Tuesday, 13 December 2011

2 (11.30 am)

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- 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Mr Jay, I'm very sorry to everybody
- 4 for keeping them. I was not in control of my own
- 5 timetable.
- 6 MR JAY: The first witness today, please, is Mr Lawrence
- 7 Abramson.
- 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.
- 9 MR LAWRENCE HOWARD ABRAMSON (sworn)
- 10 Questions by MR JAY
- 11 MR JAY: Sit down, please, Mr Abramson, and make yourself
- comfortable. Can you provide us with your full name?
- 13 A. It's Lawrence Howard Abramson.
- 14 Q. You have a file we have prepared for you and in that
- 15 file, under tab 2, you will find your first witness
- statement, which you dated 23 September.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And your second witness statement in its final
- incarnation is dated 8 December; is that right?
- 20 A. I'm sure it is, yes.
- 21 Q. It's under tab 7?

A. It is, yes.

22 A. Yes.

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- 23 Q. There's a statement of truth which you've appended to
- both witness statements. Subject to a minor correction
- 25 you wish to make to paragraph 7 of your first witness Page 1
- 2 he's about to give me access to have been cut off.
- 3 Q. The correction you wish to make, on my understanding, if

statement, is this your evidence, Mr Abramson?

- 4 you look at paragraph 7, 01128, the first page of your
- 5 first witness statement, you wish to correct the date as
- 6 to when you first started working for News -- which, of
- 7 course, is News International -- and other related
- 8 companies. You wish to correct that date, as
- 9 I understand it?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. To when?
- 12 A. It seems to be 2005 when I did my first piece of work
- 13 for News.
- 14 Q. You, of course, are a solicitor. You were a partner at
- a firm called Harbottle & Lewis as from 1 September
- 16 1998; is that right?
- 17 A. That's right, yes.
- 18 Q. And you left in May 2010 to join another firm; is that
- 19 correct?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. Your specialism or specialisms, please, Mr Abramson?
- 22 A. I'm a litigator and I have particular expertise in the
- 23 media and entertainment industries.
- 24 Q. Thank you. Now, waiver of privilege -- that's legal
- 25 professional privilege -- has been given in relation to
 - Page 2

- 1 your evidence. For the purpose of preparing either or
- 2 both witness statements, did you have access to
- 3 Harbottle & Lewis files?
- 4 A. I did, yes. Not the original but a photocopy of it.
- 5 Q. On 9 May 2007, if I can take you back to then --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- were you approached by Mr John Chapman of
- 8 News International to perform a particular task?
- 9 A. I was, yes.
- 10 Q. Was there a telephone conversation on that day which is
- evidenced by an entry in your daybook, which we know is
- 12 LHA5?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Under our tab 8. The transcript of it is 33448.
- 15 A. Yes, I have it.
- 16 Q. Can we run through this and see what interpretation you
- 17 can provide?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. It is necessarily elliptical since these are notes
- 20 presumably you were taking during the course of the
- 21 conversation, Mr Chapman, or --
- 22 A. That's right, yes.
- 23 Q. "Work -- cut off emails."
- 24 Do you know what that means?
- 25 A. I think he's telling me that he has a new piece and work Page 3
 - C
- 1 and that he's telling me that some of the emails that
- 3 Q. In what sense cut off, please?
- 4 A. They're incomplete. We see that on the file itself.
- 5 They end in the middle of a sentence, middle of a line,
- 6 and they just don't go any further.
- 7 Q. Is that due to some IT glitch or did you have any idea
- 8 why they were cut off?
- 9 A. It must have been some IT glitch at News. We were given
- access to the server, not the actual emails themselves,
- so there had to be some IT issue there.
- 12 Q. Fair enough. Then it says:
- 13 "-- 2 others."
- 14 Can you help us with that?
- 15 A. Yes. I -- the short answer is I don't remember exactly
- what was being said at the time, but doing the best
- 17 I can, I believe that he's telling me that Mr Goodman
- has made allegations that two others were aware of his
- 19 activities.
- 20 Q. Fair enough.
 - "-- Mulcaire -- on books. Got paid TT plus cash."
- I think we can work out what that might be.
- 23 A. Very well.
- 24 Q. Then "cut off" again --
- 25 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Help me with "TT", Mr Jay. Page 4

1 (Pages 1 to 4)

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O. I understand:

A. For Mulcaire.

- 1 MR JAY: Telegraphic transfer.
- 2 A. That's right.
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Thank you.
- 4 MR JAY: We know he was getting paid, under the contract,
- 5 something in the region of 105,000 a year on a monthly
- 6 basis, so that's probably a reference to that, and the
- 7 cash -- maybe I should ask you about the cash. What
- 8 understanding did you have about the cash?
- 9 A. He told me that Mulcaire was paid by News, both by
- 10 telegraphic transfer and by cash.
- Q. Yes. The "cut off", is that another reference to the 11
- 12 cut-off emails?
- 13 A. I think so, yes.
- 14 Q. And then:
- 15 "Other journalists used Mulcaire."
- 16 A. Yes, he was telling me that there were other journalists
- 17 at News that used Mulcaire. Mulcaire was a private
- 18 investigator, so I don't think he was telling me that
- 19 other journalists used Mulcaire for phone hacking, but
- 20 he's telling me that other just journalists are using
- 21 Mulcaire for quite legitimate ...
- 22 Q. You think for legitimate or illegitimate reasons?
- 23 A. I don't know one way or the other but I think he's
- 24 telling me that other journalists use Mulcaire for
- 25 legitimate reasons.

Page 5

- 24 Q. Then the final fragment in LHA5:
- 25 "Blank emails."

A. Yes.

Page 7

- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I'm sorry, I've not got from this 1
- 2 note the word "phone hacking" yet at all.
- 3 A. Sir, that's probably correct, but this what is not
- 4 a complete transcript of what he's telling me. This is
- 5 me making notes of things I might need to remember
- 6 later.
- 7 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I see.
- MR JAY: The context is that we know from other evidence
- 9 that Messrs Mulcaire and Goodman by this stage had
- 10 received prison sentences on 26 January 2007 for phone
- 11 hacking offences. Were you aware of that when you spoke
- 12
- 13 A. Oh yes, that would have been the first thing he would
- 14 have told me, "I'm calling you about Clive Goodman."
- 15 O. So the context there is phone hacking or is it more
- 16 general? Can you recall?
- 17 A. At this stage in the conversation, I'm probably not
- 18 clear where it's going. He's giving me background
- 19 information. He's explaining a few things that he --
- 20 that I need to be aware of and then he's going to tell
- 21 me what he wants me to do.
- 22 Q. Yes. Well, we're going to see his letter of 10 May.
- 23 A. I think he would have told me that he's putting all this
- 24 in writing anyway, so I'm only making a few scribbled
- 25 notes to help me along because I know there's an email Page 6

A. It's the same point as the cut-off emails and we see in 1

coming with a more full set of instructions.

I'm continuing with this exhibit. That, we know, is

O. Then the next sentence -- it's not even a sentence:

A. News were concerned not to -- he's telling me that

Mulcaire making the same sort of allegations that

they're concerned not to provoke Mulcaire either by

Goodman was making, or, conversely, by Goodman's

allegations provoking Mulcaire. That was obviously

A. What he's telling me there is that News are concerned to

Clive Goodman making allegations that there were others

contain the publicity that will inevitably arise from

Q. So this related to what Goodman might say, and what

at News that were aware of his activities.

Mulcaire might say as well; is that right?

"Concern not to provoke Mulcaire?"

"Alexander is code name."

the code name for Mr Mulcaire.

What does that mean?

a concern that News had.

O. "How do we contain it?"

- the file there are some emails that are just blank.
- 3 He's saying, "Don't be alarmed, that's how they are."
- 4 Q. An email arrived the following day from Mr Chapman.
- 5 It's in LHA2, which is your tab 4, and it's our document
- 01171. 6
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I don't know how good a copy this is.
- 9 A. It's not a very good copy, but I'm familiar with the
- 10 email.
- 11 Q. There's a better one directly underneath your tab 11.
- 12 A. Actually, there's one on the screen as well. Yes,
- 13 that's a better one.
- 14 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Just be careful. I think we just
- 15 ought to leave this one onscreen because I notice the
- 16 one on screen is redacted.
- 17 A. It is.
- MR JAY: 01171 is the one we're going to be looking at, as 18
- 19 it were, publicly, and we're going to be quite careful
- 20 with some names. I'm not going to mention them, in
- 21 other words. Mr Abramson.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. But these are your instructions, that on 5 February 2007
- 24 you're told by Mr Chapman:
- 25 "We terminated the employment of Clive Goodman, the Page 8

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

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- 1 royal correspondent of News of the World, following his 2 imprisonment for conspiracy to intercept voicemail
- 3 messages."

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- There's reference to Mr Mulcaire. You're faxed a copy of the termination letter and then other letters, one of which we'll look at in a moment.
- 7 "The letter of 14 March requests certain emails
 8 which Goodman believed to be potentially relevant to his
- 9 appeal. This request was refused. However, both myself
- and Daniel Cloke, our head of HR, went through all the
- emails fitting into the above categories which our IT
- department were able to recover from archive. The
- purpose of this exercise was to find any evidence in
- such emails to support the contentions made by Goodman 14
- in his letter of 2 March, paragraphs I and II -- ie that
- his illegal actions were known about and supported
- 17 [words redacted] and that [words redacted] and others
- 18 were carrying out similar illegal procedures. We found
- 19 nothing that amounted to reasonable evidence of either
- of the above contentions. Because of the bad publicity
- 21 that could result in an allegation in an employment
- 22 tribunal that we had covered up potentially damaging
- evidence found on our email trawl, I would ask that you
- or a colleague carry out an independent review of the
- emails in question and report back to me with any Page 9
- 1 findings of material that could possibly tend to support
- either of Goodman's contentions. We will make available
- 3 to you access to the emails in question as soon as
- 4 possible."
- 5 So your brief, as it were, was to identify material
- 6 that could possibly tend to support either of Goodman's
- 7 contentions. Do you see that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Quite a low standard of proof?
- 10 A. In -- material in the emails.
- 11 Q. Yes. So we see the background, News International's
- letter to Mr Goodman, which is referred to here, was
- sent on 5 February 2007, and it's our document 01174.
- 14 A. I'm sorry, where do I find that?
- 15 Q. It's under tab 4 in your bundle.
- 16 A. Thank you.
- 17 Q. Just a few pages later on.
- 18 A. Tab 4, did you say?
- 19 Q. It's under tab 4 in your bundle.
- 20 A. It's the same --
- $21\,$ $\,$ Q. Tab 4. I'm working from the tabs on the far right-hand
- side, Mr Abramson.
- 23 A. I'm sorry, tab 4 in my bundle is LHA2.
- 24 Q. That's correct.
- 25 A. Yes, I'm sorry, I have it, yes.

Page 10

- 1 Q. This is from Mr Hinton to Mr Goodman on 5 February
- 2 terminating -- I'm paraphrasing this -- Mr Goodman's
 - employment but -- and this is the third paragraph:
- 4 "... given your unblemished and frequently
- 5 distinguished years of service ... it's been decided
 - that upon your termination you will receive one year's
- 7 salary."
- 8 Do you see that?
- 9 A. I do, yes.
- 10 Q. Mr Goodman's appeal letter, which we have in redacted
- form, is really the next document, 01176.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Where he makes, as it were, four points the. The first point is:
- 15 "The decision is perverse is because my actions were
- carried out with the full knowledge and approval of
- 17 [redacted names]."
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. "The decision is inconsistent because ... other members
- of staff were carrying out the same illegal procedures."
- 21 The third point relates to Mr Crone, as does the
- 22 fourth point.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So you were looking at the emails in this context. On
- 25 14 May, you sent a standard retainer letter to

Page 11

- 1 Mr Chapman, which is directly under your tab 6. It's
- 2 our document 01285.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. In which you set out the basis of your charging,
- 5 et cetera.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. You were reviewing, pursuant to this instruction,
- 8 approximately 2,500 emails for a particular purpose; is
- 9 that correct?
- 10 A. Yes. I'm not sure the figure of 2,500 was something
- that was communicated to me at the time, but certainly
- 12 I'm aware of that now.
- 13 Q. Was that review undertaken by you or by those for whom
- 14 you were responsible under your supervision?
- 15 A. It was a team of junior lawyers, two paralegals and one
- trainee under my supervision.
- 17 Q. Could you confirm, please, in general terms what emails,
- if any, you saw at this stage?
- 19 A. The emails I -- at this stage? None. I went onto the
- server just to check that it worked. Are you asking me
- 21 during the course of the exercise?
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 A. The emails I saw were those that were brought to my
- 24 attention by the junior lawyers. They did the initial
- 25 trawl and they would bring to my attention anything that Page 12

3 (Pages 9 to 12)

1 they were concerned about, using quite a conservative Q. Which is under our tab 6. I think it's going to be 2 approach to make sure that nothing fell through the net. 2 document 33444. 3 There were also a bundle of emails that arrived 3 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: How about tab 7? 4 about roughly halfway through the process from Daniel 4 MR JAY: It's tab 7, yes. 5 Cloke in hard copy that he wanted me to look at. 5 A. Yes. I'm sorry, which paragraphs did you say? Q. I'll ask you a little bit more about that in a moment. 6 6 O. 19 to 21. 7 A. Yes. 7 You wrote a letter to the Select Committee on 24 August 8 of this year, which is under tab 3 in this bundle. 8 Q. Paragraph 20. You were asked some questions 9 9 A. Yes. specifically on the letter to the Select Committee we 10 Q. Can I just ask you, please, about the last paragraph on 10 have just looked at. 11 the first page of the letter, which is our document 11 In paragraph 20, you say: 12 01133. 12 "There were some emails that I brought to 13 A. Yes. 13 Mr Chapman's attention even though they did not show 14 Q. We see there that on 24 May, you had a longer 14 evidence of knowledge by others of phone hacking by 15 conversation with Mr Chapman lasting between 18 and 24 15 Clive Goodman or show that others were engaged in 16 minutes: 16 similar illegal activities or were slightly outside the "Having reviewed a limited number of emails that the 17 17 date range I had been asked to look in. This was 18 junior emails had produced to me, I was able to satisfy 18 because, having seen them, I wanted to ensure that Mr Chapman was aware of them in the event that the 19 myself in most instances that they fell outside the 19 20 scope of what Harbottle & Lewis have been instructed to 20 matter ever proceeded on to an ET, because in my view 21 21 consider. There remain somewhere in the order of they contained potentially confidential or sensitive 22 a dozen emails that I had a query about. I therefore 22 matters that News may not want to have to give 23 spoke to John Chapman and discussed these emails with 23 disclosure of." 24 him, and during the course of that conversation, John 24 Are you able to give us any idea of what these 25 25 Chapman explained and I accepted why those emails fell emails were about, apart from the fact that they might Page 13 Page 15 1 outside the scope of what News International instructed be potentially embarrassing? 1 2 Harbottle & Lewis to consider." 2 A. I'm hesitating because I know you don't want to go into 3 So can we be slightly more precise about these 3 the content of the emails. They showed confidential 4 emails? Do these emails fall outside the relevant date 4 sources, concerns not to reveal sources. They revealed 5 or are these emails irrelevant emails? 5 cash payments -- will you stop me if you say something 6 A. It's not that they fell outside -- at this stage, the 6 you don't want -- I'm not supposed to --7 ones I'm talking to Mr Chapman about on 24 May don't 7 Q. Yes. 8 fall outside the date range. They fell outside what 8 A. They revealed quite an active involvement in 9 I had been asked to consider because they did not 9 Clive Goodman's prosecution. They showed the -- trying 10 support Mr Goodman's allegations of others being 10 to influence the way the prosecution was being 11 aware of his phone hacking activities. 11 conducted -- or the defence was being conducted. And 12 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: What was your concern about them? 12 there is one email that's been redacted that I thought 13 A. My concern, sir, was that I was aware that there was 13 would not reflect well on --14 a possibility that this matter might reach an employment 14 Q. Yes, I'll stop you there, Mr Abramson. I think that's 15 tribunal and that News would have much wider disclosure 15 a sufficient flavour. 16 obligations if that happened than they would have just 16 Can I be clear, though, about one matter, and I just 17 responding to the documents that Clive Goodman had asked 17 want you to answer this question, please, "yes" or "no". 18 for, and I felt that these emails showed News, for one 18 At this stage -- and we're on 24 May 2007 -- had you 19 reason or another, in an unfavourable light and were the 19 seen any emails which went back as far as the year 2003? 20 sort of emails that I had to flag up to them, that: "If 20 A. No. 21 this came to a tribunal and you had to disclose these, 21 Q. So is this right: the earliest email you saw went back 22 22 they could result in adverse publicity for you." to 2005, possibly? 23 MR JAY: You deal with this in paragraphs 19 to 21 of your 23 A. Yes, I believe that's right. 24 second witness statement. 24 Q. Thank you. 25 A. Yes. 25 There's one slightly earlier document which you Page 14 Page 16

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formulations?

difference?

right?

18 A. Yes.

- 1 don't mind me referring to, Mr Abramson. It's under
- 2 your tab 11, dated 16 May 2007. It's our number 20039.
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. This is an attendance note which covers the issue of
- 5 unfair dismissal, which possibly was outside your
- 6 specific area of expertise --
- 7 A. Absolutely. I'd brought in another assistant to provide
- 8 the advice on that.
- 9 Q. Was the concern at this stage, aside from the merits of
- 10 any unfair dismissal claim, to limit any adverse
- 11 publicity which might arise from whatever Mr Goodman
- 12 might say in the ET proceedings?
- A. Yes, I think that's right. 13
- 14 Q. You, I think -- indeed I know -- gave a draft of your
- 15 advice to Mr Chapman for consideration by him before it 15
- 16 would be formalised?
- 17 A. That's right, yes.
- 18 Q. It is a document which, unfortunately, because of what
- 19 it contains, we can't put up on the screen. It hasn't
- 20 been redacted. But in order to identify it, it is
- 21 20087, and you will find it under tab 11.
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. What we see here is that at 13.13 hours on 25 May it
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25 "Draft for discussion this pm."

activities prior to their arrest."

the self-same tab 11. Do you see that?

Page 17

It's been sent on your behalf to Mr Chapman.

let us have access to from the accounts ..."

And then I'm not going to mention names.

"Draft for discussion this pm. We have, on your

instructions, searched the emails that you were able to

"I confirm that we did not find any evidence that

Clive Goodman, Glenn Mulcaire or any other journalists

The final advice was given on 29 May. Again, it

can't be put on the screen. It's page 20134 and under

Q. After the names, which have been notionally redacted,

"I can confirm that we did not find anything in

evidence that Clive Goodman's illegal actions were known

those emails which appear to us to be reasonable

proved that [notionally redacted names] knew that

at the News of the World were engaged in illegal

Goodman/Mulcaire counts but were counts relating to five 1

Page 19

in relation to counts 16 to 20, which were not the

2 other targets, that Mr Justice Gross referred generally

A. Yes. I see the difference in the wording, yes.

A. Yes. Yes, I can see -- well, there's plainly

a difference in the two formulations.

Q. Do you think that there is a difference between the two

Q. Had you asked yourself the question: "Was there evidence

Q. Fair enough. We know from other evidence -- and I think

29 June 2007 that your firm received from the Central

sentencing remarks delivered on 10 January 2007; is that

LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think he got the whole transcript

MR JAY: Yes. We know from what Mr Justice Gross said that

which possibly tended to support either of Goodman's

contentions?" might your advice have been any

A. In the emails that I had seen at that point, probably

I can take this quite shortly -- that it wasn't until

Criminal Court the transcript of Mr Justice Gross'

A. We got the transcript of the -- what I would call the

judgment first, and then -- I wasn't aware of this until

very recently, but it does appear that we got the full

not. I don't think there would have been.

- 3 to others at News International with whom Mr Mulcaire
- 4 might have been working.

transcript of that day as well.

- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you follow me? 6
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Had you had Mr Justice Gross' remarks available when you
- 9 advised on 29 May 2007, might your advice have been any
- 10 different?
- A. My advice was limited to the content of the emails. So 11
- 12 I don't think it would have been.
- 13 Q. Okay. Can I go back, please, to your second witness
- 14 statement. Paragraph 23.
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. You indicate what your approach was and you have 16
- 17 explained that approach to us. We need your help with
- 18 a further batch of emails, which you refer to in
- 19 paragraph 25.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Which were printed out on 24 May 2007. Did those emails
- 22 relate back to an earlier period of time, namely 2003?
- 23 A. They did, yes.
- 24 Q. Were those emails considered by you at this stage,
- 25 namely at all material times between 24 May 2007 and, Page 20

A. Yes. 22

A. Yes, I do.

you say:

about ..."

Et cetera.

- 23 Q. Your instructions, given to you on 10 May, had set out
- 24 a slightly lower test, "possibly tend to support" rather
- than "reasonable evidence". Do you recall that? 25

Page 18

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

- 1 say, the end of June 2007?
- 2 A. No, I don't believe they were.
- 3 Q. It's clear from your witness statement that those emails
- 4 were considered by others in your office, is this right,
- 5 working under your supervision?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And were attempts made by them to draw those matters to
- 8 your attention, if I can put it in that general way?
- 9
- 10 Q. It's clear from what you're saying in paragraphs 28 to
- 11 30 of your witness statement that owing to the
- 12 intervention of a holiday and other considerations, and
- 13 having regard to your billing records, which you have
- 14 looked at, you're sure that you did not look at the 2003
- 15 emails which I'm referring to rather obliquely and
- 16 generally; is that correct?
- A. "Sure" is a high threshold to apply to something which 17
- 18 happened four and a half years ago, but to my best
- 19 recollection, I don't believe I saw those emails.
- 20 Q. May I put the question in these terms, being, I hope,
- very careful as I do pose the question. Have you since 21
- 22 seen the 2003 emails?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. It may be a bit of a hypothetical question, but had you
- 25 seen those emails back in May 2007, would your advice Page 21
- have been the same or different? 1
- 2 A. Different.
- 3 Q. I'm not going to go into that any further, you
- 4 understand, Mr Abramson. It might indicate to us
- 5 whether you had seen those emails, because you've told
- 6 us that had you seen them, your advice would have been
- 7 different. But can I ask you, though, about one
- 8 particular email that you sent to Mr Chapman on 25 May
- 9 2007, which again, I'm afraid, we're not going to be
- 10 able to put on the screen for the self-same reason.
- 11 It's number 20107, which is under your tab 11.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. You can look at an email which is in the middle of the
- 14 page from Mr Chapman to you, timed at 12.39 hours on
- 15 Friday, 25 May. Are you with me, Mr Abramson?
- A. Yes, I am. 16
- Q. Mr Chapman is making a few suggestions to the draft 17
- 18 email you had previously sent him and which we have
- 19 looked at.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. We can skim-read it, but the sentence which might
- 22 interest us is the penultimate sentence, beginning,
- 23 "Equally"; do you see that?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. This is a sentence which Mr Chapman is suggesting might 25 Page 22

- 1 be added to your advice?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. "Equally, having seen a copy of Clive Goodman's notice
- 4 of appeal of 2 March 2007, we did not find anything that
- 5 we consider to be directly relevant to the grounds of
- appeal put forward by him." 6
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. That was his suggestion.
- A. Yes.
- 10 Q. It's clear that you rejected it because if you look just
- 11 above the email I've just referred to, you sent him an
- 12 email timed at 17.53 hours on 25 May, which says:
- 13 "I can't say the last sentence in the penultimate
- 14 paragraph, I'm afraid. Can we discuss next week?"
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Why couldn't you say it?
- 17 A. I think the short answer is it wasn't the exercise we'd
- 18 been asked to conduct. We'd been asked to look for
- 19 whether there was evidence in emails that supported
- 20 specific allegations, and to have then signed off on an
- 21 opinion that was much wider than the exercise we'd been
- 22 conducting would have been wholly wrong and I couldn't
- 23 have done that.
- 24 Q. In terms of the narrow brief that you had been given,
- 25 focusing on these emails in the context of (i) and (ii)

Page 23

- 1 of Mr Goodman's appeal letter --
- 2
- 3 Q. -- you felt that you could not go as far as Mr Chapman
- 4 wanted you to go?
- 5 A. That's right. We hadn't been asked to consider grounds
- 6 (iii) or (iv), so there might be any number of evidence
- 7 there that might have been relevant to those grounds
- 8 that we just hadn't looked at.
- 9 Q. Did you have a discussion with Mr Chapman about this
- 10 additional sentence, or was it done entirely by email
- 11 exchange?
- 12 A. I don't believe it was done -- I don't recall any
- 13 further conversation. There's no reference in the time
- 14 records to any further conversation, so the best
- 15 evidence I have is no.
- Q. Thank you. Can I just understand, in my final question, 16
- 17 what you believe the purpose of your providing this
- 18 advice in writing to News International was. It's
- 19 evident that it would or might be of comfort to them for
- 20 an external legal adviser to consider a batch of emails
- and to express an opinion about them, but was it your 22 understanding that your written advice, which was
- 23 ultimately given in the form of a letter, would be or
- 24 might be more widely disseminated?
 - A. It was their -- the opinion was given to them. I would Page 24

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

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- expect them to come back to me if they were going to disseminate any further than to them, any further
- 3 than -- well, any further.
- 4 MR JAY: Thank you, Mr Abramson. Those are all my
- 5 questions.
- 6 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: All right. Thank you very much
- 7 indeed.
- 8 MR JAY: Sir, the next witness is Mr Pike. I haven't been
- 9 able to check whether he's arrived. He has arrived.
- 10 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: I think Mr Rhodri Davies wants to 10
- 11 have a word with you.
- 12 MR JAY: Excuse me for turning my back.
- 13 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes, of course. (Pause)
- 14 MR JAY: We can proceed with Mr Pike.
- 15 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Very good. Thank you. (Pause)
- 16 MR JULIAN CHARLES PIKE (sworn)
- 17 Questions by MR JAY
- 18 MR JAY: Mr Pike, I invite you to make yourself comfortable
- and to provide us with your full name.
- 20 A. Julian Charles Pike.
- 21 Q. Mr Pike, you provided the Inquiry with three witness
- 22 statements.
- 23 A. That's correct.
- 24 Q. The first is dated 23 September of this year. It's
- 25 under tab 1 in the bundle we prepared for you. The
- 1 second is dated 2 December and the third is equally

Page 25

- 2 dated 2 December. Appended to each statement is
- 3 a statement of truth; is that right?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- $5\,$ $\,$ Q. So this is your formal evidence to the Inquiry; is that
- 6 right?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. There's been no waiver of legal professional privilege
- 9 in relation to the evidence you are providing this
- 10 Inquiry?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 Q. Can I just understand, please, your professional
- background? You've been a partner at Farrer & Co since 13
- 14 1999; is that correct?
- 15 A. That's right.
- 16 Q. And Farrers have been advising NGN and
- 17 News International for about 25 years; is that right?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. In general terms, the sort of advice that you have been
- 20 giving them, if you could give us a snapshot picture of
- 21 that, please, Mr Pike?
- 22 A. It typically involves doing defamation claims, privacy
- 23 claims, more recent times. Also involves advice in
- relation to reporting restriction hearings, contempt
- applications, et cetera.

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- 1 Q. In paragraph 11 of your first witness statement, which
- 2 is our page 01312, in relation to a question which was
- 3 covering the legality of phone hacking, computer hacking
- 4 and blagging, you say:

"Separate from advising on an ad hoc basis as a question may arise in a particular case, the firm has

a question may arise in a particular case, the firm hat
 never been instructed to advise [any of the relevant

8 companies] on methods employed by journalists to obtain

information."

O Then you deal specifically with one particular case,

- but then you make it clear in paragraph 13 that you have
- been advising in relation to individual phone hacking
- 13 claims, in particular Mr Gordon Taylor's claim; is that
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. That's all right, yes.
- 16 Q. Can I ask you, please, this general question. We know
- 17 that News International were saying, if I can put it in
- these terms, that Mr Goodman was one rogue reporter.
- When did you believe that that was untrue?
- 20 A. That would be obviously when material came forward in
- 21 the Taylor case.
- 22 Q. So if we can get our bearings, the application made by
- 23 Mr Taylor to the Metropolitan Police for third-party
- 24 disclosure was made in January 2008. It was provided to
- the defendant, for whom you were acting in April 2008,

- 1 so are we to deduce that it was at that point that you
- 2 no longer believed the rogue reporter defence?
- 3 A. That's right.
- 4 Q. Did you have any suspicions about the accuracy of that
- 5 defence at any earlier stage?
- 6 A. I think we're beginning to tread into privileged
- 7 territory. Unless Mr Davies is happy for me to answer
- 8 that question, I think I'm going over the line into
- 9 privileged information.
- 10 Q. Can I ask you the question in these terms: given that
- the targets of counts 16 to 20 on the Goodman/Mulcaire
- indictment were outside the bailiwick of Mr Goodman, who
- 3 was the royal correspondent, did you not, as a matter of
- common sense and having regard to Mr Justice Gross'
- sentencing remarks, which must have known about, start
- to harbour doubts about Mr Goodman being only one rogue
- 17 reporter?
- 18 A. Speaking generally, I think one can have suspicions, but
- one has to follow the evidence.
- $20\,$ $\,$ Q. Are you able to assist the Inquiry further as to that
- 21 without going into privileged matters?
- 22 A. As much as I'd be happy to do so, I think the difficulty
- would be that I would be going into privileged
- 24 territory; I'm sorry.
- Q. Okay. Did you advise in relation to Mr Max Clifford's Page 28

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- 1 claim?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 O. There is a publicly available document which covers his
- 4 claim, so I can refer to it without there being any
- 5 difficulties about privilege. It's in a file which
- 6 looks like this, Mr Pike. I don't know whether you have
- 7 it.?
- 8 A. File 4?
- 9 Q. File 4. It says at the front:
- 10 "Tom Crone, Julian Pike and others."
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. If you look under tab 1, Mr Myler's evidence to the
- 13 Select Committee which was sent as recently as
- 14 1 December, on the first page of that, Max Clifford
- settlement, second paragraph:
- 16 "The settlement negotiations were overseen and
- directed by the chief executive, Rebekah Brooks. She
- 18 knew Mr Clifford well and I believe it's likely that she
- spoke directly to Mr Clifford about his claim. Mr Crone
- and Mr Pike were also involved in the settlement
- 21 discussions."
- 22 Is that correct?
- 23 A. Not completely, no. I was not involved in any
- 24 settlement negotiations as substantive claim. I did
- deal with the issues of costs.

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3 I don't h

damage?

- 2 A. Again, we're treading into privileged territory.
 - I don't have a waiver.
- 4 Q. But just looking at what we can see in this letter and
- 5 going no further, and excluding from your mind, if you
 - have to, any privileged matters, can you assist us,
- 7 please?
- 8 A. I don't think I can, unless -- you know, I'm very happy
 - to help the Inquiry, but the difficulty is my client has
- said it's not waiving privilege, so ...
- 11 Q. Okay. May I ask you, please, about the Gordon Taylor
- settlement. Did you tell Mr Mark Lewis:
- "He was negotiating [that's Mr Lewis was
- 14 negotiating] with Mr Murdoch."
- 15 A. My position on this is very clear. It's on the record.
- 16 The answer's no.
- 17 Q. The answer's no?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. There are, again, as there were with Mr Clifford's
- 20 claim, documents in the public domain, which you,
- I think, provided to the Select Committee. These are in
- the large lever-arch file, which has been called file 3,
- 23 under tab 7. This is the sheaf of documents which
- includes leading counsel's opinion. Do you follow me,
- 25 Mr Pike?

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- 1 Q. Okay. Reading on:
- 2 "As far as I'm able to recollect, the only
- 3 involvement I had concerning Mr Clifford's claim arose
- 4 at a meeting I attended with Mrs Brooks, Mr Crone and
- 5 Mr Pike in Mrs Brooks' office."
- 6 Pausing there, do you remember that meeting,
- 7 Mr Pike?
- 8 A. I think I know what meeting he's referring to, yes.
- 9 Q. Mr Myler can't remember when this meeting took place.
- 10 Do you know approximately when it took place?
- 11 A. Probably some time around January/early February 2010,
- 12 I think.
- 13 Q. "It must have been prior to the settlement being agreed
- 14 with Mr Clifford, because I remember Mr Crone and
- Mr Pike advising Mrs Brooks that the amount she
- indicated she was prepared to offer Mr Clifford in
- 17 settlement of his claim was more than they advised was
- 18 necessary."
- 19 Is that correct?
- 20 A. I think -- sorry, I am just thinking as to whether or
- 21 not privilege prevents me from answering that question.
- I think the answer is that I can answer that question
- and that is correct.
- 24 Q. Was it clear to you, Mr Pike, that News International
- 25 were prepared to pay an overvalue to avoid reputational Page 30

- 1 A. I do.
- Q. Working on the pagination which either you or the Select
- 3 Committee provided, if you could look, please, at
- 4 document JCP5. Are these your notes?
 - 5 A. They are.
- 6 Q. Do they relate, as we can see perhaps more clearly at
- 7 JCP7, to a telephone call you had with Colin Myler on
- 8 27 May 2008?
- 9 A. Correct.
- 10 Q. Were they notes which were made at the time or
- 11 subsequently?
- 12 A. They are exactly contemporaneous on the telephone call.
- 13 Q. I'll just ask you a few questions about the transcript.
- 14 It starts by saying:
 - "Spoke to James Murdoch. Not any options. Wait for
- 16 silk's view."
- 17 I'm not going to ask you further about that. Then
- 18 it says:

15

- "One result of Goodman, CG [that, of course, is
- 20 Goodman] sprayed around allegations. Horrid process."
- 21 What did you take that to mean?
- 22 A. That is a reference to the employment claim that
- 23 Clive Goodman brought.
- 24 Q. So he sprayed around allegations. We've seen them in
- a letter he wrote, I think, on 2 March of 2007. What

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- 1 did you think the "horrid process" was a reference to?
- 2 A. I think that was to the fact that these allegations had
- 3 been made and those -- that News had to address them.
- 4 Q. Was it being conveyed to you that there was a need to
- 5 close down these sort of allegations; in other words,
- 6 stop them either being made in the future or, at the
- 7 very least, entering the public domain?
- 8 A. No, I don't think that was being conveyed to me at the
- 9
- 10 Q. You didn't get that feeling at all from Mr Myler during 10
- 11 the course of this call?
- 12 A. No, I don't think so, no.
- Q. Can I deal lower down -- it's level with the upper hole 13
- 14 punch:
- 15 "Didn't believe culture in the newsroom -- editor."
- 16 Can you assist us with interpreting that, Mr Pike?
- 17 A. I think, as best I can recollect, that that's
- 18 a reference to Mr Myler saying that he didn't believe
- 19 there was a culture in the newsroom to that effect.
- Q. Then underneath it says: 20
- 21 "Didn't know [indecipherable]."
- 22 It looks to me, Mr Pike, that these are your notes.
- 23 If you go to the manuscript, you say "didn't know
- 24 a lot"; is that correct?
- 25 A. I think that's one interpretation. The reason why I put Page 33
 - "indecipherable" in here was because I couldn't be
- 2 certain, so I wasn't going to make a statement as to
- 3 what the words were if I wasn't sure about it. "A lot"
- 4 is definitely an interpretation.
- LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Can you think of another one?
- A. Not immediately, no, sir. But -- it could be "a bit", 6
- 7 for example.
- 8 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Except if you look at your Bs, you
- 9 write them differently. There you are, previous line.
- 10 Doesn't matter.
- 11 A. Yes.

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- 12 MR JAY: Assuming, as I'm afraid I've done, that it says
- "didn't know a lot", are you able to assist at all with 13
- 14 what that might be a reference to?
- A. No, not now, no.
- Q. I'm going to miss out some parts and look at the middle 16
- 17 of the page:
- 18 "-- Assurances to PCC and then ditto assurances made
- 19 by CM to staff."
- 20 Do you know what that was about?
- 21 A. Yes, the whole of this section is referring to what
- 22 Mr Myler told me that he had done, I think, once he'd
- 23 come into the business. There's a whole series of them,
- 24 as you can see.
- 25 Q. Yes. Then a little bit lower down:

Page 34

- 1 "CM, my position as editor, cannot ignore it. Back 2 to CG plus. Appealed against his sacking, failed to
 - give direct evidence. Had to be seen new editor
- 3 4
- couldn't be seen to dismiss their allegations." 5
- Again, can you interpret that for us?
- 6 A. Certainly. What Mr Myler was saying to me was that
- 7 these allegations had been made. He'd come in as editor
- 8 and he had to address those allegations. He couldn't be
- 9 seen to be simply dismissing them, so he had to go through a proper process.
- Q. Thank you. Then at the next page: 11
 - "Les no longer here. James would say get rid of him, cut out cancer."
- 14 I'm not going to ask you about what that may mean,
- 15 Mr Pike.
- 16 Can I ask you about another document, which is
- 17 JCP10. So we get our bearings, this is covering -- it's
- 18 a transcript of a call you had with Mr Mark Lewis, who
- 19 of course was your opponent, on 6 June 2008. By that
- 20 point, is this correct, you had obtained and read
- 21 leading counsel's opinion, which we know to be dated
- 22 3 June 2008?
- 23 A. (Nods head)
- 24 Q. Is that right?
- 25 A. That's correct, yeah.

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- Q. We'll have a look at that opinion in a moment. So this 1
- 2 is evidence of a continuing negotiation you're having
- 3 with Mr Lewis with a view to compromising Mr Taylor's
- 4 claim; is that correct?
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. At the top we can see:
- 7 "1.2 million confidentiality."
- 8 Could you help us with that, please?
- 9 A. That is the combined figure of damages and costs that
- 10 Mr Lewis asked for in that conversation and obviously
- 11 the reference to confidentiality is reference to the
- 12 agreement being kept confidential.
- 13 Q. Then immediately underneath that -- it is very difficult
- 14 to decipher your writing -- it does possibly say
- 15 "a part" in the manuscript. Are you able to help us at
- all as to either what it says or what it means? 16
- A. No. I think it does read "a part", which is why I put 17
- 18 it in the transcript of it. I can't help you now as to
- 19 what that means.
- 20 Q. Did Mr Lewis give a breakdown as between damages and
- 21 costs relating to the 1.2 million?
- 22 A. Yes, it's there in the transcript. He wanted £1 million
- 23 damages and £200,000 costs.
- 24 Q. On an indemnity basis; that's right, isn't it?
- A. That's right.

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- Q. What was your assessment of that offer?
- 2 A. It was a demand which was way over the top.
- 3 Q. You didn't have leading counsel's opinion at that stage
- 4 as to quantum, did you?
- 5 A. I did.
- Q. Sorry, you did. My apologies, yes. It came on 3 June.
- 7 A. That's right.
- 8 Q. And leading counsel's figure -- and we'll see it -- it
- 9 was 250,000 or perhaps a bit more, wasn't it?
- 10 A. That's right.
- 11 Q. So we can do the arithmetic ourselves. It's way over
- the level your leading counsel was advising. Did you
- have any other view as to the offer apart from the fact
- it was well over? Perhaps I shouldn't ask the question
- in any tendentious form.
- 16 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: But if this transcript is part of the
- public domain, this offer wasn't a genuine pre-estimate
- of the value of the claim; he's identifying two
- 19 possibilities, isn't he?
- 20 A. Sorry? Help me, sir.
- 21 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Well, he's not suggesting that his
- valuation of the claim as a claim for damages is
- a million pounds. He's identifying why he wants
- 24 a million pounds, isn't he?
- 25~ A. I think he was -- in the conversation, he was doing two

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- 1 things, sir. He wanted a million pounds and he was
- 2 explaining why he wanted it.
- 3 MR JAY: Seven figures not to open his mouth. So in effect 3
- 4 he's making it clear to you that you would need to buy
- 5 him off. That's the truth, isn't it?
- 6 A. That's what it says, yes. I agree.
- 7 Q. Then when it says, seven lines from the end of this:
- 8 "I want to carry on because of issues because NGN is
- 9 wrong and carry on. One way or another, this is going
- 10 to hurt."
- 11 That's Mr Lewis speaking, is it?
- 12 A. No, I don't think so. If you look at the next page,
- 13 JCP11, that's a typed transcript of the call and I think
- what that's a reference to is Mr Lewis quoting
- 15 Mr Taylor.
- 16 Q. Yes. It's Mr Lewis speaking on behalf of his client?
- 17 A. Yes, that's right.
- 18 O. And then:
- 19 "Want to show News of the World stories,
- News of the World doing this rife in organisation."
- That, again, is Mr Lewis speaking, isn't it?
- 22 A. It's Mr Lewis speaking and saying this is what his
- 23 client's views are. I think that's right.
- 24 Q. You knew that Mr Lewis, speaking on behalf of his
- 25 clients, was right, didn't you, when he referred to Page 38

- 1 "rife in organisation"?
- 2 A. Not at that time, no.
- Q. But wasn't that what leading counsel was advising?
- 4 A. Certainly the evidence we had at that stage was
- 5 suggesting that the rogue reporter line wasn't
 - sustainable. We didn't have, at that stage, evidence of
- 7 it being "rife".
- 8 Q. Leading counsel was advising -- and we have this at
 - JCP21, paragraph 6 -- it's true he didn't use the word
- "rife". In paragraph 6, six or seven lines to the
- bottom, he says this:
- "In the light of these facts, there is a powerful
- case that there is or was a culture of illegal
- information access used at NGN in order to produce
- 15 stories for publication."
- 16 A. Yes, but that's with reference more so to the
- 17 Information Commissioner's office documentation, not to
- 18 the police documentation.
- 19 Q. But leading counsel's advice was based on a number of
- 20 factors, wasn't it? The first factor, if we can look
- a little bit earlier in the advice, was the disclosure
- of a contract between, if I can put it in these vague
- 23 terms, someone at News International and Mr Mulcaire in
- 24 2005; that's correct, isn't it?
- 25 A. There was a contract at that date, that's right.

- 1 Q. Referred to in paragraph 4.
- 2 A. Mm-hm.
- 3 Q. It was based also on the "for Neville" email, not that
 - it was described in those terms?
- 5 A. That's right.
- 6 Q. And it was also based on Operation Motorman, wasn't it?
- 7 A. That's right.
- 8 Q. So leading counsel's advice was based on three
- 9 particular matters and led him to conclude, looking at
- those matters collectively, that there was a culture of
- illegal information access used at NGN. That's right,
- isn't it?
- 13 A. I agree with that, absolutely.
- 14 Q. He had also, in paragraph 3, referred to at least three
- journalists -- I'm not going to name them -- who appear
- to have been intimately involved in Mr Mulcaire's
- illegal research into Mr Taylor's affairs? We can see
- that, can't we?
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. It's possible that you didn't agree with leading counsel
- but I'll ask you whether you did in a moment. But the
- 22 reference to a culture of illegal information access
- 23 rather suggests that it was reasonably widespread,
- 24 doesn't it?
- 25 A. I agree with that, but what you're basing it on in the Page 40

- 1 main, in order to generate your culture, are the
- 2 Information Commissioner's documents, more so than the
- 3 two documents you have in relation to Taylor.
- 4 Q. Right.
- 5 LORD LEVESON: Is that right? Because Motorman was by now
- 6 history, wasn't it?
- 7 A. It was historical in terms of it was relating to
- 8 a period prior to 2003.
- 9 LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: And it had been in the public domain?
- 10 A. That's right.
- 11 MR JAY: I just want to analyse the significance of the
- Operation Motorman material just a little bit with you,
- 13 Mr Pike. First of all, we know from what's in the
- 14 public domain and evidence given to this Inquiry that it
- 15 had all been publicised in two reports from the
- 16 Information Commissioner's office which came out in
- 17 2006; is that correct?
- 18 A. That's right.
- 19 Q. Did you know that at the time, in 2008?
- 20 A. Yes, I was aware of that, I think.
- 21 Q. Was not the significance of the Operation Motorman
- 22 material only this: that it was capable of being used as
- 23 similar fact evidence in relation to Mr Taylor's claim
- but it wasn't directly probative of Mr Taylor's claim?
- 25 A. I agree.

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- 2 A. Yes, that's fine.

Q. Would you agree?

- 3 Q. Leading counsel's opinion was clearly saying: there's
- 4 a culture of illegal information access used at this
- 5 company, which -- we can interpret the word "culture" in
- 6 as many ways as we like, but it does rather suggest that
- 7 even if not endemic, it was widespread; would you agree
- 8 with that?
- 9 A. I agree.
- 10 Q. So when we come back to what Mr Lewis was saying about
- 11 it being rife, although one would not have expected you
- to agree with him during the course of without prejudice
- 13 communication, he wasn't necessarily that far off the
- mark, was he?
- 15 A. If you were to describe the illegality as being the
- wider issues raised by the Information Commissioner,
- then no, he wouldn't be. I think, however, what is
- being talked about here in this conversation is the
- 19 specific illegal activity of accessing voicemail
- 20 messages.
- 21 Q. Was it clear to you by this point that it really was in
- your client's interest that these matters should not
- enter the public domain in the form of a contested piece
- 24 of civil litigation?
- 25 A. Self-evident, I'd say.

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- 1 Q. Was that a view which you knew Mr Crone to share?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Was it a view which you knew Mr Myler to share?
- 4 A. Probably. I don't recall having a direct conversation
- 5 with him about that, but probably.
- 6 Q. You, of course, were not at the meeting which took place
- 7 on 10 June 2008 with Mr James Murdoch; is that correct?
- 8 A. That's correct.
 - Q. You can't assist us as to what was discussed, although
- we do know from JCP13 that following that meeting, you
- 11 had a telephone conversation with Mr Crone; is that
- 12 right?

9

- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 Q. And again, following your normal practice, you were
- taking a note during the course of the telephone
- conversation, which we see at JCP12, and that's been
- transcribed for us; is that right?
- 18 A. That's right.
- 19 Q. To the best of your recollection, was this immediately
- after the meeting?
- 21 A. I couldn't say if it was immediately after. I don't
- 22 know. It's quite likely.
- 23 Q. What the note as transcribed says is as follows:
- 24 "Tom, meeting with JM and CM. JM said he wanted to
- 25 think through the options."

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- But all you've done there, presumably, is faithfully
- 2 record what Mr Crone told you; is that correct?
- 3 A. That would be right, yes.
- 4 Q. In the next sentence there's some fairly frank language,
- 5 but I can deal with it in these terms. Mr Myler, is
- 6 this right, wasn't altogether convinced that one should
- 7 go along with Mr Taylor's proposals; is that right?
- 8 A. That's right.
- 9 Q. Because by that stage there had been a Part 36 offer,
- 10 £350,000, hadn't there?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. Which was above Mr Silverleaf's outer limit and in terms
- of managing the litigation risk would surely be plenty
- of money to protect the company against a judgment in
- 15 court, wouldn't it?
- 16 A. That's right.
- 17 Q. Can you help us, though, with the first point after the
- dash? It says:
- "On the end of drip drip, do a deal with them."
- 20 Can you help us with what that might mean?
- 21 A. I'm not entirely sure, no. This is three and a half
- years ago, so I can't be absolutely certain as to what
 - that was a reference to.
- 24 Q. But it might be a reference to ever-increasing offers,
- 25 that you've reached more or less the end -- because

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23

1	350,000 was, after all, a very generous offer indeed	1	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Yes. I wonder whether we can't
2	you've made it clear that there is a bit more in the	2	abbreviate lunch. I don't see why you should all suffer
3	kitty for an early deal, and "do a deal with them" might	3	because of my lateness but I'm very conscious that we
4	mean: "Let's close the deal if we can"?	4	have a fair amount to do today. We can either go on
5	A. It might well be, yes.	5	a bit now or we can resume at quarter 2, but I'm
6	Q. What does the next bit mean:	6	perfectly happy if people object to that. Don't all
7	"Paying them off plus then silence"	7	speak at once.
8	It either says "falls" or "fails".	8	MR JAY: We're making quite good progress in terms of the
9	A. I think it says "fails".	9	timing, but maybe if we were to come back at 1.45 pm.
10	Q. What to that mean?	10	LORD JUSTICE LEVESON: Anybody has any objection on that?
11	A. I think that's a reference to saying that you reach an	11	Thank you very much. We'll say 1.45 pm.
12	agreement with them, but then the confidentiality around	12	(1.01 pm)
13	that agreement doesn't hold.	13	(The luncheon adjournment)
14	Q. Doesn't hold or does hold?	14	
15	A. Doesn't hold.	15	
16	Q. So was that Mr Myler's concern, that whatever	16	
17	confidentiality stipulations were agreed and of	17	
18	course, that was a sine qua non of the settlement it	18	
19	might not be much good because there wouldn't be	19	
20	silence; is that right?	20	
21	A. I think that's what that's saying, yes.	21	
22	Q. You may be right about the interpretation, but one is	22	
23	musing then about the point of reaching a settlement at	23	
24	a gross overvalue in order to achieve nothing. Can you	24	
25	help us with that?	25	
	Page 45		Page 47
1	A. I think the view would have been at the time that that		
2	was the best option open to the company at the time.		
3	Q. Can we just explore this? One option would be to fight		
4	the case on the basis of a very generous Part 36,		
5	Mr Taylor loses and the cost consequences are		
6	catastrophic for him, but matters enter the public		
7	domain. The other option is you continue to negotiate,		
8	you pay even more over the odds to achieve a settlement,		
9	you sign it up with a confidentiality clause but that		
10	doesn't do any good either because you don't achieve the		
11	silence you were wishing to attain. It's not a great		
12	option, is it?		
13	A. Neither, but those scenarios are obviously not great		
14	outcomes and we've seen what's happened since.		
15	Q. Okay. What about the next is that "if" or "it"?		
16	It's probably "if". That's how you've deciphered it.		
17	"Intriguing process".		
18	A. I'm not sure now what that's a reference to. I'm sorry.		
19	Q. Then there's a reference to Mr Mulcaire, but the point		
20	that might be made in relation to him: it's all very		
21	well he's jointly and severally liable as second		
22	defendant, but you're not going to be able to enforce		
23	any claim across against him, are you?		
24	A. That's right.		
25	MR JAY: That may be a convenient moment to pause for lunch.		
L	Page 46		

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