reconciliation
 9 would be tolerated or should be expected.
 10 Q. But the possible causes of those reconciliation
 11 exceptions could involve all sorts of things such as
 12 phone lines from the Post Office to the financial
 13 institutions, or the financial institutions' own
 14 operating systems, couldn't they?
 15 A. So that means that that is going wrong each week.
 16 Q. The reason why I'm asking you about this is you are
 17 suggesting that the fact that there are reconciliation
 18 reports, large numbers of reconciliation exception
 19 reports, let's call them, is itself confirming that
 20 there are bugs in Horizon which have an impact on branch
 21 accounts, and my suggestion to you, Mr Coyne, is that
 22 doesn't confirm anything of the sort?
 23 A. Well, it suggests rather than confirms.
 24 Q. And where there is a reconciliation exception which is
 25 looked into, what happens -- and a view is taken --

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1 a view will then be taken by Post Office and the
 2 financial institution as to what the correct position
 3 would be?
 4 A. Mm.
 5 Q. If the view is taken that the correct position is that
 6 the branch account should be corrected, what happens
 7 then?
 8 A. What should happen is a transaction correction should be
 9 created by --
 10 Q. And would you accept that when a transaction correction
 11 is sent it is more likely than not that the transaction
 12 correction will correct an error that's happened rather
 13 than create one, yes?
 14 A. It is more likely. There certainly have been scenarios
 15 where transaction corrections have caused a problem but
 16 it is certainly more likely that it would correct it,
 17 yes.
 18 Q. What I suggested to you about paragraph 3.3, Mr Coyne,
 19 is this paragraph seems designed to give an impression
 20 that Horizon isn't robust, whereas on the very next page
 21 you say that it is. What do you say to that suggestion?
 22 A. Well, I'm setting the context before providing my
 23 summary that it was relatively robust.
 24 Q. What I'm finding difficult to understand, Mr Coyne, is
 25 you say -- you refer to a wide-ranging extent of the

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1 impact on branches of bugs, and then over the page you
 2 say but Horizon is relatively robust, and I would just
 3 like you to explain how is it you felt able to do that?
 4 A. Because as I have agreed with Dr Worden, robust doesn't
 5 mean that there won't be an impact. The two aren't
 6 mutually exclusive.
 7 Q. You have also agreed with me, Mr Coyne, that in the
 8 context in which you are using the term relatively
 9 robust in paragraph 3.7, it means that there's only
 10 a tiny number, a tiny proportion --
 11 A. I didn't say tiny.
 12 Q. Really? Is that not precisely what we were discussing
 13 before?
 14 A. I don't believe I'm using --
 15 Q. When we were talking about using comparable systems and
 16 how they have a low risk tolerance?
 17 A. I wouldn't characterise it as tiny. I probably said
 18 a fraction of a percentage.
 19 Q. Okay.
 20 MR GREEN: My Lord, the evidence -- the word "tiny" was put
 21 and he said a small fraction. That's what the
 22 transcript says.
 23 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes. And do you think -- my
 24 suggestion to you, Mr Coyne, is that in paragraph 3.3
 25 you're actually trying to give an impression which is

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1 seeking to undermine actually what is a very helpful
 2 conclusion that you have set out in paragraph 3.7?
 3 A. That certainly wasn't the way it was written. It was
 4 constructed to set the context for it.
 5 Q. Let me also suggest, Mr Coyne, that in this report you
 6 also tried to give the impression that the concept of
 7 robustness has no meaning and it's impossible to
 8 measure, would you agree with that?
 9 A. I do agree that it is impossible -- it is very
 10 subjective and it is impossible to come up with
 11 a quantifiable measurement, yes.
 12 Q. Now let's go back to the joint statement you made
 13 shortly before you produced this report. It is at
 14 {D1/1/8}, I'm going to page 8.
 15 Now, I think you have maintained in the evidence you
 16 have just given that paragraph 3.3 where you talk about
 17 the sheer volume of things happening is consistent with
 18 Horizon being relatively robust as compared with its
 19 comparators, yes?
 20 A. Mm.
 21 Q. So the fact that there is such a sheer volume is not
 22 inconsistent with it being relatively robust, is that
 23 right?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Okay. Well, we have already read what the experts

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1 agreed in paragraph 2.3. If we could go over the page
 2 to the disagreement boxes on page {D1/1/9}, there at the
 3 top you have got your definition of robustness.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Then just below that you say:
 6 "in consideration of the likelihood of Horizon to be
 7 the cause of shortfalls in branches, Horizon is not
 8 determined to be robust in this regard because:
 9 "(a) It contained high levels of bugs ... which
 10 created discrepancies in the branch accounts."
 11 So now I'm really confused, Mr Coyne. On the one
 12 hand your judgment on 16th October was that actually
 13 Horizon is relatively robust and a very small proportion
 14 of transactions go wrong as a result of bugs, but here
 15 you appear to be saying the opposite. Did you have
 16 a change of mind between agreeing joint statement 1 and
 17 your first report?
 18 A. Joint statement 1 was constructed before the end of the
 19 first report.
 20 Q. Joint statement 1 was on 4 September.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Your report was on 16th October. I will be corrected if
 23 those dates are wrong.
 24 A. Right.
 25 Q. Did you change your mind between 4 September and

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1 16th October?
 2 A. What I did is that whilst looking at the factors in the
 3 round I considered Horizon to be relatively robust,
 4 whereas my initial opinion was that it was not robust.
 5 Q. So you did change your mind, is that right?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. And what made you change your mind, please?
 8 A. It was just a consideration of all aspects in the round.
 9 Q. Well, Mr Coyne, in your -- a joint statement is
 10 an important document, you have given evidence many,
 11 many times before, haven't you?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And you will appreciate this is as important in many
 14 ways as an expert report, correct?
 15 A. It was a very early document, it was when we were
 16 finding our way around the evidence that was available.
 17 Q. Well, you wouldn't express an opinion unless it was your
 18 considered opinion, is that right, in a joint statement?
 19 A. That is true.
 20 Q. So if, for example, you felt that things didn't look
 21 good but you hadn't looked at all the evidence and you
 22 wanted to withhold judgment, you wouldn't express
 23 an opinion at that stage, would you? Or if you did, you
 24 would express it in a very provisional and equivocal
 25 way, wouldn't you?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. But that's not what you do here, Mr Coyne, is it? And
 3 I would like you to explain why, please.
 4 A. Well, I mean the reasons for that are set out below in
 5 (a) to (f).
 6 Q. So you had seen all these things. You had seen a high
 7 level of bugs which created discrepancies in branch
 8 accounts, had you, already by that stage?
 9 A. We had certainly seen the KELs at this stage. I'm not
 10 sure whether the PEAKs had been disclosed to us at this
 11 point in time.
 12 Q. No, they hadn't. So you had seen the KELs, and from the
 13 KELs alone you felt able to judge, did you, that there
 14 was a high level of bugs that created discrepancies in
 15 branch accounts?
 16 A. Well, the KELs have a reference within them to the
 17 PEAKs.
 18 Q. Which you hadn't seen at that stage?
 19 A. No, but we had seen that there's references to PEAKs.
 20 Q. What's the significance of that in the context of my
 21 question?
 22 A. Because it is the KEL that would indicate how many,
 23 often, of that defect that led to the KEL being created
 24 had surfaced.
 25 Q. So you accept that KELs are actually good -- a KEL will

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1 be good evidence of whether there is a bug that creates
 2 a branch impact. That's your view, is it?
 3 A. It is an indicator but you can't use that document
 4 alone. You have to look at the PEAKs as well.
 5 Q. But Mr Coyne, it seems to me that in paragraph (a) you
 6 are using that document alone. You hadn't seen any
 7 PEAKs at that stage, had you?
 8 A. No, we hadn't seen the PEAKs, but we knew that PEAKs
 9 must have existed and that there are references to them.
 10 Q. So what? Why does the fact that you know there are
 11 PEAKs you haven't seen enable you to make a judgment
 12 that you would not be able to make simply by looking at
 13 the KEL?
 14 A. The KEL talks about how the situation that occurs with
 15 the bug, error or defect should be dealt with, and by
 16 reading that you get an indication that there is or
 17 there must be or there likely is a defect within the
 18 system. And if the KEL refers to, for example, ten
 19 different PEAKs then that is an indication, although you
 20 can't be certain, that there has been ten occurrences of
 21 that.
 22 Q. So what you are saying is that if you see a KEL which
 23 refers to a bug, you will be able to tell from that KEL
 24 in the main whether the bug has an impact on branch
 25 accounts or not?

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1 A. There will be sometimes an indication whether there is
 2 an impact on branch accounts. We typically will not
 3 know what branch it is.
 4 Q. You say "sometimes"; what I'm suggesting to you,
 5 Mr Coyne, and I think you know what I'm suggesting to
 6 you, is KELs are actually a good source of seeing
 7 whether there is a bug which has branch impact. You may
 8 not know the details of branch impact but it is a good
 9 way of telling -- if there is a bug that is considered
 10 in a KEL that has a branch impact it is likely to say
 11 that, isn't it?
 12 A. It will often say there might be a discrepancy, yes.
 13 The way that these documents are created is somewhat
 14 inconsistent. You can read a KEL and it will give you
 15 all the information that you need. It will relate to
 16 a branch, it will point out the discrepancy, and that
 17 KEL on its own might be helpful. You will read another
 18 KEL and there's very little information within it. You
 19 will need to go to the five PEAKs that relate to it to
 20 even start to understand what the impact was. So I'm
 21 not saying that KELs aren't helpful documents. I'm
 22 saying that they need to be read in context.
 23 Q. Let's move on from that subject.
 24 MR GREEN: My Lord, I didn't want to interrupt.
 25 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Are you going to the joint statement?

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1 MR GREEN: Yes. They have agreed on page 26 (D1/2/26) at
 2 0.3 what the shortcomings of those documents are, so it
 3 is surprising to hear a different --
 4 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I'm aware of that, but if
 5 Mr de Garr Robinson wants to spend his time exploring
 6 it, I'm not going to stop him.
 7 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Mr Coyne, at this stage you had only
 8 seen the KELs and you were in a position to make
 9 a judgment that there were a high level of bugs that
 10 created discrepancies, were you? That was your
 11 considered view then just on the basis of seeing KELs?
 12 A. As I pointed out, whilst I had only seen KELs I had seen
 13 references to a number of PEAKs as well.
 14 Q. Then after 4 September PEAKs were disclosed?
 15 A. Some PEAKs were disclosed.
 16 Q. A large number of PEAKs were disclosed?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Something like 200 and something thousand, is that
 19 right? I'm not sure there were any other material
 20 documents disclosed between 4 September and 16th October
 21 that are relevant to the this question. Can you think
 22 of any?
 23 A. I'm not sure. I did try and map out all the various
 24 disclosures that have taken place but that doesn't
 25 appear --

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1 Q. The ones that I'm aware of are the PEAKs.
 2 A. Right.
 3 Q. Clearly you had a change of mind between 4 September and
 4 16th October. Would I be right in thinking that on
 5 seeing the PEAKs, that caused you to change your mind?
 6 A. Certainly the PEAKs do help to set the context about how
 7 problems are dealt with. So they would help, yes.
 8 Q. You have plainly had seen something good between
 9 4 September and 16th October and what I'm trying to
 10 explore with you, Mr Coyne, is what that good thing was.
 11 What had you seen that made you change your mind?
 12 A. Certainly the PEAKs would be part of that,
 13 an understanding better of the processes that are in
 14 place.
 15 Q. So would you accept you were rather hasty in expressing
 16 the judgment you express here on page 9? [D1/1/9]
 17 A. I'm certainly content with my opinion as expressed in my
 18 report. Yes, it would probably be better for me not to
 19 have expressed that particular opinion there so early.
 20 Q. Do you think it would have been helpful in your report
 21 to have explained why you changed your mind? It was
 22 a very surprising volte-face. Do you think it might
 23 have been helpful to allow everyone to understand what
 24 it was that was good about the system that allowed you
 25 to form the view that Horizon was robust?

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1 A. "Relatively robust" was the term.
 2 Q. Yes, relatively robust.
 3 A. Yes, I mean --
 4 Q. The reason why I ask is you see in joint statement 1 you
 5 are resolutely negative about Horizon. In your report
 6 on 16th October you say Horizon is relatively robust but
 7 the rest of your report says negative things about
 8 Horizon. There's very little that's said that is good
 9 about Horizon.
 10 It is difficult to resist the impression, Mr Coyne,
 11 that in your first report you were trying to say bad
 12 things about Horizon and you were not interested in
 13 saying anything that was good.
 14 A. I reject that.
 15 Q. Would that be fair?
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. What is it that was good about Horizon that caused you
 18 to change your mind and where do you describe that,
 19 where do you consider that in your first report?
 20 A. What was helpful was to understand the support process
 21 in more detail to understand how things such as fault
 22 determination is done, albeit it is only
 23 an understanding of how it is done within Fujitsu, to
 24 understand that process more. So that was an improving
 25 position for me.

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1 Q. I see. And your judgment on reviewing the PEAKs was
 2 that Fujitsu actually had quite a good support process,
 3 is that right?
 4 A. Yes, I mean the support process that Fujitsu operate,
 5 and again this changes over time so it is very difficult
 6 to pick a point in time and understand what obligations
 7 they had, what roles and responsibilities they
 8 fulfilled, but certainly by the time they become aware
 9 that somebody believed there was a problem, so it hit
 10 SSC, the support centre, third line support, the process
 11 they had of determining whether there was a fault
 12 appears to be a reasonably good process. So there's
 13 obvious weaknesses, how does the fault get to them in
 14 the first place? And that's --
 15 Q. When you say obviously weaknesses, why is it obvious
 16 that there were such weaknesses?
 17 A. No, no, what I'm saying is the obvious weakness in the
 18 opinion is we don't know what happens before it gets to
 19 Fujitsu, but then once it comes into Fujitsu and they
 20 determine that, yes, there has been a problem, or there
 21 has not been a problem, and they believe there is
 22 a discrepancy, you will see quite often that there is
 23 a line at the bottom of the PEAK saying, hand this back
 24 to Post Office for them to do whatever they need to do
 25 to branch accounts. So the process is then handed over.

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1 So we don't know happens afterwards and we don't
 2 know what happens before but the process with Fujitsu,
 3 certainly SSC, appears to be a reasonably good process.
 4 Q. So what you found when you read the PEAKs was that when
 5 a call got referred to the SSC, either because it is
 6 a subpostmaster call, or perhaps it might be automatic,
 7 it might be from the MSU because of a reconciliation
 8 issue, your view was that Fujitsu was quite good at
 9 spotting if there was a problem in Horizon, is that
 10 right?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And it was quite good at making sure that problem was
 13 fixed, yes?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And it was quite good at identifying the consequences of
 16 a problem and informing Post Office as to what those
 17 consequences were, yes?
 18 A. I don't know whether they informed Post Office. In
 19 their own records you would often see comments such as
 20 corrections will need to be made. There is a number of
 21 references to say we do not know what Post Office's
 22 process will be to deal with this but it does need
 23 dealing with.
 24 Q. But it is fair to infer, isn't it, and I suggest that
 25 you have inferred from all the PEAKs you have seen, that

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1 where there is a bug that has been identified that
 2 appears to have had an impact on branch accounts,
 3 Fujitsu are quite good at identifying the branches that
 4 had been affected by that bug?
 5 A. They are quite good. They will often take quite a long
 6 time in identifying which branches are affected. Such
 7 as Dalmellington, Fujitsu were not asked to get involved
 8 in that for a number of years after it had been
 9 impacting a branch account. When they did get involved
 10 they quite quickly established all the historic impact
 11 of that.
 12 Q. Just to go back to my question. Fujitsu are quite good
 13 at identifying the branches that have been affected by
 14 those kind of bugs?
 15 A. In the main, yes.
 16 Q. Thank you. And it is fair to infer that Fujitsu then
 17 tells Post Office what those effects are?
 18 A. Well, that's the bit that I don't know because I don't
 19 know what the process is. I do not think we have had
 20 sight. There was some very, very -- there was some
 21 disclosure made only very recently which are the BIMS
 22 documents, and I think the BIMS documents are in part
 23 a communication between Fujitsu and Post Office, setting
 24 out what the likely impact might be. There's also OCR
 25 and OCP documents.

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1 Q. That's not relevant to this, though, is it?
 2 A. It is a communication between Fujitsu and Post Office --
 3 Q. I see.
 4 A. -- saying that changes were going to be made. So it may
 5 well be relevant to this.
 6 Q. But it is right, isn't it, that Fujitsu, from what you
 7 have seen of the PEAKs, will work out the branches which
 8 have been affected by any bug that they identify, yes?
 9 A. That is what they set about to do, yes.
 10 Q. And you don't assume -- you don't infer, do you, that
 11 having identified those branches Fujitsu then keep that
 12 information to themselves? You infer that that
 13 information is passed onto Post Office don't you?
 14 A. I think so. There is certainly one reference in a PEAK
 15 where it says I suggest we don't tell the branch about
 16 this, but I'm not sure whether that's we won't tell
 17 Post Office about it, it is more keeping it from the
 18 branch rather than Post Office --
 19 Q. And that's the only PEAK of any kind that you have ever
 20 found of that sort, isn't it?
 21 A. Yes, I believe so.
 22 Q. So we have one PEAK over 20 years that says something
 23 like that. In those --
 24 A. Sorry, we should be careful. I haven't had eyes on all
 25 of the 200,000 PEAKs.

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1 Q. Yes. So all of those things that we have been talking
 2 about you consider, and you considered by the time of
 3 your 16th October report, were quite good?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. What I don't understand, Mr Coyne, is why you didn't say
 6 any of that in your report. Would it not have been
 7 a balanced thing to do?
 8 A. Perhaps. Looking back at the report, possibly.
 9 Q. Would it not have been helpful to explain the good
 10 aspects that you had spotted in the system as well as
 11 the bad ones?
 12 A. Possibly.
 13 Q. Did you have a reason for wanting to keep it back?
 14 A. No, not at all.
 15 Q. The impression I get, Mr Coyne, I'm sorry to put this to
 16 you, is that your first report was designed to give
 17 a very poor impression about Horizon --
 18 A. No.
 19 Q. -- and that if you had included what you've just
 20 described to me it would have given a much less poor
 21 impression of Horizon.
 22 A. I mean, as I say in my report, we'd been asked to
 23 identify specific bugs, errors and defects and the
 24 nature of that type of assignment is to drill in and
 25 find occurrences of that. Talking about all the good

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1 things that could and should happen, either generically
 2 in the industry or that Post Office might do this year
 3 as a result of various improvements in place, doesn't
 4 really in my opinion provide much assistance.
 5 Q. But isn't it a necessary part of the judgment you make
 6 as to whether Horizon is robust? How can you make
 7 a judgment about that without taking it into account?
 8 A. I think you can take it into account, but to spend pages
 9 of text talking about all the various good things,
 10 I don't see there's any value in that.
 11 Q. Well, Mr Coyne, can I ask you -- put it this way, what's
 12 the value of doing this: saying in your joint statement
 13 on 4 September that Horizon really isn't robust because
 14 it has a high level of all sorts of bad things, six
 15 weeks later producing a report by which time your view
 16 has changed diametrically, and not mentioning what it
 17 was that you had seen in the intervening time that
 18 caused you to change your mind? Wouldn't it be obvious
 19 that you needed to explain that to the court to help it
 20 make its own determination?
 21 A. Firstly, I don't believe that my opinion has changed
 22 diametrically. It is a spectrum of robustness, as
 23 I tried to explain this morning, and I believed that
 24 Horizon has gone further up on the spectrum. There's no
 25 complete change of direction here.

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1 Q. I see. Just looking at page {D1/1/9} you say:
 2 "... Horizon is not determined to be robust in this
 3 regard because:
 4 "(a) it contained high levels of bugs ... which
 5 created discrepancies in the branch accounts ..."
 6 At that stage -- we are going back to 4 September --
 7 how many bugs had you identified which created
 8 discrepancies in branch accounts?
 9 A. More than the three that had been originally brought to
 10 my attention.
 11 Q. But three is not high level and nor is four. You say
 12 "high levels of bugs". What did you mean by the
 13 expression "high levels of bugs"?
 14 A. Certainly in the tens.
 15 Q. In the tens?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. So we are talking about a system which has operated over
 18 20 years, yes?
 19 A. Mm.
 20 Q. Which undertakes something like 47 million transactions
 21 a week. So we are talking about 49 billion transactions
 22 over a 20-year period, something like that. It is the
 23 right ballpark, isn't it?
 24 A. Mm.
 25 Q. We are talking about two different versions of Horizon,

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1 and you are saying that a number of bugs in the tens
 2 over that period is properly to be characterised as
 3 "high levels of bugs"?
 4 A. Well, that is what had been identified at this point in
 5 time, but you have got to remember my expectation was
 6 set that I was investigating the three defects that had
 7 occurred by people that had been involved in the
 8 investigation with this system for a long time. So to
 9 move from three to a larger number than that initially
 10 suggested that there must be some quite poor processes
 11 in place if they can't identify bugs, errors and defects
 12 which, for myself, being involved in the process for
 13 only a number of weeks, quickly identified them --
 14 Q. I'm really sorry, I'm sorry to stop you, Mr Coyne, but
 15 I really need to ask you, first of all, did anyone ever
 16 tell you there were only ever three bugs that had ever
 17 occurred in Horizon? Has anyone ever said that to you?
 18 A. I think it was said -- I think in part of the pleadings,
 19 part of the legal documents, I believe it was pointed
 20 out that there was three defects which had impacted
 21 branch accounts.
 22 Q. Has anyone ever told you there were only three defects,
 23 that those were the only? Defects because I suggest to
 24 you that no one has ever said that to you, including in
 25 the pleadings.

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1 A. That was certainly my original expectation when
 2 I started.
 3 Q. I see. Then as a result of looking at these KELs you
 4 realised there were more than three?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. And I think you have suggested that at this time you
 7 took the view that there were in the range of tens of
 8 bugs, is that right?
 9 A. Yes. There was certainly a large number of KELs that
 10 warranted further investigation because they were
 11 indicative of having an impact on branch accounts.
 12 Q. So hold on. You had seen some KELs that might be
 13 consistent with branch impacts but you were not sure
 14 yet, is that right?
 15 A. Yes. As I explained before, KELs relate to PEAKs, and
 16 really in order to confirm the position you need to read
 17 the PEAKs.
 18 Q. So these were not KELs that you knew created branch
 19 account discrepancies, so let's lay those to one side,
 20 shall we. You are making a claim here that there is
 21 a high level of bugs that created discrepancies in
 22 branch accounts and I would like you, if you can
 23 remember, to tell me, at that time on 4 September, what
 24 was the level of bugs you had found that created
 25 discrepancies in branch accounts?

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1 A. That would be in the tens.
 2 Q. In the tens?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. I mean, Mr Coyne, looking at your bug table, and it may
 5 be that my approach to it is all wrong, in the bug table
 6 in JS2, 29 bugs are identified, correct?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. And of those 29 a very considerable number were only
 9 identified either in Dr Worden's report or in your
 10 second report, and the number that remain in JS2 from
 11 your first report is a relatively small number, far less
 12 than ten?
 13 A. Right, okay. I haven't done the maths so I don't know
 14 if that calculation is actually correct, but it is
 15 certainly the case that with the additional context with
 16 the provision of the PEAKs that a number of KELs that
 17 I initially thought led to branch accounts then appeared
 18 not to, and there was additional PEAKs that indicated
 19 branch account impact so we brought them back in again.
 20 And that's the importance of reviewing the documents
 21 side by side.
 22 Q. So are you saying -- and this is the last question I
 23 will ask before we break for lunch -- that at the time
 24 you made this report you thought there were more bugs,
 25 branch account affecting bugs in Horizon than you

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1 thought at the time you made your first joint statement,
 2 or less?
 3 A. No, I think the number is probably around the same.
 4 I think I ended up with 28 or 29 ...
 5 Q. That's your second joint statement. I'm asking you
 6 about your first joint statement. Between 4 September
 7 when you produced joint statement 1 and your first
 8 report in the middle of October, had your view as to how
 9 many branch affecting bugs there were gone up or gone
 10 down?
 11 A. No, it had gone down.
 12 Q. Because of the PEAKs that you saw?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Thank you. My Lord, is this
 15 a convenient moment?
 16 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Yes, we will come back at 2.05 pm.
 17 Remember what I said, Mr Coyne.
 18 (1.04 pm)
 19 (The short adjournment)
 20 (2.05 pm)
 21 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Mr Coyne, we have been looking at your
 22 first statement of 4 September and I would like now to
 23 move on properly to 16th October. This is the time of
 24 your first report.
 25 Can we look at {D2/1/1} which is the front page of

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1 your report. You say by this time you had examined
 2 a number of KELs and PEAKs which had recently been
 3 disclosed?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Just looking at page 1 of your report, I see that you
 6 were assisted by four people?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Could you explain who those four people are?
 9 A. They are all members of my team that helped me with
 10 various projects, both contentious and non-contentious
 11 projects.
 12 Q. They work for IT Group, do they, your company?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. What are their qualifications, their specialities within
 15 IT Group?
 16 A. So Siobhan Forster specialises in databases. She
 17 graduated after doing a forensics -- a technology
 18 forensics degree from Preston and has worked with me for
 19 a number of years. Chris Raske is more to do with the
 20 roles and responsibilities side of my business, so he
 21 understands what various parties do do or should do.
 22 Jamie Smith is one of the researchers that we often use
 23 on projects, and that's the same for Patrick Grant.
 24 Patrick Grant has worked as an implementer of a number
 25 of different computer systems, a programmer, and he has

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1 worked for us for a couple of years now.
 2 Q. So in relation to the preparation of your reports, what
 3 roles did they play? What did they do for you?
 4 A. They were operating typically as a researcher. So
 5 because of the volume of documents, I was asking them to
 6 identify certain themes. They would review -- I would
 7 parcel up a number of the documents that I would search
 8 for in the disclosure platform and they would try and go
 9 through and identify whether there was any potential
 10 relevance in those documents so that I could have a look
 11 at those and decide whether they should be included in
 12 the report or not.
 13 Q. Were these people working full-time leading up to the
 14 preparation of the first report?
 15 A. No. The majority of these people were brought in
 16 towards the end when we were receiving the PEAKs,
 17 towards the end.
 18 Q. So they were engaged in searching the PEAKs and
 19 presumably searching other documents as well, were they?
 20 A. Yes, all of the documents were on a disclosure review
 21 platform, very similar to the one that we see here. We
 22 all sit in the same office, so we would meet each
 23 morning and I would ask for various categories of
 24 documents to be searched for and found and gathered
 25 together.

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1 Q. Would I be right in thinking -- you say they weren't all
 2 working full-time on the case for you, were some of them
 3 spending more of their time on the case than others?
 4 A. Yes, certainly Siobhan Forster worked on the case more
 5 often than not.
 6 Q. Would it be fair to say she spent most of her time on
 7 the case while you were --
 8 A. No, she certainly had other matters that she was dealing
 9 with, but she worked on it more often than not.
 10 Q. What instructions did you give them? What did you tell
 11 them to look for?
 12 A. Typically I'd conduct the first tranche of searching
 13 through the material and we would identify materials to
 14 do with particular types of discrepancy that were being
 15 discussed within the documents, and then I would sit
 16 down with one of these chaps, we would go through the
 17 PEAK or the KEL or whatever the document might be, and
 18 I would ask them to try and assemble all of the other
 19 documents that would be in that family. So it might be
 20 other PEAKs that report the same thing, it might be the
 21 KEL, we had a few of the BIMS documents, so to identify
 22 them, to put together all the package of information.
 23 That in itself was quite a task.
 24 Q. Would it be fair to say that you were generally asking
 25 them to find problems, to find evidence of problems in

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1 Horizon, things that had gone wrong?
 2 A. Yes. Well, sorry, I had already identified the theme
 3 that I wanted them to look for but that was typically
 4 around a specific type of defect that might be occurring
 5 around a particular time and I was asking them to look
 6 at documents around that time or that contained
 7 a similar theme.
 8 Q. So if we go back to the joint statement, having said we
 9 could move on. If we can look at {D1/1/2}. We are back
 10 on 4 September again. At this time were those four
 11 working with you? Did you already have their
 12 assistance?
 13 A. No, I think it was just myself and Siobhan at this time.
 14 Q. So the other three came in later?
 15 A. They would have always been in my office .
 16 Q. But for the purposes of --
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. If we look at the agreement. I'm sorry, let 's move on
 19 to page {D1/1/3}. It says:
 20 "Each expert's approach to writing his report, and
 21 to this joint memorandum ... could broadly be one of
 22 three possible approaches:
 23 "a) To focus mainly on negative points found in the
 24 disclosed documents about where Horizon may have fallen
 25 short.

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1 "b) To focus mainly on those aspects of Horizon
 2 which were intended to achieve robustness and
 3 reliability , and the evidence implying that they
 4 succeeded."
 5 Or:
 6 "c) To provide the court with a clear foundation for
 7 understanding the design and operation of Horizon; then,
 8 building on that foundation, to provide a balanced
 9 assessment of the ways in which Horizon succeeded ..."
 10 A. Mm.
 11 Q. Now, that's what you agreed with Dr Worden. If I could
 12 just then go down to what you describe as areas of
 13 disagreement. Second sentence:
 14 "The issues are about how Horizon and its
 15 interactive components operated and the processes
 16 employed by Post Office and Fujitsu in supporting these
 17 systems and the data within.
 18 "Whilst my report will take a balanced approach, it
 19 is the case that many of the issues require a deep focus
 20 on the occurrences of bugs ... as well as the potential
 21 for modification of transactional data. Whilst context
 22 will be provided as to how Horizon should work in
 23 typical circumstances, it is the non-typical operation
 24 where focus will be placed."
 25 That is right, isn't it, that you focused on things

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1 going wrong, that's what you were looking for?
 2 A. Yes, I looked for things that have actually gone wrong
 3 and then followed the process through to find out how
 4 they were dealt with.
 5 Q. When you engaged in that process, you have already
 6 described the team of people that you had assisting you.
 7 Did anyone else help you? Did anyone else put forward
 8 documents for your consideration that might be included
 9 in the report?
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. Did you speak to any individual claimants, for example,
 12 and get any information from them?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. Going back to you and your team, you obviously by
 15 16th October couldn't review all the PEAKs you had been
 16 given, you had been given over 200,000, so you used
 17 intelligent search techniques, didn't you?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Presumably you used those techniques for the whole
 20 corpus of documents, not just PEAKs, but the KELs and
 21 other documents as well, is that right?
 22 A. That is correct.
 23 Q. What other documents did you search across, can you
 24 remember, at that time?
 25 A. I don't have a list of all the documents. There is

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1 a list in my first report, but all the documents all
 2 went into the same platform, so it will have been every
 3 document that had been formally disclosed at that point
 4 in time.
 5 Q. Thank you. Your report says you are of IT Group, when
 6 you describe yourself at the beginning.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Can I ask what your position there is?
 9 A. Director.
 10 Q. As I understand it, correct me if I'm wrong, IT Group
 11 offers a disclosure and search capability, doesn't it?
 12 A. It does indeed.
 13 Q. I read from your website, it is not in the bundles:
 14 "IT Group's powerful e-disclosure and digital
 15 investigation solution, Intella Connect, removes that
 16 headache by enabling you to intelligently search, filter
 17 and review large volumes of electronic data with speed
 18 and ease."
 19 Is that a fair description of the service that
 20 IT Group provides?
 21 A. It is indeed.
 22 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Forgiving the split infinitive .
 23 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I'm sorry, my Lord?
 24 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I said forgiving the split infinitive ,
 25 "to intelligently ".

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1 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I do not think it is possible to
 2 forgive. Others may disagree.
 3 So is it right that you manage the e-discovery team
 4 in IT Group?
 5 A. Yes. I am the director that is responsible for that --
 6 Q. So it is fair to say, isn't it, that you know quite
 7 a lot about intelligent searching of documents?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And you have no difficulty, I'm not saying it is easy,
 10 in searching through, for example, 200,000 PEAKS in lots
 11 of very clever ways that I am sure I couldn't think of?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Would that also be true of your team of assistants?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And they would have used these intelligent search
 16 techniques to go away and find the sort of documents
 17 that you wanted them to find?
 18 A. They would.
 19 Q. At your daily meetings?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. I imagine that your search facility is far more powerful
 22 than searching for words and symbols within a certain
 23 distance from each other? That's the kind of thing I'm
 24 used to.
 25 A. We didn't employ any artificial intelligence, we only

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1 used the normal standard search techniques.
 2 Q. Would I be right in thinking that with your experience,
 3 you and your team have developed all sorts of tricks of
 4 the trade with searches to find -- to unearth things
 5 that the rest of us laymen might find more difficult to
 6 find?
 7 A. I'm not sure which tricks of the trade you are referring
 8 to. We do see ourselves as being quite advanced in what
 9 we can find within documents, yes.
 10 Q. Could you give me an idea of some of the intelligent
 11 searches that you would have used in a case of this
 12 sort?
 13 A. So typically we were looking at documents that were
 14 talking about discrepancies, that would be talking about
 15 errors, bugs, defects, imbalances, things like that.
 16 Q. You and your team would search for these documents and
 17 then they would be reviewed, would they?
 18 A. Yes, we would typically try to understand -- because
 19 often you will find one document but then you need to
 20 understand where that document sits on the timeline, so
 21 then you may have to go back a number of documents or
 22 forward a number of documents -- we have the ability to
 23 put them effectively in chronological order -- to try
 24 and see who within the organisation was talking about
 25 these themes.

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1 Q. Presumably you would review the documents that you
 2 found, but members of your team, when they found
 3 documents that they thought you were looking for, they
 4 would review them and then they would bring them to you
 5 for your review as well if they thought they were good
 6 ones?
 7 A. Yes. It would be a process of them applying a tag to
 8 a document. So essentially they were ruling out
 9 irrelevant documents.
 10 Q. Would they do their own reviewing and then provide you
 11 with documents that they thought were suitable or did
 12 you review everything that they tagged?
 13 A. There was documents that, as the process went on, they
 14 become better versed with spotting things that I may
 15 find of interest within the document, but initially
 16 I would ask them just to rule out documents that were
 17 clearly irrelevant and I would review the balance of
 18 that, but as things improved they were spotting themes
 19 within documents, tagging it for my attention, and then
 20 I would see the tag and would be able to go through
 21 that, and then each day we would refine that process.
 22 Q. Would it be fair to say that the total number of
 23 documents that you and your team reviewed is larger than
 24 the total number of documents that you reviewed?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. I would be right in thinking, wouldn't I, that the
 2 documents that you refer to in your report are all
 3 documents that you yourself had reviewed?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Could you give me an indication -- the number of
 6 documents the whole team reviewed was higher than the
 7 ones you reviewed. Could you give me an idea of how
 8 many documents your entire team would have reviewed in
 9 this process?
 10 A. I wouldn't have that number, I'm sorry.
 11 Q. If we then go in the same document to {D2/1/83}, please?
 12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Do you want to stay in the first joint
 13 statement?
 14 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I'm so sorry, I thought I was in JC1.
 15 It is {D2/1/83}.
 16 Just looking at paragraph 5.114, you say:
 17 "Regarding the extent of potential errors within
 18 Horizon I have analysed 5114 Horizon ... (KELs) to
 19 determine the scope of potential bugs or 'PEAKs' ... Of
 20 these 5114, I have found that 163 contain PEAKs that
 21 could be of significant interest and of these [67] are
 22 referred to in the report."
 23 A. 76.
 24 Q. I'm so sorry, 76. So you personally looked at 5,114
 25 KELs, did you?

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1 A. KELs and PEAKs, is that not? Sorry, yes. Yes.
 2 Q. So you looked at them, so your team would have looked at
 3 more?
 4 A. They may have looked at the same number but they
 5 possibly looked at more, yes.
 6 Q. On top of those KELs you looked at PEAKs, as well?
 7 A. Mm.
 8 Q. If we go back to paragraph 1.28 at page {D2/1/20}. It
 9 may be you will agree with this without having to look
 10 at it. At this stage on 16th October -- it is 1.28 on
 11 page 20 and you say:
 12 "Of the [218,000-odd] PEAKs disclosed by POL I have
 13 in the interest of expediency, used intelligent search
 14 techniques to initially review those that might
 15 specifically relate to branch accounts. I have
 16 therefore reviewed 1,262 in the limited timeframe
 17 allowed since disclosure."
 18 Would I be right in thinking that your team would
 19 have reviewed a considerable number more than that?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Just to be clear, the focus of your search was what?
 22 Was it branch account problems?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Were there any other problems?
 25 A. The searches were surrounding discrepancies but, of

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1 course, a search such as that will come up with lots of
 2 things that are largely irrelevant. But yes, branch
 3 account problems.
 4 Q. And would that 1,262 PEAKs you referred to there be on
 5 top of the 163 PEAKs that you found having regard to the
 6 5,114 KELs you read?
 7 A. Sorry, could you ask that question once more.
 8 Q. If you remember back at paragraph 114, I'm asking this
 9 question in a very maladroit way, you said: I looked at
 10 5,000-odd KELs and I found that 163 contained PEAKs that
 11 could be of significant interest?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. I get the impression therefore that you looked at the
 14 KELs and then, having regard to the KELs, you then
 15 looked at the PEAKs referred to in those KELs?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And you found 163 that you thought were interesting and
 18 you refer to 76?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. The 163, was that part of the 1,262 that you regarded --
 21 that you found that might specifically relate to branch
 22 accounts?
 23 A. It is likely to be a subset of that.
 24 Q. Thank you.
 25 A. Because what you find is when you look in a KEL and it

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1 lists a number of PEAKs, you go to have a look at the
 2 PEAKs. Sometimes it is a PEAK of interest but it
 3 actually doesn't contain any of the words you were
 4 originally searching for, but once you have read it you
 5 understand why it is of interest.
 6 Q. Yes. If we move forward three and a half months, so we
 7 are now at the beginning of February, and you produce
 8 your second statement which is very long and that's at
 9 {D2/4.1/16}. If we could look at that document at
 10 page 16, please. You say in paragraph 3.20:
 11 "I have now reviewed more of these records using
 12 text search criteria and filtering. This has enabled me
 13 to address some issues more thoroughly and has enabled a
 14 more in-depth analysis in relation to the extent of the
 15 Horizon Issues and the overall robustness ..."
 16 So would I be right in thinking that you had looked
 17 at more KELs?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. And I think it must be obvious you looked at more PEAKs,
 20 as well?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Had you looked at more other documents as well?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Could you give some indication of the sort of other
 25 documents you were looking at in the intervening time?

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1 A. There was a number of OCRs and OCPs but I do not think
 2 we had the full family of them at this point in time.
 3 There was a number of the design documents, the process
 4 documents. There was a lot of reports about how
 5 feedback of the support of issues was being fed back to
 6 Post Office. There was documents on many themes.
 7 Q. How many more KELs -- it may be that you can only
 8 estimate, it may be impossible to estimate -- do you
 9 think you had looked at by this time?
 10 A. It would be a crazy guess. I don't know. I honestly
 11 don't know.
 12 Q. What about PEAKs? How many more PEAKs do you think you
 13 had reviewed by this time? I would suggest it is likely
 14 you looked at a lot of them but that may be unfair.
 15 A. It will be a lot of them. There wasn't a linear review
 16 where I sat and started and went next, next, next. That
 17 wasn't how it happened. But after searching for
 18 a document, deciding it was of interest, and then
 19 picking out some of the themes and then searching for
 20 those themes, you might identify conceivably another
 21 five hundred documents of which you might flick through
 22 those very, very quickly just to see whether they are of
 23 any interest, they are in the right date range.
 24 Q. Did your team, the four people that's mentioned that we
 25 have discussed, did they help you at any time during

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1 this three and a half month period?
 2 A. Any members of the team? Sorry?
 3 Q. Did the whole team, all four members, help you at any
 4 time?
 5 A. Running up to Coyne 1, the first report, then it was the
 6 team members that you see there. For the second report
 7 it was just Siobhan Forster.
 8 Q. Did she spend a great deal of her time helping you
 9 during that period?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. She was doing intelligent searches as well?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And she was reviewing PEAKs and other documents as well?
 14 A. In order to bring them to my attention. The process was
 15 very similar all the way through really.
 16 Q. I see. Would I right in thinking that the focus during
 17 that period was again PEAKs and KELs and other documents
 18 indicating problems with branch accounts?
 19 A. We were also looking at elements in Dr Worden's report.
 20 So there will have been searches trying to understand
 21 more about themes surrounding his opinion.
 22 Q. I see. Have you reviewed further documents since you
 23 produced your second report on 1st February?
 24 A. Yes, I think I'm right to say there has been documents
 25 that have been disclosed since then. Yes.

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1 Q. Have you -- let's take it in stages, have you reviewed
 2 more PEAKs since then?
 3 A. I think there was a small disclosure of about 1,200
 4 PEAKs that have been reviewed.
 5 Q. What about OCPs and OCRs, have you reviewed a number of
 6 those?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Could you give an estimate of how many you have looked
 9 at?
 10 A. It will be thousands but I don't know what the precise
 11 number would be.
 12 Q. MSCs as well, the three databases of MSCs, you've
 13 reviewed a number of those as well, haven't you?
 14 A. MSCs were a very significant challenge because they were
 15 disclosed in three separate Excel sheets, none of which
 16 appeared to marry up with each other, so it was a task
 17 because there were literally millions of lines of code
 18 in that. So I have searched within those documents.
 19 Q. The OCPs and the OCRs and the MSCs, what have you
 20 searched for? FAD codes, that kind of thing?
 21 A. I have searched for the word "FAD", because that might
 22 indicate that it is describing something for
 23 a particular branch, but I have not searched for a FAD
 24 code as such.
 25 Q. So you have looked for FAD because that is a reference

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1 to a branch. Each branch has its own FAD code, doesn't
 2 it?
 3 A. FAD is an indicator that the document might be to do
 4 with a branch, but you do have to be very careful with
 5 that because simply searching for "FAD" returns hundreds
 6 of documents and you actually find that it is just
 7 a pro forma document with the word FAD in it and there
 8 is a space next to it and there's nothing in it.
 9 Q. Presumably this is where intelligent searches come in,
 10 which I would be --
 11 A. Absolutely.
 12 Q. -- incapable of doing.
 13 A. Absolutely.
 14 Q. And what other things were you looking for when you went
 15 through OCPs and OCRs and MSCs?
 16 A. We used various searches for "subpostmaster" that would
 17 indicate that there was potentially dialogue with the
 18 subpostmaster, to see whether there was any advice given
 19 to the subpostmaster or what type of information was
 20 being requested from the subpostmaster. So all the
 21 variations of subpostmaster were used as search terms.
 22 Q. Thank you, Mr Coyne. We now have a sense of what you
 23 looked at when you produced your first report and what
 24 additional documents you looked at when you produced
 25 your second report. We've already spent some time

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1 talking about your first report but there are some extra
 2 questions I would like to ask you about it.
 3 If we could go to {D2/1/26} paragraph 3.7 which is
 4 at page 26. You say:
 5 "With regards to Issue 3, whilst the present-day
 6 version of Horizon supported by manual human support may
 7 now be considered as relatively robust in the spectrum
 8 of computer systems used in businesses today it has
 9 undergone major modifications in its history. It is
 10 likely that in 1999 when it was first commissioned, and
 11 in 2010 when it was significantly upgraded (to Horizon
 12 Online), it was less robust."
 13 So you are saying there that the level of robustness
 14 may have varied over time?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And you are focusing in particular on the early days of
 17 Legacy Horizon and the early days of Horizon Online?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Why do you focus on those periods?
 20 A. Because I believe it is an incontrovertible fact that
 21 there was a larger number of problems after the launch
 22 of the first version of Horizon and after the upgrade to
 23 Horizon Online. Certainly I was in court when shortly
 24 after the launch of Horizon Online there was talk about
 25 the red alert or the red care situation, shortly after

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1 Horizon Online, where it needed some intensive care
 2 because of problems.
 3 Q. Do you mean during the pilot project when only a very
 4 small number of branches were actually using
 5 Horizon Online? Is that what you are referring to?
 6 A. Certainly there was problems during that period but it
 7 was real branches that were being used. It wasn't
 8 a testing environment or anything like that.
 9 Q. Would I be right in thinking, Mr Coyne, that you have
 10 chosen the wording of that paragraph quite carefully?
 11 A. I would like to think that I choose all of my words
 12 carefully.
 13 Q. Very good. That's fair. I note that you are not saying
 14 here that Horizon was definitely not robust at some
 15 earlier time. That's deliberate, isn't it?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. You are merely saying that it is relatively robust now,
 18 it may have been less robust at some earlier dates, but
 19 you are not saying it wasn't relatively robust on those
 20 earlier dates, are you?
 21 A. No, I'm not. That supports what I have attempted to
 22 assist the court with all along. It isn't a binary
 23 situation that it is either robust or not robust, it is
 24 a spectrum, and throughout those periods it was less
 25 robust further to the left of the spectrum.

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1 Q. Even during those early periods in 1999/2000 when
 2 Legacy Horizon was rolled out, and in 2010 when
 3 Horizon Online was rolled out, would I be right in
 4 thinking it is not your judgment that it was not
 5 relatively robust even then?
 6 A. I think that is quite a difficult question to answer
 7 because that would require very specific focus on those
 8 periods and a very specific benchmarking of the position
 9 at those two periods which I haven't conducted
 10 specifically.
 11 Q. You say that you have conducted the benchmarking now?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Are you suggesting that you haven't conducted any
 14 benchmarking in relation to any earlier period?
 15 A. Certainly I have looked at the number of defects that
 16 have been in existence and the number of requests to
 17 support throughout the whole life of Horizon and there
 18 are peaks -- sorry, that is a bad word.
 19 Q. Spikes.
 20 A. Spikes after the launch of the Legacy version of Horizon
 21 and then after the upgrade to Horizon, and I completely
 22 understand why with any new system and with any major
 23 upgrade there's going to be an increase in problems.
 24 That's why I have said during those periods the system
 25 will have been less robust because there was problems

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1 being ironed out both in the technology -- the
 2 programming -- the networking and the support processes.
 3 All these problems were being ironed out.
 4 Q. So outside those periods, how long did those periods
 5 last? Are we talking about 1999 to 2000 for
 6 Legacy Horizon, is that the sort of period you are
 7 talking about?
 8 A. No, I mean the actual period extends, it is a curve that
 9 slowly drops over the course of the next couple of
 10 years. So, again, it is not a binary: it becomes stable
 11 at some point in time, the faults stop at some point in
 12 time.
 13 Q. So you are suggesting -- you have a graph in mind which
 14 you are using as a basis for forming this judgment. Is
 15 there a graph somewhere that indicates what you are
 16 talking about?
 17 A. There's certainly two images, I think one in my report
 18 and one in Dr Worden's report, that show -- that have
 19 correlation of spikes of activity around those two
 20 areas.
 21 Q. Could you tell me where in your report we will find this
 22 graph? I'm afraid I'm not in a position to suggest
 23 a page number. Do you remember where it is?
 24 A. There is one in my first report at -- it is page 193.
 25 Q. Thank you. A graph. Is this your first report or your

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1 second report?
 2 A. This is my first report.
 3 Q. My page 193 is a figure 3.
 4 MR GREEN: It is bundle page 206, internal 193.
 5 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I'm looking at the wrong numbering.
 6 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Are we looking at your page 193 in the
 7 top right-hand corner?
 8 A. Sorry, my Lord, yes.
 9 MR GREEN: Page 193 top right.
 10 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: 193 at the top and 206 in the bundle
 11 {D2/1/206}.
 12 I'm looking at that graph. What is this a graph of?
 13 A. So this is a graph of BIMS.
 14 Q. Could you explain what they are?
 15 A. They are business impact statements that are made
 16 between Fujitsu and Post Office.
 17 Q. It looks as if the spike had more or less finished by
 18 about 2011. So would it be fair to say that if you are
 19 treating this as evidence of less robustness, from about
 20 2011 it stabilises, would that be right?
 21 A. I think it probably could be argued that it stabilises
 22 around 2013 but it is the curve that I attempted to
 23 describe before.
 24 Q. So that's the basis upon which you form that judgment
 25 that it was less robust during these early periods, is

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1 that right?
 2 A. That is one of the graphs that illustrates my opinion,
 3 yes.
 4 Q. Now, if we go back to -- and is there a similar -- have
 5 you done a similar graph for Legacy Horizon or is there
 6 nothing?
 7 A. I believe Dr Worden has a similar graph that goes back
 8 to Horizon.
 9 MR JUSTICE FRASER: You said there were two, I think, one in
 10 your report and one in Dr Worden's report.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: You think he has got one as well?
 13 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: This may be wrong but it may be at
 14 {D3/1/187}.
 15 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Let's have a look.
 16 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: There is a table of loss amounts by
 17 year. Do you see that? Is that the one you have in
 18 mind?
 19 A. No, I do not think it is. I think there is a different
 20 one.
 21 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Is it {D3/1/129}? I'm just doing this
 22 to try and help Mr de Garr Robinson, I'm not
 23 interfering. Have a look at D3/1/129.
 24 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Is that the bundle reference?
 25 MR JUSTICE FRASER: That is the bundle reference. Could you

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1 call that up on the common screen, please. 129.
 2 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: It is the same graph as at 187.
 3 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Oh, is it the same?
 4 MR GREEN: I think it is the same.
 5 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I won't try and help any more.
 6 MR GREEN: It has a different title but it is the same
 7 thing.
 8 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Do you think you can --
 9 A. Yes, if you give me a moment I can go through these
 10 paper copies.
 11 Q. It might be the next page. If we go to the next page on
 12 the screen, is that it? No sorry.
 13 MR GREEN: {D3/1/130}.
 14 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Can we look at page 130, please, in
 15 this document. {D3/1/130}. Thank you. Is that it?
 16 A. I think it is that actually, yes, because that
 17 illustrates the same peak/spike, that illustrates the
 18 same spike around Horizon.
 19 Q. But it doesn't indicate any spike around Legacy Horizon,
 20 does it?
 21 A. Not for KELs, no.
 22 Q. I'm wondering, Mr Coyne, whether this judgment is really
 23 based upon your experience, that your experience of when
 24 you roll out a new system you are going to have teething
 25 problems and then, once it is rolled out, the position

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1 stabilises. Is that really what your judgment is based
 2 on?
 3 A. Part of my judgment is based on my experience but it is
 4 certainly the case, and we might not have a graph for
 5 this, but when you look at the number of PEAKs over the
 6 period, there is a spike in the PEAKs at the start of
 7 Horizon.
 8 Q. So just to backtrack slightly. What you are saying is
 9 Horizon is robust, relatively robust now. Do you accept
 10 that it has been robust for a significant period or
 11 would you not be prepared to say that?
 12 A. It has been relatively robust apart from the early years
 13 of the two launches, Horizon Legacy and Horizon Online.
 14 Q. So both Horizon Online and Legacy Horizon have been
 15 robust for most of their lives but there were initial
 16 periods where they were less robust?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. In relation to those initial periods -- and do correct
 19 me if I'm wrong -- you are not saying they definitely
 20 weren't robust during that period, you are simply saying
 21 they were materially less robust, is that right?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Thank you. That's very clear.
 24 Let's go back to section 3 of your first report. If
 25 we can go to {D2/1/26}, paragraph 3.10. Perhaps I don't

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1 need to ask you about that in the light of what you have
 2 just told me. Instead what I would like to do is to go
 3 to page {D2/1/77} of the same document, please. You
 4 will recall that I suggested to you that there was
 5 a danger of forming an impression from your first report
 6 that although you clearly state that Horizon is
 7 relatively robust, you don't say anything good about it.
 8 What you tend to do is to say bad things about it.
 9 I suggested to you that was because you were knowingly
 10 giving a poor impression of Horizon. Would that be fair
 11 or would that be unfair?
 12 A. That would be unfair.
 13 Q. Why didn't you then say more about the good aspects of
 14 Horizon that led you to the conclusion that it was
 15 relatively robust?
 16 A. Because this -- because the question of robustness was
 17 in the context of would that robustness prevent or
 18 reduce the risk of bugs, errors and defects causing
 19 discrepancies. So the many good things about Horizon,
 20 and I suppose if you are going to start talking about
 21 good things, how far do you go? I don't know where you
 22 stop with them. This, as I understand it, is about
 23 whether any of the failures that have occurred within
 24 Horizon have led to defects or discrepancies.
 25 Q. But in the first joint statement you indicated that you

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1 were going to adopt a balanced approach. I fully
 2 understand why you are looking at problems, and problems
 3 which were relevant to branch account impact. I'm not
 4 suggesting you shouldn't have done that. But if you are
 5 engaging in a properly balanced approach you have to
 6 explain the good things with as much care and clarity as
 7 you explain the bad things. And what I would like to
 8 suggest to you, Mr Coyne, is that you devoted much more
 9 attention to talking about the bad things than you ever
 10 did talking about the good things?
 11 A. Yes, I will accept that is fair.
 12 Q. And why did you do that?
 13 A. Because my understanding of the instruction is to try
 14 and identify the risks that are associated with bugs,
 15 errors and defects, and there are many other issues, but
 16 if they had an impact or could have had an impact on
 17 branch account.
 18 Q. But --
 19 A. Sorry. So in order to do that you have to focus on what
 20 actually happened, is my understanding, and then from
 21 understanding what has actually happened understand what
 22 the impact of it is.
 23 Talking about all the nice things in Horizon that
 24 happen in the high 90% of the time I don't believe
 25 delivers any real value to my instructions.

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1 Q. But in deciding whether or not a problem that arose in
 2 Horizon actually had a branch impact, one of the things
 3 that you have to consider is whether the countermeasures
 4 that surround the Horizon system operate effectively or
 5 not?
 6 A. I absolutely agree with that --
 7 Q. And you accept that, don't you? You accept that it is
 8 relevant to the judgment of robustness as to how good
 9 the countermeasures were?
 10 A. Yes. But the way to do that is to identify the fault in
 11 the first place and then have a look at the
 12 countermeasures, whether they were positioned correctly,
 13 whether they worked or not.
 14 Q. Can I suggest to you, Mr Coyne, that that's not what you
 15 did in your first report at all. Most of your first
 16 report was devoted to problems that actually didn't
 17 relate to branch impacts at all, and when you did talk
 18 about problems that related to branch impacts you didn't
 19 consider whether the full panoply of countermeasures
 20 would have corrected or reacted to or identified the
 21 branch impacts you were talking about?
 22 A. That could well be to do with not having all of the
 23 documents that was requested at the time.
 24 Q. Well, you didn't do it in your second report either, did
 25 you? You did the same thing. It was more of the same

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1 in your second report, wasn't it?
 2 A. I don't believe that's the case, no.
 3 Q. So you are suggesting in your second report you did
 4 consider how good the support process was and you did
 5 consider, where you had identified a bug that may have
 6 a branch impact, you did consider the extent to which it
 7 was likely that that impact would have been identified
 8 and sorted out?
 9 A. I spend a large amount of the second report addressing
 10 specifically the countermeasures that Dr Worden raises,
 11 paragraph by paragraph.
 12 Q. And your overall view of those countermeasures, bearing
 13 in mind that your judgment now is that Horizon is
 14 relatively robust, yes?
 15 A. Mm.
 16 Q. Your overall view of those countermeasures is that they
 17 are relatively good, yes?
 18 A. I think it is a danger looking at them in the overall
 19 because there is a number of them that I don't believe
 20 are good. But broadly, if the countermeasure is
 21 positioned correctly, in the vast majority of occasions
 22 they should work.
 23 Q. What I would like to suggest to you, Mr Coyne, is that
 24 it follows from your overall judgment that Horizon is
 25 relatively robust now. It follows that overall your

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1 assessment of the countermeasures that Dr Worden has
 2 identified is also that they are relatively good. Would
 3 that be fair?
 4 A. Yes. Each of the countermeasures that Dr Worden has
 5 suggested are in place and at some point in time have
 6 been in place within Horizon. We don't know when they
 7 were in place within Horizon on a number of occasions
 8 but they have been in place.
 9 Q. Please answer my question, and let me be clearer about
 10 it because it is quite important. What I'm suggesting
 11 to you is that it is part and parcel of your judgment,
 12 your overall judgment that Horizon is relatively robust,
 13 that the countermeasures operating together, the
 14 countermeasures that are in operation in relation to
 15 Horizon, that they are relatively good as well. It is
 16 not your view that operating together, taken as a whole,
 17 the countermeasures are of poor quality or that there's
 18 anything wrong with them, is it?
 19 A. No, it is not.
 20 Q. I'm grateful for that frank answer. It is fair to say,
 21 isn't it, that your overall judgment is that the
 22 countermeasures together, there may be individual
 23 instances where you are not so sure, but overall your
 24 judgment is that those countermeasures work well in
 25 Horizon?

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1 A. Yes, but you can't disregard the fact that the system
 2 has changed throughout the last --
 3 Q. Just --
 4 A. Sorry --
 5 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Hold on a second, I would like to hear
 6 the answer, and then you can either re-put the question
 7 or follow on.
 8 Go on, Mr Coyne.
 9 A. We can't disregard the fact that the system has changed
 10 over the course of the last 20 years and whatever the
 11 countermeasures may be today, they will likely be
 12 different in Horizon Legacy, different countermeasures,
 13 possibly the same aspiration to catch defects at certain
 14 point in time, but they will be different, they will be
 15 constructed differently and they will be positioned
 16 differently. So we can't --
 17 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Mr Coyne, just pause there. All right.
 18 Mr de Garr Robinson is going to re-put his question if
 19 he wants to.
 20 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I am. I'm talking about the period of
 21 time relating to the current configuration of Horizon
 22 and going back in time until the point in time after the
 23 initial teething problems were resolved. You understand
 24 what I mean?
 25 A. All the way back to --

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1 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Can we use years?
 2 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Let's go back to 2012 for the sake of
 3 argument to make it safe, because I think that is a year
 4 you suggested. So from 2012 to 2019 your view is that
 5 Horizon is and has been relatively robust, correct?
 6 A. Yes, I would say that, but I would be very clear that
 7 robust does not mean that it hasn't suffered
 8 significant --
 9 Q. Everybody is agreed that robustness doesn't mean
 10 perfect.
 11 A. That's fine then, yes.
 12 Q. Which is the point you are trying to make, is that
 13 right?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 MR JUSTICE FRASER: What word were you going to add after
 16 "significant", just out of interest?
 17 A. Defects that have continued throughout the period.
 18 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: So during that period, 2012 to 2019,
 19 your judgment is, and you feel capable of making the
 20 judgment, that Horizon is and has been relatively
 21 robust, correct?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Now that judgment includes a judgment not only about the
 24 electronic systems and so on, it includes a judgment
 25 about everything including the countermeasure processes

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1 surrounding Horizon, correct?
 2 A. Yes. There has to be a number of caveats about that and
 3 I explained before that I don't really know what happens
 4 within Post Office to correct defects if Fujitsu has
 5 spotted them. So I can't comment really on what that
 6 process would be.
 7 Q. But in relation to the -- nonetheless you have
 8 sufficient information to allow you to form an overall
 9 judgment as to robustness and your judgment is that
 10 during that period the system itself and the
 11 countermeasures around it were relatively robust?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. The reason why I ask you that -- and just to be clear,
 14 the same is true of the period Legacy Horizon, shall we
 15 say from 2001 to 2010, would that be a fair period?
 16 A. Yes. Perhaps one year after that.
 17 Q. Okay, 2002 to 2010. During that period your view is
 18 that Horizon was relatively robust?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And that included the countermeasures surrounding it and
 21 supporting it?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. My question to you, Mr Coyne, and we will be coming to
 24 countermeasures later, but it is quite a striking fact
 25 that if you read the section of your report that

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1 addresses countermeasures, your second report, it goes
 2 over dozens and dozens and dozens of pages in your
 3 section 5 -- and as I say, we will come to it -- there
 4 is no hint of your judgment that overall the
 5 countermeasures during those periods have operated --
 6 have been relatively good. Why is that?
 7 A. I don't know. It certainly wasn't a conscious decision
 8 to leave anything out, and --
 9 Q. Could I suggest to you -- I'm sorry, I'm interrupting
 10 you.
 11 A. Sorry. And because I have found bugs, errors and
 12 defects throughout that period, that is an illustration
 13 that however good the countermeasures were, that they
 14 were overcome at various points.
 15 Q. We will come to that, I will be asking you quite a few
 16 questions about whether the countermeasures were
 17 overcome by the bugs that you have identified. But my
 18 question to you, Mr Coyne, remains that you are quite
 19 happy to go on at great length about how much you
 20 disagree with Dr Worden and about all the problems you
 21 found in relation to countermeasures. Nowhere do you
 22 actually say what you have very fairly said to me in the
 23 last half hour, namely that the countermeasures actually
 24 during those long periods of time have worked quite
 25 well. Why would you not say that given that you want to

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1 give a balanced view?
 2 A. I believe the view that I have given in the reports is
 3 balanced --
 4 Q. Where -- I'm so sorry, I'm speaking too quickly. Please
 5 carry on.
 6 A. I don't see that utilising many pages of text to talk
 7 about the various aspects of Horizon's countermeasures,
 8 which may well be similar to how Dr Worden set them out,
 9 they may well operate in much different ways, we don't
 10 really know, but we can observe that they are likely to
 11 operate in those ways. I do not see there is a great
 12 deal of value when it is a fact, and what I believe the
 13 court was asking in the Horizon Issues was to address if
 14 it is possible that they have failed. So it is the
 15 failure side of it.
 16 Q. I see. So you regarded it to be your job to indicate to
 17 the court whether there were occasions on which Horizon
 18 had failed. That was the essential endeavour that you
 19 were engaged in when addressing Horizon Issues 1, 3, 4
 20 and 6, was it?
 21 A. I believe that a number of those Horizon Issues ask that
 22 specifically.
 23 Q. Didn't those issues ask specifically how likely -- what
 24 was the extent of the likelihood of problems occurring
 25 in Horizon so as to cause problems in --

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1 A. Yes --
 2 Q. -- branch accounts?
 3 A. Yes, that is right, but that doesn't ask for me to point
 4 out a list of all the possible countermeasures.
 5 Q. But isn't it relevant to the judgment as to overall
 6 likelihood how well the countermeasures work? I mean
 7 Dr Worden recognised that was the position, that's why
 8 he spent so many pages of his report explaining the
 9 architecture of Horizon, explaining how the systems
 10 worked and explaining how they operated in relation to
 11 each other. Then in your response, in your second
 12 report, what you did -- what I suggest that you did is
 13 you sat in your armchair and took pot shots at various
 14 points that he made without giving any sense as to
 15 an overall judgment as to whether he was right or not
 16 that the countermeasures did work relatively well?
 17 A. No, I don't believe I did that. What I did was I looked
 18 at the entire landscape of Horizon's operation,
 19 identified the percentages were -- there were weaknesses
 20 within the process, and then focused on that
 21 specifically to find out whether there had actually been
 22 any bugs, errors and defects, and then looked at why the
 23 countermeasures or controls may or may not have worked
 24 after that bug, error or defect had triggered. Because
 25 the key is how the system operates when it doesn't

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1 operate properly, not how to operates when it does
 2 operate properly.
 3 Q. I have been side-tracked, I have allowed myself to be
 4 side-tracked.
 5 We were going to look at page {D2/1/77} of your
 6 first report and I'm about to ask you a question about a
 7 paragraph on this page. The starting point of the
 8 question is that you agreed with me that your judgment
 9 is that Horizon, both Horizon Online and indeed
 10 Legacy Horizon, for much of its life has been relatively
 11 robust?
 12 A. Mm.
 13 Q. If we go to paragraph 5.88, you say:
 14 "In my position as an expert I am unable to estimate
 15 the level of the Horizon system's robustness. Given the
 16 size and age of Horizon, I would however make the expert
 17 assumption (based upon systems of similar magnitude),
 18 that there are not many people who could. The sheer
 19 enormity of the task to garner a thorough understanding
 20 of the code which would be required to estimate
 21 robustness is, in my opinion, nearly impossible."
 22 So here you seem to be saying that it is actually
 23 not possible to assess whether Horizon is robust or not?
 24 A. No, to come up with a number. When I say the level, I'm
 25 talking about a particular number or a percentage or

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1 a ... (Pause)
 2 Q. So what you are suggesting is that you don't have -- in
 3 order to make an absolute judgment, to give an absolute
 4 number of robustness, you would need to look at all the
 5 code and look at everything else, is that right?
 6 A. Yes, because there may well be a defect in the code on
 7 one day which has a problem that eludes countermeasures,
 8 and that code may then be fixed so it is in a different
 9 position on day one than it is on day two.
 10 Q. And you are saying that kind of enquiry is necessary in
 11 order to make an absolute judgment of robustness?
 12 A. In order to make an absolute judgment, yes.
 13 Q. But it is not required in order to make a relative
 14 judgment of robustness?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. I would like you to explain why that would be the case.
 17 Why would it not also be needed for a relative judgment
 18 to be made, to benchmark against industry standards?
 19 A. Because with a relative judgment you are considering all
 20 factors in the round and it is still very subjective but
 21 it is across multiple different factors that are
 22 improving or getting worse.
 23 Q. I understand you when you suggest that to make
 24 a judgment about robustness involves an overall
 25 assessment. That I understand. But my question to you

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1 is why is it necessary to look at the code and look at
2 absolutely everything to engage in an impossible task to
3 make an absolute assessment of robustness, when it is
4 not necessary to do that in order to make a relative
5 assessment of robustness? I would just like you to
6 explain that if you could.

7 A. There is a number of different ways of assessing
8 robustness. By looking at the code at any one point in
9 time you could establish whether there are any bugs,
10 errors or defects in there. It would be a near
11 impossible task but it could be done depending on how
12 big the code base could be.

13 Q. How would it be possible? Just as testing is never
14 perfect. You have a set of code and you are about to
15 release it into live operation but you have to test it
16 first, you can test it as many ways as you can but you
17 are never going to spot every problem in it.

18 A. No, but --

19 Q. Are you suggesting that for the purposes of determining
20 whether a code is robust you could look at the code and
21 perform that judgment?

22 A. Yes, you certainly could look at the code and perform
23 that judgment because what you can do, and this has
24 often happened in the aircraft industry, they have
25 multiple different operating systems that control

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1 different devices. So if there is a catastrophic
2 failure of one piece of code another piece of code will
3 take over.

4 So if by looking at the code you can establish that
5 is in there, then you can give a view of that being
6 completely robust, because if it fails in its entirety
7 there is another solution that can take over. So that
8 is how I can illustrate the code example.

9 Q. This is the last question I will ask and then I will
10 move on. If you are forming a judgment as to the
11 robustness of a system, don't you need to have regard to
12 the way it operated in operation?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Isn't that what you should be looking at, not millions
15 of lines of machine code? You are looking at how it
16 operates in practice, looking at how the countermeasure
17 operates and forming an overall judgment as to the
18 efficiency of the operation, aren't you?

19 A. That could be one part of it, yes.

20 Q. Wouldn't that be sufficient? Wouldn't be all you needed
21 to do?

22 A. No, because you will almost certainly be able to
23 identify a scenario where somebody or many people will
24 operate the system, the Horizon system, throughout
25 a year, or possibly even throughout the entire life

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1 cycle of Horizon, and will never experience one problem
2 at all because they will not trigger the unusual
3 circumstances that unearth a bug. So if you went and
4 studied that one person you would ultimately conclude
5 the system is absolutely robust. I have watched this
6 person do 10,000 transactions per year for ten years and
7 it has never had a problem.

8 Q. What I'm attempting to explore with you, Mr Coyne, is
9 your attempt to explain why it is that on the one hand
10 you have reached your judgment that Horizon is
11 relatively robust, but on the other hand you can't form
12 a judgment on the level of robustness without looking at
13 all the code. You have suggested that it is to be
14 explained because one is a relative judgment whereas the
15 other one is an absolute judgment. And I'm asking you,
16 if it is necessary to look at the code in order to make
17 a decision about robustness, why isn't it equally
18 necessary to look at the code when making a judgment
19 about relative robustness? And I don't understand why
20 the distinction between relative and absolute robustness
21 should make the slightest difference.

22 A. Because we can look at the rest of the industry in
23 either banking or point of sale or stock control or all
24 the different factors that make up Horizon and look at
25 the types of defects that are seen in those industries

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1 and that are tolerated in those industries and the
2 impact of those failures within those industries and it
3 is through that lens that I have said that Horizon is
4 robust relative to those other industries.

5 Q. Well, could I suggest to you, Mr Coyne, what you are
6 doing in your first report, in indicating that Horizon
7 is robust then suggesting that it isn't, then suggesting
8 it is impossible to tell that it is robust, what you are
9 trying to do is to devalue the judgment that you have
10 very fairly and very honestly made that Horizon is
11 robust. What you are trying to do in your report is to
12 give a negative impression, which is not balanced but is
13 designed to achieve a conclusion?

14 A. That's certainly what I was not trying to do, no.

15 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Very well.

16 My Lord, is this a convenient moment?

17 MR JUSTICE FRASER: If it is convenient to you. Is it?

18 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes.

19 MR JUSTICE FRASER: You are moving on to a new subject,
20 right.

21 We are going to have a short 10-minute break. The
22 usual rules apply. 3.20 pm.

23 (3.12 pm)

24 (A short break)

25 (3.24 pm)

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1 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Mr Coyne, before the break I was
2 suggesting to you that in your first report you were
3 seeking to give a negative impression about Horizon that
4 was not consistent with your genuine view that Horizon
5 was relatively robust and you have answered those
6 questions.

7 But I'm now going to explore another aspect of that
8 which is that in your report you display more interest
9 in pointing out the problems you found with Horizon than
10 with actually giving a fair assessment of the overall
11 position of Horizon and my questions for the rest of
12 this afternoon will be looking at that question.

13 I don't have time to take you to more than a few
14 examples which is unfortunate because there are so many
15 of them in your report. And that is a problem that
16 arises in cases of this sort. The documents you refer
17 to in your report, in fact both your reports, are often
18 long and involved with substantial complexities.

19 Do you accept that where an expert is referring to
20 a great number of documents of this sort which are all
21 being presented as supporting a view, giving
22 an impression of a certain state of affairs, it is
23 incumbent on the expert to ensure that he or she deals
24 with the document scrupulously fairly so as to avoid
25 giving any risk of a false impression?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Counsel won't have time to cross-examine the expert on
3 all of them, and the judge certainly won't have time to
4 go through all of them with a fine-tooth comb in his or
5 her own chambers afterwards, will they? So a judge is
6 relying on the expert to discharge their duty to ensure
7 that a fair view is being given of any document being
8 referred to.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Now, do you think you have done that in your reports?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The documents you've referred to in your reports, and
13 there are a great number of them, have you considered
14 them all carefully yourself before explaining the
15 inferences you draw from them or the constructions you
16 put upon them?

17 A. That was certainly my aim in including the documents in
18 the report, yes.

19 Q. Well, let's deal with a few examples. As I say, I can
20 only deal with a few. First of all, cost benefit
21 analysis. This is a theme of both your reports, that
22 bugs in Horizon are diagnosed and fixed on a cost
23 benefit basis. Is that right?

24 A. There is certainly reference within the documents about
25 looking at bugs and fixing them on a cost benefit basis.

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1 Q. There is a claim made in both your reports that where
2 bugs that are known to cause shortfalls, those bugs will
3 not be diagnosed and fixed on a cost benefit basis by
4 Fujitsu, essentially?

5 A. Yes, and I think that that was one of the agreements
6 that Dr Worden and I arrived at in one of our joint
7 statements.

8 Q. We will talk about the joint statements in a moment.
9 I am sure you will agree that it is inevitable that
10 every business will take some decisions on a cost
11 benefit basis?

12 A. Yes, that is true. It must be considered here that
13 there is a different dynamic here between the user of
14 the system and the people who fix the defects. In
15 an organisation they may have their own internal
16 programmers and therefore they may not fix things on
17 a cost benefit analysis basis. If you have
18 a development team that's not your own resources but you
19 are paying for those resources then there could be
20 a different dynamic at play there.

21 Q. The point you are making you are applying to the fixing
22 of bugs in Horizon. You are saying, correct me if I'm
23 wrong, that the support process provided by the SSC
24 allowed relevant bugs to remain in the system in order
25 to save money?

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1 A. Yes, and there is certainly a reference within
2 a document to that view being taken.

3 Q. Let's see how you develop the point. If we could go to
4 your first report {D2/1/27}, please. This is
5 paragraph 3.15:

6 "There are a range of measures and controls existing
7 in Horizon each designed to prevent, detect, identify,
8 report and reduce the risk of several multifaceted
9 errors. It is likely that during the life of Horizon
10 system that these measures and controls improved. It is
11 also reasonably likely that in the majority of cases the
12 measures and controls were successful."

13 Stopping there, Mr Coyne, I need to correct
14 something I put to you before the break.

15 I put to you that there wasn't a hint of anything
16 positive said about countermeasures in your report.
17 That's not fair. There are in the report a number of
18 occasions -- a number of sentences of this sort which
19 could be said to be positive statements. What I would
20 suggest to you, however, is that that sentence is
21 a dramatic understatement of the positive view that you
22 have of the Horizon countermeasures?

23 A. I don't believe that's the case. It is correct there is
24 a range of measures and I explain what they are designed
25 for.

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1 Q. In the majority of cases. Your view is that it is only
 2 in a fraction of a percentage of cases that these things
 3 don't work, isn't that right? Isn't that what you said
 4 to me this morning?
 5 A. I said it would be a fraction, yes.
 6 Q. A fraction of a percentage.
 7 A. Yes, it is likely a fraction of a percentage.
 8 Q. Very good.
 9 A. But I do actually say there it is likely that during the
 10 life of Horizon the measures and controls improved and
 11 that in the majority of the cases the controls were
 12 successful.
 13 Q. Let's move on to the next sentence, Mr Coyne, because
 14 having said that positive thing, which as I have
 15 suggested to you is a dramatic understatement of your
 16 actual view, you then immediately try to undermine even
 17 that view because you then say:
 18 "However, there is also evidence to indicate that a
 19 cost/benefit analysis was applied to the fixing of
 20 bugs/errors/defects and that the possibility of error
 21 was not reduced as far as possible."
 22 So you're saying, well, countermeasures are applied
 23 in -- are likely to apply most of the time, but there is
 24 this problem. And you are suggesting there is a problem
 25 in the support process because the support process --

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1 that's Fujitsu, the SSC -- appears only to have fixed
 2 bugs on the basis of a cost benefit analysis.
 3 You do see that that's what you are trying to do.
 4 You are trying to weaken your positive statement in the
 5 previous statement even further by relying on this cost
 6 benefit and basis claim, is that right?
 7 A. No, I'm trying to provide the full picture and context.
 8 Q. By your use of the word "However", you are setting this
 9 up as undermining even the limited positive statement
 10 that you make in the previous sentence, aren't you?
 11 A. No, I'm setting out that after making that statement you
 12 have to consider what follows.
 13 Q. You repeat this point in the third joint statement and
 14 you refer to it half a dozen times in your second
 15 report, don't you?
 16 A. I do, but it is important because the question that was
 17 asked was: was it reduced as far as possible?
 18 Q. I'm sorry, where is that asked?
 19 A. It is one of the Horizon Issues.
 20 Q. I see.
 21 A. So when you consider "as far as possible", cost benefit
 22 shouldn't really be involved in that consideration. It
 23 should be whatever is possible.
 24 Q. Let me carry on with this line. What I understand you
 25 to be saying here is that there is evidence that bugs

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1 which had or may have had a non-transient effect on
 2 branch accounts were sometimes not resolved on the
 3 grounds that the costs to Fujitsu or the Post Office
 4 outweighed the benefit to the subpostmasters. Is that
 5 the claim you are making?
 6 A. Yes, that's certainly what I have got from one of the --
 7 there's certainly a document, I am sure I make
 8 a reference to it, where there is a number of bugs or at
 9 least one bug that's considered. The impact of that is
 10 that it very rarely occurs and therefore it is not worth
 11 investing the money in fixing it.
 12 Q. Let's see how you do support it in your first report,
 13 shall we? If we go to page {D2/1/97} at paragraph
 14 5.161, you say:
 15 "Whilst both Horizon and Horizon Online contain
 16 a number of measures and controls designed to check
 17 system integrity, these mechanisms have been shown to
 18 have failed. This is a point agreed upon in the joint
 19 statement. It has been identified that known
 20 issues/bugs were often deferred and dealt with on a
 21 cost/benefit basis."
 22 Here you have actually increased the scope and, if
 23 I may say so, ambition of the claim. You are now saying
 24 it happened "often". Is that your considered view of
 25 the documents you have seen?

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1 A. Could I just turn back, please, to the paragraph before?
 2 Q. Of course. {D2/1/97}
 3 (Pause)
 4 A. It might be unfair for me to say "often".
 5 Q. I'm going to come to whether it is unfair, Mr Coyne, but
 6 first of all I'm going to ask you to analyse the
 7 evidence that you rely on in support of the claim.
 8 Because it is fair to say you are not saying it happened
 9 once or twice over 20 years, you are saying it said it
 10 happened "often", and over a 20-year period "often"
 11 would usually mean dozens if not, in the context of
 12 Horizon, hundreds of times. Would you agree with that?
 13 A. No, I would take "often" to be ten or 15 times.
 14 Q. So ten or 15 times over 20 years, you think it is fair
 15 to describe that as "often", without bearing in mind the
 16 context of a system which has undertaken something like
 17 49 billion transactions during that period. 10 or 15
 18 times as opposed to 49 billion transactions?
 19 A. But this doesn't relate to the number of transactions,
 20 does it? It relates to changes to the system. I do not
 21 think the two correlate.
 22 Q. Is it your claim then that your understanding of the
 23 documents you have read is that there have been 10 or 15
 24 occasions when a decision has been made not to fix a bug
 25 on a cost benefit basis. Is that your understanding of

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1 the evidence you have seen?
 2 A. There are certainly a number of them. It might be
 3 incorrect of me to say "often". There are certainly
 4 a number of them.
 5 Q. Well, I'm going to suggest to you, just so you
 6 understand where I'm coming from, Mr Coyne, that the
 7 evidence gets nowhere near anything like that and that
 8 if you didn't know it, you certainly ought to have done.
 9 So you can expect some questions from me about that.
 10 You repeat the claim in paragraph 5.199 at page
 11 {D2/1/108} where you say:
 12 "Whilst both Horizon and Horizon Online contain many
 13 measures and controls for ensuring system integrity,
 14 these mechanisms do/have failed. It has been identified
 15 that known issues/bugs were often deferred and dealt
 16 with on a cost/benefit basis."
 17 So you repeat the word "often". This is a theme of
 18 both your reports, isn't it, that this is something that
 19 happened on a regular basis?
 20 A. It is certainly something that has happened and I have
 21 noted on a number of occasions.
 22 Q. If we go to page {D2/1/98}, in support of the claim
 23 that's made in 5.161 you give one piece of evidence and
 24 that's a risk and compliance meeting minute of
 25 18th September 2013.

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1 A. Mm.
 2 Q. Let's look at the minutes. The bundle reference is
 3 {F/11/40}.
 4 (Pause)
 5 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Sorry, it is {F/1140/1}.
 6 While the operator is doing that, I think this is
 7 one of them that was subject to the review. But it
 8 doesn't matter, this isn't a specific point on that.
 9 But insofar as you review documents and produce versions
 10 less redacted, can someone just make sure that the more
 11 up to date version goes on the database rather than the
 12 original one?
 13 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, yes. All the lesser redacted
 14 versions I think are certainly in the trial bundles.
 15 I stand to be corrected if that's not right. I don't
 16 believe this is one of them --
 17 MR JUSTICE FRASER: This might not be one of them.
 18 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: -- in any event.
 19 You will see, Mr Coyne, this is dated
 20 18th September 2013, it is the Post Office Risk &
 21 Compliance Committee.
 22 A. Mm.
 23 Q. And what you rely on is at page {F/1140/3}. So this is
 24 what you are relying on in support of your contention
 25 that bugs were fixed -- often fixed on a cost benefit

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1 basis:
 2 "Discussion:
 3 "It was reported that following the recent
 4 Ernst & Young external audit four risks been identified.
 5 Three of the risks raised had been addressed however the
 6 final risk, relating to the communication by Fujitsu of
 7 changes made to the Horizon system, was still
 8 outstanding.
 9 "It was identified that it would cost over
 10 £1 million to implement the mitigation being suggested
 11 by the audit and that this was not proportionate to the
 12 risk being managed."
 13 So certainly an example of a cost benefit analysis
 14 being applied.
 15 "Decisions.
 16 "The Committee agreed that the risk be accepted with
 17 Dave Hulbert as the owner and Lesley Sewell being
 18 ultimately responsible."
 19 So that's the evidence you rely on for your
 20 proposition.
 21 A. That --
 22 Q. And as you say in paragraph 5.161, Ernst & Young had
 23 identified four risks. Three have been addressed but
 24 the final would cost over £1 million to mitigate.
 25 If we look at the risk itself, that is in

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1 {F/1127/1}. This is a paper for the Risk & Compliance
 2 Committee, and if we look at the background,
 3 paragraph 2:
 4 "2.1 The 2012/13 Ernst & Young IT audit found no
 5 significant exceptions but did identify a small number
 6 of improvement opportunities. Four high level
 7 improvement opportunities were recorded. Three have
 8 progressed and are either complete or in the process of
 9 completing. For one, IT&C believe we have sufficient
 10 process and mitigation in place to accept this risk.
 11 This paper is to highlight this decision to the Risk &
 12 Compliance Committee."
 13 The next paragraph reads:
 14 "2.2. The specific observation was with regard to
 15 Change Management Monitoring control. The actual
 16 observation read 'Management should make use of a system
 17 generated list of changes in performing the monitoring
 18 control to further enhance its effectiveness'.
 19 "2.3 The risk being that changes may be made to the
 20 system that are not approved and not found through
 21 monitoring."
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. So what's being said here is there needs to be
 24 a change -- or what's being suggested is that it would
 25 be an improvement to the system if the change controls

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1 applied within Post Office were made automatic so that
 2 every time a change was being made to the system, this
 3 would be automatically notified, electronically notified
 4 to Post Office that it was happening. Do you see?
 5 A. This is a very important aspect. So what this is saying
 6 here is the current situation is that Fujitsu will make
 7 a change to the Horizon system and it is not clear
 8 whether Post Office will have either approved that
 9 change or will be aware that that change has been made.
 10 There is a weakness in the process that needs to be
 11 addressed.

12 Now, on the basis --

13 Q. Wait, can I stop you there for a moment. Are you
 14 suggesting Ernst & Young were saying there was
 15 a weakness in the system that had to be addressed?

16 A. They are saying there needs to be a change to the -- a
 17 change to the management monitoring control.

18 Q. Look back at paragraph 2.1, Mr Coyne:

19 "The 2012/13 Ernst & Young audit found no
 20 significant exceptions but did identify a small number
 21 of improvement opportunities."

22 Even looking at this document you can see that the
 23 characterisation you have just adopted is simply not
 24 right. These are improvement opportunities. These are
 25 not problems that need to be addressed, are they?

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1 A. From the text that's being said there about the changes
 2 that need to be made then they are important.
 3 Q. That's your judgment, is it?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. It is not said anywhere that I have seen. Have you seen
 6 it said somewhere in one of the documents?
 7 A. I believe that there is more of an Excel spreadsheet
 8 type layout to this document because this is the minutes
 9 of the meeting that reviews the observations from
 10 Ernst & Young. There is another Excel spreadsheet where
 11 I think Ernst & Young provide their output.
 12 Q. I see. So you are suggesting there is an Ernst & Young
 13 document which doesn't suggest that this is
 14 an improvement opportunity, it actually suggests it is
 15 a real problem that needs to be addressed, is that your
 16 contention?
 17 A. Yes, I believe it sets out --
 18 Q. Very good.
 19 A. Sorry, I believe it sets out more context than what is
 20 included here.
 21 Q. When you wrote paragraph 5.161 you had read this
 22 document, had you?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. If we look at paragraph 3, I think you suggested before
 25 that Post Office didn't know what changes were being

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1 made and that's why it is so important. Is that your
 2 logic?
 3 A. Yes. What this is saying here is that there is a risk
 4 that changes are made without being adequately informed
 5 to the Post Office.
 6 Q. We see the existing system described in paragraph 3:
 7 "The Post Office Service Management team currently
 8 monitor IT system changes on a monthly basis by cross
 9 referencing known and approved changes against a list
 10 produced by Fujitsu. E&Y observed that this could be
 11 enhanced ..."
 12 "Enhanced", not this is a serious problem that needs
 13 to be remedied, they use the word "enhanced".
 14 "... if the list was generated by the IT system
 15 rather than by change records."
 16 It is a relatively modest enhancement, isn't it,
 17 wouldn't you agree?
 18 A. I believe this is pointed out because there is the
 19 possibility that the change records, which are a human
 20 created document, may not have been completed adequately
 21 and it would be better to have it flagged up that if the
 22 system changes, an automated message goes to the
 23 Post Office that the system has changed rather than rely
 24 upon a paper system.
 25 Q. We can all agree it would be better Mr Coyne.

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. The question is how serious the problem is that the
 3 existing monitoring system is being applied.
 4 If you look at the next paragraph:
 5 "IT service management engaged with Fujitsu to
 6 understand how this could be achieved and it was
 7 concluded a very difficult and potentially expensive
 8 approach to adopt this as all changes are recorded as
 9 'events' within the IT system of which there are
 10 multiple thousands per day with changes only being a
 11 small percentage. The cost and difficulty in extracting
 12 these specific change events on a regular basis would
 13 outweigh the value in monitoring the change."
 14 Do you see that?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. One can see why someone might form that judgment, yes?
 17 A. Yes, but if you break that down so that there are
 18 multiple thousand a day, but the changes are only
 19 a small percentage, so a small percentage of multiple
 20 thousands is still quite a big number and that's changes
 21 made to Horizon every day.
 22 Q. Mr Coyne, you do seem to be deviating from the path that
 23 I'm asking you questions about. We are not talking
 24 about how many changes there were. We are simply
 25 talking about how they are monitored and the existing

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1 system is a human system for monitoring those changes
 2 and what's being suggested is that it should become
 3 an automatic system?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Then if we go over the page to {F/1127/2} the proposal
 6 in paragraph 5 is:
 7 "To continue with the existing process of monitoring
 8 but to additionally raise this as a risk within IT&C and
 9 to monitor any exceptions found through the existing
 10 process. If exceptions are found then re-consider the
 11 proposal from E&Y and assess the impact of the change
 12 versus the benefit."
 13 So a weighing up exercise is taking place and the
 14 conclusion for the time being is: keep things as they
 15 are but be aware of this potential improvement and
 16 monitor in the meantime to see whether in fact it would
 17 be a good idea to make it.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. That's an entirely reasonable approach wouldn't you
 20 agree?
 21 A. Well, the approach is broadly saying let's carry on
 22 doing what we do now and just look at it again in the
 23 future.
 24 Q. No. They are suggesting, first of all, carry on as we
 25 are doing now which is a monitoring system. We have

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1 a monitoring system; a suggestion is being made as to
 2 how to improve it, but as well as carrying on with the
 3 system, monitor the monitoring system to see if any
 4 problems arise, if there are any exceptions and if there
 5 are, then go back to the proposal of automatic
 6 monitoring.
 7 A. That is what it says.
 8 Q. It is not possible for you sitting in your chair over
 9 there to say that that was necessarily the wrong
 10 decision, is it?
 11 A. No, that's true.
 12 Q. It is the kind of thing that a business would quite
 13 sensibly want to do. They would like to assess whether
 14 there is a problem or not before they spend such a vast
 15 amount of money. You can't say that's intrinsically
 16 unreasonable, can you?
 17 A. No, it is not intrinsically unreasonable but it leaves
 18 exposed a risk that could be dealt with but hasn't been
 19 dealt with because of a cost benefit basis and that was
 20 the observation that I made.
 21 Q. But there is a much more important point, Mr Coyne,
 22 which is that this has nothing to do with fixing bugs in
 23 Horizon, does it?
 24 A. Yes, it goes directly to fixing bugs in Horizon because
 25 the changes that they are talking about making are

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1 changes to Horizon.
 2 Q. Mr Coyne, let me remind you of the sentence that you say
 3 this document supports that's contained in
 4 paragraph 5.161 of your expert report:
 5 "It has been identified that known issues/bugs were
 6 often deferred and dealt with on a cost benefit basis."
 7 This proposal here and the decision that was made
 8 from this proposal is not evidence of any known issue or
 9 bug being deferred and dealt with in a cost benefit
 10 basis, is it?
 11 A. No. This isn't to do with the deferment of a bug, no.
 12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Mr De Garr Robinson, there is another
 13 document that goes with this one and I'm slightly
 14 concerned you might be putting some of your questions on
 15 an incorrect basis. So just pause there one second.
 16 If you could look at please -- and I don't want this
 17 to go on the common screen -- {F/869/30}.
 18 I don't want to set a hare running but I just feel
 19 that if you look at {F/869/30} and then it is the third
 20 column from the left and {F/869/31}, I think those are
 21 the more detailed points that these conclusions you have
 22 been taking the witness to go with. Now I might be
 23 wrong.
 24 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I'm sorry, what am I supposed to be
 25 looking at my Lord?

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1 MR JUSTICE FRASER: The testing sample of 15 back end
 2 changes, ten of which were in the counter and five of
 3 which were manual. If you scroll down that column. Do
 4 you have {F/869/30}?
 5 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes.
 6 MR JUSTICE FRASER: If you start at that bullet point and
 7 just read that column down to the bottom of that page
 8 and then onto the next page leading to the conclusion
 9 that begins "There is an increased risk ...".
 10 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Based on a testing sample of 15 back
 11 end changes?
 12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Yes, ten at the counter and 5 manual
 13 changes. If you just read that column down to yourself
 14 to the conclusion, "There is an increased risk ...".
 15 (Pause).
 16 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, yes. Is this the 2012/13
 17 audit?
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: No. I'll tell you what I'm going to do.
 19 Mr Coyne could you go out for a minute please?
 20 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Is this the Ernst & Young management
 21 letter of 2011?
 22 MR JUSTICE FRASER: It is. Are you about to come onto it?
 23 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: No, I'm not. This proposal --- no I'm
 24 not going into it.
 25 (The witness withdraws)

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1 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Hold on one second, Mr De Garr Robinson,
 2 I am waiting for the witness to go out.
 3 Now what would you like to say?
 4 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, this document relates to
 5 a proposal for improvement that was made in the 2012/13
 6 audit.
 7 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I know.
 8 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord I believe you are taking me to
 9 the 2011 management letter.
 10 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I know, but when the witness in part of
 11 his answers to you says, "I think there is a document",
 12 and he goes on to deal with it directly in his report
 13 immediately after the passage you are asking him to, it
 14 would help me hugely if you would make it clear with him
 15 what the document is he says supports what he is saying
 16 justifies his conclusion on the other document you are
 17 putting to him.
 18 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I see.
 19 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Do you see what I mean?
 20 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes. I must confess my focus was on
 21 fixing bugs rather than his other answers.
 22 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I entirely understand that. I'm just
 23 faced with a witness who from time to time says: well,
 24 there is a document, and it would be enormously helpful
 25 to me if you could either, how shall I put it neutrally,

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1 either get a tick in the box that that's a document or
 2 a cross that there isn't such a document when you are
 3 putting those questions to him.
 4 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I will try my Lord.
 5 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I'm not saying --
 6 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Given the vast size of the bundles --
 7 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I'm not saying you have to do it on
 8 every single occasion, but on this particular occasion,
 9 because the paragraph comes immediately afterwards, it
 10 is much better to deal with it now than, for example,
 11 store them all up until Friday evening at 4.30 when Mr
 12 Green tries to re-examine him in ten minutes.
 13 I'm attempting to explain to you why it is going to
 14 be helpful to me.
 15 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Yes.
 16 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Can we have the witness back in please.
 17 (In the presence of the witness)
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Mr Coyne, don't read anything into that
 19 at all. I just had to have an exchange about a
 20 particular reference, that is all.
 21 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Mr Coyne, I have suggested to you that
 22 this particular document has nothing to do with
 23 deferring or not dealing with issues or bugs on a cost
 24 benefit basis and I believe you have accepted that,
 25 I hope you have. (Pause)

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1 You have accepted that?
 2 A. Yes, this particular document isn't about fixing bugs on
 3 a cost benefit basis.
 4 Q. You will have seen from the documents, these documents
 5 that what was being considered by the Risk & Compliance
 6 Committee was a proposal that was made in the Ernst &
 7 Young audit of 2012/13 and we branched into that
 8 question, although I must admit it wasn't a question
 9 I was particularly interested in at that stage. But you
 10 did say you thought you had seen a document. Is the
 11 document you thought you had seen the one that's
 12 referred to in 5.162 of your first report? That is at
 13 {D2/1/98}. Might it be the Ernst & Young letter of
 14 2011? Is that what you were thinking of?
 15 A. Do you have that document?
 16 Q. Yes. It is {F/869/1} that is the management letter. Is
 17 that the document you were thinking of?
 18 A. No, I think the way the document works is there is
 19 a management letter and there is like a spreadsheet
 20 version of the observations I believe.
 21 Q. My learned friend is very kindly suggesting that it
 22 might be at {F/1075.1/1}. Perhaps we can go to that.
 23 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I think it is just a draft of the one
 24 that I showed you.
 25 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: This one is:

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1 "IT component of management letter for the year
 2 ended 31 March 2013".
 3 Is that the document you had in mind?
 4 A. Quite possibly. Can I just have a look at the --
 5 Q. Perhaps we could scroll forward one page, first of all.
 6 {F/1075.1/2}. There is an overview. Then there is
 7 a series of detailed observations. Is that page 2?
 8 There is a proposal about SAP payroll in paragraph 1
 9 {F/1075.1/3}. In paragraph 2 a proposal about POLSAP
 10 security parameters. If we go forward a page
 11 {F/1075.1/4}. Paragraph 3, a proposal about POLSAP
 12 again. Paragraph 4, "Change management monitoring
 13 control".
 14 A. Yes so that relates back --
 15 Q. Is that what you were thinking of?
 16 A. Yes. Sorry, can I just have a moment to read that to
 17 remind myself. (Pause).
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: If it doesn't jump out at you as the
 19 document to which you were referring, please just say so
 20 and Mr De Garr Robinson can move on.
 21 A. This is certainly the document that the text in the
 22 report refers to but there are documents that relate to
 23 cost benefit analysis within I believe it is PEAKs.
 24 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: That is entirely separate and I'm
 25 going there, please don't think I'm going to leave you

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1 out Mr Coyne. But when you said there was
 2 a spreadsheet, is this the --
 3 A. Yes, I think it is.
 4 Q. I'm grateful. My Lord, I don't know if that assists
 5 you?
 6 MR JUSTICE FRASER: That's very helpful and I don't want to
 7 knock you off your course or anything like that.
 8 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: No, that's quite understandable.
 9 So you have accepted that the evidence you cite for
 10 the proposition "known issues" were often deferred and
 11 dealt with on a cost benefit basis is no evidence for
 12 that proposition at all. You have accepted that,
 13 haven't you?
 14 A. I accept that the reference that I have provided doesn't
 15 go to a document that shows that but I have other
 16 references that I will --
 17 Q. You didn't have you -- say you think there is a PEAK and
 18 we will come -- but you didn't have a PEAK in mind at
 19 the time that you made your first report, did you?
 20 A. Or I have not referenced it correctly when putting the
 21 report together.
 22 Q. Why is it you were able to give this example as evidence
 23 of the claim that this often happened. How did it come
 24 about? Did you not read the document --
 25 A. No, there is more than one.

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1 Q. Mr Coyne, you make a claim?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Then you immediately cite evidence in support of it?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And I'm asking you how it is you came to cite evidence
 6 in support of it which is no evidence at all. Did you
 7 not read the document?
 8 A. I have certainly read the document. I believe it is
 9 incorrectly referenced.
 10 Q. What do you mean incorrectly referenced please, would
 11 you explain that?
 12 A. Yes. So I have had a note of the point of cost benefit
 13 analysis and I have then searched for the appropriate
 14 reference in my database of references and it looks like
 15 I have referenced the wrong document, but it does
 16 contain the words "cost benefit" and that's how the
 17 mistake --
 18 Q. Mr Coyne, isn't that exactly the sort of thing that you
 19 accepted a few minutes ago that an expert should not do?
 20 That it is incumbent upon an expert when citing
 21 a document as evidence for a proposition to read the
 22 document carefully to ensure that it is evidence for
 23 that proposition?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Why did you not when going through your report read the

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1 document carefully with a view to ensuring it was
 2 evidence for the proposition?
 3 A. With regard to this I have made a mistake in referencing
 4 this document.
 5 Q. Can I suggest to you that the mistake that you made is
 6 that you were anxious to assert that fixes were deferred
 7 and dealt with on a cost benefit basis and so what you
 8 did was you found a document that talked about cost
 9 benefit basis and you put it in?
 10 A. I have found other documents but I have made a mistake,
 11 I do accept that.
 12 Q. Let's go forward to another document you cite.
 13 I believe this is the only other document you cite in
 14 your first report for this proposition. If we go to
 15 paragraph 6.1 which is at page {D2/1/109}.
 16 A. Sorry, I don't have that yet.
 17 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Do you have your hard copy report in
 18 front of you?
 19 A. Yes, I do. Yes, I have that.
 20 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: So is this evidence you have in mind?
 21 Perhaps I could ask you to read paragraph 6.1 to 6.3.
 22 (Pause).
 23 Now in fairness to you you don't cite this document
 24 as being in support of your claim that fixes were often
 25 dealt with on a cost benefit basis, but was this

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1 a document that you had in mind in supporting that
 2 claim?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. Well, let's look at that, shall we? The document is at
 5 {F/1697/1}. This is called "Reconciliation and Incident
 6 Management Joint Working Document". It is dated, the
 7 current version, 18 March 2013.
 8 If we could go forward to page {F/1697/9} of this
 9 document to see its purpose. Perhaps I could ask you to
 10 read section 1.1:
 11 "What is a reconciliation?
 12 "End to end reconciliation within HNG-X..."
 13 That is Horizon Online, isn't it?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. "... is the mechanism by which Post Office Ltd (POL) and
 16 Post office Account (POA) establish which transactions
 17 are complete and correct, and which are not. An
 18 incomplete transaction is not necessarily a
 19 Reconciliation error, but it might become one if it is
 20 not completed in a timely manner. An incorrect
 21 transaction is a Reconciliation error."
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Over the page {F/1697/10}:
 24 "Each and every reconciliation error is the result
 25 of some system fault. That fault might, for example, be

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1 a software bug fault (introduced through either design
2 or coding), a system crash, or a telephone line being
3 dug up. Such faults may affect transactions, thus it is
4 the job of Reconciliation Service to detect when and how
5 any transaction is affected by any system fault."

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. "A reported reconciliation error provides:
8 "A business impact in terms of an error report on
9 a transaction and;
10 "Evidence of a system fault that may need some
11 corrective action.
12 "It is acknowledged that not all system faults will
13 lead to corrective action as this is generally done on a
14 contractual and/or cost benefit basis."

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So do you say that that is evidence for the proposition
17 that bug fixes in Horizon are dealt with or deferred on
18 a cost benefit basis?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. What this document makes clear is that a system fault
21 has a very wide range of meanings, doesn't it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. On a fair reading it is a fault causing an error in the
24 systems by which transaction data are compared against
25 and reconciled with client transaction data?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. It is a fault which it is the job of the reconciliation
3 service to investigate, to detect when and how the fault
4 was operated?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It is not a fault causing Horizon to have a false
7 transaction in the first place. That is the job of the
8 SSC to investigate, isn't it?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. It is hardly surprising that the question whether
11 a system fault causing a reconciliation error is
12 corrected might involve a cost benefit analysis or
13 an analysis of who is responsible for what between the
14 client and the Post Office, is it?

15 A. I do not think the two go hand in hand. If you are
16 deciding whether to correct bugs on a cost -- sorry,
17 correct system faults, a subset of which is software
18 bugs or faults, depending on which is in the latest
19 version of the document, then you are deciding not to
20 fix those faults because it is either too expensive or
21 doesn't provide sufficient benefit.

22 Q. Mr Coyne, I'm suggesting to you that this document says
23 nothing about the approach adopted by the SSC to bugs in
24 Horizon causing discrepancies in branch accounts. Do
25 you not accept that?

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1 A. Well, bugs in Horizon are fixed by Fujitsu.

2 Q. They are fixed by the SSC. They are not fixed by the
3 reconciliation service, would you accept that?

4 A. I don't believe that they are necessarily fixed by SSC.
5 I think they are identified by SSC.

6 Q. You are quite right, they are fixed by development when
7 the SSC passes it onto development.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But they are not fixed by the reconciliation service,
10 are they?

11 A. No they are not fixed by the reconciliation service but
12 the reconciliation service will report that there is
13 a problem; that will then be investigated and it will be
14 decided whether it is a software, bug or fault either
15 introduced through design or coding, whether it is
16 a system crash, whether it is a telephone line being dug
17 up. Somebody then will decide whether that system fault
18 should be fixed. But if it is a system fault that is
19 a software bug, it will be Fujitsu that fixes that even
20 though the fault might be found initially by the
21 reconciliation service.

22 Q. What I'm suggesting to you Mr Coyne is that you can't
23 reasonably infer that this passage of this working
24 document is talking about the SSC's and the fourth
25 tier's and the third tier's approach to the fixing of

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1 bugs in Horizon?

2 A. I believe firmly it is. That's what it is saying.

3 Q. Very well. I suggest to you, Mr Coyne, that you
4 certainly can't infer that it was often decided by the
5 SSC or development not to fix bugs because the cost was
6 too great?

7 A. Well, what it actually says, this is generally done on
8 a contractual or cost benefit basis.

9 Q. If this were generally done there would be a significant
10 number of PEAKs recording that it had been done. It is
11 the kind of thing that would be recorded in a PEAK,
12 isn't it?

13 A. If the process is working properly, then it is likely
14 that there will be a PEAK identified for these, yes.

15 Q. If there were a significant number of PEAKs -- if this
16 were often done, there would be a significant number of
17 PEAKs evidencing the fact that it is done, correct?

18 A. There might only be one PEAK.

19 Q. Why might there only be one if it is often done
20 Mr Coyne?

21 A. Because if it becomes a problem that occurs repeated
22 times and there is a consideration of what the fix is,
23 Fujitsu won't raise tens or hundreds of PEAKs per day
24 all relating to the same fault. They will refer back to
25 the one single KEL that identifies the problem. That's

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1 the purpose of PEAKs and KELs.
 2 Q. If known issues are often deferred or dealt with on
 3 a cost benefit basis, then there must be a significant
 4 number of separate issues that are deferred or dealt
 5 with on that basis; correct?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. For each of those issues there will be at least one
 8 PEAK, sometimes there will be more, considering that
 9 aspect, yes?
 10 A. There should be at least one PEAK or one KEL or probably
 11 both.
 12 Q. So if this is often done, there will often be known
 13 issues in relation to which this is done so there will
 14 often be PEAKs recording that this has been done;
 15 correct?
 16 A. No. If the fault is found again next week, Fujitsu go
 17 back, they search for the reason for the fault, they
 18 find that there is a KEL -- that is the purpose of the
 19 KEL it is the knowledge base. So they will not then
 20 raise another PEAK, they will see that it is going to be
 21 fixed at some time in the future by that KEL.
 22 Q. It may be you are not quite grasping the suggestion I'm
 23 making to you. Are you suggesting that actually there's
 24 only ever been one issue in relation to which this has
 25 happened and that there's one KEL covering it happening

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1 and therefore there will only be one PEAK covering it
 2 happening, is that the logic of your position?
 3 A. There is likely one KEL for every different
 4 manifestation of the defect.
 5 Q. Yes, so if it is being done often -- your claim is that
 6 it is being done often -- then there will often be PEAKs
 7 recording this decision being made. In fact there will
 8 probably often be KELs as well, wouldn't there?
 9 A. Yes but they don't duplicate a KEL every time a defect
 10 happens.
 11 Q. Mr Coyne, I'm struggling and it may be my fault. If
 12 known issues are often dealt with on a cost benefit
 13 basis, there must often be issues which are dealt with
 14 on a cost benefit basis, correct?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And each of those issues will have their own KELs and
 17 their own PEAKs, yes?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Perhaps I can put my point again. In circumstances
 20 where we have a system in which Fujitsu often make
 21 decisions to defer or not deal with known issues on
 22 a cost benefit basis, there are going to be
 23 a significant number of PEAKs and KELs recording that
 24 being done, do you accept that?
 25 A. I do but I do not think it is Fujitsu that is taking the

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1 decision to do it on a cost benefit basis. If that is
 2 the Post Office taking the decision then, yes, I agree
 3 with that.
 4 Q. Am I right in thinking that at the time you produced
 5 this report you had not found any such PEAK because if
 6 you had it would be in this report, wouldn't it?
 7 A. I don't know whether I was aware of it at the time but
 8 there are certainly PEAKs that talk about things being
 9 deferred on a cost benefit basis, whether I had found it
 10 at the time of this report or found it later I'm not
 11 sure.
 12 Q. I suggest to you, Mr Coyne, that you obviously hadn't
 13 because if you had they would have been referred to in
 14 this report, would they not?
 15 A. Likely, yes.
 16 Q. Right. So at the time you made this report is it likely
 17 that you didn't know of any PEAKs in which this was
 18 recorded, that your only evidence is the two documents
 19 I have just taken you to?
 20 A. This document is quite strong because it talks about the
 21 corrective action generally being done on a cost
 22 basis --
 23 Q. Is it likely that when you made this statement the only
 24 evidence you had to support it was the Risk and
 25 Compliance committee meeting minutes and the document we

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1 have just come to? I have had your commentary on
 2 whether you think either of those documents is good
 3 evidence. I'm simply asking you whether it is likely
 4 that those were the only two pieces of evidence you had
 5 at the time you made this report?
 6 A. It is certainly possible that is the case, but I would
 7 have to look at when the PEAKs arrived.
 8 Q. You have just said there are PEAKs, plural, where this
 9 has happened?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Now Mr Coyne I'm aware of one PEAK which might be said
 12 to support a suggestion that there was one occasion on
 13 which a cost benefit analysis was adopted and I'm going
 14 to take you to it. It is referred to in your second
 15 report. Are you aware of others that are not referred
 16 to in your second report?
 17 A. I believe there is more than one, yes.
 18 Q. You clearly looked very hard for them. Would I be right
 19 in inferring that that is the case? You looked very
 20 hard for PEAKs to support this proposition, did you?
 21 A. I don't believe there were any specific searches that
 22 I conducted for that, no.
 23 Q. So you didn't make any specific searches but you
 24 stumbled over how many PEAKs to support the proposition?
 25 A. A handful perhaps.

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1 Q. I'm only aware of one, Mr Coyne. Might it be possible
2 for you to come to court tomorrow and tell me what the
3 others are?
4 A. Certainly, yes.
5 Q. Let's go to the one I'm aware of. Let's go to
6 {F/271/1}. This is a PEAK PCO120937. It is dated
7 20th May 2005. It is a customer call, at the top box of
8 the PEAK, details entered are:
9 "Summary: PM is stating that the system remmed out
10 some coin."
11 If we go down to the second line in the top box:
12 "PM is stating that the system remmed out some coin
13 its own and it produced no paper work, and they would.
14 Like to know if we can find out the Pouch number so they
15 can reverse it out."
16 Do you see that?
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. If we go over the page to {F/271/2} at 16th May, 12.01.
19 I won't read it out but you will see that Sarah English
20 is unable to recreate the problem. Do you see that?
21 A. At 12.01? Yes.
22 Q. Then if we go over the page to page {F/271/3} and this
23 time at the top of the page, 17th May, 13.55. This is
24 Gary Maxwell?
25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. The last paragraph you will see he says:
2 "I have attempted to replicate this on our test
3 counter but could not abandon the session any other way
4 than by following the available menu options. In all
5 cases the session finished as expected without writing
6 any messages."
7 They can't recreate the problem, yes?
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. Often that's a reason for thinking that there may not be
10 a problem there. But often it may be that they are just
11 perplexed and one just doesn't know.
12 If one goes to {F/271/4} (Pause). 7.32 about three
13 boxes down, 13th June 2005. This is from Lionel Higman?
14 A. Higman I believe.
15 Q. Thank you.
16 "Is the frequency of occurrence for this problem
17 known? How severe are the problems caused? Is recovery
18 possible? Would it be sufficient to raise a KEL to
19 manage future occurrences more effectively?"
20 You see the question being raised there?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. Then if you go down to 10.13. My note is terrible ...
23 A. 10.33 might be relevant:
24 "Gary advises development have found a potential
25 bug. They want to know the scale of the problem as there

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1 is potential risk in changing the code."
2 Q. Right. Thank you. For some reason I keep typing a 1
3 instead of a 3 in my notes. The concern being expressed
4 by development here is risk from making a change. Do
5 you see that?
6 A. Well, found a bug and then there is associated risk with
7 making the change. There are two elements.
8 Q. If we go back. I'm sorry I went too fast. If we go
9 back to page 3.
10 A. There was 10.13 on there that might be helpful as well.
11 Q. I'm sorry Mr Coyne, what were you saying?
12 A. If we go back to the page that we were just on at 10.13,
13 at the bottom.
14 MR JUSTICE FRASER: On 15th June?
15 A. 15th June, yes.
16 "First instance, check the PEAKs. The impact on the
17 office is that they will have an amount posted to the
18 suspense account ... equivalent to the remittance
19 amount. This will be evident until remedial action is
20 taken."
21 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Stopping there. What does that mean?
22 A. So the suspense account is going to be likely in
23 balance. It is going to have an impact anyway.
24 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: It means that the postmaster is going
25 to know very well what happened, isn't it?

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1 A. Well, the postmaster will have a suspense account that
2 doesn't balance. I do not think they will know what's
3 happened but they might know what the impact is.
4 Q. At any rate they will know there is a problem that needs
5 to be addressed, yes?
6 A. Did the postmaster raise the call on this one? Did they
7 ring up in the first instance reporting the fault?
8 Q. I believe the passage I read you -- yes, postmaster is
9 stating the system remmed out some coins, do you
10 remember?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. The postmaster knew exactly what had happened. And he
13 says {F/271/5}:
14 "There is nothing the PM can do to correct this. The
15 sensible recovery option is for the NBSC to issue an
16 error notice for the remittance amount as in this case."
17 So that had happened in this case it would seem?
18 A. Yes, so that is a correction on the accounts.
19 Q. What we now call transaction corrections.
20 "The alternative would be for SSC to create the
21 necessary Riposte messages to cancel out the error
22 (currently being tested).
23 "A KEL has been created on the back of this call and
24 will be updated shortly.
25 "Given the frequency of the problem & the apparent

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1 risk involved in introducing a code fix the KEL should
 2 be adequate.”
 3 Do you see that? What’s being presented there by
 4 Gary Maxwell is that it is a very low frequency problem
 5 and there’s risk involved in introducing the code fix .
 6 Do you know why there is a risk involved in
 7 introducing a code fix?
 8 A. There’s inherent risk in any change to a system. So
 9 introducing any fixes to code brings a risk with it .
 10 Q. So up until now the debate is about risk of doing
 11 a change compared with the benefit of doing the change,
 12 bearing in mind it is such a rare problem. Do you see
 13 that?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Then if we go down to 11.28 we see Mark Scardifield .
 16 This is where the word "cost" gets mentioned:
 17 "Weighing up the cost and risk of an attempted fix
 18 against the fact that this has only been reported once,
 19 I do not believe that we should make a code fix . If
 20 further incidents of this problem are reported we can
 21 review this decision . Gary has raised a KEL, so
 22 returning for closure as "Published Known Error".
 23 Do you see that?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. So what we have is a debate which largely revolves

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1 around the risk involved in making a fix in this part of
 2 the system?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And what Mark Scardifield does is he brings in the word
 5 "cost"?
 6 A. Yes.
 7 Q. Do you say that this PEAK is evidence for the
 8 proposition that decisions about fixing problems were
 9 often made on a cost benefit basis?
 10 A. It certainly does indicate that.
 11 Q. It indicates that what’s happened is that the parties
 12 are concerned primarily with risk and on that basis they
 13 decide that they will leave the problem as it is . It
 14 doesn’t support the notion that decisions are often made
 15 on a cost benefit basis, does it?
 16 A. It is another reference to decisions being taken on
 17 a cost benefit basis .
 18 Q. It is one instance. It is a PEAK where the word "cost"
 19 is referred to?
 20 A. Yes and the other document that we talked about, things
 21 are generally done on a cost benefit basis .
 22 Q. Let’s look at the KEL that was created for this?
 23 A. Before we move on, just for context, can we just read
 24 the top column there because it talks about what the
 25 possible remedial actions are .

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1 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Which page?
 2 A. F/271 and it is the one above 10.14.
 3 MR JUSTICE FRASER: If you look to the right, is it page 5?
 4 A. Page 5 because it talks there that the alternative would
 5 be for SSC to create the necessary Riposte message to
 6 cancel out the error.
 7 MR JUSTICE FRASER: You are going to have to give us both,
 8 Mr De Garr Robinson and me, the date and the time please
 9 of where you are reading.
 10 A. Certainly, it is the very top box. It is above
 11 15th June 2005.
 12 MR JUSTICE FRASER: The one in the pale green at the very
 13 top?
 14 A. Yes. It starts with "... remittance amount as in this
 15 case."
 16 But of interest is the alternative remedial action
 17 to fix the accounts is :
 18 "... would be for SSC to create the necessary
 19 Riposte messages to cancel out the error".
 20 That is the insertion of messages in Riposte which
 21 is relevant to other aspects that we are talking about.
 22 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Thank you. Can we now look at the KEL
 23 that was created for this fix because what I want to
 24 suggest to you, Mr Coyne, is that the focus of this
 25 decision or the main reason for this decision was risk.

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1 If we could look to {F/276/1} please. This is the
 2 KEL that was created?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. It says:
 5 "The PM was attempting to do a remittance out ADC
 6 for a bag of coins. After entering an invalid bar code
 7 for the particular type of transaction the session was
 8 aborted by pressing the 'home' key."
 9 Then:
 10 " Firstly , during the remittance out process pressing
 11 'home' should not be an available option. The only way
 12 of completing the session is to navigate the screen
 13 prompts & cancel the session or return to Desktop and
 14 bin the item on the sales stack.
 15 "By aborting the session in this way the EPOSS
 16 remittance items on the sales stack were incorrectly
 17 committed. Normally these messages are only committed
 18 once a successful barcode has been scanned/entered & at
 19 the same time as the LFS remittance out message."
 20 Then there is some computing gobbledegook:
 21 "The PM will not be able to reverse the transaction
 22 using existing reversal (because of the tran type) or
 23 will they be able to use the pouch reversal function (as
 24 no pouch id exists).
 25 "The suspense account will be debited/credited by

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1 the amount of the remittance. The office snapshot/cash
 2 account report will continue to show the remittance
 3 amount under unclaimed payments.”
 4 Their solution. It refers to Atos, but Atos wasn't
 5 on the scene in 2005. So I apprehend that one big
 6 word-processing change was made when Atos was involved
 7 many years later but it says:
 8 "Solution:
 9 "Development have identified a possible bug in the
 10 counter code. However, due to the frequency of the
 11 problem & the risks involved in making the necessary
 12 changes it has been decided that a code change will not
 13 be made. Raise a call on EDSC. In the one case to date,
 14 an error notice was issued to the office for the amount
 15 of the remittance.”
 16 What we have here is a debate in a PEAK about risk
 17 where there is a reference to cost and then we have
 18 a KEL that has been produced as a result of that debate.
 19 That KEL does not refer to cost, it just refers to risk.
 20 Do you suggest, Mr Coyne, that this document, this
 21 KEL and this PEAK together, constitute evidence that
 22 deferring and dealing with known issues were often dealt
 23 with on a cost benefit basis?
 24 A. It is certainly another document that indicates that
 25 cost was a consideration in whether to fix .

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1 Q. Well this is the only document of which I'm aware, PEAK
 2 or KEL, in which this point has been made. You say that
 3 you are aware of others?
 4 MR GREEN: My Lord, I have tried to let it run but I mean in
 5 that actual section of his report at 5.166 on page 99 he
 6 actually specifies the other PEAK.
 7 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Give me the reference.
 8 MR GREEN: It is 5.166.
 9 MR JUSTICE FRASER: No, the bundle reference.
 10 MR GREEN: Sorry, {D2/1/99} which is the next page of his
 11 report in the same section.
 12 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: This is his second report?
 13 MR GREEN: No, in the first report where we were dealing
 14 with the Ernst & Young stuff and you put to him only
 15 documents and so forth, and in 5.166 he specifically
 16 mentions a PEAK. It was put to him he hadn't looked at
 17 any.
 18 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Is this the one at {F/275.1/1}?
 19 MR GREEN: It is my Lord, yes.
 20 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Yes. Mr De Garr Robinson, I'm very
 21 happy for you to look at that and resume with it in the
 22 morning or do it now?
 23 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: No, my Lord, I'm content to break
 24 today.
 25 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Okay. So Mr Green what was your point

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1 on the way the question was put that it is the only
 2 document?
 3 MR GREEN: When you look back across the transcript --
 4 MR JUSTICE FRASER: The transcript says --
 5 MR GREEN: It is the only document I'm aware of.
 6 MR JUSTICE FRASER:
 7 "Question: This is the only document of which I am
 8 aware, PEAK or KEL, in which this point has been made.”
 9 MR GREEN: And it has been going on for about 20 minutes.
 10 And it is not really fair to Mr Coyne when one ought
 11 to be aware of what he says in that very section of his
 12 report on this point.
 13 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Right, well --
 14 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My learned friend seems to be
 15 suggesting that the document {F/275.1/1} is further
 16 evidence of a decision to defer a fix on the basis of
 17 a cost benefit analysis. Let's look at that, shall we,
 18 can we look at {F/275.1/1} please. So this is dated
 19 18th June 2005. The call logger is:
 20 "Deleted user. ITU, SV&I.”
 21 I'm not sure what that means. POL have raised the
 22 following incident:
 23 "A cash declaration was made in "Stock Balancing"
 24 for the amount displayed on the Snapshot. When the Cash
 25 Variance was checked afterwards a Gain of £45.05 was

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1 displayed.
 2 "The discrepancy was the cash value of the
 3 transactions performed on the stock unit after rolling
 4 into branch trading.”
 5 Then there is further information about it .
 6 Could we perhaps go over the page {F/275.1/2}.
 7 16th June at 15.59:
 8 "I've attempted to recreate the situation which
 9 occurred over a CA Rollover in this instance and the
 10 injecting a transaction like the mails txns ...
 11 Difference being that up here the trace has turned up
 12 a transaction received ... and in the supplied audit log
 13 nothing at all appears ...”
 14 Then the next box says:
 15 "After several days of attempting to recreate this
 16 problem ... I have only seen one instance of this
 17 problem.”
 18 Excuse me. (Pause)
 19 Could we go back to the first page of this PEAK,
 20 please {F/275.1/1}. You see the call type on the
 21 left -hand side, Mr Coyne?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. "Business Integration Testing Incidents/Defects.”
 24 This is the testing PEAK, isn't it?
 25 A. Yes, I think that is right .

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1 Q. Could you explain what a testing PEAK is?
 2 A. It is a defect that has arisen on the system during
 3 testing, so not in live operation.
 4 Q. Does a testing PEAK like this, is it capable of
 5 constituting evidence that known issues in the system
 6 are dealt with on a cost benefit basis?
 7 A. Certainly, if they are dealing with defects that are
 8 found in testing on a cost benefit basis and therefore
 9 don't fix the defect it will go out to live.
 10 Q. Now, is it -- and it may be unfair to ask you this
 11 question because you didn't raise it but now you have
 12 seen this PEAK do you remember it?
 13 A. I'm not sure I do. Can I look, please, at the end of
 14 the ...
 15 Q. I don't know how long it is.
 16 MR JUSTICE FRASER: It is five pages.
 17 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: Could we look at page 4, please.
 18 I must confess I hadn't read 5.166 as being even
 19 relevant to this point. {F/275.1/4}
 20 A. It looks like it needs to go out to Escher to be fixed
 21 rather than Fujitsu. It says at the bottom:
 22 "This amounts to a declaration by POA that we are no
 23 longer interested in obtaining a fix."
 24 But it doesn't make a reference to a cost benefit.
 25 Q. Thank you.

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1 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Right. Is that a good --
 2 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: I think we are at 4.30 pm.
 3 MR JUSTICE FRASER: I think it probably is. Right.
 4 A couple of things. Mr Coyne, you have some
 5 homework, but generally when you are giving your
 6 evidence tomorrow you have got in front of you, and
 7 that's why I checked this afternoon, a hard copy of your
 8 report?
 9 A. Yes, I have.
 10 MR JUSTICE FRASER: It is very tempting when
 11 Mr de Garr Robinson is asking questions just to look at
 12 the screen. It's probably a good idea also to flick to
 13 your report but it is completely up to you whether you
 14 do that or not.
 15 And Mr Green, you might want to store points such as
 16 that one up for re-examination, if you have any, because
 17 you might find that upon mature reflection they are not
 18 the points you thought they were when you jumped to your
 19 feet, although I appreciate you have been restrained, or
 20 you think you have been restrained today.
 21 And Mr de Garr Robinson, 10.30 am tomorrow.
 22 I assume you don't have any objection to the witness
 23 looking on his knowledge database to do the homework
 24 that you set him?
 25 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, of course not. Obviously he

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1 won't be talking to anyone.
 2 MR JUSTICE FRASER: No, I'm just about to remind him.
 3 Mr Coyne, normally you won't have homework but it is
 4 particularly important that you, not your assistant,
 5 does that.
 6 A. Absolutely, my Lord.
 7 MR JUSTICE FRASER: If he finds anything what do you want
 8 him to do in terms of bringing it with him or notifying
 9 references? Are you happy to get that tomorrow morning
 10 at 10.15?
 11 MR DE GARR ROBINSON: My Lord, yes. I don't think I will be
 12 going back to it immediately. It will be something to
 13 be dealt with on another day.
 14 MR JUSTICE FRASER: All right. In that case, Mr Coyne, if
 15 you can just find them and bring -- I don't know whether
 16 it is easy to print them off. If you do find anything
 17 bring it with you and we will deal with that first thing
 18 but you won't necessarily be asked questions about it
 19 because Mr de Garr Robinson will want to have a look at
 20 it. Is that clear?
 21 A. It is indeed.
 22 MR JUSTICE FRASER: Anything else? 10.30 am tomorrow.
 23 Thank you very much.
 24 (4.36 pm)
 25 (The court adjourned until 10.30 am on

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