1		1	woman". The second was an inference.
2	(2.00 pm)	2	As to the first, the McMullan conversation, that is
3	MR JAY: Sir, we are in a position to hear from Mr Lewis	3	not something, of course, that Mr Grant had checked with
4	this afternoon, but after Mr Owens. Mr Thomas we're now	4	Mr McMullan and we've had Mr McMullan's evidence that he
5	hearing on Friday of next week, that's 9 December, the	5	had been misinterpreted by Mr Grant if
6	whole day.	6	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes all right.
7	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. Does that cause any insuperable	7	MR CAPLAN: It is important that I put the context, if
8	concern to anybody who would otherwise be here? I'm not	8	I may.
9	saying that will provide a trump, but I'm asking the	9	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right.
10	question. (Pause)	10	MR CAPLAN: As to the second, the question of the means by
11	Thank you. Oh, yes?	11	which the story came to be written concerning
12	Discussion re procedure	12	Jemima Khan and the lady in question, sir, that, as
13	MR CAPLAN: It's not about next Friday, but there was	13	I said at the time, is a matter which will be the
14	another matter you wanted me to deal with	14	subject of evidence which we will produce to the
15	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's fine.	15	Inquiry.
16	MR CAPLAN: before we rose and again this morning you	16	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.
17	asked me to consider with my clients the issue of the	17	MR CAPLAN: But we categorically deny that on either basis
18	article that was published in the Daily Mail concerning	18	there is any evidence that Associated Newspapers has
19	Mr Grant.	19	ever hacked phones.
20	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.	20	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's a matter for discussion and
21	MR CAPLAN: I've had an opportunity to consider that over	21	potential evidence.
22	the interval and can I just then please explain the	22	MR CAPLAN: It is.
23	position and what it is that I am proposing?	23	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But the criticism that Mr Sherborne
24	Before I do that, can I just remind you of the	24	was making and the concern that I expressed was the one
25	context in which the article which Mr Sherborne and	25	sentence in the report. If one reads precisely what he
	Page 1		Page 3
1	Mr Grant complain about was published, and the context	1	said ha was askad:
1	Mr Grant's avidence to you sir in which he made	1	said, he was asked:
2	was Mr Grant's evidence to you, sir, in which he made,	2	"Are you suggesting that this story must have come
2 3	was Mr Grant's evidence to you, sir, in which he made, as we know, allegations that Associated Newspapers had	2 3	"Are you suggesting that this story must have come from phone hacking?"
2 3 4	was Mr Grant's evidence to you, sir, in which he made, as we know, allegations that Associated Newspapers had been involved in phone hacking	2 3 4	"Are you suggesting that this story must have come from phone hacking?" And then he tells the story and then says:
2 3 4 5	was Mr Grant's evidence to you, sir, in which he made, as we know, allegations that Associated Newspapers had been involved in phone hacking LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, it's Day which?	2 3 4 5	"Are you suggesting that this story must have come from phone hacking?" And then he tells the story and then says: "Thinking about how they could possibly come up with
2 3 4 5 6	was Mr Grant's evidence to you, sir, in which he made, as we know, allegations that Associated Newspapers had been involved in phone hacking LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, it's Day which? MR CAPLAN: It is 21 November.	2 3 4 5 6	"Are you suggesting that this story must have come from phone hacking?" And then he tells the story and then says: "Thinking about how they could possibly come up with such a bizarre leftfield story, I realised"
2 3 4 5 6 7	was Mr Grant's evidence to you, sir, in which he made, as we know, allegations that Associated Newspapers had been involved in phone hacking LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, it's Day which? MR CAPLAN: It is 21 November. MR SHERBORNE: It's Monday afternoon, sir.	2 3 4 5 6 7	"Are you suggesting that this story must have come from phone hacking?" And then he tells the story and then says: "Thinking about how they could possibly come up with such a bizarre leftfield story, I realised" et cetera.
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phone hacking." 1 1 was any intention to intimidate a witness. There was 2 2 And then he says: every intention to respond to a serious allegation of 3 3 "I'll leave that for now." criminality, which received very widespread publicity. 4 4 And it's abundantly clear what Mr Grant was doing. Sir, I understand in effect the phrase which you 5 He was preparing for this hearing, he decided that the 5 have focused on, and can I suggest this. What we are 6 6 suggesting is that we will be calling evidence in facts led to an inference, you challenged the inference 7 7 and that's perfectly permissible, and if it's necessary relation to the second strand of the evidence, and I use that in inverted commas, which Mr Grant referred to. In 8 8 that's something I can think about, but more 9 9 significantly, the article of which he complains is that order solely to assist the smooth running of your 10 the allegations are "mendacious smears" driven by his 10 Inquiry, may I stress that, to assist the smooth running 11 hatred of the media. 11 of your Inquiry, we are prepared for the moment, and may 12 And the word that Mr Sherborne focused on and the 12 I stress those words, to remove the phrase "mendacious 13 word that I took issue with at the time was the word 13 smears" from the online copy of the Daily Mail. That 14 "mendacious". You may say Mr Grant doesn't like the 14 will be done pending the evidence being called before 15 15 media, I don't suppose he would disagree with that for vou. 16 one moment in this context, perhaps he would, perhaps he 16 Sir, I do say with respect that what you are asking 17 wouldn't, I don't know, I'm not going to put words into 17 us to do is to remove copy from a newspaper in 18 his mouth. That's not appropriate. But the clear 18 circumstances where, really, we are not a court dealing 19 allegation is this was deliberately dishonest. 19 with whether this is comment or opinion, we're not 20 Now, either you want to support that, or you don't. 20 dealing with defamation proceedings. We are dealing 21 21 MR CAPLAN: Might I just refer to another passage in the with an Inquiry. I fully understand the importance of 22 evidence? I think the reference is page 27, line 21. 22 ensuring that those that are called before it are not 23 Mr Jay said: 23 intimidated, that those that are called before it do not 24 24 "But there is no evidence that you have to your feel that their evidence is going to be met with 25 25 personal knowledge that the Mail was involved in this at vilifying comments thereafter, but, sir, in our Page 5 Page 7 all, is there?" respectful submission there is a context to this. It's 1 1 2 2 And he says: far better that the evidence is called and, as I say, to 3 3 "I'm asking you to be very careful when you answer assist you we will remove that for the moment from the 4 the question. Don't share a speculation with us, don't 4 5 share an opinion. We're looking for evidence. There 5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand. As to the argument 6 isn't any evidence, is there? 6 between Mr Grant and Associated Newspapers as to what 7 "Answer: The evidence for the Daily Mail being 7 they wrote about him, there are ample mechanisms 8 involved in phone hacking for me would be the article we 8 available to Mr Grant to deal with that in such way as 9 spoke about earlier, the plummy-voiced woman, and it 9 he believes are appropriate and for you to respond. I'm 10 10 would be Paul McMullan's answer to this question." not doing that. I am concerned about the very feature LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Paul McMullan's answer has been 11 11 that you've mentioned. 12 explained, but in any event whether you could draw that 12 Now, to some extent we've moved beyond it and I took 13 13 inference from what was recorded on the tape is another comfort from the way you responded to my proposition to 14 14 question, and the other evidence is the inference which you, and I didn't press you because of the very reasons 15 judges frequently draw from circumstantial evidence. 15 you've identified, and I'm sure you understand. But it 16 I'm not saying it's right, I'm not saying it's wrong. 16 was the suggestion that that sort of response might 17 What I am saying is that it seems to me, and I wasn't 17 impact on others who were coming to give evidence. 18 sure that you or your clients disagreed at the time that 18 That's my concern. 19 19 it was appropriate to characterise that allegation as I'm not seeking to debate the merits of this 20 "mendacious". 20 conversation, neither am I seeking to decide what is an 21 21 MR CAPLAN: Can I come to the point, I hope, of my appropriate inference or isn't an appropriate inference, 22 22 submissions to you? although I made it abundantly clear what I did not 23 23 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. think, based on that material, was appropriate so that 24 MR CAPLAN: Can I say straight away, there never was any 24 I could lend some force to the concern that this might 25 25 intention to interfere with this Inquiry and there never be thought of as intimidatory. You made it clear that Page 6 Page 8

1 it wasn't intended to be, and, as I say, I believed that 1 mind and character to carry on, whatever impact that 2 2 evidence all has. I'm not judging the issue. the word had come out. I was clearly wrong in that 3 3 regard. Had I not believed it, I would have had this MR SHERBORNE: I understand that, sir. 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Right. Thank you very much indeed conversation with you last week. MR JAY: Sir, the next witness is Mr Alexander Owens. 5 MR CAPLAN: Sir, thank you very much. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Right. Mr Sherborne? LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you. 7 7 MR SHERBORNE: Sir, as you can imagine, for Mr Grant -- I'm MR ALEXANDER OWENS (sworn) 8 8 Ouestions from MR JAY not sure I missed -- I don't think there was an apology 9 9 MR JAY: Mr Owens, I'm going to invite you to sit down and buried deep in Mr Caplan's plea in mitigation, but if 10 10 make yourself comfortable and also I'm going to hand you want an example of the culture, practices and 11 three files which contain relevant material, including, 11 ethics, you have it. 12 12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm there, Mr Sherborne. I hope, your two witness statements. 13 13 MR SHERBORNE: Can I say this, and you'll appreciate why Your full name, please? 14 I say this because Mr Grant would like his right of 14 A. Alexander John Owens. 15 reply to that. He won't exercise the right of attack, LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Owens, thank you for coming 16 which is what Associated did, but the distinction, which 16 forward. I think you came forward to us on the basis 17 17 I would emphasise again, between Mr Grant's evidence that you had some valuable information and I'm grateful 18 being mistaken or wrong, which is no doubt what 18 to you. 19 19 A. I would hope so, sir. Associated suggest, and I can leave that to be dealt 20 with when the evidence is called, and what he was MR JAY: First of all, Mr Owens, if I could identify your 21 21 two witness statements. In the first of the three files accused of is one which you will find in any dictionary, 22 and I would recommend that Associated Newspapers' editor 22 under, I hope, tab 1, there's a statement which runs to 23 23 or its legal department consult one rather more quickly 20 pages signed by you on 17 November; is that correct? 24 than they have come back with their explanation. 24 A. That's correct. Q. And you've signed the statement of truth? 25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. 25 Page 9 Page 11 MR SHERBORNE: It's very important for me to say that as 1 A. I have, yes. 2 regards Mr McMullan, as you said yourself, the 2 Q. This is your main evidence, but there's also a short 3 3 transcript of what he said to Mr Grant when he didn't supplementary statement where you expand upon and deal 4 realise that he might be quoted later, as opposed to 4 with certain recent events, signed and dated by you on 5 giving his evidence here, is very clear for all to read 5 22 November? 6 and I can make submissions in due course about it. A. That's correct, sir. 6 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. I don't want this debate to 7 Q. You tell us between the years 1999 and 2005 you were the 8 become totemic. Do you understand what I mean? 8 senior investigating officer with the Information 9 MR SHERBORNE: I do understand. 9 Commissioner's office based in Winslow; is that right? 10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand that you will argue that 10 A. Yes. 11 it's illustrative and Mr Caplan will have understood 11 Q. Can I ask you, please, about your previous career. It 12 that at a very early moment, which is why he dealt with 12 was in the police, wasn't it? 13 it as he dealt with it on the last occasion. But it's 13 A. Yes. I basically left school and joined the police 14 all material which we will consider in due course 14 cadets when I was 17. As 19, I became a constable and 15 without my making a finding of fact one way or the 15 basically stayed there until I'd finished my 30 years in 16 other, because I can't start going into that sort of 16 and out of various police departments. So I actually retired in October 1995. 17 territory. 17 18 MR SHERBORNE: Sir, I understand that, but you will recall Q. Thank you. And then you -- you haven't said your rank. 18 19 that it wasn't just me who rose on Tuesday morning to 19 You retired --20 deal with this. Mr Garnham did as well. 20 A. Sorry, I retired in the rank of detective inspector. 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, I understand. 21 Q. Thank you very much indeed. Following your retirement, MR SHERBORNE: It carries implications well beyond Mr Grant, 22 22 the ICO, as we're calling it, didn't exist then. There 23 23 as you'll appreciate. was some other entity in being, I think, called the Data 24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I understand. And I am conscious 24 Protection Registrar's Office? 25 that those who followed Mr Grant had the strength of 25 A. Yes. Page 10 Page 12

- Q. You joined them in 1997?
- 2 A. As an investigator on a two-year fixed contract.
- 3 Q. The legislation was underfoot, it eventually became law
- 4 in 2000 in the form of the Data Protection Act 1998?
- 5 A. There was legislation in place. The 1984 Act. And yes,
- I basically joined because the new Act was coming in. 6
- 7 Q. Thank you. The time when you joined -- or you joined in
- 8 September 1999. You became senior investigating officer
- 9 in December 1999. The department consisted of seven or
- 10 eight regional investigating officers around the whole
- 11 of the United Kingdom?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 Q. Two full-time investigators based at Winslow. One of
- 14 them was you, of course, the other was Ms Jean Lockett,
- 15 who was head of --
- 16 A. No, there were two other investigators and myself as the
- 17 ICO, so there were actually two investigators plus
- 18 myself plus Jean Lockett.
- 19 Q. Was your direct line manager Mr Francis Aldhouse?
- 20 A. He was, yes.
- 21 Q. Who was the deputy commissioner and above him of course
- 22 the commissioner?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. Can we launch then straight into the circumstances
- 25 surrounding Operation Motorman?

- 1 outwith the remit of Operation Re-proof?
- A. That's right.
- 3 Q. Can we cover with more precision, rather than me just
- 4 lead this evidence, the events of 11 and 12 November
- 5 2002. Did you accompany officers of Devon and Cornwall
- 6 Police to execute a warrant which they had obtained?
- 7 A. Yes, I did, together with the regional officer for that
- 8 area, Steve Gazzard.
- Q. Thank you. The raid was an address in south London; is
- 10 that correct?
- 11 A. I can't remember the exact address, but yes, I think it
- 12 was down there somewhere.
- 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All this is preliminary to the
- 14 relevant search, isn't it?
- 15 MR JAY: Yes.
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So I think we can probably take it 16
- 17 comparatively briefly.
- 18 MR JAY: Thank you.
- 19 Did you find any documents during the course of the
- 20 search?
- 21 A. Yes. I was obviously walking around and having a look
- 22 while we weren't actually seizing documents and on one
- 23 desk I saw a couple of bundles of documents which
- 24 obviously related to vehicle registration marks, car
- 25 numbers. And as I glanced down at them, I could see

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- 1 A. Certainly.
- Q. This is paragraph 3.1 of your statement. You were 2
- 3 contacted in September or October 2002 by Devon and
- 4 Cornwall Police who were conducting an investigation
- 5 which they had labelled Operation Re-proof; is that
- 6 correct?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- Q. What in essence were they investigating, Mr Owens?
- 9 A. They were doing an Internet investigation into possible
- 10 leaks from the police national computer to a private
- 11
- detective agency by both serving police officers and
- 12 retired police officers.
- 13 Q. Yes. Mr Owens, you're facing competition from
- 14 a helicopter outside and also the microphone there
- 15 doesn't really amplify your voice, so please keep it up.
- 16 A. Certainly.
- 17 Q. Thank you very much. You mentioned a private detective
- 18 agency. That is Data Research Limited, who were based
- 19 in south London?
- 20 A. That's correct. I don't know the exact area, I can't
- 21 remember it now, but it was down south London.
- 22 Q. So the upshot was that the Devon and Cornwall Police
- 23 wanted to execute a search warrant in pursuit of their
- 24 investigation but it was agreed that your office would
- 25 come and assist in case there were matters which fell
- - Page 14

- that there was an awful lot of vehicles with the 1
- 2 personal owners' details on the same documents. And
- 3 I asked one of the police officers if he'd seize it for
- 4
- 5 Q. Yes. Those documents were given a particular exhibit
- 6 number, but then did you telephone DVLA at Swansea to
- 7 make further enquiries?
- 8 A. Yes, I was still in the premises when I rang DVLA
- 9 Swansea and basically gave them the first 10 or 12 on
- 10 the list and asked them if they could -- was there any
- 11 common denominator, could they check them?
- 12 Q. And the upshot was that there was a common denominator,
- 13 one particular DVLA employee who had conducted the
- 14 searches?
- A. Well it all came down to one DVLA employee, but also the
- 16 times and dates on the documents corresponded exactly
- 17 with the times and dates on the DVLA records that they
- 18 were checked.
- 19 Q. Yes.
- 20 A. So it was obviously that data research, either directly
- 21 or indirectly, had a corrupt source within DVLA.
- 22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And that for you is critical because
- 23 this is data protection. This is exactly what you're in
- 24 the business to look for?

25 A. Correct, sir, yes.

- MR JAY: That person was immediately suspended by DVLA.
- 2 A. Yes
- 3 Q. And in paragraph 3.5 of your statement, if we could take
- 4 the story slightly further forward, the exhibit bundle
- 5 you've mentioned, PS28, identified the fact that several
- 6 hundred VRMs had been checked by Data Research Limited
- 7 and the results subsequently sold on to about 10
- 8 companies and individuals?
- 9 A. Yes, that would be right. Yes.
- 10 Q. So Operation Motorman started on the back of --
- 11 A. On the back of those documents and Operation Motorman
- essentially was to identify any corrupt sources in the
- 13 DVLA and identify the customers that were on that -- the
- list and what they wanted the details for. That was the
- 15 basis of Operation Motorman.
- 16 Q. Thank you. If I can take this quite briefly, a second
- source was in fact identified but he was deceased by
- 18 then?
- 19 A. Yes, it was when we went to DVLA, we found out there was 19
- a second source, but he'd died some nine months earlier.
- 21 Q. Can you help us with the protected number you refer to
- in paragraph 3.8?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. What's the significance of that?
- 25 A. I received a telephone call from a Mr Wilf Morgan, who

- 1 that means, so it started -- gave me concerns.
- 2 Q. Yes.
- 3 A. And we subsequently identified that that was in fact an
- 4 undercover car being used by the Metropolitan Police.
- 5 The Metropolitan Police confirmed it. Once they told us
- 6 that, we didn't ask any more details.
- 7 Q. What you did do is look further into Mr Whittamore and
- 8 ascertained that he ran a private detective business
- 9 from an address, his home address in Hampshire?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And you went to him because he was
- the person who asked for the information about the
- 13 protected number?
- 14 A. On the list going back to PS28, which is the 700 list,
- we were able to identify from that the name Whittamore
- and then it moved on.
- 17 MR JAY: There's another raid, this time Mr Whittamore's
- 18 home address in Hampshire.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Takes place on 8 March 2003?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. This time it's under the aegis of the ICO, not a police
- 23 raid?
- 24 A. No, a search warrant issued under the Data Protection
- 25 Act.

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- 1 was a very senior member of the DVLA, asking if we could
- 2 liaise and sort of work between us, and I was down
- 3 there, we were talking, and his phone rang and it turned
- 4 out that there was a young lady from -- I can't remember
- 5 which office, but it was the same office as the
- 6 deceased, who said that she shared a desk diary with
- 7 Mr Morgan and she'd noticed this long list of vehicle
- 8 registration marks in that diary --
- 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think you don't mean Mr Morgan, you
- 10 mean the deceased.
- 11 A. Yes, sorry, the deceased. There was a long list of
- 12 numbers in there so we went over -- I think it was
- 13 Wimbledon or that area -- we went over to their office
- 14 in Wimbledon and took possession of the diary from the
- 15 lady.
- 16 MR JAY: Yes. And that eventually led you, or maybe quite
- 17 quickly, led you to a particular investigator,
- 18 Steve Whittamore; is that right?
- 19 A. Well, it was noticing the protected number that actually
- 20 led us there. I was -- we were obviously going through
- 21 it, they were obviously relevant to our
- 22 Operation Motorman, when we noticed one of the vehicles
- 23 had -- or one of the vehicle marks written down in the
- 24 diary had very clearly next to it, "Protected number".
- 25 As an ex-Special Branch officer, I know exactly what
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- 1 Q. It may be there were some police officers there to help?
- 2 A. No. The only time we used police officers is basically
- as a matter of courtesy we let them know we're on their
- 4 area and we might ask for a uniformed officer to be
- 5 there when we enter, so to prevent a breach of the
- 6 peace, but we don't actually use police officers on the
- 7 actual searches and that.
- Q. Mr Thomas subsequently described the documentation youseized as a Pandora's box.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Which may well be an accurate description. But in terms
- of what it was, the underlying information which was
- being sought and obtained, as you say in paragraph 4.2,
- 14 ranged from CRO checks, which of course are criminal
- record checks, vehicle registration mark checks,
- 16 ex-directory telephone numbers, mobile phone numbers,
- telephone number conversions -- what do you mean by
- that, Mr Owens?
- 19 A. A number conversion is basically, "Here's the number,
- $20\,$ get me the name and address", or, "Here's the name and
- address, get me the number".
- 22 Q. And family and friends' lists. Mr Whittamore made it
- clear to you, did he, that he would co-operate as
- regards his own wrongdoing, as it were, but wouldn't
- 25 incriminate any member of the press?

- A. Yes. He didn't say anything then formally, but he
- 2 indicated that he wouldn't deny his wrongdoing, but
- 3 please don't ask him about the press because he's not
- 4 going to say anything about them.
- 5 Q. Can I ask you, please, about the notebooks you seized.
- 6 This is on the sixth page of your statement.
- 7 A. Yes. There were four I think it's A4 size hardback
- 8 notebooks and they are quite distinctive because they
- 9 are all different colours, they are blue, red, green and
- 10 yellow, and they contained somewhere in the region of
- 11 17,500 entries, if you can imagine an entry each line,
- 12 and along with that an awful lot of paperwork.
- 13 But the actual notebooks represented all the work he
- 14 had done identifying which reporter, from which
- 15 newspaper. So -- and we'd have a reporter -- we'd have
- 16 the newspaper, the name of the reporter, the request
- 17 being made might be, "Can you check this car number out
- 18 for me?" All the way down.
- 19 Q. Thank you. In relation to a telephone number, what was
- 20 the nature of the request? "Please find the telephone
- 21 number for X?", was it?
- 22 A. It was just basically we'd have a name and address and
- 23 he'd have ex-directory, so we'd be searching for an
- 24 ex-directory number, or name and address and mobile,
- 25 depending on what the enquiry was.

- 1 sending the "I need paying for this". So all of them
- 2 relating to the one victim.
- 3 And of course the books were in the middle of this
- 4 because we could match them with the papers, and it
- 5 went -- we could identify the newspaper, the journalist,
- 6 Whittamore, who he used, the little tracers, as I'd call
- 7 them, the blaggers, the corrupt people, and we had
- 8 a paper chain right the way up and down on --
- O. Yes?
- 10 A. -- well, eventually quite a lot, but that was the sort
- 11 of documentation I showed.
- 12 Q. Can I just check two issues. The invoice of course is
- 13 going from Mr Whittamore back to the newspaper.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Did you see an invoice which matched some of the entries
- 16 in the notebooks?
- A. Yes. 17
- Q. The next question: Did you see any remittance advice or 18
- 19 similar document --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- back from the newspaper which is evidence of payment?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. The last point. You mentioned the blaggers. These are
- 24 the individuals working, as it were, beneath
- 25 Mr Whittamore on his instructions. Did the notebook

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- Q. Was there also a column which described the amount that 1
- 2 Mr Whittamore was going to receive for a particular job?
- 3 Or was that in other documentation?
- 4 A. No, it was in the same -- no, it was in the same
- 5 document. It was the very last entry where he'd have
- 6 the amounts that he'd charged for each entry. I'm
- 7 trying to think. Yes, I'm almost certain of that.
- 8 Q. The next stage is that you returned to the office in 9
 - Winslow a few days later, we're probably in about
- 10 mid-March 2003, to update the head of investigations on
- 11 progress, but you also, as you tell us, had a meeting
- 12 with the Commissioner, who was Mr Richard Thomas, and
- 13 his deputy, who you've already told us is Mr Francis
- 14 Aldhouse.
- 15 A. Basically to update them and show them what we'd
- 16 recovered.
- 17 Q. Did you show anybody the documentation you just
- 18 described?

24

- 19 A. I'd taken -- I'd spent a few days before we went up to
- 20 the office looking -- giving a cursory look through the
- 21 documentation and I'd managed to sort of match receipts
- 22 from newspapers to invoices he'd sent to the people in
- 23 the books. So what we had was a line of a paper chain

from the newspaper sending the invoice out to the -- to

- 25 Whittamore, in return we had him -- from his papers
 - Page 22

- 1 contain information as to who the blagger was in any
- 2 particular case?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Thank you. You demonstrated all of this to Mr Thomas
- 5 and Mr Aldhouse. Of course by then you hadn't conducted
- 6 an exhaustive analysis, this was presumably just to
- 7 illustrate --
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. -- the sort of audit trail that you could demonstrate
- 10 subsequently, if so required. What was the reaction, if
- 11 any, from Mr Aldhouse to Mr Thomas in response to these
- 12 revelations?
- 13 A. Well, it was at the end, I basically said what we have
- 14 here, if we haven't got any public defence we can go for
- 15 everybody, from the blagger right up to the newspaper,
- 16 at which point there was a look of horror on
- 17 Mr Aldhouse's face and he said, "We can't take them on,
- 18 they're too big for us", and Mr Thomas just sort of
- 19 bemused, deep in thought, just said, "Fine, thanks very
- 20 much, Alex, pass my compliments on and congratulations
- 21 to the team for me, job well done."
- 22 And that was basically it.
- 23 Q. Mr Thomas, on my understanding of your evidence, he
- 24 didn't say anything?
- 25 A. No, he just sort of -- well, as I said, just sat there.

- 1 He was obviously thinking, I don't know whether he was
- 2 thinking of something else or he was thinking of what
- 3 Mr Aldhouse had said, and then he just said, "Thanks
- 4 very much for updating us."
- 5 Q. Can I just understand the next stage, the stage of
- 6 having to sift through all this paperwork and analyse
- 7 it. Did you participate in that or were others under
- 8 you doing so?
- 9 A. Obviously being very early into the inquiry, I'd already
- made an appointment to see Wilf Morgan down at the DVLA
- 11 with Steve Gazzard who lived in Frome at that time.
- Having had an opportunity to glance through the papers,
- I also noticed that there was a lot of detail about the
- 14 Church family, Charlotte Church's family, and I managed
- 15 to contact Maria Church, her mother. So I was basically
- 16 killing two birds with one stone by DVLA Cardiff and we
- started off with our first victim, get a feel for it.
- While I was down there, Roy Pollit, he offered to do
- as much of the paperwork, photostatting that he could
- while I was away.
- 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: He was an investigator working for 21
- 22 you?
- 23 A. He was an investigator, yes.
- When I came back, it was too far to keep going with
- 25 Steve from Frome so basically Roy and I teamed up on the Page 25
- 1 whole -- that was Operation Motorman, or the staff for
- 2 Operation Motorman was myself and Roy Pollit.
- 3 MR JAY: It's clear from paragraph 4.8 that maybe two
- 4 activities were going on. The first activity was to
- 5 look at a sample of cases, you say 25 to 30 cases.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Which would be fully, as it were, prepped up for
- 8 prosecution, so you had your --
- 9 A. That's what we wanted. That was our hope, yes.
- 10 Q. So you had your full and complete and pristine audit
- trail there with all the relevant documents; have I
- 12 correctly understood?
- 13 A. That was our objective. You don't just get that
- 14 overnight.
- 15 Q. Of course not.
- 16 A. Once we knew the victim was prepared to give us
- 17 a complainant statement, then we'd set a pack up.
- 18 Q. Then more widely, you've mentioned the figure of 17,000.
- 19 There's a whole morass of all the material which goes
- 20 far beyond the sample case --
- $21\,$ $\,$ A. Yes, as I said, we had 17,000 victims to choose from if
- we wanted to.
- 23 Q. What if anything did you do with all the remainder of
- the material which you weren't going to use specifically
- 25 for the criminal prosecution? What analysis if any did Page 26

- 1 you conduct on it?
- 2 A. Well, once we'd photostatted everything, then we sent
- 3 all the documentation to a computer forensic team
- 4 because we wouldn't have been able to do the job unless
- 5 it was on disk, basically.
- 6 Q. You tell us this in paragraph 4.8. They conducted an
- 7 analysis. Their analysis was then put onto an
- 8 electronic document?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Which you made available to us, but we haven't analysed
- 11 it ourselves, it's far too complex and there are a large
- number of individual journalists' names there which,
- because of their presence, we couldn't place the
- document in the public domain. But it's this material,
- is this right, which covers the you say 17,000 aggregate
- number of cases that Mr Whittamore undertook; is that
- 17 right?
- 18 A. Well, 17,000 requests to him from journalists, so yes,
- that's what he agreed to do for the press.
- 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Just before you go on, Mr Owens
- 21 I wonder if I could ask this: you've looked at these
- books and we, of course, haven't. You've identified
- some of the bits of information required, names
- 24 associated with vehicle registration marks, telephone
- 25 numbers for people, people for telephone numbers.
 - Page 27
- 1 A. That's correct, sir.
- 2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Is that information which can be
- 3 obtained lawfully?
- 4 A. Car numbers, no. You can't get them. CRO records, no.
- 5 Not lawfully. Ex-directory -- I would have said more
- 6 probably no. You'd have to tell me how to get them,
- 7 ex-directory numbers, without them being unlawful.
- 8 There was area searches -- you know, Hugh Grant, find
- 9 out which area he's got a flat in, or specific
- 10 addresses, which were occupancy addresses. But amongst
- them as well were family and friends. There's no way
- 12 you can get somebody's list of family and friends
- lawfully, unless you actually know them and know what's
- on the list. The only way you'll get them is from BT or
- 15 whichever phone company.
- 16 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. Thank you.
- 17 MR JAY: I'm not sure you covered mobile phone numbers. Can
- 18 you obtain those lawfully?
- 19 A. No. Well, I don't know of any register of -- no
- 20 directory of mobile phones, so I can't imagine, unless
- 21 you get it from a friend, but he must have had several
- thousand friends.
- 23 Q. I understand there's a big issue in relation to
- 24 ex-directory telephone numbers which I'm not asked to
- 25 pursue with you, Mr Owens, but one of the core

- 1 participants is particularly concerned about that so
- 2 I just mention it at this stage.
- 3 In terms of finished product, the data set produced
- 4 by this independent computer forensic company, you tell
- 5 us that the one disk was safely locked away and another
- 6 disk was, as it were, your working copy?
- 7 A. Yes, I had a second disk made, so we always had
- 8 a back-up basically, and that became my working copy.
- 9 Q. Thank you. Can I deal now with paragraph 4.9. Within
- 10 a few weeks you were informed that you were not to make
- 11 contact with any of the newspapers identified and you
- 12 were not to speak to, let alone interview, any
- 13 journalists?
- 14 A. That's correct, yes.
- 15 Q. Who gave you that information?
- 16 A. Jean Lockett. She was my immediate line manager. She
- 17 came in one day and said basically, "You're not to go
- 18 near the press, you're not to make any approach to any
- 19 reporters or the press". At first I looked at her and
- 20 said, "Jean, you are joking?" and she said, "No", and
- 21 I could see on her face she wasn't joking, and I said,
- 22 "Why?" She said, "Oh, Richard's dealing with it now,
- 23 he's doing it through the Press Complaints Council".
- 24 I suppose I was out of order, I wanted to argue with
- 25 her, and I could see on her face it was a case of Page 29
- "Please don't shoot the messenger". 1
- 2 Q. So to be clear, because there may be some confusion
- 3 about this relating to other evidence I've seen, the
- 4 Information Commissioner's office at no stage
- 5 interviewed a journalist; is that right?
- 6 A. No. Well, not the investigation unit. I don't know --
- 7 nobody from the investigation -- myself and Roy,
- 8 basically, from Operation Motorman, ever spoke to
- 9 a journalist about it.
- 10 Q. As part of the police investigation, in particular
- 11 I think Operation Glade, there is reference as to what
- 12 happened before the judge at Blackfriars in April 2005
- 13 to the police having interviewed a handful of
- journalists. Are you aware of that? 14
- 15 A. Yes, I think I can confirm that, because obviously Glade
- 16 came out of Motorman. We had a very close liaison, we
- 17 used to keep in touch with each other, and I don't know
- 18 for a fact, but the last time I spoke to one of them,
- 19 which is a long time ago, they were talking about three
- 20 being interviewed under caution.
- Q. So in terms of the continuing progress of 21
- 22 Operation Motorman, the focus was on those as it were
- 23 lower down the chain?
- 24 A. Well, yes. Basically they'd drawn a red line and with
- 25 the press and the reporters above that line and we dealt Page 30

- 1 with anything below that line.
- Q. Who were the private investigators and their blaggers?
- A. The private investigators, the little blaggers and the
- 4 corrupt people.
- 5 Q. I've mentioned Operation Glade. Operation Glade, you
- touch on this in paragraph 4.10, Mr Owens. 6
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. This was focusing on misuse of the police national
- 9 computer and possibly the licensing agency in Swansea;
- 10 is that right?
- 11 A. No, not quite. Yes, anything -- criminal records,
- 12 obviously, come off the police national computer. We
- 13 don't have a PNC and we don't have access to inquire
- 14 into those. So anything to do with criminal records we
- 15
 - handed over to the police for them to investigate.

16 What we noticed is, bearing in mind we'd conducted 17 the raid in south London on 11 or 12 November, we hadn't 18 raided Whittamore until the following March, and what we

- 19 noticed was there were more vehicles being checked after
- 20 we'd neutralised the DVLA source, so obviously he's
- 21 gone, somebody else has stepped in.
- 22 We checked with DVLA and they did a very, very
- 23 thorough check and they said those vehicles are not
- 24 being checked at DVLA, so there's only one other source,
- 25 so we handed them over with the criminal records.
 - Page 31
 - Anything before 11 November was our area.
- 2 Q. You say in paragraph 4.12 there was a consultation with
- 3 counsel. I think we know from other documents we've
- 4 seen that took place in Birmingham and you attended it?
- 5 A. Yes, yes.

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- 6 Q. You then prepared the documentation for what was
 - a conspiracy charge, statutory conspiracy, I believe, to
- 8 breach the Data Protection Act, and how many people were
- 9 the subject matter of that conspiracy or the
- 10 perpetrators of it? Was it four or five people, maybe?
- 11 A. On our side, yes, but obviously they were connected with
- 12 people on the Operation Glade side. It was like
- 13 a spider web. You know, everybody knew each other, but
- 14 some didn't do criminal -- the CRO checks, and some did.
- 15 O. Certainly. We know in relation to Operation Glade that
- 16 there were four members of the conspiracy. In relation
- 17 to Operation Motorman, was it the same four?
- 18 A. No, only one, Whittamore.
- 19 Q. Whittamore was the common entity, was he?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. The upshot was that you assembled the paperwork as you
- 22 would do for any criminal prosecution?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. This one may have been on the more complex end of the
- 25 scale. You submitted the papers to the legal department Page 32

8 (Pages 29 to 32)

- 1 in February 2004 and as far as you were concerned, the
- 2 matter was going to proceed on this conspiracy charge;
- 3 is that right?
- 4 A. That was it. We were off onto other things by then.
- 5 Q. Paragraph 4.16 you say that in April 2005 you became
- 6 aware that Whittamore had appeared before Blackfriars
- 7 Court and been given a conditional discharge?
- 8 A. We only knew after that he'd appeared. Nobody told us
- 9 he was even coming up to court.
- 10 Q. Is it your understanding that this related to
- 11 Operation Glade rather than Operation Motorman?
- 12 A. At that stage we didn't know what was going on. We
- 13 didn't even know Whittamore was appearing in court. We 13
- 14 know there had been -- or heard there had been a bit of
- 15 bad blood between the Metropolitan Police and our
- 16 office, so I didn't know what was -- we as investigators
 - didn't have a clue what was happening.
- 18 Q. Right. That's fair enough, Mr Owens. There's no
- 19 criticism here, although we know from documents we've
- 20 seen, in particular from an exhibit called RJT49, that
- 21 what happened at Blackfriars before His Honour Judge
- 22 Samuels QC in April 2005 (a) related to Operation Glade
- 23 and not to Operation Motorman and (b) there were four
- 24 co-conspirators including Mr Whittamore and they each
- 25 received a conditional discharge. Do you follow me? Page 33
- A. I am aware of the result eventually, but not at that 1
- 2

- 3 Q. This did not relate to Operation Motorman, which was
- 4 still outstanding because it was a separate matter. Do
- 5 you follow that as well?
- 6 A. Yes, yes. You're talking about the little fish.
- 7 Q. Were you involved in any of the decisions which were
- 8 subsequently made in relation to Operation Motorman?
- 9 A. Such as? I'm sorry.
- 10 Q. There was a decision, for example, to discontinue the
- prosecutions. 11
- 12 A. No, we were just told -- oh, discontinue the
- 13 prosecutions? I'd left by then. Around this time I'd
- 14 basically had enough. I wasn't taking any more and
- 15 I walked out. Went on long-term sick. There was
- 16 already one grievance in which wasn't being attended to,
- 17 more grievances went in and the first grievance was --
- 18 the first, how can I say, person that contacted me from
- 19 ICO about the first grievance was 12 months after
- 20 I'd put it in, and eventually, to cut a long story
- 21 short, I eventually resigned, I think in September 2006,
- 22 and went by a tribunal hearing, employment tribunal.
- 23 Q. Did any of your grievances -- I don't want to go into
- 24 them, but did any of them relate to the conduct of
- 25 Operation Motorman or were they all separate from it? Page 34

- A. Yes and no. It was -- how can I put it? When -- it's
- 2 difficult to explain. Motorman didn't prompt it. It
- 3 was just another example of what followed, if that makes
- 4 sense. Because I had two very good investigations on
- 5 the go and basically they were taken off me and closed
- 6 down by the new head of investigations because
- 7 Jean Lockett had left by that time. It was like they
- 8 were closing every operation we had on the go down. And
- 9 we were basically becoming office detectives. You could
- 10 ring them but you couldn't go see them. I'm sure you
- 11 know yourself, unless you actually meet and speak to
- 12 a victim, you don't get the whole story.
 - So essentially, whatever decision was made after
- 14 Blackfriars, I had no input into it whatsoever.
- 15 Q. Okay, fair enough, Mr Owens. But two of your concerns
- 16 you express in paragraph 4.18 of your statement. You've
 - already raised the first one. You say:
- 18 "Allowing for the overwhelming and irrefutable
- 19 evidence we had gathered and made available, what
- 20 action, if any, did Richard Thomas ... or
- 21 Francis Aldhouse ... take in respect of the involvement
- 22 and conduct of the press and their part in this criminal
- 23 conspiracy."
- 24 A. Yes.

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- 25 Q. It's clear that the answer to your question is that no Page 35
- action in the criminal courts was taken? 1
- 2 A. Yes.

- 3 Q. Whether other action was taken we'll hear about when
 - Mr Thomas gives his evidence.
- 5 Then your second point:
- 6 "Why, after agreeing a course of action, endorsed by
- 7 counsel, that all other persons identified as being
- 8 involved in unlawful activity be jointly prosecuted for
- 9 conspiracy, was Whittamore the only one concerned in the
- 10 Motorman investigation to be prosecuted and then only
- 11 for a simple breach of the ... act."
- 12 Can I just be clear about your evidence in relation
- 13 to that. First of all, the documents show that in
- 14 relation to Motorman, it wasn't just Mr Whittamore,
- 15 there were three other individuals who were either
- 16 private detectives or blaggers --
- 17 A. Yes, that's -- yes they were all part of the conspiracy.
- 18 Q. But secondly, you're right to point out that journalists
- 19 were never made part of this conspiracy, do you follow
- 20 me, but in relation to what counsel was advising when
- 21 you saw him, he wasn't saying, was he, that journalists
- 22 were going to be part of the conspiracy? Did he not
- 23 make it clear that we're going to keep this to the
- 24 investigators and to the blaggers?
- 25 A. I've seen documents that I'd forgotten about, that I've Page 36

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A. Yes, yes.

it's impossible.

the very centre.

- 1 been provided with, that make it absolutely clear why no
- 2 journalist was prosecuted.
- 3 Q. You're certainly entitled to say that, but whatever the
- 4 reason was, the conspiracy was never expanded to include
- 5 the journalists, was it?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. At no stage?
- 8 A. No. The journalists never came into the investigation.
- Q. What the documents show, privilege has been waived for
- 10 it, is something I'm going to explore with Mr Thomas.
- 11 A. Okay.
- 12 Q. Thank you. Can I deal with matters following your
- 13 departure, which you've frankly told us about. This is
- 14 now paragraph 5 of your statement, Mr Owens.
- 15 A. After I left, yes.
- 16 Q. After you'd left. The first report from the
- 17 Information Commissioner, "What price privacy?" you
- 18 received a copy through the post from an anonymous
- 19 source; is that right?
- 20 A. It just arrived with a little note on it saying, "Have
- 21 a look at page 27, item 6.8". It would be very
- 22 interesting to me.
- 23 Q. What that says is, and I'll read is it out, because you
- 24 know what it says but some people listening to me might
- 25 not, and I quote verbatim from the report:

Page 37

- 1 A. Yes.
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: "We won't file them under too hard

Page 39

which means we're not going to prosecute them.

word abuse of the justice system?

Q. It would be virtually impossible to do?

I don't know whether that would be -- is the correct

Q. I think you've just made a very fair point, Mr Owens,

A. In the police force, that would never ever happen. You either decide they all get investigated or -- I mean,

there's insufficient evidence and then throw them out,

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: It depends. Circumstances change

but I wanted to hear you say it in your own words.

it's fine to investigate them and find those five

but you can't just -- well, I said it, you can't do it,

case, don't they, because you may very well decide

there's a team here that I would have to investigate.

That's 50 people. I don't have the manpower to do 50,

so we'll concentrate on the core offenders, on those at

A. And that's exactly what we wanted to do. Roy and I had

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But what you're saying is more

already started, shall we say, a small hit list of which

are the most likely journalists we would have seen.

difficult is to say, "Well, we won't go down that

3 just to get the low-lying fruit"?

category of people".

- 4 A. Exactly right.
- MR JAY: Thank you. You tell us in 5.2 you read about
- Glenn Mulcaire's arrest which we know took place on 6
- 7 8 August 2006. You say you certainly never associated
- 8 it with Operation Motorman. Do you now associate it in
- 9 some way with Operation Motorman, Mr Owens?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 O. And why?
- 12 A. Basically, at the time one of the burning questions was,
- 13 especially for the ex-directory mobile phone numbers,
- 14 what could all these journalists want it for? You're
- 15 talking about thousands and thousands of telephone
- 16 ex-directory numbers. And essentially I -- well, I can
- 17 say, an awful lot of the names of the victims that are
- 18 coming up in hacking are in Operation Motorman,
- 19 Steve Whittamore's books. An awful lot. And my
- 20 personal feeling was Steve Whittamore was gathering the
- 21 numbers -- he wasn't hacking, he was definitely not into
- 22
- hacking, we found no evidence of that. But he was then 23 passing them to the papers and possibly those numbers
- 24 were being passed to people who hacked. I mean the
 - names of people like Milly Dowler, the numbers,

- 1 "This was a great disappointment to the ICO" -- the
- 2 "this" was the discontinuance of the criminal
- 3 proceedings for conspiracy -- "especially as it seemed
- 4 to underplay the seriousness of Section 55 offences. It
- 5 also meant that it was not in the public interest to
- 6 proceed with the ICO's own prosecutions, nor could the
- 7 Information Commissioner contemplate putting
- 8 prosecutions against the journalists or others to whom
- 9 confidential information had been supplied."
- 10 Someone had tipped you off to look at that, perhaps 11 for a reason, but what was your reaction when you saw
- 12
- 13 A. It may be correct in relation to the others, you know,
- 14 the blaggers and the thing, but you could never go back 15
- after three years and contemplate prosecuting
- 16 journalists. They'd never even been investigated. And
- 17 I -- there's enough legal people here to know if I --
- 18 I kept evidence -- you can't put -- if you have
- 19 a conspiracy, you can't put five people on the
- 20 back-burner and wait and see how you got on with the
- 21 same five people in the front that's getting prosecuted,
- 22 because you got a good result, right, we'll go and
- 23 prosecute them as well. Well, they're all part of one
- 24 conspiracy. You either investigate them all, or those
- 25 five you have to say we're not going to investigate them 25 Page 38

- 1 ex-directory numbers, that sort of thing, and it wasn't
- 2 just an occasional one. There were dozens of them, of
- 3 the names that have now come out in the hacking Inquiry.
- 4 Q. I should ask this question: did you see reference to the
- The state with this question and you see reference to the
- 5 Dowlers' ex-directory numbers in the Operation Motorman
- 6 material?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Thank you. You then a little bit later, indeed a
- 9 considerable time later, in August 2009 made contact
- 10 with Nick Davies of the Guardian?
- 11 A. Yes.

- 12 Q. Are you able to share with us what you told him in
- 13 general terms?
- 14 A. Basically, it was when he revealed -- or when the -- it
- was right after the Gordon Taylor story broke, that
- there were more, it wasn't just Clive Goodman and his
- lone rogue reporter. It was then it dawned on me this
- is what they wanted the numbers for: to hack. And at
- 19 the time I think Nick was -- Nick Davies was trying to
 - get some support, somebody to believe him, some sort of
- 21 concrete evidence to continue his campaign, and
- I thought if he saw this, it would highlight how many
- victims there were in Operation Motorman, and one
- 24 detective -- or hacker wouldn't do five or six numbers,
- 25 and the purpose was to give him some strength behind his Page 41

- number, they've got the list of family and friends and
- then they've had family and friends --
- 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: You have to be a bit careful about
- 4 that, haven't you, Mr Owens, because you're not saying
- 5 that for every single number they were all family and
- 6 friends.
- 7 A. Oh no.
- 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So unless you correlate what
- 9 information was going to what newspaper, it's actually
- quite difficult to decide what that newspaper might have
- 11 wanted the information for?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Your criticism is that you weren't
- 14 ever allowed to look at it?
- 15 A. Basically -- well, we weren't allowed to ask the
- question. We were not allowed to ask the press what did
- 17 you want it for?
- 18 MR JAY: Your point is it might not have required a huge
- amount of delving and interrogation by you of the
- 20 relevant journalists to get the answers you needed to
- 21 these questions, some of which might have incriminated
- the journalist, but others of which might have
- 23 exonerated them --
- 24 A. Oh yes, I'm not saying they were all dishonestly
- obtained -- not for a dishonest purpose, or -- you know,

Page 43

- 1 own campaign and at the same time let the people out
- there who'd been victims in Operation Motorman know
- 3 they'd been victims, because we'd only seen 60 or 70 and
- 4 been able to tell them. There were still 4, 5, 6,000.
- 5 I've obviously never counted them. So it was a twofold.
- 6 Q. Just to explore that a little bit with you, Mr Owens,
- 7 and put forward two other possible hypotheses which may
- 8 or may not be right.
- 9 First of all, in relation to all the titles who were
- not associated with the News of the World, and of course
- 11 you have in mind the list of titles which were tabulated
- 12 in --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- the second report. They might say, "The reason why
- we wanted these phone numbers was nothing to do with
- hacking, but we wanted a ready means of contact details
- for people in case we were going to write a story about
- them and we wanted to check the accuracy of our story
- before we published it." Would you agree that that at
- 20 least is a possible reason why these titles needed these
- 21 numbers?
- 22 A. No.
- 23 Q. Why do you think not?
- 24 A. There's too many. There are just too many numbers to
- 25 ring up. And you've got an example of they've got the Page 42

- 1 the gutter press, so to speak, to chase people, find out
- where they're going to meet and that sort of thing.
- 3 Q. The second hypothesis I put to you is specifically in
- 4 relation to News International and it's this: they had
- 5 their own expert hacker in Mr Glenn Mulcaire, who might
- 6 have been the best in the business. Why did they need
- 7 Mr Whittamore as well? Do you follow that?
- 8 A. It was listening to Mr -- yesterday.
- 9 Q. Mr McMullan?
- 10 A. Mr McMullan, it was listening to him that, how can I put
- it? It rang a bell. Because they appear to have used
- the sames Hell's Angel, as he put it, if it is the same
- 13 Hell's Angel, so there was actually an indirect link
- between Whittamore, McMullan, with this Hell's Angel,
- and he was the man who could get the phone numbers. It
- was only when he said it yesterday that I -- I put this
- 17 connection together.
- 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right.
- 19 MR JAY: Thank you.
- 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: The answer is, all these are things
- 21 that you would have looked at?
- 22 A. Yes, sir. I wish we could have.
- 23 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right.
- MR JAY: Then you refer to a Panorama programme, which indeed is the same one I saw over the weekend, 5.6 of

Page 44

11 (Pages 41 to 44)

- 1 your statement, and Mr David Smith.
- 2 A. That's what prompted me to -- that was going over the
- 3
- 4 Q. What did he -- well, you set out what he said which you
- 5 were concerned about. He did make a statement in the
- 6 programme that no journalists was ever prosecuted:
- 7 "... because we didn't have the evidence that those
- 8 journalists knew beyond all reasonable doubt that the
- 9 information had been obtained illegally."
- 10 In one sense that was entirely true, because they
- 11 didn't have the evidence, and in the other sense it
- 12 was -- you would use your own word in relation to it.
- 13 They didn't allow you to take the reasonable steps to
- 14 obtain the evidence?
- 15 A. We were stopped from getting the evidence. Well,
- 16 additional evidence, and I'll still contend to this day
- 17 that the evidence we had was strong enough to stand on
- 18 its own. In certain cases. You have 30 years of
- 19 experience in the police and some considerable
- 20 experience in this office, so you obviously had a good
- 21 instinct for strong evidence and weak evidence.
- 22 Q. You've used the term "in certain cases". Could you help
- 23 us a little bit more with that? Why do you feel the
- 24 evidence was --
- 25 A. It's by the extent of it, the number of times they'd Page 45

- 1 A. Oh, yes.
- 2 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And was provided with those figures.
- 3 They're not your figures.
- 4 A. Yes.
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: They were in his book before you were 5
- 6 in touch with him.
- 7 A. Yes, yes, I understand. I thought you said they were my
- 8 figures.
- MR JAY: No, your figures I appreciate are slightly bigger 9
- 10 figures and I'm going to come to the bigger figures, but
- 11 at the moment I'm preaching this sort of as
- 12 uncontroversially as I can because the purpose of the
- 13 question is rather different. You have 13,343, you have
- 14 1,900 they say we don't know, but we have about 6,000
- 15 where they say a very strong case, I think it was, and
- 16 about 5,000 probable case of breach of the Act. Are you
- 17 able to assist at all about this 6,000 and 5,000 figure
- 18 and whether you would agree with that sort of assessment
- 19 and, if so, what are the considerations which would lead
- 20 you as an experienced police officer to classify a case
- 21 as a very good case or a probable case?
- 22 A. On an individual basis or overall?
- 23 Q. I think overall and then on an individual basis.
- 24 A. Basically, obviously -- on an overall case, you'd look
- 25 for how many enquiries each journalist has done and then

- used Whittamore -- we had some journalists in there, one 1
- 2 or two occasions they've used him. We have some who
- 3 have used him 200, 300, 400 times, that are going for
- 4 criminal records, ex-directories. So you'd have to look
- 5 at how many entries and exactly what they were asking,
- 6 and some of them were persistently obviously asking
- 7 for --
- 8 Q. Can I just ask you one further question about this? We
- 9 see various data set out in Mr Davies' book which had
- 10 been obtained pursuant to a request under the Freedom of
- 11 Information --
- 12 A. Oh, his book had been published before I contacted him.
- Q. Yes. What he said, he said, I think there were 13,343 13
- 14 individual taskings. I know your figure is higher, I'm
- 15 going to come to that. He said, I think, 1,900-odd you
- 16 couldn't classify one way or the other --
- 17 A. Where is this set out?
- 18 Q. It's set out in Mr Davies' book.
- A. No, the book had already been printed and published --19
- 20 Q. I'm just referring to it as a convenient means of
- 21 identifying the different categories of data.
- 22 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think you're at cross purposes
- 23 What Mr Jay is saying to you is that Mr Davies asked
- 24 through the Freedom of Information Act for certain
- 25 figures --

- 1 look at the type of enquiry they've done. Even one
- 2 journalist obtaining one criminal record, that's a
- 3 whole -- there's no disputing he's guilty. When I say
- 4 guilty, he's committed an offence.
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Because nobody can lawfully obtain
- that sort of information? 6
- 7 A. You can lawfully obtain it, but only under certain
- 8 circumstances. DVLA will release the name and address
- 9 of an owner of a vehicle provided --
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, you were talking about crimina 10
- 11 records there.
- 12 A. Oh, sorry, criminal records, yeah. No, he can't
- 13 lawfully obtain criminal records.
- 14 MR JAY: And you're right, because I think I've done it
- 15 myself. In relation to DVLA, if you say you've been
- 16 involved in an accident and you give the registration
- 17 mark to DVLA pursuant to a lawful request --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- then they have to answer it?
- 20 A. Yes, they can then release it. But if you haven't been
- 21 in an accident and you say you have, you're back to
- 22 breach of section 55 of the --
- 23 Q. Yes.
- 24 A. -- Data Protection Act.
- Q. This is helpful because it's enabling us to classify, do Page 48

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page 15.

A. Yes.

- 1 you see?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Is there any further assistance you can give us on the
- 4 other types of information?
- 5 A. Well, ex-directory is -- there's only one way that I've
- ever known you can lawfully get an ex-directory number 6
- 7 and that was taught to me by -- when I say taught, it
- 8 was told to me by an old private detective and he said
- 9 what he used to do, if it was an ex-directory number, he
- 10 couldn't get them illegally -- well, he wouldn't get
- 11 them illegally -- he'd go back years and years into the
- 12 old directories.
- 13 Q. Yes, I see.
- 14 A. It may well be at some time it wasn't ex-directory and
- 15 it was made ex-directory, but he said invariably that
- 16 was the -- you know, that was very few and far between.
- 17 Q. That's one of the examples, if one looks at the report,
- 18 where Mr Thomas is saying it would be so expensive to do
- 19 that that --
- 20 A. Well, yes.
- 21 Q. -- you could reasonably infer that that's not the way
- 22 the information was obtained?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. I think we're beginning to get the hang of this now,
- 25 Mr Owens, thank you very much. But after the Panorama Page 49
- A. Yes, yes. Q. Do I have that right?
- 3 A. Yes, that's correct. And mine, there are 17,500 entries

numbers. They weren't just all connected to one person.

individual. There may have been a couple of requests

related to one individual, but I didn't count how many

Q. Two questions flowing from that. The first relates to

the figure of 3,757, which you give at the bottom of

understanding, that the table which we see in the second

report, "What price privacy now?" it's true, if you add

up all the numbers, it does add up to 3,757, does not

claim to be the total of all Whittamore's taskings.

They were just looking at a narrow cohort of --

A. I didn't know what the criteria was for this table.

Q. The second point is the issue of how you look at the

number of requests. You do indeed make this clear in

put it in this way, your approach and the ICO's approach

is whether certain requests should be grouped together

and treated as one, which may have been the ICO's

individually, which from my understanding of your

position, or whether they should each be treated

Page 51

your statement. But the difference between, if I can

Not like sort of 24 requests in relation to one

individuals, but there's got to be four or five.

Q. I think it's fair to say, and this is certainly my

- in the four books.
- O. But again, I think this is probably obvious by now, that 5
- 6 what it means in quantitative terms is that the minimum
- 7 number is the ICO's official 13,343 figure, but the
- 8 maximum number is your approximately 17,500 figure?
- 9 A. I'll accept that, yes.
- 10 Q. So that's the difference between you?

evidence is your position?

- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And without, I'm afraid, looking individually at the
- 13 data, it's not going to be possible to resolve which of
- 14 you is right? Do you understand that?
- 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And it probably doesn't matter,
- 16
- 17 MR JAY: I was about to say it doesn't matter anyway,
- because we have frankly a hell of a lot of requests. 18
- 19 The difference between nearly 13,500 and 17,500 is not
- 20 so big that we need lose huge sleep over it. But I see
- 21
- where you're coming from, Mr Owens, don't get me wrong.
- 22 Then you look at a further analysis. I am asked to
- 23 draw to your attention, because I know
- 24 News International are concerned about it,
 - paragraph 5.13, please. You say there that the figures Page 52

programme, you tell us at 5.8 that you decided to 1

- 2 re-examine the evidence?
- 3 A. Yes. After what Mr Smith had to say I thought let's
- 4 have a look back at that.
- 5 Q. You'd obtained your own personal working copy of the
- 6 Operation Motorman database, is that right]?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. And you explain why in paragraph 5.9.
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Can I ask you what analysis if any that you carried out,
- 11 and this was an analysis you undertook, it must have
- 12 started in April of this year?
- 13 A. Yes. Bearing in mind I'm not an expert in drawing up
- 14 tables and analysis, I did it in the simplistic way.
- 15 Obviously the overall figure published in "What price
- 16 privacy now?" was something like, off the top of my
- 17 head, 3,500 or 3,700. In my total, there was 17,000,
- 18 17,500. And then when you look at the individual papers
- 19 on the league table, obviously the easiest one is to
- 20 start at the bottom, the Sunday World. One reporter and
- 21 one request to Whittamore.
- 22 You only have to type in Sunday World and up comes
- 23 the name of that reporter. And you tap in his name and
- 24 I found 24 requests that that one reporter had made of
- Whittamore. And they were criminal records and vehicle 25 25 Page 50

1 published for the Sunday Times show one reporter making 1 Was that the letter to which you were referring? 2 four requests when the evidence shows six reporters MR JAY: There was a yet further one that I was looking at 3 making over 100 requests. Can I just take you through 3 where Mr Thomas gave a fulsome apology, but I can't find 4 4 it. I thought I'd noted it down. But it's certainly the sequence of events and see how far we get with that, 5 that it is right that the original table published by 5 the data as set out in that letter. 6 the ICO in December 2006 shows the Sunday Times with in 6 Yes, he does make an unqualified apology. Maybe I'm 7 7 thinking of the same letter all along. fact seven reporters and 52 requests, which of course 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. Although he does say: isn't the same as the figures you've given in your 8 9 9 "I do not think that it makes a material difference witness statement, but is closer to your figures than to 10 10 the final figures given by the ICO's office. Do you to the overall thrust of the two reports." 11 11 MR JAY: The bullet points you make, Mr Owens, in 5.18, you follow that? 12 A. How can I put it? This the figures I worked out from 12 feel it a wrong decision in the first place not to 13 the books, but I'm thinking their figures are putting --13 investigate a journalist. That decision was not based 14 instead of individual -- if there's two entries from one 14 on any advice by counsel or any lack of evidence. You 15 individual, that's one inquiry as far as they're 15 say the decision was based on considerations of fear and 16 concerned. That's the way I'm -- I think it's coming 16 the report was too little too late. 17 A. Yes. 17 18 Q. In your supplementary statement, you make it clear --Q. This was a matter which was specifically corrected, 18 19 though, by the ICO. If I can read out what -- this is 19 this is your response to what Mr David Smith said --20 exhibit RJT29. I've seen a better document but I've 20 that you are well aware that by disclosing the 21 21 lost the reference. I was looking at it this morning. information you had, you would be in breach of section 22 There is a letter from Mr Thomas where he apologised to 22 59 of the Act? 23 the Sunday Times, I'm sure it's this letter but I've 23 A. Yes. 24 24 Q. And then you say: seen a shorter one and a clearer one, and he accepted 25 that the correct figures for the Sunday Times, and I'm 25 "In the first instance, I tried to make contact Page 53 Page 55 again with Mr Davies." 1 afraid you're going to have to take it from me for the 1 2 2 time being but we will produce the document, were one But you were unable to do so. But you did -- and 3 3 reporter and four requests, and then the amended table you tried to make contact with four other people. Am 4 reflected that correction. 4 I to deduce that you failed to make contact with those 5 A. I've never seen an amended table. 5 people? 6 Q. I'm sure you haven't, Mr Owens. The only point in me 6 A. I answer it in my next paragraph. 7 putting that to you was to make the Sunday Times' 7 Q. Can we be clear --8 position absolutely clear. 8 A. Oh, sorry. 9 9 Q. Who did you make contact with? A. As I said, I'm just going --10 Q. Yes. 10 A. I made contact with one of them. I'm quite happy to 11 name them, but I think, sir, you should know the names The basic points you make are clearly set out in 11 12 paragraph 5.18, aren't they, Mr Owens? 12 I'm going to give before --13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, the letter you wanted to refer 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I don't really think it matters. The 14 to is attached to tab 34. And the observation is at 14 point is that in the end you decided that the public 15 00487: 15 interest required you to disclose what you disclosed and 16 "We took issues we raised very seriously and your 16 so that's what you were going to do. 17 letter prompted us to revisit the composition of the 17 A. Yes. 18 table of publications. A detailed investigation has now 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And the consequences will be the 19 19 revealed that we recorded the figures to the Sunday and consequences? 20 the News of the World incorrectly. The true figures is 20 A. Correct, sir. 21 that there are only four cases at the Sunday Times, all 21 MR JAY: You feel so strongly about this that it's clear, 22 22 of which involve one journalist." according to your conscience, I suppose, where the 23 23 MR JAY: Yes. public interest takes you? Have I --24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: "The figures for the 24 A. I have no concerns, sir. 25 News of the World increase." 25 Q. Just a few questions from others, if you understand. Page 54 Page 56

1 There are other people in this room who want me to ask 1 getting -- and the grievance was against -- one of the 2 2 people was Mr Aldhouse, the deputy himself. Nobody had questions. 3 3 A. Yes. spoken to me about my grievance, not a word. But in the 4 4 Q. I have asked some of the questions. This issue of meantime, I was suddenly getting -- you know, I couldn't 5 ex-directory phone numbers. Would you agree, at least 5 cough in the office without getting a disciplinary 6 to this extent, that we're talking about ex-directory notice that they've done me. 6 7 7 phone numbers in relation to landlines? LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. 8 A. Yes. 8 A. That was within -- I'd never had a disciplinary notice 9 Q. And it's much -- I'm not saying it's impossible, but 9 on me in the seven years I'd been there. After I put 10 10 it's much harder to hack into a landline, isn't it, the grievance in, I had three disciplinary notices 11 11 served on me within the next six weeks. So -- and compared with a mobile phone? 12 A. True. Well, I've never done any hacking and I'm not 12 nobody had spoken to me about my first grievance, and 13 a telephone engineer, but let's put it this way. If 13 I went off sick basically to protect myself because 14 14 I knew it would just be grievance after grievance. I want to speak to someone in confidence, I insist that 15 15 they ring me on a landline, if that answers your I remained off sick and I still haven't got the 16 question. 16 emails, but I'm sure the solicitors have dealt with it. 17 Q. I think it does. There are some questions from someone 17 Trying to get them -- because I wasn't giving in, 18 18 I wanted that grievance outed because part of it was else. Can I deal with it in this way, and I hope 19 fairly? Were there concerns within the office about 19 false pretences, and I stayed off sick and eventually 20 your reliability as a potential witness, that is 20 I said I'm going to put me resignation in, they said oh 21 21 concerns which were expressed to you? no, no, they brought in independent -- not with 22 A. No. Never. 22 themselves. That first grievance was first looked at Q. You may certainly answer this question no, and if you 23 one year later and my grievance of false pretences was 23 24 24 do, you're entitled to, but I'll put the question: are upheld. 25 you willing to tell the Inquiry why you took an extended 25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. Page 57 Page 59 1 period of, I'll put it in these terms first, leave from 1 MR JAY: Did you resign claiming constructive dismissal? 2 2005? 2 A. Yes, yes, sorry, yes, I did. 3 A. Yes. Everything. Yes, I'll quite happily tell the 3 Q. Were there proceedings or was your employment --Inquiry. Do you want me to tell the Inquiry? 4 A. No, it was --5 Q. First of all, was it sick leave? 5 O. Was there a settlement? 6 A. It was -- I was off sick, yes, with stress for the very 6 A. It was settled, yes. 7 simple reason if I hadn't have gone off, I was getting 7 Q. I think what might be said, so I'll make it explicit, is 8 victimised and they were trying to sack me, and I'll 8 that you have some grievance, continuing grievance 9 explain it in full quite happily. 9 against the Information Commissioner's office and 10 Q. Maybe it's possible to short circuit it in these terms 10 therefore your evidence should be treated as unreliable 11 and then we'll see whether we need to go into it. 11 in some way. I'm inviting you to comment on that. 12 A. Okay. 12 A. Absolute rubbish. 13 Q. Were there proceedings -- I think you've made it clear 13 Q. Okay. The copy of the disk which you took, were you 14 that there were, but just to have it confirmed -- were 14 intending to use that in any way in employment 15 there proceedings before an employment tribunal in 15 proceedings if necessary? 16 relation to these matters? A. One of the trumped-up disciplinary related to my -- how 16 17 A. There were no disciplinary proceedings --17 shall I say? The quality of my work. 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, proceedings from an employment 18 Q. I see. 19 tribunal which you brought? 19 A. So let's put it this way. I was going to say, well, you 20 A. No. Well, I couldn't until I resigned, and with 20 know, look at the work alone that's in this one. 21 grievance -- the very simple fact is I put a grievance 21 Because I was supposed to supervise the other 22 in that -- I'll tell you the details if you want, but 22 investigators, and to be honest, the majority apart from 23 I put a grievance in for the simple fact I put a 23 one were all 25, 30 years served officers. They were 24 grievance in, four months later nobody had spoken to me 24 all dotted around the country. I think one of them was

about that grievance. Instead, I had now been

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a lack of supervision.

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- 1 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right.
- 2 MR JAY: The last point is, and I think you've already
- 3 confirmed this, that in your second statement you say
- 4 you made telephone contact with somebody, because you
- 5 identified four people you were trying to contact. Did
- 6 you --
- 7 A. No, I didn't make contact with any of those. Well,
- 8 I made telephone contact with one, who never -- was
- 9 going to come back to me, never did.
- 10 Q. It was an initial contact and nothing came of it?
- 11 A. It was just trying to find -- I needed some advice on
- which way to go, because as I said, section 59 is
- a criminal offence and in my 60s, after 30 years'
- service, I don't want a criminal offence, and in the end
- 15 I said what I said to (inaudible), I said I'm going to
- get it out there into the public, I went to the
- 17 Independent.
- 18 Q. In relation to the Independent newspaper, what in
- a nutshell happened, if anything?
- 20 A. They -- well, I said I'm -- you know, don't put me name
- in, but whoever reads it will know who I am. I said
- I don't like my name being publicised, as such, but
- anyone at ICO that had anything to do with the
- 24 investigation should have known who I was within ten
- 25 seconds. I think the Independent publishing on the Page 61
- front page that an ex-inspector who was the lead
- 2 investigator in Operation Motorman -- I mean, the
- 3 Operation Motorman team was myself and Roy Pollit.
- 4 I was the SIO, he was the investigating officer. So
- 5 I think there were one or two clues put there for them.
- 6 MR JAY: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Owens, for coming to 6
- 7 give your very clear evidence.
- 8 A. Can I just add something onto that?
- 9 MR JAY: Yes, please.
- 10 A. You're talking about the Independent. That article came
- out on 14 September. And I basically knew I'd be
- 12 getting a knock on the door tomorrow, so put the disk on
- top of my computer and when they come, they can have it.
- Nobody came, nobody came, nobody came. And the first
- people that came to my house was on 18 November. That's
- six, eight weeks. Nobody from ICO rang me up or came
- 17 and said, "Can we have the disk?"
- And when the knock on the door -- it was two police
- 19 officers who have nothing to do with data protection,
- and they were very polite, very courteous, they had
- a search warrant and they didn't have a clue about data
- 22 protection. They'd come -- as I said in the paper,
- they'd come on a fishing trip because ICO didn't -- the
- 24 words I used to them is, "You've come to do ICO's dirty
- work", and they were very embarrassed.

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- So that's the sort of people that the -- I know
- 2 senior management's changed, but they have to go to the
 - police to get them to do their job, the ICO job, and
- 4 I don't know, perhaps they were frightened I was going
- 5 to fight them off. My 4-year-old grandson can beat me
- 6 in a fight now. But that is typical of ICO as it was
- and obviously as it still is: heads buried in the sand.
- 8 Their policy was basically: if you ignore a problem long
- 9 enough, it will go away. Motorman didn't go away
- because of the hacking and then they knew that this
- was -- in fact, I'd already emailed the Leveson Inquiry,
- said, "You've got the copy, I'll be handing over the
- original to make sure there's been no tampering with it
- to original to make out there seem no tampering with
- 14 when I am here today", and that's why unfortunately
- circumstances beyond my control prevent me from handing
- my original, as I had, to you.
- 17 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. Thank you very much.
- 18 MR JAY: Thank you.
- 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: We'll just have five minutes.
- 20 (3.39 pm)
- 21 (A short break)
- 22 (3.46 pm)
- 23 MR BARR: Sir, good afternoon. The last witness today is
- 24 Mr Mark Lewis, who is being recalled.
- 25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.

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- 1 MR BARR: Before I recall Mr Lewis, Mr Rhodri Davies would
- 2 like to say a word about the exhibits to Mr Lewis's
- 3 second statement.
- 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.
- 5 MR DAVIES: Sir, I just wanted to deal with this because
- 6 these documents come from us so I wanted to explain what
- 7 they are. They are all documents which were given by us
- 8 to the police. One of them, although it was given by us
- 9 to the police, does not originate from us. It is
- 10 a document headed "Report 3", which is I think the first
- document in the exhibit. That was given to us by
- 12 Charlotte Harris, who is going to give evidence next
- week, and it was then given by us to the police.
- 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes.
- 15 MR DAVIES: We do not know its origins.
- 16 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh. All right.
- 17 MR DAVIES: Nor, I think, does she. It was given to her,
- 18 but she doesn't know --
- 19 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: By the police?
- 20 MR DAVIES: No. It was given to her by an anonymous source.
- 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh, I see.
- 22 MR DAVIES: By her to us and by us to the police but we do
- 23 not know its origin.
- 24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: How interesting. Yes?
- 25 MR SHERBORNE: Does it assist if I say that the origins of Page 64

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

1 it are explained in Ms Harris's witness statement? 1 I'm sure you understand why. 2 2 MR DAVIES: That's true, but what she said is it was given A. I understand. 3 3 to her by someone she doesn't name and she doesn't know LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. 4 4 who prepared it. Questions from MR BARR 5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. Yes? 5 MR BARR: Mr Lewis you provided the Inquiry with a second MR DAVIES: I just want to make it quite clear that although 6 witness statement. Are you familiar with the contents 7 7 it reached Mr Lewis from us, via the police, it's not of the statement? 8 8 our document and we don't know where it comes from. A I am familiar with it 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think that is important to make Q. Are they true and correct to the best of your knowledge 10 10 clear. Thank you. and belief? 11 MR DAVIES: The other documents, I think all of them, pass 11 A. The statement is true. 12 between News International and Farrers, and normally 12 O. We'll take the witness statement as read and I'll ask 13 they would be privileged. They were provided by us to 13 just a few questions arising from it. You tell us that 14 the police in order to enable the police to carry out 14 you attended a police station on 4 November of this year 15 their investigation and with a limited waiver of 15 and you were there shown a video which you were told was 16 privilege for that purpose. They were given, it seems, 16 taken by a private investigator, Mr Derek Webb; is that 17 by the police to Mr Lewis in circumstances which are not 17 18 quite clear to us. A. That's partly correct. I don't think they actually told 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And that's how they come to me? 19 me who the person who took the video was. They just 20 MR DAVIES: That's how they come to you. 20 showed me the video. 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But the question is -- well, I rather 21 Q. Is it right that you don't know who took the video? 22 gather, given what I've just been told, that whatever A. It's subsequently been said to be Derek Webb and I've 23 privilege there may be in the document is not a point 23 seen the documents, but at the time the police gave me 24 24 you're seeking to take now? the documents and had already shown me the video and the MR DAVIES: Exactly. The question is are we going to 25 documents refer to the video. Page 65 Page 67 1 object? The answer is, in the circumstances, the answer Q. I see. The video, you tell us, shows footage of your 1 2 2 ex-wife and one of your daughters, who was then aged 14? is no. 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Because you're entitled to and then 3 A. That's correct. 4 I would have to rule upon it. Q. Could you describe to the Inquiry your reaction when you 5 5 MR DAVIES: Yes. That said, I want to make it clear that were shown that video? 6 that applies to these documents and I'm not making any 6 A. That was horrific. That was truly horrific, that my 7 general waiver for any other documents for any other 7 daughter was videoed, was followed by a detective with 8 purposes. 8 a camera. I mean, just followed. That shouldn't happen 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So it's an argument that may yet 9 to anybody's child. I mean, obviously there's worse 10 10 things -- I acted for the Dowler family, so I can't still happen? 11 MR DAVIES: Indeed. 11 really compare one thing with the other, but, you know, 12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Very good. 12 I do my job. I don't expect my children to be followed. 13 13 MR DAVIES: That is the position. Actually, it's much wider because it was one of my 14 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Right, thank you. daughters, but all my daughters -- I have four MR BARR: Against that background, I recall Mr Lewis. 15 daughters -- they all said, "Does that mean someone was 16 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. I don't have the correct bundle 16 watching our house?" And the fact is that video, until 17 of Mr Lewis. I have Mr Lewis's bundle but I think it's 17 it was handed to the police, was sat in the offices at 18 18 Wapping at News International. They had it. They ought his original bundle. 19 19 MR BARR: I don't know whether my instructing solicitor has to be ashamed of themselves. It was horrific. It was 20 a spare copy. (Handed) 20 a horrific moment to be shown that. I didn't know what 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you very much. Mr Lewis, 21 I was going to see. I went to the police station 22 22 you've taken the oath in the Inquiry so that's perfectly reasonably calm, but I didn't expect -- I didn't expect 23 23 in order. You're still bound by it. to see that. They had no right to do that. 24 MR MARK LEWIS (recalled) (on former oath) LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Lewis, can you tell me this. Can 25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm sorry you had to come back, but 25 you tell me, from what you saw or what was evident on Page 66 Page 68

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- 1 the tape, when it was taken?
- A. It was taken about April/May 2010, when my youngest 2
- 3 daughter was 14.
- 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right.
- MR BARR: You were also shown a report which was produced by
- 6 a private investigator's agency called Tectrix, weren't
- 7 you?
- 8 A. I was shown that.
- 9 Q. And that was a report which had been commissioned by a
- 10 solicitor, Mr Julian Pike of Farrer & Co, who was acting
- 11 for News Group Limited?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. We won't go into the contents of that report for reasons
- 14 of your privacy and the privacy of other persons, but
- 15 it's right, isn't it, that the purpose of the report
- 16 seems to have been to investigate aspects of your
- 17 private life?

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- 18 A. News International sought to destroy my life, and very
- 19 nearly succeeded. I mean, the whole thing, when you
- 20 look at these documents, is the interaction between
- 21 a journalist who is doing a report for whatever reason,
- 22 because the journalist -- it's another report but there
- 23 was a comparison of notes between Farrer & Co, and
- 24 Julian Pike of Farrer & Co was being told by Tom Crone,
- 25 the in-house counsel, to compare notes.

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- Q. We're going to come to the detail and to look at some of 1
- 2 the documents in a moment, and perhaps if we can start
- 3 that journey through your exhibits by looking at the
- 4 document which following the pagination at the bottom
- 5 right-hand corner -- it's been paginated more than
- 6 once -- I'm looking at page 15 and it's a document which
- 7 is headed "Report on Lewis and Harris investigation, May
- 8 2010". Might I ask that the technician display this
- 9 document on the projector, please. This document was
- 10 created by Julian Pike on 5 September 2011, according to
- 11 the face of the document, wasn't it?
- 12 A. According to the document, yes.
- 13 Q. And if we look at paragraph 1, at the top of the page,
- 14 which is under the subheading "Background", it appears
- 15 to set out something of the perception on the News Group
- 16 News side about you, and in particular it says -- I'm
- 17 looking now four lines down:
- 18 "It was pretty clear to us that the source of the
- 19 Guardian's information was almost certainly Mark Lewis,
- 20 Taylor's lawyer, despite the strict confidential terms
- 21 of the Taylor settlement agreement."
- 22 Could I just ask you: did you leak any protected
- 23 information to the Guardian newspaper?
- 24 A. I was not the source of that story, never gave
- 25 information out. It was complete arrogance and idiocy Page 70

- by Julian Pike at Farrers and Tom Crone. They were so
- 2 busy navel gazing that they hadn't realised that there
- 3 were so many possible sources of this story and that the
- 4 story itself was open, the court file was open for
- 5 anyone to look at before it was closed. And because
- 6 they were so arrogant and so stupid, they didn't bother 7
 - to look at that, they just set out to ruin my life.
 - Q. Might we look at paragraph 2, please. At the top of paragraph 2 it says:
 - "Also on 9 July 2009, Lewis went on Newsnight and confirmed he was acting for Clifford."
 - That's a reference to Max Clifford, isn't it?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- Q. On 9 July 2009 were you acting for Max Clifford? 14
- A. On 9 July 2009 I was away. I wasn't on Newsnight or 15
- 16 anything. They've got the dates wrong in this report.
- 17 There is so much that is wrong with what they're doing.
- 18 I was away at the time. This story had broken in the
- 19 Guardian. I was notified about it by Julian Pike, who
- 20 telephoned me on my mobile phone to say that the
- 21 information about the Taylor settlement had got out. It
- 22 was as soon as I got off the plane and turned my phone
- 23 on --
- 24 Q. This is the conversation you told us about last week.
- A. -- he told me about that. I was away. I didn't come Page 71
- back until the next day -- until the Saturday. I think
- 2 that was a Thursday, 9 July. I came back -- it would
- 3 have been a Thursday because the flight's only on
- 4 a Monday and Thursday. I landed at the airport on
- 5 Thursday. I travelled further on. On the Friday,
- 6 I started to return, on the Saturday I returned to the
- 7 country, so I couldn't have been on Newsnight on the
- 8 9th. I think Max Clifford was on Newsnight on the 9th.
- 9 Q. Perhaps I can put it this way. The suspicion appears to
- 10 have been that you were asserting that you were
- 11 representing Max Clifford when you weren't. Did you
- 12 ever make such an assertion?
- 13 A. Yes, I did, but in context I came back on the Saturday.
- 14 On the Sunday, I went to see Max Clifford. I went with
 - Charlotte Harris, who is at another law firm, JMW.
- I was at George Davies at that time. It was to be dealt 16
- 17 with and Max Clifford appeared to have agreed to that as
- 18 a joint instruction because we'd worked together on the
- 19 previous phone hacking cases for Taylor, et cetera, and
- 20 worked well as a team. And so I was being instructed on
- 21 that. The whole thing then went ballistic in terms of
- 22 my -- or devastating in terms of my career, that I --
- 23 Q. In ways you described last week?
- 24 A. This report talks about this being very good for my
- 25 career, or one of the reports talks about this being Page 72

18 (Pages 69 to 72)

- 1 very good for my career. If my income, if I can put,
- went down to less than 3 per cent of what it had been
- 3 before, if that can be described as being very good for
- 4 my career, then it was very good for my career, but I'd
- 5 rather have the other 97 per cent back.
- 6 Q. That's a very clear answer. Could we have the next
- page, page 16, on the screen, please, and the bottom
- 8 half of the page. I'd like to take you, please,
- 9 Mr Lewis to paragraph 8, and here we see something of
- 10 the News Group News motive. It says:
- "On 26 March 2010, we advised Crone that News Group
- 12 News should look again at preventing JMW and Stripes
- from acting. This was driven by the view that Lewis and
- Harris were deeply untrustworthy and the potential cost
- 14 Trains were deepty undustworthy and the potential cost
- savings Crone had anticipated had not materialised in
- 16 Clifford. News Group News was advised to instruct
- specialist counsel on whether steps could be taken to
- 18 prevent them from acting."
- 19 So it appears from this, doesn't it, that there was
- 20 a decided attempt to try and oust you from acting in
- 21 phone interception cases?
- 22 A. Absolutely. It was an intentional tactic to attack me.
- 23 Look, I take it as a huge compliment that I had the
- News of the World and Tom Crone and Julian Pike calling
- 25 me untrustworthy. I'd count my fingers if they thought
 - Page 73
- 1 I was trustworthy.
- 2 Q. Can I just ask you about that? I'll put it to you
- 3 squarely. Did you do anything which might have given
- 4 them reason to consider you untrustworthy?
- 5 A. No, not at all. It was on the contrary. What was
- 6 happening around that time is I'd been instructed by
- 7 someone to pursue a claim, and in order to attack me and
- 8 attack my client, I was acting for somebody called --
- 9 it's on public record -- I'm acting for Nicola Phillips,
- who was Max Clifford's assistant. They assumed,
- wrongly, that there had been some sort of provision of
- information, confidential information. They were too
- stupid to realise that there had been statements in open
- court naming Nicola Phillips that had been given to
- 15 Nicola Phillips by a journalist who -- and
- Nicola Phillips had then contacted me to act. They just
- missed the point. These were such obvious points for
- them and they were too stupid to work it out.
- 19 Q. If we can go to the next paragraph, please, Mr Lewis:
- 20 "On 5 May 2010 we were instructed by Crone to
- 21 instruct private investigators to look into ..." then
- we've had to redact the next section "and investigations
- 23 firm Tectrix, which had been used on a number of
- previous occasions by this firm, were instructed to
- 25 carry out electronic searches."

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- 1 That was the report we touched on a little earlier.
- 2 Could we have the next page, please?
- 3 A. Tom Crone is on record as having said he didn't
- 4 investigate me or authorise investigations. I think one
- 5 has to remember that because quite clearly black and
- 6 white suggests otherwise.
- 7 Q. We move now to the final page of this document, which is
- 8 now up on the screen. We see in paragraph 10 it
 - recorded that Mr Crone instructed Farrer & Co to
- 10 instruct specialist counsel on professional duties and
- obligations. In a moment I'm going to take you to the
- note of that consultation, but sticking with this
- document and following this summary, we see at the end
- of the document at paragraph 13 that following the
- 15 consultation and some follow-up advice from Farrers,
- that no further investigations into you and
- 17 Charlotte Harris were carried out by Farrers or on its
- instructions after 18 May, looking back to paragraph 12
- 19 to get that date. And they assert that at no stage has
- 20 Farrers been involved in any investigations into
- 21 Mark Thomson, who the Inquiry also heard from last week.
- 22 Can we now turn to the consultation record to see
- how that conclusion came about? It's at page 7 of the
- bundle, and could we have that on the screen, please?
- 25 Could we start with the heading at the top, please?
 - Page 75
- 1 Thank you. We see that the client was News Group
- Newspapers Limited. The date was 13 May 2010. And the
- 3 matters are listed on the top left.
- 4 We see underneath the line in bold text it says:
- 5 "JCP and RXC --"

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- Do you understand that to be Julian Pike and --
- 7 A. If I go through these attendance notes, I'm not sure
- 8 that the client, although the client is shown as News
- 9 Group Newspapers, the last one, which is Kelly Hoppen,
- 10 has a different reference number, so I suspect there's
- 11 a second client from that. The first ones are News
- 12 Group Newspaper claims. I don't think the Kelly Hoppen
- is on the same client basis.
- 14 Q. Do you know who --
- 15 A. RXC is Rowena Cordery. The chances are that she doesn't
- have a middle name and that's why solicitors often use X
- 17 as a middle initial because I'm sometimes MXL if there
- is another ML.
- $19\,\,$ MR BARR: Thank you. I see my learned friend Mr Sherborne
- about to rise to his seat.
- 21 MR SHERBORNE: I was just rising to correct something
- 22 Mr Lewis was saying because he wouldn't know it.
- 23 Kelly Hoppen had a claim but it was originally brought
- in the Queen's Bench Division against a number of other individuals. It also then included Mr Mulcaire and

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Gordon Taylor, was nothing to do with any leak or

News Group and was transferred to the Chancery Division

2 to be dealt with with the other claims, and that's why 2 anything. It was to do with he said that he had agreed 3 it has a slightly different reference number. 3 with me that I wouldn't act for anybody else, so that 4 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you very much. I don't I was wrong to take the instructions to act for 5 actually think it matters. It's obviously relating to 5 Joanne Armstrong. It had escaped him that I'd acted for 6 this whole investigation that's being undertaken. So 6 Joanne Armstrong before I'd acted for him. It was 7 7 the names on the matter may not take us very much nonsense. 8 8 further. Likewise the advice about a waiver to Charlotte 9 9 So it's Mr Pike and this other lady meeting Queen's Harris and Jeremy Reed. There's also been a waiver to 10 10 Counsel at chambers to discuss the professional conduct me because I'd dealt with three claims. Farrers had 11 11 issues. Right. objected and maybe Gregory Treverton-Jones QC hadn't 12 MR BARR: We're going to hear from Ms Harris in due course 12 been told that in his instructions, but I'd acted for 13 so I don't need to dwell in any detail on the first 13 two second and third claimants against News Group 14 page. Suffice perhaps to take us to the very last 14 beforehand and they'd agreed to that. They'd raised the 15 paragraph on the first page where we see leading 15 issue at that time and then waived it. 16 counsel's advice was that he said that the case against 16 This had nothing to do with professional conduct. 17 Harris and Reed was "hopeless". He asked what the 17 This had everything to do with trying to stop me, trying 18 position was with Gordon Taylor and if he could be 18 to stop Jeremy Reed, trying to stop Charlotte Harris 19 19 persuaded to take action against you. from acting against them because they'd been caught for 20 A. Phenomenal. Actually phenomenal that leading counsel 20 doing what they'd done. 21 21 could find it on his own behalf to suggest that News Q. You made very clear that their complaint was dismissed. 22 Group Newspapers ought to persuade one of my clients, 22 Might I suggest though that what this paragraph seems to 23 someone I had acted for, someone I'd got a lot of money 23 indicate is a degree of liaison between those acting for 24 24 for, to sue me even though he hadn't threatened to sue Mr Taylor and those acting for News Group News? 25 me, had no wish to sue me, as far as I know, and didn't 25 A. Oh, absolutely. There was some liaison and co-operation Page 77 Page 79 between Gordon Taylor and his solicitors and News Group. 1 sue me, and yet he's suggesting -- he suggests a lot of 1 2 2 things that he really ought not to have done. I'm It's an oddity, really, that you have a union chief 3 3 flabbergasted. executive who's supposed to represent his members, seems 4 Q. Can we go over the page and have on the screen page 8. 4 to be more concerned at protecting a newspaper that's 5 I'm interested in the section about a third of the way 5 attacking his members and he basically allowed them to 6 down. This is in a section under the heading 6 carry on being attacked by doing what he was doing. 7 "Background Mark Lewis/Gordon Taylor". The third 7 I understand he hadn't told his wife about the 8 paragraph down says: 8 settlement, but that's really a matter for him to deal 9 9 "JCP said Taylor does not want the details of his with on a domestic level, but he is a union chief 10 claim regarding News Group to come up. Not even his 10 executive who ought to have represented his members. 11 wife knew that he did the deal." 11 Q. If we turn now to page 10 following the internal 12 Then if I skip to the last four lines, it says: 12 pagination, I want to pick up on the advice that was 13 "Brabners [that's Mr Taylor's solicitors] then 13 given about a potential claim against you. Looking now 14 investigated the matter with a view to bringing a claim 14 at the first paragraph underneath the numbered 15 15 against George Davies ..." paragraphs: 16 And they were the partnership that you were a member 16 "Gregory said that we would need to develop a body 17 17 of? of evidence against him." 18 18 A. Yes. That's referring to you, isn't it? 19 19 Q. "... and conduct proceedings against Mark Lewis." "Insofar as wanting to get a court order to stop him 20 20 from acting, this would be virgin legal territory." And you told us about those last week. 21 "JCP has been told previously that a complaint had 21 A. But there were two parts to that, because apart from it 22 been formally made by Gordon Taylor against Lewis and 22 being virgin legal territory, so there was no legal 23 23 there was some complaint with the SRA." authority for doing it, he had to develop a body of 24 24 evidence because the evidence that he had didn't support A. Can I just deal with that in case I didn't make it 25 clear? The complaint that he made against me, 25 the case anyway. Page 78 Page 80

1 1 So apart from the facts being against him and apart 2 from the law being against him, it was a wonderful case. 2 3 For another client. 3 4 4 Q. We'll certainly come to the overall assessment in 5 a moment. Taking you to the next paragraph, four lines 5 6 at the bottom of that, here we go to the facts: 6 7 7 "Gregory said we would need very strong evidence 8 8 that Lewis simply cannot be trusted to abide by 9 9 confidentiality obligations. Tactically, Gregory said 10 10 it would be better if the running of the case were to be 11 made by Gordon Taylor rather than the Murdoch press." 11 12 I'm going to come in a moment over the page to the 12 13 assessment of where they were with the evidence, but 13 14 14 before we do that and whilst still on page 10, can we 15 15 pick up on the paragraph four paragraphs from the 16 bottom? It begins "JCP said that ...". 16 17 17 The last sentence perhaps puts quite graphically 18 18 what the key objective seems to have been. It reads: 19 "The key interest is to keep Lewis/Harris out of 19 20 these cases to reduce the negative publicity." 20 21 21 Is that your understanding from having read all the 22 22 documents of what the motive seems to have been? 23 23 A. Of course, I mean the previous paragraph, the final 24 24 sentence, appears to be to cause embarrassment and then 25 25 use this in other cases against NGN, and then -- that Page 81 was the context of it. And then say the key interest is 1 1 2 2 to stop me, to stop me, to stop Charlotte Harris, to 3 3 keep us out of these cases, to reduce ... outrageous. 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: What they're saying is that you're 4 5 trying to use the Guardian to cause embarrassment, isn't 5 6 it? 6 7 A. I understand that. 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That's what they're saying. So

they're saying they want to stop you doing it.

A. Well, to keep me -- stop me from acting.

the page, the first sentence reads:

both the law and the facts.

A. Apart from that, it was a great case.

persuade him to bring a claim."

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, well, I understand.

to persuade the court to stop him from acting."

MR BARR: If we go to page 12, and starting at the top of

"Gregory said that in respect of Lewis, his advice

was that he did not think there was enough evidence yet

So as you said a moment ago, they had problems with

Q. Can we go now to the third paragraph from the bottom of

evidence, Gordon Taylor is the person with the greatest

right and interest to bring the case. We could try and

Page 82

that page. There's a short paragraph which reads:

"Gregory said that with regard to the other

possible that one of them might be a wide boy, but I do think it's out of order for him to express an opinion about me without having met me or discussed it. This is Page 83 a man who's written the guide to the professional conduct for my profession. It seems he hasn't read it, but he really ought to know that if he's going to say something, he should back it up with a fact, and really, he ought to apologise to me for expressing an opinion because he had no right to do that. Q. I think that's a matter which is in your witness 8 statement, isn't it? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Looking at page 18, now, of the bundle, it's a letter 11 from 7 September 2011 from Farrers to Linklaters. The 12 part of the letter I'd like to take you to is on the 13 next page, page 19. It's paragraph 5. It says -- and 14 this is essentially a paragraph in which Farrers are 15 explaining in 2011 their take on events in 2010 which 16 we've just looked at. It says: 17 "The reason for this inquiry stemmed from the 18 suspicion that Mr Lewis and Ms Harris were exchanging 19 highly confidential information gained from acting for 20 claimants (and Mr Taylor in particular) in cases against 21 NGN in order to bring further actions against NGN by 22 other potential claimants. While in hindsight the

relevance of the results of such enquiries may be open

legitimate concerns: apart from the issue regarding the

Page 84

to challenge, we are satisfied that there were

So there we have the advice being given that it

might be better to try and persuade Mr Taylor to do it.

If we go over to page 13, at the top of that page it

"JCP said he did not have instructions but he could

position to make a complaint and NGN will contribute to

see that Gordon Taylor might think he could not be

funding your representation of this -- it might well

So it seems, doesn't it, that there was

with costs?

Q. Yes, please do.

assist him. It might make Taylor more persuadable."

a willingness to encourage Mr Taylor by assisting him

A. News Group Newspapers wanted to pay for a client to sue

me, even though the client hadn't proposed to sue me.

Q. Could we now go to the letter which is at page 18 of the

A. Can I just deal with one point out of that conference?

A. Leading counsel said that I was a wide boy, that he'd

met me. He'd never met me. I've never spoken to him.

There are other Mark Lewises in the profession so it's

bothered. If we say to him -- you are in a better

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1 1 A. I'm tempted to say it was from the Star, but it was possible exchange of confidential information, it was 2 2 known that Mr Taylor was sufficiently concerned about nothing -- it really isn't from the Star so don't 3 the conduct of his previous law firm and Mr Lewis that 3 suggest that, but it has so many factual inaccuracies --4 4 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Be extremely careful what you say. he had instructed new solicitors to make a complaint to 5 the SRA." 5 I recognise that you have absolute privilege, but I am 6 What I'd like to do is ask you for your reaction to 6 absolutely concerned not to prejudice any potential 7 7 investigation -that justification. 8 A. No, I -- sorry, sir, I wasn't suggesting that it was. 8 A. I think firstly that that is an ex post facto 9 9 It was just that because there are so many factual justification in 2011 to explain why the rules had been 10 10 inaccuracies -broken, because there was no probative value whatsoever 11 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, cracking jokes is a mistake, in the inquiry that was being made by them. They were 12 looking into my private life in a way that had no 12 13 relevance whatsoever. It's impossible to think of any 13 A. I apologise. 14 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: As I tried to explain to Mr McMullar relevance that could be determined from one answer or 15 15 yesterday. another to what they were looking at as to whether or 16 not there had been an exchange of information, of 16 MR BARR: The first point that I'd like to take you to in 17 17 this report is on the first page. Could we go to the confidential information between Charlotte Harris and 18 18 bottom of the page, please. There's a summary about the me. The sad thing is if they'd have bothered to look at 19 19 the court records and things that were said in the open lawyers. It says, first sentence: 20 court, they would have realised that they were wasting 20 "The phone hacking story has been propagated most 21 21 effectively not by the police or journalists but by their money anyway, making enquiries, but they did. 22 22 civil lawyers." And when you looked earlier, when you talked about 23 23 And then picking up the last three lines of that two different reports, the Tectrix report commissioned 24 24 by Farrers and the other report instigated by same paragraph: 25 25 "It is the lawyers and the information they a journalist, you have the in-house lawyer Tom Crone Page 85 Page 87 1 knowing full well that the journalist had commissioned 1 uncovered through the civil actions they helped bring 2 2 surveillance, Farrers saying that -- Julian Pike at which ensured phone hacking became such a damaging 3 3 scandal for News International." Farrers saying that they don't need to get surveillance 4 because they've sort of already got it, and then 4 Reading on into the next paragraph: 5 Julian Pike speaking to the journalist to compare notes 5 "At the heart of this have been three solicitors: 6 about this. 6 Mark Lewis, Charlotte Harris and Mark Thomson." 7 7 Now, ordinarily, a good, honest, proper solicitor, It then goes on to name others before returning to 8 when told that such and such, a client -- see, one 8 you at the end of the paragraph and reading: 9 9 has -- the journalist involved is someone who was "These are the three who have driven the process." 10 10 involved in the hacking of a phone of a client of mine So whoever wrote this document seemed to think that 11 that I was acting for, Nicola Phillips. His name is on 11 you were one of the three solicitors who was having 12 various documents. When a witness was looking at the 12 perhaps the most impact. 13 lives of the lawyer acting against him, then you would 13 A. Maybe. It may be said they thought that. I think there 14 have thought that a firm of solicitors, not least Farrer 14 obviously were other people who were very much involved. 15 & Co, and not least a barrister, Tom Crone, would turn 15 O. If we go now to page 5, please --16 around to the journalist and say, "No, you mustn't do LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Sorry. 16 17 that, you're tampering with evidence here, you're into 17 MR BARR: Top of the page, page 5, under the heading 18 18 very risky territory". Instead of doing that, they "News of the World strategy", to put this in context, 19 19 joined in and wanted to compare notes between their own it's right to say, isn't it, that one description of 20 report and what he'd obtained. Diabolical. 20 this document is it's a dossier about you and 21 Q. The final document that I would like to take you to, 21 Charlotte Harris and Mark Thomson? 22 Mr Lewis, is the one right at the start of the exhibit 22 A. Yes. 23 at page 1. As Mr Davies rightly pointed out earlier, we 23 Q. And it says under this heading, "News of the World 24 have to keep in mind the fact that we don't at this 24 strategy":

stage know who produced this document.

Page 86

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"The News of the World is aware of these facts and

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- 1 is planning to try to put pressure back on the 2 solicitors by revealing these facts and by linking their 3 political affiliations and career benefits from the 4 cases. They plan to do this publicly and through 5 discrete lobbying." 6 A. Can I just make some points on the pages that you've 7 been through? 8 Q. Please do. 9 A. There are things that they have suggested about me that 10 are just wrong as a factual basis, so the facts that 11 they were planning to rely on, the fact that I have 12 a chip on my shoulder because I went to a secondary 13 modern; I didn't go to a secondary modern, I went to 14 a private school, which sort of ruins the story, albeit 15 it's a better story in some respects, but it's just not
 - but I don't always vote for the same party, whatever. So it was almost interesting to read about me. I mean, that's why -- there is a grain of truth in this story that whoever's prepared this dossier has bothered to do some research, because my school was a grammar school before it became a fee-paying school the year Page 89

true. And certain of the issues that they've -- that my

political affiliations; I've not been affiliated to any

political party at that time. I am a classic floating

voter/non-voter. I have a strong interest in politics,

- we'd put forward, the Dowler family did not want
- damages, and I understand why, in respect of Milly. 2
 - They wanted a charitable donation in respect of Milly,
- 4 because it would be wrong to profit in any way, to
- 5 inherit money from the daughter who'd been murdered.
 - There were negotiations that took place that
- 7 Rupert Murdoch wanted to create a Rupert Murdoch fund
- 8 for children to go to private schools, and the Dowler
 - family wanted the donation from him to go to funds and
- 10 charities which were to do with Milly's disappearance or
- 11 Milly's life, so it was like the swimming pool that she
- 12 favoured, charities for missing people, and charities
- 13 for cancer research and brain tumour research because
- 14 her godfather had died as a young man from a brain
- 15 tumour.
- 16 The negotiations had started with an offer of
 - £1.5 million which had been no charitable donation at
- 18 all and just 1.5 million --
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Is it appropriate for you to be 19
- 20 revealing this, Mr Lewis?
- 21 A. The whole settle -- I have a difficulty because the
- 22 whole settlement is -- I can see the press will say that
- 23 he wouldn't talk about what had happened --
- 24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, I'm just considering about the
- 25 privilege you owe -- the confidentiality you owe the Page 91

1 before I went, so somebody knew that there had been

- 2 a change of status in my school, so someone had done
- 3 some research in trying to find the story, but they
- 4 found the wrong story.

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- 5 O. So would it appear that what we have is a document
- 6 suggesting that personal details which have been dug up
- 7 are to be used against you and your fellow solicitors
- 8 and, you would say, not only that but the details were
- 9 very largely wrong?
- 10 A. Certainly. Maybe the strategy was correct, but the
- 11 facts that it was based upon were just wrong.
- 12 Q. Can I move now to a completely separate matter, and this
- 13 is a matter I've been asked to raise with you by another
- 14 core participant. It concerns the settlement of the
- 15 Dowlers' case and in particular the costs involved in
- 16 that case. Can you recall approximately the date of the
- 17 settlement with News International?
- 18 A. I can't remember the exact date. I can tell you the
- 19 circumstances of the deal, because it -- one presumes
- 20 that this must be -- there was an article, as I alluded
- 21 to last time, that went on a website from Associated
- 22 through Daily Mail who said I was holding out for more,
- 23 and in fact the case had -- the Dowler case had been
- 24 settled much earlier than that.
- 25 What had happened was that the negotiations that Page 90

- 1 Dowlers. I'm not stopping you, I'm raising the question
- 2 so that you can think about it before you go on. It may
- 3 be, you see, that this detail is not central to what
- 4 I have to think about, and I'm just concerned that you
- 5 think about your professional obligation. That's all.
- 6 It's up to you.
- 7 A. I'd rather not discuss the negotiations, save that the
- 8 total sum has been put forward. There wasn't any -- you
- 9 know, I've been asked about the costs negotiations.
- 10 There wasn't a costs negotiation with the newspaper.
- 11 There was a global sum that was paid, et cetera, that
- 12 that's how --
- 13 MR BARR: Mr Lewis, if there's any doubt about this, I don't
- 14 want you to say any more about the facts of that case.
- 15 I think the point to do with CFAs is to give the Inquiry
- 16 some indication of the sorts of sums that might be
- 17 involved, and I can do that by asking you quite separate 18 questions.
- 19 Could you give us some idea of what a partner in 20
 - a media law firm charges by way of hourly rate?
- A. Well, my hourly rate is £390 an hour. However, the idea 22 that you get that on a CFA is -- you only find out what
- 23 you're getting at the end.
- 24 So if you take, for example, the NMT and Wilmshurst
- 25 case where I acted on a CFA, gave two years of my life Page 92

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to doing that probably 70 or 80 per cent of the time, I think I earned about £25,000 a year from doing that case because it was more important and bigger to defend a cardiologist who was being sued by a libel bully(?), to act for the defendants of -- who were being sued by Sheffield Wednesday over what they'd blogged on a website. Again I had to stand up.

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I mean, I can hand on heart say that one would earn more money in private practice being paid privately for doing work, and what one has to understand when looking 10 at CFAs is that every lawyer, not just me, you get lots of people who phone up and ask for advice free of charge about all sorts of pursuing cases and we can't charge for them and we take on cases that we are allowed an uplift on, which sort of balances out over a year to compensate us.

It's fair to say that lawyers are better paid than nurses and other people. There might be a reason that we are and it might be that there's also a problem with the system, but the fact is, if you talk about the Dowlers, again you have Sally Dowler who came in to me 21 and at the first meeting said, "We cannot afford a lawyer", and I -- I mean, I have a record of saying to people, "I'll act for you anyway" because that's just what I do because sometimes you have to do that, but Page 93

I can't -- I can't insure you if you lose the case and

have to pay the other side.

Nobody knew at the time how it was going to end up. We did not know that the News of the World was going to end up closing down and there would be massive negotiations. For all we know, there could have been a total defence of the claim, et cetera, and they could have lost the claim, they could have pursued a claim and News of the World could have taken an issue saying, "Well, Milly Dowler does not have a claim at all because she's dead and therefore has no right of privacy". It's a legal argument.

Fortunately, thankfully, people on the other side had the good grace not to run that argument. But it's the sort of thing that you just don't know what's going to come forward. You don't know that -- and the fact that the Dowler family themselves, Bob and Sally and Gemma Dowler have claims, the claim is still based on an 18 inference. You have Glenn Mulcaire making notes of their numbers, et cetera, but there's no actual evidence to show a real call or that something that was taken from that call was used. You have to establish the inferences and be able to present the case.

In fact there's not been a judicial decision yet on any phone hacking claim to say that -- possibly Page 94

1 Sienna Miller there was an admission because of the way

2 that proceeded, and I think there might have been --

3 Q. Could I just attempt to summarise? You can tell me if 4 I'm being fair to you here. Are you trying to say that

5 any solicitor who takes on a CFA is taking a risk with 6

A. There is always a risk, no matter how good the case is, 8 and you do not know how you're going to get paid or what you're going to get paid until the end of the case. You have to win, and even when you win you don't know what 11 hourly rate a court is going to -- if you read the 12 newspapers, the newspapers suggest that you get a CFA and it's a licence to print money, but actually you only 13 14 get paid if you win.

> So the newspaper could, if they so wished, either not defame or throw their hand in early or choose to fight, and then if they lose, oddly enough, I think the Telegraph uses CFAs, but other newspapers pay lawyers to fight their cases. If they didn't do that, the uplift on cases would be reduced, the amount extra that you charge which is awarded by a court follows the further on that you go, but sometimes you could waste a lot of time pursuing a case and not get paid at all.

Q. And a final question: are you effectively saying to us that the CFA system involves a certain amount of swings Page 95

and roundabouts?

A. There is a certain amount of that. Every lawyer will tell you they've lost cases or spent time in pursuing CFA cases that got nowhere and got no payment for them, including the ones that you win on and find that the other side can't afford to necessarily pay you. There might be a better system, but at the moment there isn't any other system that applies. There's no legal aid that people can use to pursue claims.

So what you have is effectively a CFA that balances the position because whether you're defending a claim or defending your right by pursuing a claim, you can afford a lawyer to pursue that and actually that's likely to be outlawed effectively because there's an abolition being proposed of the recovery of insurance premiums. So if I'd said to a client, look, if you don't -- if you want to pursue this claim you can do, but your insurance premium is going to be substantial, that's an insurance premium that has nothing to do with lawyers, lawyers don't work out what the premium is and that premium is going to be in excess of the damages awarded in most libel cases, most privacy cases, the people -- if you saw me as a client and said you might win £25,000 or £30,000 in your libel claim or your privacy claim, either way, you're going to have to pay for an insurance Page 96

1 policy which could be £50,000, but at least you won't MR JAY: Yes. 2 have to -- so you'll clear your reputation or your LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, all right. 3 privacy will be protected, but by the way, you'll only 3 MR JAY: Mr Staines has replied -- whether it's an amicable 4 lose £20,000. People wouldn't bother to do that. It's reply, I don't know yet -- to our section 21 notice. At 4 5 all actual access to justice. It's nothing else. 5 the moment I think his summonsed to appear before you LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think we're moving slightly away 6 tomorrow afternoon. He wishes to make submissions about 7 from where I am, because the one thing that I can't do 7 the restriction order you've made, but I think he's also 8 is affect what is presently going through Parliament. 8 seeking funding from the Inquiry in order to do that, if 9 A. Yes, sir. Simply they give me a soap box to stand on so 9 I've correctly understood him. I can imagine what your 10 I stood on it. 10 response might be to that suggestion. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I didn't stop you immediately, but 11 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Let's take this in turn. 11 12 now I'll ask you to stand off it. Is there anything 12 Mr Staines -- do we have his response? 13 else? 13 MR JAY: It's been skim-read by me, but not properly 14 MR BARR: No, thank you. 14 ingested yet. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Lewis, thank you very much. And 15 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: As regards arguing about the 16 I didn't stop you. 16 restriction notice, I'd need to know whether somebody --17 17 I think probably a member of the public may be able to Discussion 18 MR DAVIES: Could I just say something in the light of 18 argue about it on Scott v Scott grounds. Mr Lewis's evidence very briefly? 19 MR JAY: Yes. 19 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. 20 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Because there's a rather interesting 21 MR DAVIES: First of all, with regard to Farrer & Co, the 21 decision in the Court of Appeal in a case called GIO, 22 only report they commissioned, that by Tectrix, was 22 which does allow members of the public to object to 23 a desktop exercise based on publicly available material. 23 things that are documents put before the court but then 24 24 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you. not seen by the public, but I'm not sure that he would 25 MR DAVIES: It did not involve any surveillance. fall within the criteria of those who could be funded to Page 97 Page 99 Secondly, the physical and video surveillance which 1 1 argue that. 2 Mr Lewis has referred to was commissioned by the 2 MR JAY: I'm almost certain, sir, that he wouldn't qualify. 3 News of the World, and News International apologises to 3 I don't think it's right that I summarise what he's 4 Mr Lewis and his family for that. 4 saying in his section 21 statement. 5 He raises in his statement a point which didn't come 5 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right, but the answer is that 6 out in his oral evidence, a question as to whether or 6 we're not going to get that done for tomorrow? 7 not his phone had been hacked. We are not aware of any 7 MR JAY: No. 8 evidence that Mr Lewis's phone has been hacked. 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So I will discharge the requiremen 9 Apart from that, Mr Lewis's statement and indeed his 9 that he attend to give evidence tomorrow and I will ask 10 oral evidence, I think it's fair to say, contains 10 that he make such application as he wishes to make, 11 a number of expressions of opinion and comment and we 11 although in the meantime consideration can be given to 12 don't accept those. 12 whether, A, it is lawful or, B, it is appropriate that LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, I understand that, but ... 13 13 he receive public funding to support that application. 14 MR DAVIES: Yes. MR JAY: Yes. 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I didn't feel it appropriate to stop 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Is that sufficient for the present 16 16 purposes? 17 MR DAVIES: No, no, not at all. 17 MR JAY: It is. 18 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: No, I understand. Thank you very LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you. Is there anything else 19 much indeed. Thank you, Mr Luce. MR JAY: Sir, the agenda for next week, or the timetable for 19 What are we doing now, Mr Jay? 20 20 next week. On Monday the witnesses will be Mr Francis 21 21 MR JAY: Sir, it looks like a three-day week. Aldhouse, Charlotte Harris, Peter Burden. Their LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Actually, Mr Caplan will be delighted 22 22 statements have been enable available to the core 23 about that because he was complaining that last week and 23 participants, as indeed have Tuesday's witnesses, who 24 this week made eight days, whereas it's actually only 24 are Stephen Nott, Chris Atkins and David Leigh. 25 25 going to make seven. Wednesday the 7th we are taking off. Page 98 Page 100

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. MR JAY: On Thursday there is an academics day. We'll be calling up to seven academics to assist the Inquiry. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: That will be quite hard work. MR JAY: How many we call, I think, is being put under or given active consideration. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I have no problem about them being — I think the phrase in Australia is "hot-tubbed". It is. Don't laugh. In other words, that some of them can — they don't all need to be individual, they can be together. MR JAY: We were thinking along those lines. Exactly how this is going to be orchestrated is still being considered, but that seems the most appropriate way, some sort of interactive academics day. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Correct. MR JAY: On Friday it's going to be less interactive, because we're going to call Mr Thomas. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: So we're doing four days next week, so Mr Caplan gets his way, seven days but seven days week by week. So any set of weeks, one only has seven days. MR JAY: Yes. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I don't promise to keep that. It's	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	INDEX Discussion re procedure
25	seven days per fortnight at the moment, but I'm not	24 25	
	Page 101	25	Page 103
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	bound by that. MR JAY: Indeed, the week commencing 12 December is going to be a four-day week. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Oh, all right. So I shouldn't have made the crack. MR JAY: Only because the following week, that commencing 19 December, obviously the last week before Christmas, is perforce a three-day week. 12 December is largely a News International week, if I can so describe it. LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. Thank you very much. Has everybody got that? Thank you very much. (4.47 pm) (The hearing adjourned until 10 o'clock on Monday, 5 December 2011)		Tage 105

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