

<p>1 (Thursday, 25 April 2024) 2 (10.00) 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. 4 MR SANTOS: The first witness today is 5 Mr Lloyd DeVincenzi. 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, okay. 7 MR LLOYD DeVINCENZI, sworn 8 Questioned by MR SANTOS 9 MR SANTOS: Good morning, 10 Mr DeVincenzi. 11 A. Good morning. 12 Q. Can I just ask you to look at the bundle 13 that you have in front of you. It should be 14 marked: "Witness statements". 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Can I ask you to look behind the first tab 17 there. That should be your first affidavit to 18 this inquiry. Could I ask you to please 19 confirm that it is and that is your signature on 20 the final page? 21 A. Yes, it is. 22 Q. Thank you. And are the contents of that 23 affidavit true to the best of your knowledge, 24 information and belief? 25 A. Yes, they are. I did want to clarify one</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 relevant time ... sorry, yes, I am reminded 2 there is a second affidavit. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Can you please turn behind the second 5 tab. Can you please check that that is your 6 second affidavit and confirm that that is your 7 signature on the final page? 8 A. Yes, it is, yes. 9 Q. And are the contents of that affidavit true 10 to the best of your knowledge, information 11 and belief? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Thank you. As I say, I just want to ask 14 some questions about your role at the time. I 15 believe your role in 2020 was senior advisory 16 counsel. Is that correct? 17 A. That's correct, yes. 18 Q. And can I just ask you when did you 19 qualify as a lawyer? 20 A. Um, 1998 in New York and then in 2000 21 in England and Wales and Gibraltar. 22 Q. And then you were in private practice for 23 some time and then subsequently moved into 24 government. Is that correct? 25 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 thing, which I thought might be useful, I do 2 not know if it would be. But just in terms of 3 the timelines as I describe them in paragraphs 4 24 and 25, the event described in paragraph 5 24, so that conversation, would have 6 occurred between 14 August and on or about 7 12 October. The reason 12 October sticks in 8 my mind is that there was a separate but 9 related event where I had dealt with the Chief 10 Secretary on approaching the DPP with 11 respect to evidence and charges. I had not 12 favoured that approach and I had wanted to 13 make sure that the CS, the Chief Secretary at 14 the time, knew my views. 15 THE CHAIRMAN: We will come to that. 16 Otherwise we are going to get things badly 17 out of sequence. 18 A. That is why, yes. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. 20 A. Thank you. 21 MR SANTOS: Okay, thank you, yes. I will 22 be taking you to those paragraphs -- 23 A. Great. 24 Q. -- so we can deal with it in situ. Can I 25 just ask you about your background. At the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 Q. Can you just explain what your role as 2 senior advisory counsel was, please? 3 A. Right, so it was a very wide remit. Um, 4 giving direct advice to ministers, department 5 heads, officials, um, statutory bodies, as the 6 case may be. So it was very much in a sense 7 in support of the AG's role, if I can put it that 8 way, yes. 9 Q. And you say in support of the AG's role, 10 who did you answer to? 11 A. Um, directly to him, to the AG. 12 Q. And you were appointed Solicitor 13 General on 1 March 2021, I understand. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. What did that role entail? 16 A. It did not really change my role at all. It 17 was a designation. It is not a statutory 18 position. So it was a designation that was 19 given to me but my role did not change at all 20 really. 21 Q. Can we now look at your first affidavit at 22 paragraph 4, please? It will appear on the 23 screen, but you are obviously welcome to 24 look at it as well in front of you. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

1 (Pages 1 to 4)

<p>1 Q. And that is at page 1298. I think we 2 already have it on screen. You say as 3 follows: 4 "On or about 22 September 2019 I was 5 informed by Mr Tito Garro (then the Data 6 Protection Officer for the Government) about 7 a data breach in connection with the National 8 Security Centralised Intelligence System 9 Platform operated by the Bland Group for the 10 Government. I had not known about the 11 existence of NSCIS or of an arrangement 12 with the Bland Group until that point. 13 Mr Garro sought my assistance on two 14 interconnected matters: (a) engaging with the 15 GRA to address their concerns about the data 16 breach; and (b) drafting a legally binding 17 written agreement between the Government 18 and the Bland Group as none appeared to 19 have been put in place." 20 Who was instructing you to create such 21 an agreement between the government and 22 the Bland Group? 23 A. From memory, um, it may have been the 24 AG or we sort of just got on with it as 25 a natural implication of what had happened.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 A. In October 2019, I have to cast my mind 2 back. Um, my only clear recollection that 3 there were charges against Mr Sanchez, I 4 think was possibly, was it later on? 5 Q. Just to assist on the timeline, the initial 6 arrests were earlier in 2019. 7 A. Right. 8 Q. The charges did not come until 2020. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. But I do not know whether that assists. 11 A. Um, I can't say for sure. Certainly I was, 12 as I mention in paragraph 5, aware that he 13 was in the mix in some way. Whether 14 charges as such had been -- 15 Q. Sorry, were you aware that he was 16 a suspect? 17 A. Yes. Yes, by that time, yes, absolutely. 18 Q. And do you -- 19 A. I ... yes, go on, sorry. 20 Q. Do you know whose decision it was to 21 have Mr Sanchez dealt with by way of 22 a disciplinary process? 23 A. My understanding is that it was the Chief 24 Secretary at the time. 25 Q. Did you think at the time that disciplinary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 Um, so the AG would have been copied in to 2 that sort of correspondence, my 3 correspondence with Mr Garro, and we just 4 sort of got on with trying to put together 5 a contract because it seemed like the natural 6 thing to do and no one pushed back and so 7 we went ahead. 8 Q. If we could look at paragraph 7 of your 9 first affidavit -- 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. -- you say: 12 "In the middle of October 2019 I helped the 13 Chief Secretary and the Attorney General 14 respond to external correspondence in 15 connection with disciplinary action against 16 Mr Sanchez. I also assisted the Chief 17 Secretary with his Witness Statement to the 18 Royal Gibraltar Police, a draft of which the 19 Royal Gibraltar Police had prepared for 20 him." 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Were you aware at the time of the 23 allegations of criminality against Mr Sanchez 24 or was your understanding that it was limited 25 to disciplinary action?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 action was an appropriate way to deal with 2 Mr Sanchez? 3 A. As in the only appropriate way or the ... 4 an appropriate way? 5 Q. An appropriate way. 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. If we can look at -- 8 THE CHAIRMAN: But as well as, not in 9 substitution for, the criminal proceedings. 10 A. No, no, not at all. Sorry. 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, but which? 12 A. I was supportive of the view that some 13 disciplinary action should be taken. From 14 recollection, um, there was some discussion 15 around Mr Sanchez not appearing at work. 16 That definitely comes to mind. 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, but the point is -- 18 A. Yes. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: -- is disciplinary action 20 being contemplated as well as or instead of 21 criminal proceedings? 22 A. Well, I wasn't contemplating anything. It 23 was the Chief Secretary, he had come to me 24 on some particular matter and so I wasn't 25 actively dealing with the file in that sense.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

1 **But --**
 2 MR SANTOS: Sorry, if I can cut across you.
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. But your answer asked for clarification --
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. -- as to whether your view was that it was
 7 appropriate as the only way or alongside
 8 criminal proceedings. Did you have a view
 9 as to whether it should be done in lieu of
 10 criminal proceedings --
 11 **A. Right.**
 12 Q. -- or whether it should sit alongside?
 13 **A. I didn't have a strong view either way, but**
 14 **I thought disciplinary proceedings were**
 15 **appropriate and in particular I had in mind,**
 16 **um, Mr Sanchez not being present. I recall**
 17 **from some of the correspondence that that**
 18 **was mentioned, that he shouldn't be on the**
 19 **premises and given the circumstances as I**
 20 **understood them I thought that was**
 21 **appropriate.**
 22 Q. If we can now look at paragraph 9 of
 23 your statement, please.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. You say:

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1 "On 19 November 2019 I accompanied
 2 Mr Garro to a meeting called by the Chief
 3 Minister to discuss the NSCIS data breach.
 4 The meeting was also attended by the Deputy
 5 Chief Minister, the Attorney General and the
 6 Financial Secretary, amongst others. The
 7 principal topic of discussion was how to
 8 ensure that data protection compliance was
 9 balanced with ensuring that law enforcement
 10 agencies were able to operate NSCIS and its
 11 various modules effectively. The ownership
 12 of NSCIS was discussed and I recall the
 13 Chief Minister opining firmly that the
 14 platform belonged to the Government."
 15 You talk about the discussion revolving
 16 around the balancing, on the one hand, data
 17 protection compliance with, on the other, law
 18 enforcement agencies being able to operate
 19 NSCIS effectively. Why would there be
 20 a tension between those goals? (Pause).
 21 **A. I suppose in my mind I was thinking**
 22 **about the, um, what seemed to be defects in**
 23 **NSCIS as they were being described and so**
 24 **there could be additional ... sorry.**
 25 Q. Sorry, can I interrupt you? There is no

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1 issue with what you have just said --
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. -- but I would not want you to go into
 4 more detail unless you feel you have to, and
 5 if you do then we can go into private. But as
 6 long as that is all you need to say, I am happy
 7 for you to continue.
 8 **A. Yes, I mean, from recollection, um,**
 9 **because of possible defects in the system,**
 10 **um, which might be continuing, they were**
 11 **taking stock of that sort of thing, it might be**
 12 **that more fine tuning needed to be done in**
 13 **some way or another to make sure --**
 14 Q. I am sorry, I am going to have to stop you
 15 there.
 16 **A. Yes, that's fine.**
 17 Q. Because we just have to be a bit careful --
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. -- about the detail that we go into.
 20 Perhaps I will come back to this question.
 21 **A. Okay.**
 22 Q. What was the Chief Minister asking for
 23 in terms of data protection compliance?
 24 **A. I don't know that he had anything specific**
 25 **in mind. That was driven more by Mr Garro.**

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1 **Obviously that was his remit so he wanted to**
 2 **make sure that everything was being**
 3 **respected in that way. I don't recall ... the**
 4 **Chief Minister was supportive of that, but I**
 5 **don't recall anything more specific.**
 6 Q. It appears that you had several
 7 interactions with the Attorney General in
 8 relation to the NSCIS platform. Was this in
 9 relation to the ownership dispute between
 10 NSCIS and the government?
 11 **A. Yes, at some points, yes.**
 12 Q. Did you assist the Attorney General in
 13 providing advice on that issue?
 14 **A. I did. I gave him my provisional views**
 15 **which I refer to, I don't know which**
 16 **paragraph it is, but I did provide him with my**
 17 **provisional views once I had arrived at them.**
 18 Q. Now, moving to 7 April 2020, on that
 19 date you attended a meeting with the
 20 Attorney General, Mr McGrail,
 21 Superintendent Richardson and Inspector
 22 Wyan at the Attorney General's offices. Can
 23 we just look at paragraph 11 of your
 24 statement?
 25 **A. Yes.**

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<p>1 Q. You say as follows: 2 "On 7 April 2020 the Attorney General asked 3 me to attend a meeting he was about to hold 4 in his office with the Royal Gibraltar Police. 5 The meeting was attended by Mr McGrail 6 and former Superintendent Paul Richardson. 7 I believe former Detective Inspector (now 8 Superintendent) Mark Wyan was also in 9 attendance. The focus of the meeting was 10 possible charges against various individuals 11 allegedly connected with the NSCIS matter, 12 including Mr Sanchez. The Attorney 13 General inquired about the significant 14 number of charges, and expressed concern 15 that these should probably be rationalised, 16 noting that this was a matter for the police to 17 consider and decide (or words to that effect). 18 It was also mentioned during the meeting that 19 Mr James Levy was being investigated. The 20 Attorney General asked Mr McGrail to keep 21 him informed until they could next meet." 22 What did you understand the purpose of that 23 meeting to be when you were asked to 24 attend? 25 A. I was asked to attend impromptu so I had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 but I have a clear recollection of that. 2 Q. Was it usual at the time for you to be 3 involved in a meeting that related to 4 an ongoing criminal investigation? 5 A. Not at all, no. 6 Q. Had you ever been involved in 7 a meeting? 8 A. Not ... I don't remember any previous, 9 um, matter that I was involved in. I had 10 advised from time to time on some point of 11 criminal law, um, sometimes for statutory 12 lawyers, but no, nothing like this. 13 Q. Inspector, he is now Superintendent, 14 Wyan has given evidence that he was not 15 present at the meeting on 7 April 2020. Do 16 you have a clear recollection that he 17 attended? 18 A. No, not a clear one. 19 Q. You say in paragraph 3 of your second 20 affidavit, which is A1304 -- 21 A. Sorry, could you repeat that? A1? 22 Q. Paragraph 3 of your second affidavit. 23 A. Okay. 24 Q. -- that you have no notes of this meeting. 25 Is there a reason why no notes were taken at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 no idea what the purpose was. I think 2 Michael, the AG, had said, "This is going to 3 be interesting." I was at the top of the 4 stairwell. I remember him. We went into his 5 office, to the board room. Um, yes. 6 Q. When you went in, from recollection, 7 were you joining a meeting that was already 8 taking place or was everyone arriving at that 9 time? 10 A. I couldn't tell for sure, but I think I may 11 have entered and then everyone else entered 12 immediately thereafter. But, yes, that's my 13 best recollection. 14 Q. Do you have any recollection as to 15 whether the meeting related to a different ... 16 whether the meeting also related to 17 a different matter, such as, for example, 18 Operation Kram, or as far as you were aware 19 was only one topic discussed? 20 A. Kram doesn't ring a bell, but I was trying 21 to pick up cues and figure out what was 22 happening around me in a sense. But Kram 23 doesn't ring a bell at all. 24 Q. Sorry, the collision at sea. 25 A. Oh, sorry. That may have been discussed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 your office's end in terms of this meeting? 2 A. No, and I mean from my perspective, I 3 had just joined the meeting. I didn't know 4 what my remit would be going forward. 5 Michael had said, or the AG had said, it 6 would be an interesting meeting, um, and I 7 sort of went in, I went into the room. 8 Q. Would you usually take notes of 9 a meeting? 10 A. Um, I didn't have that role with the AG. I 11 would take notes at some meetings, 12 absolutely. Um, and I ... that was a practice I 13 had. But I don't think I had any notepad with 14 me actually when we went in. But anyway, 15 yes. 16 Q. So there was nobody from the AG's 17 office's side taking a note? 18 A. No, I think from the AG offices, it was 19 only the, um, the AG and me. I don't recall 20 anybody else from the AG's office present at 21 that meeting. 22 Q. Now, in that paragraph 3 of your ... sorry, 23 going back to your first affidavit, paragraph 24 11. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

<p>1 Q. The final sentence says: 2 "The Attorney General asked Mr McGrail to 3 keep him informed until they could next 4 meet." 5 What did you understand the Attorney 6 General to mean by that? 7 A. I took it to mean that the Commissioner 8 should update and keep him informed, um, 9 nothing necessarily more than that. 10 Q. Can I take you to A278, please? 11 A. A278. 12 Q. That will appear on screen. This is 13 Mr Llamas's first affidavit to the Inquiry. 14 And I am just going to show you, you may 15 have it in hard copy in that other bundle that 16 you have in front of you. 17 A. Yes, I do. 18 Q. I am just going to focus on paragraph 32. 19 A. Okay. 20 Q. And the Attorney General says: 21 "After a long, and from my recollection, 22 amicable discussion, we reached what, for 23 me, was a very clear understanding between 24 us, namely, that the RGP would not take any 25 further action until they had (i) clarified the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 way, no. Um, certainly to update him, to 2 keep him informed. The language may have 3 been wide enough to accommodate that, but I 4 don't recall it being that specific. 5 Q. Was it common for the Attorney General 6 in your experience to be involved in criminal 7 investigations in this way? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Now, going back to your first affidavit, 10 you say at paragraph 12 that it was at this 11 meeting that you learned of Mr Levy's 12 position as a suspect in the Operation Delhi 13 investigation. Did that give rise to any 14 concerns on your part? 15 A. It did, um, yes. I just, at minimum I 16 thought the matter now was more sensitive 17 than I thought it was previously. 18 Q. Why did you consider the matter was 19 more sensitive? 20 A. For the reasons I explained really in that 21 paragraph. Um, I was aware of professional 22 connections between Mr Levy and the Chief 23 Minister. Um, it just sort of, it didn't raise 24 a concern as such but I realised that it would 25 probably be a very sensitive investigation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 question of the ownership of the NSCIS 2 platform (ii) rationalised the charges (which 3 the DPP had told me was extremely possible 4 to do), and (iii) whereupon Mr McGrail 5 would meet with me and the DPP before 6 taking any further steps. It was clear beyond 7 peradventure that nothing, other than what 8 we had agreed to, would happen until we met 9 again." 10 Just breaking this down, do you recall the 11 Attorney General requesting and Mr McGrail 12 agreeing to rationalise the charges? 13 A. Yes, that I do. 14 Q. And do you recall the Attorney General 15 requesting and Mr McGrail agreeing to 16 resolve the issue of ownership? 17 A. Resolve it? I knew it was important, um, 18 agreeing to his orbit. Perhaps that was 19 implicit in the conversation. I don't have 20 a specific recollection about that. But it was 21 certainly discussed. 22 Q. And did Mr McGrail agree not to take 23 any steps in the investigation until he met 24 with the Attorney General again? 25 A. To take any steps, I don't recall it that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 going forward and matter going forward. 2 Q. Were you concerned about any potential 3 conflict of interest in terms of government 4 officials and ministers, particularly in 5 relation to 36 North? 6 A. I didn't know about 36 North until later. 7 And I became very concerned then. But at 8 that point on April 7, um, yes, I was 9 beginning to think about those sorts of issues, 10 um, absolutely I was, yes. 11 Q. You say you were not aware of 36 North 12 at the time. Were you just not aware of it at 13 the time or were you not aware of the 14 ownership of 36 North? 15 A. I don't think I was aware of 36 North or if 16 I was it meant nothing to me. Um, the only 17 time I learnt about the ownership of 36 North 18 was in mid June 2020. 19 Q. So just to be absolutely clear, did you 20 leave the meeting understanding that no 21 further steps would be taken in the 22 investigation until the charges had been 23 rationalised and the ownership issue resolved 24 and a further meeting between Mr McGrail 25 and the Attorney General?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 A. Um, again, I don't know that I would 2 describe it quite that specifically. The 3 impression I had going away from that 4 meeting was that the Commissioner, sorry, 5 the then Commissioner, would keep, um, the 6 AG informed. They would certainly look at 7 rationalising the charges. Um, what order 8 things were going to happen in, I wasn't very 9 sure. Criminal law isn't my area. Um, it was 10 unusual for me to be in these kinds of 11 meetings, but ... that's it really. 12 Q. If we can then turn to your second 13 affidavit, paragraph 4, please. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. It is 1304. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. You say in response to a question that 18 was asked of you by the Inquiry: 19 "My best recollection is that the Attorney 20 General initially raised a concern that the list 21 of charges might be excessive because it was 22 premised on Bland Group's ownership of the 23 NSCIS platform, which the Attorney General 24 considered, at minimum, an unresolved 25 question. I believe the Attorney General also</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 We do see it. But it didn't seem to me, I don't 2 recall a specific word that it was something 3 necessary or particularly important, but they 4 accepted that it was something they could 5 look at and perhaps do better at. 6 Q. Just in fairness to you, I want to point out 7 that in evidence they have said that in fact 8 they had already decided that they would be 9 pruning the charges. So is it possible that 10 you could have been mistaken as to your 11 impression? 12 A. It's possible of course, yes. (Pause). It's 13 possible, but that's my, certainly my 14 recollection that there didn't seem to be 15 enthusiasm on their part for that exercise. 16 (Pause). 17 Q. Your evidence is that in late April 2020 18 you and the Attorney General discussed the 19 ownership of NSCIS platform further and 20 you also sent him a copy of the draft master 21 software development and maintenance 22 agreement. This is your paragraph 13, the 23 next paragraph of your affidavit. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. In what context did that discussion arise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 told Mr McGrail that the number of charges 2 seemed high on an administrative or common 3 sense or practical level, or words to that 4 effect. These were the two reasons which, 5 from recollection, led to the Attorney 6 General's suggestion that the RGP should 7 consider rationalising the number of charges. 8 I understood the task of rationalising 9 primarily to mean pruning the list to make 10 sure the charges did not overlap, but also 11 making certain the RGP could properly 12 substantiate them. My impression was that 13 Mr McGrail and Mr Richardson were open to 14 undertaking this exercise, if not wholly 15 convinced it was necessary, and said they 16 would report back to the Attorney General 17 and the DPP." 18 What made you think that Mr McGrail and 19 Mr Richardson were not wholly convinced 20 that the exercise of pruning the charges was 21 necessary? 22 A. I think their initial view was that that's 23 what they had, they could go ahead with that. 24 The 76, or whatever number it was, was fine. 25 They seemed open to, again, rationalising it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 in late April 2020? Do you remember? 2 A. I don't. I don't remember. Sometimes the 3 AG and I had freewheeling discussions. We 4 were a few doors down from each other. I 5 don't recall what spurred this particular 6 conversation. 7 Q. What were your thoughts when you 8 found out there was no signed written 9 agreement? 10 A. I wasn't wholly surprised. I found it 11 shocking, but I wasn't wholly surprised. 12 Q. And your involvement, as far as you 13 understood it, were you involved in terms of 14 advising the government as far as the 15 ownership and contractual relationship with 16 ... the ownership issue and the contractual 17 relationship dispute was concerned, or were 18 you there in relation to the ... were you 19 advising in relation to the criminal 20 complaint? 21 A. Right, so I had recently become involved 22 in the contractual matter and the GRA 23 matter. Um, at some point I had been asked 24 to assist the, um, the CS, the then CS, with 25 his witness statement. Um, I didn't have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 instructions. I didn't have a particular remit, 2 um, which was part of what increasingly 3 began to trouble me as this matter 4 progressed. Um, I had a sort of loose 5 watching brief in a sense. 6 Q. Then if we can look at your second 7 affidavit, I apologise for hopping between the 8 two of them. 9 A. That's all right. 10 Q. Paragraph 5. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. You say: 13 "As regards point 3, I did not discuss the 14 matter of the number of charges on any 15 subsequent occasion with any of 16 Mr McGrail, Mr Richardson, Superintendent 17 Wyan, the Interim Governor or the Chief 18 Minister. I did discuss the number of charges 19 with the Attorney General at some point not 20 long after the meeting of 7 April 2020, 21 though not at length or in detail (I had not 22 seen and have never seen the original list or 23 any subsequent list of the charges). I believe 24 our discussion was in the context of my 25 asking about the connection between</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 A. Clowns. 2 Q. -- clowns. And did you understand his 3 comment to relate to purely the number of 4 charges or did it go beyond that? 5 A. I thought he took a dim view of the team 6 generally. 7 Q. Can we now move to a meeting that you 8 refer to in paragraph 14 of your first 9 affidavit? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. It is A1300. (Pause). You say as 12 follows: 13 "On 5 May 2020 the Attorney General and I 14 discussed the NSCIS file generally, including 15 the constitutional role of Attorneys General 16 in Gibraltar and the wider Commonwealth. 17 Out of personal and professional interest I 18 was acquainted with the recent SNC-Lavalin 19 affair in Canada and sent the Attorney 20 General a link to the official report: I thought 21 it contained pertinent analysis and 22 perspectives to help him navigate the NSCIS 23 matter." 24 Can you just explain why you were 25 discussing the NSCIS file generally on 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 ownership of the NSCIS platform and the 2 rationalisation of charges. I do not recall the 3 Attorney General's exact response, but the 4 gist of it was that he held significant doubts 5 about the professional competence of the 6 RGP team in charge of the investigation and 7 drafting the charges. I did not discuss the 8 number of charges separately with the DPP." 9 At the time of this discussion, which you say 10 was shortly after 7 April 2020 -- 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. -- did the Attorney General seem to you 13 to be under the impression that no steps were 14 being taken in the investigation at the time? 15 A. No, I don't recall thinking that. 16 Q. And that discussion, when you say that 17 the Attorney General held doubts about the 18 professional competence of the RGP team, 19 did he advance a basis for his doubts? 20 A. No, I don't think so. He used a word in 21 Spanish, from memory, but it was not the 22 substantive reason. 23 Q. Can you share the word in Spanish? 24 A. Payasos. 25 Q. Payasos. And to translate it --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 May? 2 A. I can only imagine the AG had raised it 3 with me. Um, I think it may have had to do, 4 given what happened on May 6, I think it 5 was, yes, the following day, that he had been 6 in discussion with the Financial Secretary on 7 this point to do with ownership, etc. So ... 8 Q. And what caused you to discuss the 9 constitutional role of Attorneys General in 10 Gibraltar and the wider Commonwealth? 11 A. I don't recall exactly what spurred that, 12 but I do remember thinking at that point, for 13 non-specific reasons, I mean, I could cast my 14 mind back to exactly why, but I had the sense 15 that it was useful to go back to one of your 16 previous questions for the Attorney General 17 to focus his mind, um, on his role, what it 18 meant, the fact that, um, under Gibraltar's 19 constitution his role isn't an expressly 20 political role. I just had the sense that at this 21 stage it was important for him to, as it were, 22 focus on his role as Attorney General, which 23 I am sure he was, but I just thought it was 24 useful to begin to have a conversation around 25 drawing lines, different roles, my role, his</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

7 (Pages 25 to 28)

<p>1 role, who was advising whom. It was 2 an intuitive sort of discussion, um, or I was 3 going on intuition or reason of intuition in 4 terms of what I thought needed to be said or 5 aired. 6 Q. Why do you think that that needed to be 7 said or aired? 8 A. As I say, my own role wasn't clear in 9 terms of my involvement in this. Was I 10 advising him? Was I advising the Chief 11 Secretary? Who was advising who? Um, 12 and I just thought it was one of those, I mean, 13 one of the great givens of working in 14 Gibraltar is that when matters are aligned we 15 can work very well together, but I was 16 beginning to think that it was important to 17 really separate out roles, for him to cast his 18 mind, um, to matters to do with his 19 constitutional role. Um, at that point, as I 20 mentioned, I was aware that Mr Levy was in 21 the mix. I thought it was possible, possible, 22 that he might be importuned by Mr Levy, 23 possibly by the Chief Minister. Um, given 24 what was at stake, potentially at stake, I 25 didn't want to cast aspersions, but I thought it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 but I thought it was important to look at what 2 might be happening in the background, what 3 might be plausibly happening in the 4 background or could plausibly happen in the 5 future and for him, if he needed it to gird his 6 loins against any sort of importuning by 7 anyone and I thought it was a useful matter 8 for him to be familiar with. There was also 9 some discussion in that report on the 10 Shawcross principle, which again if it was 11 important -- 12 Q. You say that you think that it was 13 prudent. Did you have any reason to think 14 that there was pressure at the time? 15 A. No, I did not. 16 Q. What was the Attorney General's reaction 17 to your reference to this? 18 A. There was no particular reaction - to the 19 sending of the reports? 20 Q. Yes and to your references to - 21 A. Yes, I mean I think he was open to 22 looking at that, considering it. There wasn't 23 much of a reaction, from memory. 24 Q. Did you have a discussion about what 25 you considered to be the pertinent elements</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 was a possibility. And so I wanted to begin 2 to have those kinds of discussions with him 3 and make him aware of other contexts where 4 this kind of things arises. 5 Q. And you refer to, I am probably 6 butchering the pronunciation, but you refer to 7 the SNC-Lavalin affair in Canada. Having 8 looked at the matter, I think it is fair to say 9 that that affair resulted in a report which held 10 that the Prime Minister of Canada had 11 breached a conflict of interest law by seeking 12 to influence the Attorney General of Canada 13 and further the interests of a company that 14 was the subject of a criminal prosecution, 15 and had held that the Prime Minister had 16 pressured the Attorney General to defer that 17 prosecution. Why did you see fit to refer to 18 that? And, firstly, do you accept that 19 summary of the affair? 20 (10.33) 21 A. I think that is a fair summary, yes. I 22 thought it was possible that a similar scenario 23 could play out. Things happen in complex 24 democracies, lawyers come under immense 25 pressure - that pressure need not be sinister</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 of that report? 2 A. No, not of the report, not at that time, 3 anyway. I think at some point in the future I'd 4 asked him if he had read it or if there was 5 something that he found useful, but not at 6 that point, no. 7 Q. And when you asked him subsequently 8 did he say that he had read it? 9 A. I don't think he had read it. 10 Q. Did you raise the issues covered in the 11 report or your concerns with any other 12 person? 13 A. Any other person? I do recall sending a 14 copy to the DPP at some point but not 15 discussing it with him. 16 Q. If we can turn now to paragraph 15 you 17 say, "The following day, 6 May 2020, the 18 Attorney General and I discussed the NSCIS 19 ownership question again prompted, I 20 believe, by a call from the Financial 21 Secretary to the Attorney General. I 22 mentioned during our discussion that I had 23 seen an invoice from the Bland Group during 24 my discussions and email exchanges with Mr 25 Garro. I thought that in the absence of a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 binding, written agreement the invoice could 2 provide useful information as to how our 3 relationship was being treated by the parties 4 in fact and therefore how it might be 5 regarded in law. I examined a copy of the 6 invoice, spoke to the Attorney General about 7 my provisional conclusions and forwarded 8 him the copy." What did the Financial 9 Secretary say that prompted that discussion 10 between you and the Attorney General? 11 A. I don't know because that discussion was 12 between him and the AG. 13 Q. So, it was - the Attorney General was 14 prompted by that discussion to raise the 15 matter with you? 16 A. Yes, yes. He told me that he had been 17 discussing it with the Financial Secretary. 18 Q. If we can then move to 13 May 2020 19 meeting, please, that is a meeting the day 20 after the RGP had attended Hassans with a 21 search warrant and you attended a meeting 22 with the Attorney General, the DPP, the 23 Commissioner of Police, Superintendent 24 Richardson, and Inspector Wyan. Were you 25 at the time of that meeting aware that the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 subdued and tense? 2 A. Because it was, in my view. It was just 3 something not like the first meeting, which 4 was more business-like, more normal, but I 5 thought the atmosphere was a bit tense. 6 Q. When you say the first meeting, you 7 mean 7 April? 8 A. Yes, exactly, yes. 9 Q. Had you spoken to the Attorney General 10 before that meeting? 11 A. Before that meeting? In relation to these 12 matters, other than what I have mentioned 13 here and what I recall - 14 Q. Yes. 15 A. As immediately before or - 16 Q. Yes, well had you had any discussion 17 about what the meeting would entail? 18 A. No. 19 Q. What the relevance of the meeting was? 20 A. No, no. It was very similar to 7 April 21 meeting, I recall, because it was also, from 22 my perspective - it wasn't a diarised meeting. 23 I was sort of thrown into that one as well 24 with very short - at very short notice, from 25 memory.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 meeting was being recorded? 2 A. No. 3 Q. When did you learn that it was being 4 recorded? 5 A. At some point the AG told me but it was 6 much later. 7 Q. What do you think about the fact that it 8 was being recorded? 9 A. I didn't like it. I thought it - yes, it 10 seemed wrong at some level. 11 Q. Can we look at your paragraph 17, 12 please? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. You say, "It is probably true to say that 15 the atmosphere at the meeting was subdued 16 and tense. It was evident to me as discussion 17 ensued that there had been significant 18 developments in the intervening period since 19 7 April 2020 including the execution of a 20 search warrant at Mr Levy's offices at 21 Hassans. I recall discussion among those 22 present about the role of the Chief Minister 23 in the matter, I believe in the context of his 24 having been mentioned in a document." 25 Why do you say that the atmosphere was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 Q. Had you talked to anybody else about 2 that meeting? 3 A. Had I talked to anybody? 4 Q. Yes, prior to it taking place? 5 A. Well, I didn't know it was happening. 6 Q. Well, you didn't know - 7 A. It wasn't diarised, no. 8 Q. Had the Attorney General said anything 9 to you in relation to the search warrants 10 before that meeting? 11 A. No. 12 Q. Had he mentioned an alleged betrayal of 13 trust? 14 A. Before that meeting? No, I don't think 15 so. 16 Q. And then - were you aware of the search 17 warrants before that meeting? 18 A. As in that they had been - 19 Q. That the RGP had attended Hassans. 20 A. Oh, I see. 21 Q. With a view to - 22 A. No, no, I wasn't aware of that, not before 23 that meeting. 24 Q. Can we just go to B188, please, which is 25 the transcript of this meeting on 13 May?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 You refer in your evidence we have just seen 2 to the exchange between the Attorney 3 General and Mr McGrail about the inclusion 4 of the Chief Minister's name in a document 5 and if we look about a third of the way down 6 the page there is a larger box with something 7 that the Attorney General has said. It starts, 8 "In my view". Can you see that? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. He says, "In my view, it's just a view, 11 completely unjust-- unjustifiable to me that 12 this man should be even appearing in a 13 formal document and I will not, if it's not 14 legitimate - I want that to disappear 15 immediately. My concern here is the 16 reputation of this jurisdiction and that passes 17 to the reputation of our Chief Minister 18 especially in this moment in time and for that 19 I shall fight until I die", and the 20 Commissioner of Police says, "The thing is 21 you have the magic wand here, you have it", 22 and he says, "I'm sure and if it's the case I 23 would ask you to get it out of this as soon as 24 possible." What were your thoughts about 25 that exchange?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 meeting with him. "I recall that Mr McGrail 2 disavowed this interpretation of events." 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Were you surprised that the RGP had 5 sought to execute a search warrant given 6 what had been discussed on 7 April? 7 A. No, not especially. 8 Q. Given that you were present at both 9 meetings - 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. - did you believe that Mr McGrail had 12 broken an agreement reached at the first 13 meeting? 14 A. No. 15 Q. Can we now look at paragraph 18? You 16 say, "I recall the Attorney General" - sorry, 17 "The discussion moved on, and in emotive 18 terms, the Attorney General emphasised the 19 importance of protecting Gibraltar's 20 reputation and that of the Chief Minister 21 (which I believe he later clarified to mean the 22 office of Chief Minister). The Attorney 23 General also raised what he perceived as the 24 lack of dignity with which Mr Levy had been 25 treated given that Mr Levy was an officer of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 A. What are my thoughts now? 2 Q. At the time. 3 A. Well, it does ring a bell, I mean, this kind 4 of conversation as described here or 5 transcribed. Yes, it's familiar in some sense 6 but I could clearly recall the point about the 7 jurisdiction and (inaudible) the reputation - 8 yes, the reputation of the jurisdiction and the 9 reputation of the Chief Minister. As to, "You 10 have the magic wand here", I have 11 remembered those words but I'm not sure 12 there's much more I can say. I mean, seeing 13 it here clearly I have a reaction to it. I don't 14 recall that part of the conversation very 15 clearly. 16 Q. Just going back to your witness 17 statement, paragraph 17, and continuing 18 paragraph 17, you say, "At one point the 19 Attorney General told Mr McGrail that he 20 had betrayed his trust" - 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Or words to that effect -- 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. - in proceeding to execute the search 25 warrant without first informing him or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 the court. I believe Mr Richardson (and if 2 not Mr Richardson then one of the other 3 Royal Gibraltar Police delegation) said that 4 the police had attended Hassans in plain 5 clothes with discretion and acted 6 professionally throughout. I recall some 7 discussion between those present about 8 conversations and texts of email exchanges 9 between them or some of them regarding the 10 handling of this investigation including in 11 connection with Mr Levy. I recall the 12 Attorney General saying that the conduct of 13 the investigation and the charges were 14 ultimately a matter for the Royal Gibraltar 15 Police (or words to that effect) as he had 16 done during the meeting of 7 April 2020." 17 Did it feel to you in this meeting as though 18 the RGP was at liberty to proceed as it 19 wished to continue in continuing the 20 investigation? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Then if we look at B184, please, this is 23 again the transcript of a meeting. 24 A. Yes. Sorry, did you say B184? 25 Q. B184. It is the same transcript of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

10 (Pages 37 to 40)

<p>1 meeting -</p> <p>2 A. I don't have it here.</p> <p>3 Q. It should be on screen.</p> <p>4 A. Okay.</p> <p>5 Q. It will be a short passage that I will read.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Can you see about a third of the way up,</p> <p>8 the Commissioner of Police saying, "No,</p> <p>9 that's it. Abuse of the law, abuse of the law</p> <p>10 and misfeasance in public office"? It should</p> <p>11 be in the middle of your screen.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. That is a reference to a letter that had</p> <p>14 been received from Hassans on that day and</p> <p>15 that was making allegations of abuse of law</p> <p>16 and misfeasance in public office against RGP</p> <p>17 officers. Do you recall that?</p> <p>18 A. I don't recall that.</p> <p>19 Q. Then Superintendent Richardson says,</p> <p>20 "Abuse of law and abuse and misfeasance in</p> <p>21 public office." The Commissioner of Police</p> <p>22 says, "I've held on to that but I am duty</p> <p>23 bound to act. Gross ...", and Mr Rocca says,</p> <p>24 "Gross abuse" and the Commissioner of</p> <p>25 Police says, "I've got to. I'm duty bound to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 tell you about what had been discussed when</p> <p>2 they were alone in the office?</p> <p>3 A. Sorry, did Mr McGrail explore or did the</p> <p>4 AG?</p> <p>5 Q. Either of them.</p> <p>6 A. Yes, the AG did afterwards at some</p> <p>7 point, either immediately afterwards or - yes,</p> <p>8 he did.</p> <p>9 Q. What did he tell you?</p> <p>10 A. That he had felt betrayed. Yes, I don't</p> <p>11 recall much beyond that, but he was</p> <p>12 aggrieved.</p> <p>13 Q. Can we now turn to 19 - well, sorry, just</p> <p>14 following on in 19: "Shortly after the</p> <p>15 meeting I recall the Attorney General raising</p> <p>16 briefly with me the applicable legal test or</p> <p>17 threshold for a nolle prosequi. The</p> <p>18 conversation was of an academic nature and</p> <p>19 to the best of my recollection it was against</p> <p>20 the background of protecting the jurisdiction</p> <p>21 and the office of Chief Minister." What did</p> <p>22 you understand to have prompted the</p> <p>23 Attorney General to raise this with you?</p> <p>24 A. It may have been the previous - the</p> <p>25 conversation of May 13th; it may have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 refer to the fact that there is criminal</p> <p>2 investigation made to me against us" and the</p> <p>3 Attorney General says, "Yes I do. If the</p> <p>4 gross is judicial review, I think", and the</p> <p>5 Commissioner of Police says, "This is a start</p> <p>6 to a complaint against police which is - and</p> <p>7 if they're looking at me", and then over the</p> <p>8 page the Attorney General says, "At the</p> <p>9 moment, at the moment you shouldn't do</p> <p>10 anything." Do you recall that exchange?</p> <p>11 A. "At the moment you don't ..." no, not</p> <p>12 specifically, no.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you recall at any point the</p> <p>14 Commissioner of Police pointing towards the</p> <p>15 Convent during the course of a meeting?</p> <p>16 A. Towards the Convent? I don't.</p> <p>17 Q. Still on your paragraph 18 -</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. -- and picking up from where we left it,</p> <p>20 "At one point the Attorney General asked for</p> <p>21 time to speak alone with Mr McGrail. The</p> <p>22 rest of us made our way out and conversed in</p> <p>23 the corridor until Mr McGrail emerged from</p> <p>24 the office and left with his colleagues." Did</p> <p>25 either the Attorney General or Mr McGrail</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 referred back to our conversation around the</p> <p>2 role of Attorneys General but I don't recall</p> <p>3 specifically what spurred it but we did</p> <p>4 discuss it yes.</p> <p>5 Q. When you say, "shortly after the</p> <p>6 meeting", do you mean shortly, later that day</p> <p>7 or sub -</p> <p>8 A. I wouldn't put it beyond a few days of</p> <p>9 that meeting.</p> <p>10 Q. You say that the conversation was of an</p> <p>11 academic nature but can you please explain</p> <p>12 in as much detail as possible what was said in</p> <p>13 that exchange?</p> <p>14 A. Yes. To my best recollection it is that it</p> <p>15 was around the powers that he had or didn't</p> <p>16 have and how that related to other</p> <p>17 jurisdictions. It was that sort of a</p> <p>18 conversation.</p> <p>19 Q. When you say it was against a</p> <p>20 background of protecting the office of this</p> <p>21 Chief Minister, was the Attorney General</p> <p>22 raising with you the idea of stopping the</p> <p>23 prosecution if it was brought against the</p> <p>24 Chief Minister or was it the idea of stopping</p> <p>25 the prosecution of others which dragged the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

11 (Pages 41 to 44)

1 Chief Minister into it as a witness for
 2 example?
 3 **A. I don't remember it being that specific.**
 4 **So, I don't remember him referring to either**
 5 **the other defendants or the Chief Minister. I**
 6 **don't recall it being that specific.**
 7 Q. Then why do you say that it was against
 8 the background of protecting the jurisdiction
 9 and the office of Chief Minister? How was
 10 that raised?
 11 **A. Because I think he may have invoked that**
 12 **as a topic when we were discussing his**
 13 **powers but I don't recall it being more**
 14 **specific than that, so in that sense yes he**
 15 **named, but not the Chief Minister, the office**
 16 **of the Chief Minister, but I don't recall him**
 17 **relating it to other defendants. At some point**
 18 **- I don't know which conversation it was**
 19 **because, as I say, we had other spontaneous**
 20 **conversations about many things and**
 21 **sometimes we mixed up topics, but that's the**
 22 **way we worked together - he did mention**
 23 **the other defendants in some context but I**
 24 **don't recall it being specific to this**
 25 **conversation.**

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1 Q. Was this the first time that you and the
 2 Attorney General had discussed a nolle
 3 prosequi generally or had you -
 4 **A. Yes, as far as I recall, yes.**
 5 Q. And it was probably, in that case, the first
 6 time you discussed it in relation to this matter
 7 as well?
 8 **A. Yes, from memory, yes.**
 9 Q. Can we go to C6806, please?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. This is a transcript of WhatsApp
 12 exchanges between you and the Attorney
 13 General and it starts - the first unredacted
 14 entry is on 13 May 2020, and I just want to
 15 read that out. You say, "Michael, especially
 16 after today, working some kind of deferred
 17 prosecution agreement provisions into the
 18 Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act could
 19 make sense. The timing of legislation would
 20 need to be considered but DPA provisions
 21 would allow a recorded settlement to take
 22 place where a potential defendant, for
 23 example, pays a fine and/or agrees, for
 24 example, not to engage in certain business
 25 lines for a time and in exchange there is no

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1 prosecution. It wouldn't necessarily be
 2 usable in the present situation - essentially
 3 it's for businesses - but it could be in a future
 4 example of corporate economic crime. US,
 5 UK and Canada use them. It takes heat off
 6 unfair collateral damages to corporations
 7 where only a few individuals might have
 8 committed wrongdoing and means you as
 9 Attorney General, would have a more subtle
 10 and proportionate tool than the nuclear nolle.
 11 Depending on the jurisdiction model
 12 followed it could be judge or DPP who
 13 decides, so also potentially takes pressure off
 14 you. Worth reading SFO model on this", and
 15 you provide a link to deferred prosecution
 16 agreements.
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. Just focusing on what you say at the
 19 beginning, "Michael, especially after today",
 20 why were you saying, "especially after
 21 today"?
 22 **A. Especially after today? I don't know why**
 23 **I would have said that - I guess because I**
 24 **saw things heating up. I knew what his**
 25 **reaction was. I knew in fact from the SNC**

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1 **Lavalin file, as I had read it, that these things**
 2 **existed, they existed in the UK, so I was**
 3 **trying to present a model that was transparent**
 4 **and regular if it was needed or useful and that**
 5 **presented a model that was used in other**
 6 **jurisdictions so I imagine in specific answer**
 7 **to your question, that it was - yes, the tension**
 8 **of that meeting and how he had reacted to it.**
 9 Q. Why did you think that introducing a
 10 deferred prosecution agreements made
 11 sense?
 12 **A. I didn't know that it would or that it**
 13 **would be appropriate here, but it was a model**
 14 **that was transparent; it was a law; you would**
 15 **go through a procedure that was clear so**
 16 **insofar as I guess he was thinking about or**
 17 **we had discussed a nolle, this seemed to**
 18 **present some alternative that was more**
 19 **transparent, that was more - yes, regular, I**
 20 **suppose in some sense.**
 21 Q. As you recognised it, it would have no
 22 impact on this investigation so why did you
 23 think it necessary to raise it at this stage?
 24 **A. Again, I had a sense of disquiet about this**
 25 **whole file. I had from the beginning. I**

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<p>1 wasn't certain that the AG was drawing a line 2 around his own role and in support of that, 3 this seemed like an alternative model to deal 4 with this and future questions which might 5 arise that were similar, which was tested and 6 true, not uncontroversial but something that 7 was used in other jurisdictions. 8 Q. Why did you refer to the nolle prosequi 9 as "nuclear"? 10 A. Because it struck me as nuclear. It struck 11 me as something - I didn't know a great deal 12 about it but it struck me as something very 13 heavy and not to be used lightly - not that I 14 thought that Michael would use it - the AG 15 would use it lightly, but it just seemed like 16 something that could be very controversial if 17 wrongly applied and if there were other 18 methods of dealing with whatever was 19 happening and I didn't have a full picture, 20 this was a transparent and regular way of 21 doing so. 22 Q. Did you think at the time that the 23 Attorney General intended to use the nolle? 24 A. I didn't know but I thought it was - 25 Q. He was considering it and were you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 consult government colleagues on decisions 2 but must ultimately make decisions 3 independently, and the Attorney General has 4 sole discretion. Why did you consider it 5 appropriate to refer to the Shawcross 6 doctrine? 7 A. Again, generally I just wanted to make 8 sure that Michael was alive to what might be 9 happening around him. I didn't know with 10 any certainty and obviously still don't know, 11 but I thought it was - all the time I had 12 intuited rationally that this was not an 13 ordinary kind of case, that he had to deal 14 with this with great delicacy, protect the 15 integrity of his office, and in fact this 16 reminds me of why when you asked earlier 17 about did we discuss the Trudeau 2 report, 18 well this was it. This was my reminder to 19 him that, "You need to read this. You need 20 to make yourself aware of it" and I thought it 21 would be useful for him to do so. 22 Q. Did you then discuss it on the following 23 day? 24 A. Possibly. I don't - with a specific email 25 or -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 seeking to dissuade him from using it? 2 A. Not consciously but I suppose I wanted to 3 present alternatives to him in case he wasn't 4 aware of them. 5 Q. Then just continuing down this exchange 6 - 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. - later - well, this is messages you are 9 sending at close to 11 p.m. at night. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. You say, "Also the Trudeau 2 report I 12 sent last week is thoroughly worth a read for 13 modern exposition of Shawcross doctrine and 14 phenomenon of government going to outside 15 counsel when disagreeing with the AG 16 among many other issues" then there is a 17 deleted message, and then you provide a link 18 to the report and then there is a deleted 19 message in response and then, "Most 20 interesting, Lloyd. Many thanks. Let's 21 discuss tomorrow" and you reply with a 22 thumbs up. You refer to the Shawcross 23 doctrine and again correct me, please, if you 24 disagree with my encapsulation of it, but this 25 is a principle that the Attorney General may</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 Q. Sorry, it is just you sent through the 2 report and the Attorney General's response is, 3 "Most interesting, Lloyd. Many thanks. Let's 4 discuss tomorrow." 5 A. I don't think we did, no. 6 Q. You refer also to government going to 7 outside counsel when there is a disagreement 8 with the Attorney General. Why did you feel 9 the need to refer to that? 10 A. I don't know that I was thinking of 11 anything other than just relieving pressure on 12 him. He was under enormous pressure on 13 many different files and I thought perhaps 14 going to outside counsel might be useful. I 15 had already suggested that idea in another 16 context when I had been discussing using 17 different counsel for different individuals, 18 including at one point the CM. I thought 19 maybe he would have to get counsel for 20 himself and possibly at his own expense. So, 21 I had again - sorry, I had this general 22 concern around making sure that lines were 23 drawn around his office, his function, what 24 the CM was doing, what I was doing and it 25 went to that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 Q. I think you've touched upon this in your 2 answers, but I want to ask you plainly, did 3 you think or have any reason to think that 4 anyone from government was seeking to 5 influence the Attorney General's decisions? 6 A. Influence his decisions? No. I had - I 7 can be as complete as possible. I thought 8 Michael might be adopting views, for 9 example, on the ownership of NSCIS, which 10 weren't his own but he might not have 11 thought through thoroughly. He's a very 12 thorough lawyer but I had the sense that there 13 were certain conclusions, for example, to do 14 with the ownership of NSCIS, which I didn't 15 share, which I couldn't see how he shared but 16 which he did seem to opine on as had the 17 Chief Minister, and I found it I suppose 18 curious, so I had this sort of building concern 19 over time that notions were being planted in 20 his head that maybe he needed to push back 21 on. 22 Q. There are two deleted messages in that 23 exchange, one yours and one the Attorney 24 General's. Do you recall what they stated? 25 A. I don't, but if it's me, I am particularly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 A. No, but I surmised. 2 Q. What did you surmise? 3 A. Oh, sorry, no. It was to do with NCSIS, 4 the investigation, this whole matter. 5 Q. Did you think it was to do with the search 6 warrant? 7 A. Yes, possibly. I didn't give it a great deal 8 of thought but I imagined it had to do with 9 something along those lines. 10 Q. Did you have any views on the Attorney 11 General meeting with Mr Baglietto and Mr 12 Levy in the context of the recent search 13 warrant and the ongoing investigation? 14 A. I wasn't comfortable with it. Insofar as I 15 thought it was about that, I didn't think he 16 should be meeting with them. 17 Q. Why not? 18 A. I suppose again in the back of my mind it 19 seemed to me that whatever they had to say 20 maybe could be done - I presume they would 21 have sent formal representations by then. I 22 can't put my finger on it but it just didn't 23 seem quite right to me that they were 24 meeting with him in private. Maybe that was 25 a mistake of mine but it seemed somehow at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 bad at sending something with, you know, 2 the wrong link or mis-spelt the first time and 3 so it is not uncommon for me to then resend 4 it but I don't know. I have no - I don't know 5 why I would have. I don't think it was 6 anything material at all. Maybe it was the 7 wrong link to the report or - I don't know. I 8 simply don't know. 9 Q. Can we now - yes, sorry on the same 10 page there are further messages on 14 May 11 where you send messages to the Attorney 12 General saying, "Lewis and another gent to 13 see you", "Lewis and another gent here to see 14 you." 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. This is at 12.30 and then at 11.45, Moshe 17 Levy is the other gentleman. 18 A. Right. 19 Q. Presumably the reference to Lewis there 20 is to Lewis Baglietto, KC of Hassans? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Did you join that meeting? 23 A. I did not. 24 Q. Did you know why they were meeting or 25 what the meeting was about?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 an intuitive level not quite right. 2 Q. Did the Attorney General discuss that 3 meeting with you afterwards? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Did he discuss with you any other 6 meetings he held with Mr Baglietto or with 7 Hassans in relation to the investigation? 8 A. I don't think so, no. 9 Q. Did you have any contact with Mr 10 Baglietto or Mr Levy or any other person at 11 Hassans at all? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Did you raise your concerns with the 14 Attorney General? 15 A. No. 16 Q. On 15 May you attended a further 17 meeting with the AG, the DPP, Mr McGrail, 18 Superintendent Richardson and Inspector 19 Wyan. The transcript here is at B270. 20 A. B270. 21 Q. It does appear as though you were present 22 based on that transcript and based on other 23 individuals' accounts of that meeting. 24 A. Okay. 25 Q. But you have not mentioned it in your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 statement. Do you recall this meeting? 2 A. I don't. 3 Q. You have no recollection of (inaudible) - 4 A. Possibly something might jog my 5 memory but that wasn't something I had 6 when I was building up my statement. I'd 7 gone through my diary and emails and this 8 certainly didn't come to mind. 9 Q. Let me just check one second. We are 10 just checking to see if there is any record of 11 you saying something at the meeting that 12 might jog your memory. 13 A. (no reply) 14 Q. And in the meantime I am just asking: at 15 this meeting, there were conversations 16 between the Attorney General, the DPP and 17 the RGP about whether to proceed with an 18 interview of Mr Levy under caution and 19 other alternatives that were put forward. Did 20 you have any conversations with the 21 Attorney General or anybody else about the 22 question of whether to interview under 23 caution? 24 A. I don't remember any and I'm having 25 trouble remembering this meeting. I may</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 Commissioner's pension and just terms of 2 termination, as it were, so it was to do with 3 the specifics of his retirement or termination, 4 whatever it was. 5 Q. Do you recall what was being proposed? 6 A. A figure of £2500 stuck in my head for 7 some reason, but I don't - I remember 8 thinking it was not generous or it was very 9 modest. That was my reaction to it. 10 Q. Did you have any - 11 A. My private reaction, yes. 12 Q. Sorry to interrupt. 13 A. That's all right. 14 Q. Did you have any direct contact with the 15 Chief Minister about the retirement 16 agreement? 17 A. No, not subsequently. I think that same 18 day, as it happened, there was somebody 19 from the Foreign Office visiting Gib and 20 there was a reception afterwards and he has 21 asked me, "Why are we with it?" or 22 something like that, but not on substance, no. 23 Q. What was his general approach or attitude 24 towards that as far as you could tell? 25 A. I would describe it as harsh, from my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 well have been present but if it was a short 2 meeting and if I didn't participate, maybe it 3 just didn't imprint itself on my memory. 4 Q. So, you have no recollection - 5 A. Of it. 6 Q. - of any discussion around the question 7 of an interview under caution of Mr Levy? 8 A. Not outside of the meetings that I've 9 mentioned already. Again, I don't say I 10 wasn't at this meeting but even reading it 11 now, it doesn't really speak to me. 12 Q. Can we go to paragraph 20 of your first 13 affidavit now? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. You say, "On 8 June 2020 the Chief 16 Secretary asked me to assist him in drawing 17 up a retirement agreement for Mr McGrail on 18 terms that he and Mr McGrail had been 19 discussing and on which he was receiving 20 input from the Chief Minister in his capacity 21 as Finance Minister." Do you recall what 22 sort of input the Chief Secretary was 23 receiving from the Chief Minister in this 24 regard? 25 A. Yes, it had to do with his - with the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 perspective. He may well have had his 2 reasons, I'm sure he did - well, I'm not sure 3 he did or didn't - but he struck me as - it 4 struck me as being - I was surprised by his 5 involvement anyway. I think at that point, in 6 fact I did know that yes, it was sort of 7 controversial, it was already a controversial 8 retirement or whatever it was and so yes, I 9 thought it was maybe a good idea for him not 10 to be involved at all, but anyway ... 11 Q. And if we look at paragraph 21, you say 12 as follows: "In the middle of June 2020 I had 13 been advising the Department of the 14 Environment on an unrelated matter with a 15 Bland Group connection. The matter had 16 become difficult to resolve and during the 17 course of a telephone conversation with a 18 departmental official, I was informed that '36 19 North', the company allegedly implicated in 20 the data breach, was owned or partly owned 21 by the partners of Hassans, the investment 22 company. I was deeply concerned about the 23 implications of this information if true given 24 that the Chief Minister and others in the 25 political and administrative spheres of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

15 (Pages 57 to 60)

<p>1 government were themselves partners of 2 Hassans. I proceeded to inform the Attorney 3 General and ask him if the Royal Gibraltar 4 Police were aware. He told me that both he 5 and the police knew about this specific nexus 6 which reassured me." Is it the case then that 7 during 7 April and 13 May meetings you 8 remained unaware that the partners of 9 Hassans partly owned 36 North? 10 A. Yes. I mean, it's possible it had been 11 mentioned in the previous meetings. Again, I 12 had been - sort of gone into them out of 13 context and very quickly and so it may have 14 been mentioned but I hadn't joined the dots if 15 it was mentioned, but when it was mentioned 16 to me on that day, I was quite taken aback 17 and it came as a shock to me. 18 Q. Were you aware of Mr Levy's ownership 19 of 36 North? 20 A. Not other than as being a partner of 21 Hassans. 22 Q. Sorry, sorry. I should rephrase my 23 question a bit more specifically. During 24 those meetings, you were aware, of course, 25 of Mr Levy's status as a suspect.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 nexus, it would be especially important to be 2 alive to the possibility that those with an 3 interest in the outcome of the NSCIS matter 4 could seek to influence the investigative or 5 legal process, either directly or indirectly. I 6 was especially anxious that concern for the 7 good reputation of the jurisdiction and its 8 offices and institutions not be exploited by 9 anyone with an incentive to conflate 10 Gibraltar's interests with their own. I 11 particularly recall mentioning the importance 12 of not regarding Gibraltar as a plc but as a 13 community whose boundaries transcend 14 corporate ones, even if it was important not 15 to be naïve about the need to safeguard 16 Gibraltar's economic wellbeing and 17 international standing." When you talk about 18 those with an interest in the outcome of the 19 NSCIS matter seeking to influence the 20 investigative or legal process, whether 21 directly or indirectly, who are you referring 22 to when you said that? 23 A. I had a number of people in mind from 24 the CM to Mr Levy, and again, bearing in 25 mind this was just me thinking out loud -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. But were you aware at that time of his 3 ownership of 36 North? 4 A. No. 5 Q. When you say that the Hassans nexus 6 concerned you - sorry, let me just check - 7 that the nexus in terms of Hassans and the 8 political and administrative spheres of 9 government - when you say that that 10 concerned you, do you mean in relation to 11 your ongoing work or in relation to the 12 Operation Delhi investigation? 13 A. More the latter and generally to my mind, 14 when I received that information, I was quite 15 shocked. I realised later that everyone else 16 seemed to know about it but I hadn't realised 17 it, hadn't known about it, and I was 18 concerned. To me it to an extent had 19 vindicated my hunches that this was a very 20 delicate matter and (inaudible) to draw lines 21 around or get involved, etc., etc. 22 Q. You also say - sorry, in paragraph 22 - 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. -- you say, "I recall mentioning to the 25 Attorney General that in the context of this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 yes, the Financial Secretary. This was 2 nothing personal against of them but it was 3 just I thought, "Well, there were all these 4 interests here", and we needed to be alive to 5 the fact that this mattered. 6 Q. And when you say that there was a need 7 to be especially anxious about that concern 8 for the good reputation of the jurisdiction and 9 its offices and institutions not be exploited by 10 anyone with an incentive to conflate 11 Gibraltar's interests with their own, did you 12 have anyone specific in mind? 13 A. I had the CM and Mr Levy in mind in 14 particular. 15 Q. Just going back to the 36 North 16 ownership question, if you were not aware of 17 the 36 North ownership at the time of the 18 meetings of 7 April and 13 May, what was 19 your understanding of why Mr Levy was 20 involved or what was your understanding of 21 his involvement? 22 A. Well, bear in mind that at those meetings, 23 as I first learnt, I think it was on 7 April 24 meeting about Mr Levy being in the frame in 25 some way, that that already made me think</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

<p>1 about the CM and it was just beginning to 2 think about what this file could mean and 3 how it could develop, nothing more at that 4 stage, so yes. 5 Q. My question was more geared at there 6 was a criminal investigation and Mr Levy's 7 alleged role in the matters being investigated. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. What was your understanding of his role 10 at the time of the meeting? 11 A. I wasn't sure exactly what he was in the 12 frame for, why he specifically was a suspect. 13 Q. If we then focus back to 22, which is 14 where you say the matter you have raised 15 about those with an interest seeking to 16 influence the process and conflation of 17 Gibraltar's interests with their own, how did 18 the Attorney General respond to the points 19 that you were raising? 20 A. I think he accepted it. I had a particularly 21 strong reaction to the plc language because I 22 had seen it in my opinion abused before - not 23 in government but I thought it was (a) not a 24 legal concept and (b) not for us to be thinking 25 about necessarily or for the AG to be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 it was consistent with the Government's past 2 position and representations to the Royal 3 Gibraltar Police. Some days after the letter 4 was issued, the Attorney General called me 5 into his office. The Chief Minister was on 6 the speaker phone and asked whether I 7 advised the Chief Secretary to make a 8 complaint to the RGP regarding the NSCIS 9 matter. I understood from this, later 10 exchanges with the Chief Secretary and other 11 indications that the Government had 12 reconsidered its position. Having supported 13 the making of the complaint and associated 14 myself with it and being unsure of my 15 instructions from the Government, I told the 16 Attorney General on or about 12 October 17 2020 that I did not feel able to continue to 18 assist the Chief Secretary or the Government 19 more widely on the complaint, which he fully 20 understood." There was something that you 21 wanted to clarify in relation to that? 22 A. Yes and it was to do with the timeline 23 and then adding some detail, so the letter of 24 14 August was issued by the Chief Secretary, 25 which I had supported. Between then and at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 thinking about and I thought it was possibly a 2 dangerous crutch to be using and I thought it 3 could distort his thinking in terms of the 4 focus of the investigation and again his role 5 in this. I just thought it was something to be 6 cautious about because it was an inadequate 7 concept to be using or deploying or 8 mentioning. 9 Q. Did he share the concerns that you had 10 raised as far as you could tell? 11 A. He didn't disagree with them. I think he 12 took on board my points but I recall my 13 words more than his, what I was trying to 14 impart to him. 15 Q. Then at 23 to 25 you say: "In mid-July 16 2020 the Chief Secretary was requested by 17 Ullger ... to consider making a formal 18 complaint on behalf of government regarding 19 the NSCIS breach. The Chief Secretary 20 asked me to help him draft a reply in which 21 he informed that the Government was a 22 complainant. The letter was signed and 23 issued by the Chief Secretary on 14 August 24 2020. I supported the decision to issue the 25 letter both in principle and because I believed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 the latest 12 October, the events at paragraph 2 24 occurred, so that conversation occurred. 3 What I wanted to clarify was that I think now 4 probably that that was closer to 12 October 5 than it was to 14 August. That may or may 6 not matter, and the only other thing I wanted 7 to add was that 12 October was in my mind 8 because I had an exchange of emails with the 9 Chief Secretary to do with a request that he 10 was making on behalf of the Government as I 11 understood it to the DPP to see evidence and 12 the charges against Mr Sanchez. I didn't 13 think that was a good idea in principle and I 14 didn't think it would succeed anyway. They 15 had already asked the RGP and they had 16 been, I think, politely declined and I didn't 17 want to be associated with that request. It 18 wasn't my advice and I wanted to make sure 19 that Chief Secretary knew that it wasn't my 20 position or my advice. 21 Q. You referred to a telephone call where 22 the Chief Minister was on speakerphone and 23 asked whether you had advised the Chief 24 Secretary to make a complaint. What was 25 said on that phone call?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

17 (Pages 65 to 68)

1 (10.18)
 2 **A. Not a great deal. The Chief Minister and**
 3 **the AG had been clearly in discussion. I was**
 4 **called in. I was asked about whether I had**
 5 **given that advice and I mentioned that I had**
 6 **supported it. I wasn't rebuked but it was**
 7 **clear to me that it wasn't necessarily the**
 8 **welcome answer and that was confirmed to**
 9 **me because after I spoke to the AG, because**
 10 **I felt very frustrated at that point, I thought**
 11 **again my role and what I was doing there**
 12 **was of any use. I thought that --- yes, he**
 13 **didn't disabuse me of that, of that**
 14 **understanding I'd had and it surprised me, it**
 15 **was all a big surprise that I was being asked**
 16 **to sort of justify myself in some sense.**
 17 Q. Did the Chief Minister, the Attorney
 18 General or the Chief Secretary explain to you
 19 why the government had considered its
 20 position?
 21 **A. No, and that is also part of my own**
 22 **frustration with the whole file, that I was**
 23 **being brought in on things when I wasn't**
 24 **fully briefed, I didn't have clear instruction**
 25 **and so by that point I said, "I really am not**

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1 **carrying on with this, I'm not comfortable**
 2 **carrying on."**
 3 Q. Had anything changed in the interim
 4 period as far as you were aware to bring
 5 about that change of position?
 6 **A. No. I imagine it had to do with**
 7 **ownership and the question of ownership and**
 8 **what that --- what the implications of that**
 9 **would be for the government making a**
 10 **complaint but that was me just thinking about**
 11 **what it could be but I wasn't told the reasons.**
 12 **I accept they could be valid reasons but they**
 13 **weren't imparted to me.**
 14 Q. Did you have any concerns about the
 15 decision and particularly given the nexus that
 16 you had identified previously?
 17 **A. Yes, I mean, again I supported the**
 18 **decision to make a complaint from where I**
 19 **stood and from what I knew. I thought it was**
 20 **the right thing to do. It maker sense to do it.**
 21 **I knew from an email exchange with the DPP**
 22 **that at some point the CM seemed to have**
 23 **supported that so I didn't understand the**
 24 **change. Nothing had been shared with me**
 25 **that would cause me to change my mind so I**

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1 **wanted to stand by that advice, that guidance**
 2 **to the CS and support his instincts on this.**
 3 Q. What is your understanding of what
 4 happened to the complaint thereafter?
 5 **A. I don't know what happened afterwards.**
 6 Q. Just over the whole NSCIS and Operation
 7 Delhi issue, did you ever feel pressured by
 8 anybody in relation to that?
 9 **A. Absolutely not.**
 10 Q. When did you leave your position as
 11 Solicitor General
 12 **A. I think officially my last day was the**
 13 **middle of November 2022. I had left**
 14 **somewhat earlier because I had accumulated**
 15 **leave, et cetera, but, yes.**
 16 Q. Did your departure from that position
 17 have anything to do with the matters being
 18 investigated in this Inquiry?
 19 **A. No. It may have affected the timing**
 20 **slightly in the back of my mind but not in**
 21 **any substantive way. I was put under**
 22 **absolutely no pressure by anyone.**
 23 MR SANTOS: Thank you, I have no further
 24 questions.
 25 MR WAGNER: May I ask a few follow up

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1 questions arising from the evidence, perhaps
 2 after the break.
 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, briefly.
 4 MR WAGNER: I was wondering whether it
 5 should be after the break or before?
 6 MR SANTOS: I think it is better to deal
 7 with it now and then we will break.
 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
 9 Questioned by MR WAGNER:
 10 Q. Good morning, Mr Devincenzi.
 11 **A. Good morning.**
 12 Q. I act for Mr McGrail. You used the word
 13 "importuned," a couple of times and I just
 14 wanted to ask you what you meant by that.
 15 **A. I thought that the AG might be not**
 16 **harassed necessarily but that representations**
 17 **might be made to him about the**
 18 **investigation, about what the outcome could**
 19 **mean and so I wanted him to be alert to that.**
 20 **I'm sure he would have been but I just felt it**
 21 **was my duty to mention it.**
 22 Q. In relation to the ownership issue ----
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. --- when you were advising in the lead up
 25 to 7 April ----

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<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. --- there were discussions about the 3 ownership issue. Was your impression that 4 you were being asked to advise and in fact 5 probably include the AG in this as well, you 6 together, were you being asked to advise 7 purely in relation to what was the legal 8 position, who on the papers, as it were, 9 owned the platform? Or was there an 10 additional element of advising the 11 government on how to assert ownership? 12 A. Not to assert ownership, no, so I had set 13 out in an email what I thought needed to be 14 done, which was go back to first principles 15 and figure out what the relationship had been 16 as we can do that, since there was no signed 17 agreement and then say, "Okay, this is what 18 we seem to have, this is the legal position 19 now, let's take stock of that." Now what does 20 the government want to do with that, you 21 know, what kind of relationship would it 22 want with Blands going forward. 23 Q. Did the Attorney General at first agree 24 with your advice or not? 25 A. I hadn't given advice. I set out what I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 mentioned to Michael and Michael has 2 simply accepted it because, you know, 3 maybe the CM had justified it to Michael. It 4 wasn't my view and I had sent Michael 5 reasons why I didn't think it was my view. 6 That was a bit later but --- so I was curious 7 about how he could have come to that 8 conclusion. 9 Q. Did he give you any reasons, legal 10 reasons, why he had come or that 11 conclusion? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Did you ask him to? 14 A. I think at one point it was --- yes, it was 15 discussed. I don't recall what sort of answer 16 he gave but it wasn't an answer that gave me 17 confidence that he had thought it through. 18 Q. No, and I think in that meeting --- you 19 describe in your statement that at that 20 meeting in November the Chief Minister was 21 opining firmly ---- 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. That was the expression you used. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. What do you mean by "opining firmly"?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 thought were the next steps we needed to 2 take and he seemed perfectly comfortable 3 with that. 4 Q. And then, later you said that you felt that 5 the Attorney General was adopting views 6 which you could not understand what the 7 basis was --- of --- sorry, I have not 8 expressed that well, that he was adopting 9 views that you could not see what the 10 justification was or ---- 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Can you explain what you mean by that? 13 A. Straight forwardly it was to do with the 14 ownership. It was in different ways --- he 15 seemed very sure that ownership was with 16 the government. I didn't know how he could 17 have come to that conclusion and I don't 18 mean that in any other way but it was not 19 obvious to me how he came to that 20 conclusion. I had noted in the meeting of 19 21 November, which was the general meeting 22 on NSCIS with the CM that the CM had a 23 very definite view and I thought that that is 24 interesting that the CM has that view, that 25 Michael has that view, maybe the CM has</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 A. He may have used words like, "It's ours," 2 you know, it was a very --- it was a 3 conclusion and it was very firm and there 4 may well have been a justification for it but it 5 surprised me. I didn't know how he could 6 have come to that conclusion. Again there 7 may well have been good reasons which 8 were not apparent to me. I didn't share that 9 view even tentatively at that point and 10 certainly not later, so I just found it 11 surprising that it was so definite. 12 Q. And then you find it surprising a bit later 13 that the Attorney General also seemed to be 14 firm in his view? 15 A. Yes, and I think he had opined earlier or 16 he had mentioned earlier that it's the 17 government, it's the government's --- there 18 was a consistent view of the Attorney 19 General and I wasn't sure how he had arrived 20 at that conclusion. 21 Q. In the back of your mind were you 22 wondering whether this may be an example 23 of the Attorney General being importuned? 24 A. Not necessarily importuned but with all 25 the pressures around him, if a narrative had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

1 **been given to him, including the good faith**
 2 **narrative, and given how important it was, it**
 3 **was important for him to think for himself**
 4 **about what it was and I was sure he would**
 5 **think for himself but maybe he hadn't had the**
 6 **opportunity and I just --- I was curious about**
 7 **--- I thought it was dangerous in some way**
 8 **for him to have that opinion and then to**
 9 **opine on it himself.**
 10 Q. Quite firmly.
 11 **A. It was dangerous wise --- dangerous? It**
 12 **was clearly an important matter that may**
 13 **have borne on the rest of the investigation. I**
 14 **remember the Commissioner in the very first**
 15 **meeting that we had --- this was not with the**
 16 **AG or anybody else, this was when I was**
 17 **asked to just join a meeting with the Chief**
 18 **Secretary, so this was early on,. It was**
 19 **September, October 2019. The then**
 20 **commissioner had mentioned the ownership**
 21 **question so I was alive to its potential**
 22 **importance although I didn't know exactly**
 23 **how and so I thought that if there was a very**
 24 **definite view being taken, it may have been**
 25 **more strategic than principled possibly ---**

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1 **not by the AG necessarily but it struck me as**
 2 **just --- it was a small thing but it struck me as**
 3 **odd that there would be such a very definite**
 4 **view consistently on something that --- in the**
 5 **context of this investigation --- this complex**
 6 **investigation.**
 7 Q. You said that you were sure that the
 8 Attorney General would eventually analyse
 9 the position and reach a considered view, did
 10 you see any evidence that he did?
 11 **A. That matter sort of dropped away, so, no,**
 12 **the answer is no.**
 13 Q. Yes. You have talked a few times about
 14 drawing lines and I think, would it be right to
 15 say, your major concern amongst all of this
 16 was that the importance of drawing lines of
 17 the lawyers and who they were advising; is
 18 that fair?
 19 **A. In a word, yes, that was my overriding**
 20 **concern and it became more so as time went**
 21 **by.**
 22 Q. You also said that you thought the Chief
 23 Minister --- and I think you said that you at
 24 one point said the Chief Minister may have
 25 to get his own representation not at

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1 government expense.
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Can you explain the background to that
 4 statement?
 5 **A. It was in the context of looking at our**
 6 **roles, and this was a conversation with**
 7 **Michael and I didn't have an answer, I had a**
 8 **lot of questions around our roles including**
 9 **Michael's and thinking that if it came to be**
 10 **that the CM eventually became a suspect or**
 11 **something that wasn't really related to his**
 12 **office, then he would need to retain separate**
 13 **representation, that Michael couldn't be**
 14 **advising him on that, that the AG couldn't be**
 15 **advising him on that. I remember that very**
 16 **well because I wanted to make the point.**
 17 Q. Do you remember when that conversation
 18 happened?
 19 **A. My best recollection is that it would have**
 20 **been 5 May meeting. It may have happened**
 21 **somewhat later but the meeting on 5 may**
 22 **was I think our first sort of wide ranging**
 23 **discussion around roles and his office,**
 24 **meaning Michael's office, and lines to be**
 25 **drawn.**

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1 Q. What made you raise the possibility --- or
 2 I do not know if you raised it or if someone
 3 raised it in the meeting about the Chief
 4 Minister possibly becoming a suspect later
 5 down the line?
 6 **A. No one had mentioned it but it occurred**
 7 **to me that it might be possible in the scheme**
 8 **of things. I don't know why I had thought**
 9 **that specifically at that time but ---**
 10 Q. Why did you think it might be possible in
 11 the scheme of things?
 12 THE CHAIRMAN: It is quite difficult to ask
 13 someone why a hypothetical question might
 14 arise. It did not in fact.
 15 MR WAGNER: (To the witness): Well, it
 16 was clearly in the minds of the individuals
 17 who were trying to understand if there was
 18 something specific being discussed.
 19 **A. No, there was nothing specific. It just ---**
 20 **I was trying to think ahead as much as**
 21 **possible. This is what I was trying to do**
 22 **because people were so busy, the AG was so**
 23 **busy and I was trying to anticipate the roll**
 24 **out of the entire matter.**
 25 Q. You were shown the comment by the

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<p>1 Attorney General about fighting --- well, that 2 he would fight until he died in relation to the 3 Chief Minister and you said that you cannot 4 remember --- you said you could not 5 remember what your reaction was then ---- 6 A. I remember that sort of language; that I 7 do remember in terms of protecting Gibraltar 8 and the Chief Minister or the office of Chief 9 Minister, that I do recall, yes. 10 Q. You then said, "I have a reaction now." 11 A. I think that was in relation to other 12 matters that were raised at the meeting that I 13 didn't have a memory of but on the point to 14 do with his office and protecting him, I 15 believe it's in my statement that I do 16 remember that. 17 Q. Did you say what you thought about it? 18 A. No, I don't think I did. I remember being 19 relieved that he had corrected himself from 20 memory, so I thought it was good that he had 21 sort of toned it down in a sense because I 22 thought it might not leave a good impression 23 although I understood what he was trying to 24 say. 25 Q. You said in relation to the Shawcross</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 it was in some sense harsh and that was the 2 tone I got. What I have a better recollection 3 of is thinking that he should probably be 4 running 100 miles in the other direction from 5 this matter including himself and advising on 6 the package. That was more definitely in my 7 mind, 8 Q. Why did you think he should be running 9 100 miles in a different direction from this 10 matter? 11 A. This was 8 June or I think it was around 8 12 June, I just thought given it was a 13 controversial retirement, I was aware of that 14 at that point, and given my other hunches or 15 my disquiet, which I have already spoken to, 16 I thought it was --- I was putting myself in 17 his position and thinking that if I were I 18 would just leave the --- leave this altogether 19 for someone else, for the Chief Secretary and 20 not advice or opine on the package. 21 Q. Then it came to be in I think November 22 or around then, just before November, at 23 some point you had that conversation with --- 24 there was a meeting where the Chief Minister 25 was on the speaker phone asking you to --- I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 doctrine that the Attorney General needed to 2 protect the integrity of the office; that was 3 your concern. Looking back and bearing in 4 mind what you now know happened, do you 5 believe that the Attorney General did draw 6 appropriate lines between the different 7 representations? 8 A. I don't know is my answer. 9 Q. Put it this way, did you have concerns 10 that you expressed a number of concerns --- 11 did you feel before you left your job that 12 those concerns had been addressed? 13 A. Not expressly. They may have been --- I 14 wasn't aware of it but I had sort of dropped 15 out of the scene --- I had dropped myself out 16 of the scene in a sense. 17 Q. You said that when you spoke to the 18 Chief Minister briefly about the termination 19 or the retirement agreement with Mr McGrail 20 that you felt that he had been --- well, I think 21 you said that you felt he was being harsh? 22 A. Yes, I mean, that was my reaction. It 23 seemed maybe puny and --- but I remember 24 the figure 2500. I remember thinking the 25 pension figure was small. I just thought that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 think it is right, asking you to justify why 2 you had advised the government to make a 3 complaint? 4 A. Yes, I took it as that, yes. 5 Q. Were you surprised when at that point the 6 Chief Minister was still involved with 7 decision making relating to this matter? 8 A. Yes, absolutely. 9 Q. Is that because you thought he should be 10 100 miles in the other direction rather than 11 being still ---- 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. --- calling the shots on this matter? 14 A. Well, I don't know who was calling the 15 shots but I didn't think he should be involved 16 at all. 17 Q. Who else could have been calling the 18 shots in the structure of this? 19 A. Well, for example, on the complaint, the 20 Chief Secretary himself, so the 21 administrative arm of the government rather 22 than the political arm of the government 23 where there were very potential conflicts of 24 interest. 25 Q. Did you ever get the sense that the Chief</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 Secretary had been given that role, "You are 2 going to be calling the shots," because the 3 Chief Minister is involved in the 4 investigation? Did anything like that ever 5 get said? 6 A. No. 7 Q. Just one more question, which is about 8 your resignation, you said that the resignation 9 --- that the events that led to this Inquiry 10 may have had something to do with the 11 timing of the resignation. Can you explain 12 what you mean? 13 A. I simply --- I was leaving anyway and 14 human nature being what it is, I wanted to 15 make sure that I am confident in whatever I 16 had to say but I felt completely free to say 17 that. 18 Q. Did anyone say anything to you or ask 19 you --- 20 THE CHAIRMAN: This is your second last 21 question, is it? 22 MR WAGNER: Yes, excuse me, this is my 23 second ---- 24 THE CHAIRMAN: This is your last 25 question?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 negotiation or whether they are established in 2 general orders or in regulations, pensions 3 regulations? Are you generally aware? 4 A. Generally, yes, aware of the pension 5 regulations, it depends on ---- 6 Q. No, no, in respect of the occupational 7 pensions of public servants. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Do you believe that those are just a 10 matter of bilateral negotiation between the 11 pensioner and the --- or the retiring employee 12 and the public administration or are you 13 aware of whether there is any written regime 14 in general or in orders or in a pensions 15 regulations specifically providing for 16 entitlement to pensions? 17 A. There are certainly regulations and laws 18 around pensions, occupational pensions. I 19 know that in practice sometimes things are 20 negotiated but I am not aware of the detail of 21 how those matters work. 22 Q. You are aware that there is a written 23 regime about it? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Going back to the withdrawal of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 MR WAGNER: This is my very last 2 question. (To the witness): Did you feel at 3 any point that anybody in government before 4 your resignation was asking to --- or 5 suggesting that you say anything in particular 6 in your witness statement to the Inquiry? 7 A. Not remotely. 8 MR WAGNER: Thank you. 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. I am 10 going to ask about timetabling. 11 MR SANTOS: Yes, according to the 12 timetable we were due to commence with the 13 Attorney General at twelve o'clock, so we do 14 have time. 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone else want 16 to have a last question? No, okay, well, we 17 will have a break --- after you have finished 18 we will have a break ready to start with the 19 Attorney General at twelve o'clock, okay. 20 Questioned by SIR PETER CARUANA: 21 Q. Mr Devincenzi, good morning to you, if I 22 can start at the end for ease of everybody's 23 memory and reference, are you --- on 24 pensions are you aware whether the civil 25 service or public pensions are a matter for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 complaint --- I am sorry, before I move on, 2 had you formed a view about whether Mr 3 McGrail's pensions aspirations fell within or 4 without the regime as you understood it, 5 regulating public service pensions? 6 A. It was the absolute figure that seemed 7 small and, as I say, it was more --- I didn't 8 really pay attention to the detail of his --- 9 sorry, the ex-Commissioner's package other 10 than the figure that I have mentioned. It was 11 more the CMs involvement as minister of 12 finance which he made clear he was doing, 13 he was involved himself as Minister of 14 Finance. 15 Q. And if I can just very briefly touch on the 16 withdrawal of the complaint by the 17 government, were you aware why the 18 government had withdrawn the complaint? 19 A. When you say withdrawn, I knew that it 20 had changed its mind --- a complaint had 21 been sent on 14 April, I didn't know that it 22 was subsequently withdrawn. 23 Q. So you do not know that the complaint 24 was withdrawn? 25 A. No, it was clear that that seemed to be in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 the offing when I had that conversation 2 towards the end of --- or the middle of 3 October. 4 Q. Your evidence about frustration and 5 assuming that it had something to do with 6 ownership was speculative? You did not 7 know that the complaint had been 8 withdrawn? 9 A. I call it reasoned intuition or reasoning 10 but it wasn't speculative or at least not purely 11 speculative. I knew that there was a link 12 between the complaint and the ownership, for 13 example. It had been discussed so I had a 14 sense that that might be at play but I --- it 15 was, yes, a reasoned intuition about it. 16 Q. Reasoned intuition, not fact? 17 A. Reasoned intuition. 18 Q. Okay. 19 A. Reasoned intuition. 20 Q. Were you aware of whether the 21 government was asking the RGP to provide it 22 with available information in order for the 23 government to justify it being a complainant? 24 A. Yes, and this is what I mentioned in my 25 clarification on 12 October exchange I had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 necessary for the CS to know about my 2 doubts and that he knows that I didn't support 3 the view that we should be asking for this, 4 subject to further information being made 5 available to me and so I could advise on it. 6 Q. So your view that the government should 7 be a complainant against Mr Sanchez was 8 based on something other than evidence 9 available against him? 10 A. My view was based on whatever it was 11 that --- I knew the government had been in 12 some sense injured by this, the data breach, 13 so whatever the specifics of a complaint, I 14 thought it was right that we be --- that we 15 make a complaint on one of those points. 16 Q. And, finally, are you aware of whether 17 the evidence --- regardless of whether you 18 thought it was right or wrong for the 19 government to be asking for it, that aside, are 20 you aware of whether it was provided to the 21 government? 22 A. I don't know. 23 Q. Thank you. Turning to the Attorney 24 General now, can I just ask you some 25 questions there. Did you enjoy working with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 with the CS, with the then Chief Secretary, 2 and that from what I knew, there wasn't a 3 good reason to withdraw the complaint from 4 what I knew. I didn't think that it was 5 necessarily right to ask for information to do 6 with Mr Sanchez's --- the charges against Mr 7 Sanchez or the evidence against him. I 8 thought it was not right to ask and I thought 9 we would be rebuffed anyway, so I was 10 trying to save him and the government 11 embarrassment at a rebuffal. 12 Q. If the government was not aware of what 13 evidence there was against Mr Sanchez, on 14 what basis might you think that they were 15 required to sustain a complaint on what 16 basis? 17 A. It was more a process point so I didn't 18 think that we --- my disquiet was mainly 19 around, at that point, October 12, asking the 20 DPP for whatever they had asked the DPP 21 and they had declined and then us asking the 22 DPP for the same kind of information 23 without knowing if even Mr Sanchez was 24 represented by a --- I had many more 25 questions than answers and I thought it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 the Attorney General, Mr Llamas? 2 A. Very much. 3 Q. Did you think that he was a good lawyer? 4 A. I did and do. 5 Q. Did you have a view of him as a person? 6 Did you think he was a decent and honest 7 person? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Did you have any sense in any of your 10 dealings or any of the dealings that you saw 11 the Attorney General engage in, in relation to 12 these matters that we are interested in and 13 spoken about, did you get any sense that the 14 Attorney General was trying to curtail the 15 RGP's freedom of action in their 16 investigations? 17 A. No. 18 Q. Did you get the impression that he was 19 pressurising or cajoling or somehow abusing 20 the status of his office? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Did you sense that the Attorney General 23 was acting improperly or manifesting 24 improper attitudes or --- sorry, just answer 25 those because I do not want to ask questions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 that are too long 2 A. Not improper attitudes. I had wondered a 3 little bit about --- it may seem like a slight 4 thing but to me I had wondered about his 5 questions to deal with deference towards Mr 6 Levy. Not anything improper but I wondered 7 whether he might be too deferential to Mr 8 Levy possibly. 9 Q. Did he ever give you any reason to doubt 10 the propriety of his motives for whatever he 11 did, regardless of whether you agreed with 12 what he was doing or not? 13 A. Did he give me ---- 14 Q. Yes, did he give you the impression that 15 he was driven by improper motives? 16 A. No. 17 Q. So can I then ask you whether, when you 18 provided the Attorney General with this very 19 interesting Trudeau report, that is not the 20 name, but it was about Prime Minister 21 Trudeau of Canada and a situation affecting 22 him and also --- I am going to run through all 23 this together and ask one question to save 24 time, when you provided the Attorney 25 General with the Canada report and also you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 me an impression or whether his actions on 2 this file gave me reason to doubt his motives 3 or ---- 4 THE CHAIRMAN: (To the witness): I 5 think the question really was whether or not 6 you thought he was dealing with 7 contingencies that may or may not arise? 8 A. Yes. 9 SIR PETER CARUANA: (To the witness): 10 Exactly. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Exactly as opposed to specific facts and 13 scenarios that had already arisen in this 14 matter? 15 A. Broadly, yes. 16 Q. So whilst I have this page open here, can 17 I have 6807 --- this is your WhatsApp 18 exchanges about the meeting between the 19 Attorney General and Mr Mosche Levy and 20 Mr Baglietto, can I give you the opportunity 21 to look at that again? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. And just ask you whether --- this is 14 24 May, are you --- can you be certain that that 25 meeting actually took place?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 put in his mind the deferred prosecution 2 agreement idea, and also raised with him the 3 thought that if the Chief Minister became a 4 suspect he might need representation other 5 than by the Attorney General, that is separate 6 representation, would it be fair to say that 7 you were acting pre-emptively, that you were 8 in a sense theorising, providing advance 9 thinking, advanced information for a 10 situation that had not yet arisen in any of the 11 three cases but which you were just using 12 your interest, your intellectual interest and 13 your research experience to forearm the 14 Attorney General with relevant material that 15 he might use to inform his thinking on those 16 issues? 17 A. Broadly, I would agree. 18 Q. I can contrast it for you so that you better 19 understand ---- 20 THE CHAIRMAN: You asked a very long 21 question, you have got to give him a chance 22 to answer. 23 SIR PETER CARUANA: Yes. 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have half -forgotten 25 your question, sorry. It was whether he gave</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 A. I am sorry, which meeting? 2 Q. The meeting between Mr Mosche Levy 3 and Lewis and the Attorney General? 4 A. Certainly reasonably certain. I say, 5 "Lewis and another gent here to see you." I 6 was often in the office and near the door 7 where people used to enter through on the 8 upper floor and there was no receptionist 9 there, so sometimes I acted as receptionist, as 10 it were, so I am reasonably sure that the 11 meeting took place. 12 Q. So you saw them in the office? 13 A. In the AG's office? 14 Q. No, in the building? 15 A. Yes, I assume so. I am going by my own 16 note. 17 Q. Yes, but why would you send the 18 Attorney General a WhatsApp if the 19 Attorney General was in the building? 20 A. Because he worked very much on 21 WhatsApp and it was a quick way to get a 22 quick response. He would go to that first 23 rather than email and anything else. 24 Q. My question is are you assuming from 25 the fact that you saw Mr Mosche Levy and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

24 (Pages 93 to 96)

<p>1 Lewis Baglietto in the building, somewhere 2 near the reception area, and the fact that you 3 sent this WhatsApp to the Attorney General, 4 saying that they were here, are you assuming, 5 firstly, that the Attorney General was in the 6 building or did you know that he was in the 7 building? 8 A. I assume I must have known that he was 9 in the building. I am going by my own 10 words there. 11 Q. I am just giving you an opportunity to see 12 if it refreshes your memory and are you 13 assuming also that the meeting actually took 14 place? Did you see them meeting together? 15 A. No, I wasn't in the meeting. I have no 16 recollection beyond the words on the page. 17 Q. So it is just recollection from what you 18 are seeing? 19 A. Yes, exactly. I know Mr Levy had come 20 by on other occasions and so it wasn't --- yes, 21 but on that particular one I go by the words 22 on the page. 23 Q. Finally, on --- well, finally in two parts, 24 on the question of whether or not an 25 agreement had been struck at the meeting of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 A. On an indistinct recollection of the 2 specifics, yes. 3 Q. Did you say "indistinct"? 4 A. An indistinct recollection of the specifics. 5 Q. I understand. In respect of Nolle, and this 6 is my final question, sir, thank you, in respect 7 of Nolle did you have any sense at that time, 8 in April, 7 April or thereabouts --- 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. --- that the Attorney General was 11 contemplating the entering of a Nolle? 12 A. No, not --- that early, no, I don't think so. 13 Q. What is the earliest do you think that you 14 might have --- however remotely it might 15 have been in mind, I am not asking you to 16 pin the degree of --- 17 A. Probably just post 13 May. 18 Q. Yes, and he discussed this with you? 19 A. He did --- we were discussing it together, 20 yes. 21 Q. In the context of this case or at large in 22 terms of the applicable principles? 23 A. It was more of an academic nature. It 24 related to Gibraltar and protecting --- the 25 context was certainly Gibraltar not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 7 April, so this a matter of recollection, do 2 you recall the conversations or the 3 conversations that took place during that 4 meeting between the Attorney General and 5 the Commissioner? 6 A. During 7 April? 7 Q. Yes. 8 A. No, that is probably a hazier memory 9 than the 13th because it was impromptu, I 10 was thrown into it and so I recollect some 11 bits of it certainly. My best recollection 12 about the undertaking was that the 13 Commissioner certainly had made some 14 undertaking to keep the AG informed. I said 15 before and I will stand by my prior answer 16 which is that the wording may have been 17 wide enough to be interpreted as something 18 more than just an update, you know, "Keep 19 me updated," et cetera, but that is the 20 impression I took from it, which was that it 21 was a firm commitment to update, to keep 22 the AG informed. It may have been more but 23 I don't recollect it that way. 24 Q. But based on what you have described as 25 a hazy recollection; would that be fair?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 necessarily the specific case. 2 SIR PETER CARUANA: Thank you, sir, for 3 your indulgence. 4 MR SANTOS: I apologise, sir, there is one 5 very short clarificatory question that I have. 6 (To the witness): Can we turn to B730, 7 please, it is not going to be in your file, I am 8 afraid, this is a letter from the then governor, 9 Mr Pyle, to Mr McGrail and if we can just --- 10 it is on 9 June and it sets out the agreement 11 that was arrived at between the governor and 12 the commissioner or anyway, the agreement 13 that was reached as to the terms of the 14 Commissioner's departure. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. I just want to draw your attention to item 17 4 which is "a contribution of £2500 towards 18 my legal fees." 19 A. Okay. 20 Q. I just wanted to give you the opportunity 21 to see that and to reflect on whether your 22 reference to £2500 may have been to that 23 rather than --- 24 A. It may have been. I remember an email 25 from the CM with that figure. It's possible</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

1 **that this was the figure being talked about, I**
 2 **don't know. That does look like even the**
 3 **format of what I saw from the CM.**
 4 MR SANTOS: Thank you.
 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, we will have our
 6 short break and resume at 12.10.
 7 (11.57)
 8 (Short adjournment)
 9 (12.09)
 10 MICHAEL LLAMAS, sworn
 11 Questioned by MR SANTOS
 12 Q. Good afternoon. Can I just ask you to
 13 look at the bundle in front of you marked
 14 "Witness Statements"? It should have inside
 15 it the two affidavits that you have filed with
 16 this inquiry. Can I just ask you to check that
 17 the first of those is behind the first tab and
 18 that your signature is on the final page,
 19 please?
 20 **A. It is.**
 21 Q. And do you confirm that the contents of
 22 that affidavit are true to the best of your
 23 knowledge, information and belief?
 24 **A. I do.**
 25 Q. Can I now ask you for the second, behind

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1 the second tab, to check that that is your
 2 second affidavit to this inquiry and that your
 3 signature is on the final page, please?
 4 **A. I can confirm that.**
 5 Q. And are the contents of that affidavit true
 6 to the best of your knowledge, information
 7 and belief?
 8 **A. They are.**
 9 Q. Thank you. Can I ask, please, when did
 10 you become Attorney General?
 11 **A. In 2015.**
 12 Q. Can you please explain the role of the
 13 Attorney General in Gibraltar?
 14 **A. I think the role of the Attorney General**
 15 **depends on the officeholder, so, for instance,**
 16 **my immediate predecessor, Mr Ricky Rhoda,**
 17 **he came from a criminal law background and**
 18 **therefore even though that was not all that he**
 19 **did, that was the lion's share of his work. I**
 20 **come from a very different background,**
 21 **European law in particular, and that is what I**
 22 **spent most of my time doing.**
 23 Q. How much - you say that is what you
 24 spend most of your time doing. What other
 25 roles or what other aspects to the role are

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1 there that you engage in?
 2 **A. Well, it must be said that since June**
 3 **2016, and the Brexit referendum and what**
 4 **that means to this jurisdiction, that has taken**
 5 **up the lion's share of my work. It's an**
 6 **existentialist threat that Brexit has posed to**
 7 **Gibraltar. This is not just a difficult**
 8 **challenge as it may be for a big and powerful**
 9 **country like the United Kingdom. In our**
 10 **small nation where EU law and the facilities**
 11 **that that has provided have been fundamental**
 12 **to us, it have been a big challenge and most**
 13 **of my time since June 2016 has been taken**
 14 **up navigating the different phases of the**
 15 **post-Brexit challenge. So first of all we**
 16 **assured that our continued access to the UK**
 17 **Government and particularly for financial**
 18 **services, which is a POI economy, was**
 19 **maintained after Brexit because that was**
 20 **based on EU law. Having secured that, we**
 21 **then had -**
 22 THE CHAIRMAN: I think we are getting
 23 away from the point.
 24 MR SANTOS: Yes, I was more asking about
 25 outside of, which is clear, it is a huge

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1 undertaking, the Brexit element of your role.
 2 What other roles, sort of sub-roles, does your
 3 role encompass?
 4 **A. In the sense of providing legal advice?**
 5 Q. Yes.
 6 **A. Just general public law, constitutional law**
 7 **matters.**
 8 Q. Can you please explain the constitutional
 9 relationship as you understand it between the
 10 Attorney General and the Chief Minister in
 11 Gibraltar?
 12 **A. Well, as set out in section 59 of the**
 13 **Constitution, I am an independent**
 14 **officeholder and I discharge my functions in**
 15 **accordance with that.**
 16 Q. Your answer may be the same, but can
 17 you explain the constitutional relationship
 18 between the Attorney General and the
 19 Governor in Gibraltar?
 20 **A. As the Governor's legal adviser and the**
 21 **principal legal adviser to the Government in**
 22 **both its forms under the Constitution, both in**
 23 **relation to the Governor as part of**
 24 **Government and to the elected Government**
 25 **and that is the situation as I understand it to**

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<p>1 be in all the British overseas territories.</p> <p>2 Q. I am just going to focus on issue 3, first</p> <p>3 of all, the collision at sea. On the morning of</p> <p>4 Sunday 8 March 2020, you received a call</p> <p>5 from Mr McGrail and you say in your</p> <p>6 evidence that you understand he had been</p> <p>7 told by the Chief Minister to contact you.</p> <p>8 What is your basis for that understanding?</p> <p>9 A. My recollection is there was an email</p> <p>10 message perhaps between the Chief Minister</p> <p>11 and Mr McGrail where the Chief Minister</p> <p>12 asked Mr - or McGrail said that I should be</p> <p>13 informed of what had happened.</p> <p>14 Q. You attended New Mole House Police</p> <p>15 Station at approximately 10 o'clock. Do you</p> <p>16 recall that?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Where were you taken to?</p> <p>19 A. I think that was in Mr McGrail's office.</p> <p>20 Q. And at paragraph 82 of your first</p> <p>21 statement, page A294, you say that Mr</p> <p>22 McGrail briefed you on what he knew at that</p> <p>23 stage in the presence of other RGP officers.</p> <p>24 Do you recall who else was present at that</p> <p>25 meeting?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you recall him using the words</p> <p>2 "highly likely"?</p> <p>3 A. Maybe. Maybe. Not with 100 per cent</p> <p>4 certainty but what I do remember at that</p> <p>5 moment is that he didn't have precise</p> <p>6 information and he was trying to get it.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you recall him saying what his basis</p> <p>8 was for stating that it was highly likely that it</p> <p>9 took place in Spanish waters?</p> <p>10 A. I don't know if he said that, when he said</p> <p>11 it. It may have been after Mr Field came into</p> <p>12 the meeting because my recollection is that</p> <p>13 Mr Field came with some coordinates which</p> <p>14 I understand he'd got from the Spanish</p> <p>15 Guardia Civil and I recollect that he may</p> <p>16 have mentioned the six nautical miles.</p> <p>17 Q. Just focusing on what you said about the</p> <p>18 coordinates and that they were obtained from</p> <p>19 the Spanish Guardia Civil, when you say that</p> <p>20 that is your understanding, is that your</p> <p>21 understanding now or was that your</p> <p>22 understanding at the time?</p> <p>23 A. It's a recollection that I have. It's not a</p> <p>24 very precise one, I must say, but I think that</p> <p>25 Mr Field came into the room with that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 A. I think that Mr Richardson was there</p> <p>2 most of the time and there were other officers</p> <p>3 coming in and out is my recollection.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you recall -</p> <p>5 A. I think Mr Field must have been one of</p> <p>6 them.</p> <p>7 Q. Who was conducting the briefing?</p> <p>8 A. Mr McGrail.</p> <p>9 Q. Did others participate in it or was it all</p> <p>10 Mr McGrail?</p> <p>11 A. Probably; I don't remember.</p> <p>12 Q. You say that you do not have a precise</p> <p>13 recollection but to the best of your</p> <p>14 recollection - you say in your statement: "He</p> <p>15 referred to the fact that there had been a</p> <p>16 chase that straddled BGTW and Spanish</p> <p>17 waters." Is that still your recollection of</p> <p>18 what the briefing entailed?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. You also say that Mr McGrail said it</p> <p>21 seemed highly likely that the collision had</p> <p>22 occurred in Spanish waters but that that he</p> <p>23 was waiting for formal technical</p> <p>24 confirmation of this.</p> <p>25 A. That's correct.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 information.</p> <p>2 Q. You also recall learning that the RGP</p> <p>3 vessel's automatic identification system</p> <p>4 appeared not to have been switched on. Was</p> <p>5 an explanation given by anybody for that?</p> <p>6 A. Maybe - not a good explanation,</p> <p>7 obviously, but I think - I don't remember</p> <p>8 what was said.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you recall whether Mr McGrail</p> <p>10 reacted in any way to that information?</p> <p>11 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>12 Q. What was your reaction to that</p> <p>13 information?</p> <p>14 A. Surprised.</p> <p>15 Q. You say that you have a recollection, not</p> <p>16 a precise recollection, of Mr Field arriving</p> <p>17 with information about coordinates. Do you</p> <p>18 recall whether they were shown to you,</p> <p>19 plotted on a map?</p> <p>20 A. No, what I tend to remember is that they</p> <p>21 came from Spain. I mean, that is one thing I</p> <p>22 do remember from the Guardia Civil. I don't</p> <p>23 think there was a precise discussion of</p> <p>24 coordinates, perhaps a mention of the six</p> <p>25 nautical miles. Things like that were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

27 (Pages 105 to 108)

<p>1 mentioned and I'm pretty sure it must have</p> <p>2 been by Mr Field.</p> <p>3 Q. Was anything said about the status of</p> <p>4 those coordinates in terms of the certainty of</p> <p>5 the information?</p> <p>6 A. No. I mean, all I can recollect from that</p> <p>7 moment was that Mr McGrail was keen to</p> <p>8 get confirmation probably from his own</p> <p>9 people about the coordinates.</p> <p>10 Q. Can we turn, please, to A1 292? This is</p> <p>11 Superintendent Richardson's evidence to the</p> <p>12 inquiry and you may have this in the file in</p> <p>13 front of you, but you should have it on the</p> <p>14 screen in front of you and there is an entry</p> <p>15 that he has included in his evidence of notes</p> <p>16 he took about the meeting on 8 March and it</p> <p>17 says as follows: "10.25 hours. Meeting with</p> <p>18 AGML." Present: Commissioner of Police,</p> <p>19 Superintendent Richardson and yourself.</p> <p>20 "Call from Guardia Civil, response. Suspect</p> <p>21 vessel. Description, type, fuel, illicit purpose;</p> <p>22 suspect activity; prohibited imports, Spain</p> <p>23 and Gib. Chase ensued. V. Sad but as a</p> <p>24 result of criminal action, assuming all was</p> <p>25 going well. Need to include 'cooperation'.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 Minister.</p> <p>2 Q. It says as follows: "Been in New Mole</p> <p>3 for the last hour or so. Cooperation, RGP,</p> <p>4 Spanish LEAs very good. New RGP press</p> <p>5 release today will say good cooperation with</p> <p>6 ES. Drug-related activity. Two deaths are</p> <p>7 Spanish nationals of North African descent.</p> <p>8 Investigation continues. PR will not say</p> <p>9 where incident occurred but it is virtually</p> <p>10 certain it was outside BGTW eastern side,</p> <p>11 opposite runway. It also seems that part of</p> <p>12 the chase was within BGTW." Just focusing</p> <p>13 on the words you use, "virtually certain it</p> <p>14 was outside BGTW eastern side opposite</p> <p>15 runway", do you recall Mr McGrail using the</p> <p>16 phrase, "virtually certain"?</p> <p>17 A. No, I don't recall.</p> <p>18 Q. So, is that more likely to be your -</p> <p>19 A. I do recall that but I think I drafted that</p> <p>20 with him.</p> <p>21 Q. I see. You mean the WhatsApp message?</p> <p>22 A. Yes. Because, as you correctly pointed</p> <p>23 out, it was meant to be a message I was</p> <p>24 sending back to the Chief Minister after I had</p> <p>25 been with Mr McGrail at New Mole Station.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 AG to review draft of next press release."</p> <p>2 Does that note accord with your recollection</p> <p>3 of the meeting?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Sorry, just to clarify one point in relation</p> <p>6 to the coordinates, were the actual</p> <p>7 coordinates stated or read out at the time or</p> <p>8 was it more focused on the six nautical</p> <p>9 miles?</p> <p>10 A. I think the latter.</p> <p>11 Q. Thank you. Now, if we can go to C6604,</p> <p>12 please, this is a WhatsApp exchange between</p> <p>13 you and the Commissioner of Police, Mr</p> <p>14 McGrail. Halfway down the page there is a</p> <p>15 message dated 8 March 2020 at 11.40 and I</p> <p>16 think - correct me if I am wrong - that this</p> <p>17 was a message which was intended for the</p> <p>18 Chief Minister but was in fact sent to Mr</p> <p>19 McGrail. Does that accord with your</p> <p>20 recollection?</p> <p>21 A. Correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you know whether you also sent it to</p> <p>23 the Chief Minister or whether you only sent</p> <p>24 it to Mr McGrail?</p> <p>25 A. I haven't seen it in my emails to the Chief</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 Q. What was your basis then for using the</p> <p>2 words, "virtually certain"?</p> <p>3 A. That six nautical miles.</p> <p>4 Q. You do not mention in that message that</p> <p>5 the incident had occurred in Spanish waters.</p> <p>6 Instead, you refer to it being outside BGTW</p> <p>7 and you refer to the collision occurring</p> <p>8 opposite the runway. Were you at that point</p> <p>9 proceeding on the basis that the collision may</p> <p>10 have taken place in international waters as</p> <p>11 opposed to Spanish waters?</p> <p>12 A. No, no, it was Spanish waters.</p> <p>13 Q. So, was there ever a question about</p> <p>14 whether it had in fact taken place outside</p> <p>15 Spanish and Gibraltar waters in international</p> <p>16 waters?</p> <p>17 A. Not to my recollection, no.</p> <p>18 Q. Given that you stated that it had taken</p> <p>19 place opposite the runway - sorry, let me</p> <p>20 rephrase. Why did you state "opposite the</p> <p>21 runway" given -</p> <p>22 A. Well, because it wasn't very clear at that</p> <p>23 time. I mean, it was in that area.</p> <p>24 Q. Can we now turn to paragraph 84 of your</p> <p>25 witness statement, please? This is A295.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

28 (Pages 109 to 112)

<p>1 You say: "Shortly after that, Mr Nick Pyle, 2 who had previously been and until a few 3 days ago was still the Deputy Governor but 4 was the Governor at the time (because the 5 office of Governor was vacant) arrived at 6 NMH. My recollection is that Mr McGrail 7 told the then Governor that he was still not 8 certain where the collision had occurred." 9 Do you recall at what time roughly Mr Pyle 10 arrived? 11 A. I think that is a mistake. I don't think - 12 I'm pretty sure now that I was not in that 13 meeting and I've confused that meeting of 8 14 March with the one the following day on 9 15 March. If I could have on screen the 16 previous - 17 Q. A1292 I think is what you are referring 18 to. Is that Superintendent Richardson's 19 statement? 20 A. No, it's the WhatsApp. 21 Q. Oh, sorry. 22 A. With Mr McGrail. 23 Q. Yes, that is C6604. 24 A. It's not that one but there is another. 25 You've got to have this. There is a message</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 now which has jogged my memory in respect 2 to this. 3 Q. Just bear with me while I pick this up at 4 the relevant point. (Pause) Can we go to 5 C3255, please? This is an email by Mr Pyle 6 to the FCO on 8 March at 2.09 and he says, 7 "I've just met with the Commissioner of 8 Police who kindly gave me a briefing on the 9 incident. The facts have yet to be determined 10 and the investigation is ongoing but initial 11 headlines are as follows: the incident 12 happened at 0400 hours though it is not yet 13 known whether it took place in BGTW 14 waters or just outside." Does that reflect 15 what you were told by Mr McGrail at the 16 briefing that you were at? 17 A. Largely, yes. 18 Q. But, you see, that says it is not yet known 19 whether it took place in BGTW waters or just 20 outside. Your evidence is that on the basis of 21 what you were being told, you were minded 22 to message the Chief Minister and inform 23 him that it was virtually certain that it had 24 taken place in Spanish waters. 25 A. Yes, sorry, you've corrected me and that's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 - I got a missed call from Mr McGrail at 2 12.12. 3 Q. On? 4 A. On that - on the 8th. 5 Q. On the 8th. 6 A. I've seen it in the evidence. I just don't 7 remember where it is. 8 Q. We will find that. What is the 9 significance of that call? 10 A. Well, if he was calling me, obviously I 11 wasn't there. 12 Q. I see, because that was the time when Mr 13 Pyle, as you understand it, was present? 14 A. Certainly that would - I had left the 15 police station by then. 16 Q. So, C6921, I am told, may contain the 17 call that you are referring to. 18 A. It was 12.12 for sure. Yes, there it is. 19 Q. So, your evidence is that the fact that 20 there is a missed call, just to clarify, means 21 that you were not present at New Mole 22 House at the time when Mr Pyle - 23 A. Yes, and I'd been thinking about it and 24 I'm reading documents much more - well, 25 there's been a lot, much more information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 right, yes. 2 Q. So, just if we can then go to C3257, 3 please, this is an email on the following 4 morning at 7.57 and there is - it is from Mr 5 Pyle again to a contact at the FCO: "There 6 may be complications around yesterday's 7 incident in that it might have happened as 8 much as six miles inside Spanish waters." 9 We can see from that that Mr Pyle appears to 10 have received some information between his 11 two emails that has caused him to give that 12 update. Does that update to the FCO accord 13 with your recollection of what you were told 14 on 8 May? 15 A. Of 8 March? 16 Q. Sorry, 8 March. 17 A. Yes, it does and that evening of the 8th I 18 had supper with Mr Pyle, so I must have told 19 him what I knew about - well, I must have 20 told him what I had been told by Mr 21 McGrail. 22 (12.30) 23 Q. If we look at B677 please this is an 24 exchange between Mr Pyle and Mr McGrail 25 and I just want to focus on the first message</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 of 9 March at 1015 where Mr Pyle says to 2 Mr McGrail, "Morning, I was with the AG 3 last night and we wondered whether it would 4 be worth having an update at some stage later 5 this morning. We are keen to reach out to 6 Spain given talks this week in London, 7 please protect." That does seem to accord 8 with what you have just said about being at 9 supper with Mr Pyle the previous evening? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. What was the purpose of that meeting 12 with Mr Pyle? 13 A. The purpose of that meeting, I don't 14 know. We are good friends. We often have 15 supper together. Maybe we wanted to sit 16 down and discuss what had happened that 17 day and in particular as that message 18 indicates, we have very important meetings 19 with the Spanish government coming up that 20 same week and we were both very nervous 21 and very concerned to make sure that this 22 incident would not create problems with that 23 meeting which was very important. 24 Q. Are you saying now that you recall 25 sharing with him what you had learned on 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 did --- no, sorry, let me rephrase that, he 2 says, "I was with the AG last night and we 3 wondered whether it would be worth having 4 an update at some stage later this morning," 5 why did you think it was worth having an 6 update from the Commissioner of Police the 7 following day? 8 A. Well, essentially, I think if it was Nic and 9 myself, Mr Pyle would have wanted more 10 precise information on the location of the 11 collision and we had to prepare for the 12 meetings with the Spanish government where 13 we anticipated this was going to be an issue 14 that was --- it was going to be a delicate issue 15 that was going to be discussed in that 16 meeting and we were keen to prepare 17 ourselves as well as possible for that and to 18 have as much information as possible for the 19 purposes of that meeting. 20 Q. Can we look at your second affidavit, 21 paragraph 49, please, page 311 of bundle 8. 22 Do you have that? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. There is some evidence that you gave in 25 response to Mr McGrail's evidence and you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 March or are you saying that you have 2 worked out from the documents that you 3 must have told him? 4 A. Well, I just think it's completely 5 implausible that I would not have told Mr 6 Pyle. I enjoy a very good, open and 7 transparent relationship with him and with 8 governors and deputy governors in Gibraltar 9 since ever, so it's just completely 10 inconceivable that I would not have told him. 11 I don't recall telling him. 12 Q. That was going to be my next question 13 because you don't recall telling him or what 14 his reaction was to you telling him? 15 A. No, but I just can't imagine I would not 16 have told him. 17 Q. Mr Pyle then messages Mr McGrail on 9 18 March and does refer to meeting the Attorney 19 General "last night" but he does not seem to 20 mention what he says in his email of 7.57 in 21 the morning to the FCO, namely, his new 22 knowledge about the location of the collision 23 or the incident. Do you know why that is? 24 A. No. 25 Q. Why did --- as far as you are aware why</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 say, "My recollection of what IM told me is 2 set out at paragraph 82 of Llamas 1 and what 3 he told Mr Pyle in paragraph 84 of Llamas 1. 4 I cannot now recall precisely what 5 information I may or I may not have 6 communicated to Mr Pyle on these occasions 7 that we discussed the incident at sea, nor do I 8 know what information Mr Pyle learned 9 when and from whom. I do, however, wish 10 to make a general point. As Attorney 11 General I am the Governor's constitutional 12 legal adviser. The Constitutional relationship 13 is not such as to make me his legal 14 representative in the sense of me being a post 15 box through which those with their own 16 constitutional obligations to brief the 17 Governor on matters of the Governor's 18 constitutional responsibility can do through 19 me and given the nature, regularity and the 20 extent with which IM communicated directly 21 with the office of Governor in matters 22 relating to policing, I have no doubt 23 whatsoever that IM fully understands this 24 point and the distinction I am making. I, 25 therefore, cannot avoid the conclusion that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

1 IM is seeking to deflect criticism of himself
 2 for his own failure to properly keep the
 3 Governor briefed on a timely basis by
 4 manufacturing the pretence that he thought
 5 that he was doing it through me." Is that still
 6 your position today notwithstanding your
 7 recollection of what occurred on the evening
 8 of 8 May?
 9 **A. Absolutely.**
 10 Q. Sorry, 8 March. I keep falling into that
 11 error. Given that Mr McGrail was aware that
 12 you and Mr Pyle had been together on the
 13 evening of 8 March, was it not fair for him to
 14 infer that you and Mr Pyle would have
 15 shared information you had with each other?
 16 **A. I don't think that the gravity of the**
 17 **situation was not one for inferences to be**
 18 **made. The Commissioner of Police has his**
 19 **own lines of communication with the**
 20 **Governor and it was for him to report**
 21 **directly to the governor. I mean, this is what**
 22 **I am getting at here. I mean, this is not my**
 23 **relation --- my relationship with the**
 24 **Governor or indeed the Chief Minister is not**
 25 **to be transmitting messages to them all the**

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1 **time. This is not a normal solicitor/client**
 2 **relationship as in they exist in private**
 3 **practice where you can assume that. I mean,**
 4 **he has constitutional and statutory**
 5 **obligations towards these office holders and**
 6 **whatever he was telling me and I was helping**
 7 **transmit information, it is for him to respect**
 8 **his lines of communication with the two**
 9 **highest office holders in the land.**
 10 Q. Were you not concerned on the evening -
 11 -- following your conversation with Mr Pyle
 12 on the evening of 8 May and the request for a
 13 briefing on --- sorry, on 8 March and the
 14 request for a briefing on 9 March, were you
 15 not concerned that there was a difference
 16 between what you had been told and what Mr
 17 Pyle had been told?
 18 **A. In that meeting of the 9th ----**
 19 Q. Prior to that meeting of the 9th?
 20 **A. Well, that is the --- I would have found**
 21 **out during the supper of 8 March and then**
 22 **again on 9 March but, look, I had told Mr**
 23 **Pyle what I knew, what I had been told.**
 24 **Whether Mr McGrail wants to report or not,**
 25 **wants to report the same detail as me, that is**

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1 **a matter entirely for him. I don't know what**
 2 **type of relationship the Commissioner of**
 3 **Police and the Governor have. I know a**
 4 **relationship exists because of the high level**
 5 **nature of the office holders. They have got a**
 6 **duty between themselves to be reporting to**
 7 **each other, so I didn't want to interfere with**
 8 **the way in which Mr McGrail wanted to**
 9 **report to the Governor. For me, that was a**
 10 **matter for him.**
 11 Q. If Mr Pyle had reacted badly to what
 12 appeared to be a disparity in the information
 13 that you had and --- that you had given him
 14 and the Commissioner of Police had given
 15 him, at that supper, at the point when you
 16 told him about this --- about the information
 17 that you had, if he had reacted badly to
 18 learning that you had different information to
 19 him, do you think you would have
 20 recollected that?
 21 **A. Maybe. I don't know.**
 22 Q. Can we now go back to A1292 which is
 23 Superintendent Richardson's note because
 24 there is also a note of the 9 March meeting
 25 and on this occasion it is said that Mr Pyle

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1 and you were present as well as the
 2 Commissioner of Police. Just to go through
 3 that it says, "Briefing (inaudible), exact
 4 coordinates of collision still not determined,
 5 GC had plotted the vessel before for crew
 6 change, 10 minutes chase in and around
 7 Gibraltar waters, Chris Finch appointed
 8 Verralls, two RIP resident in Linya, Las Casa
 9 (Inaudible), cultural need to bury (inaudible)
 10 ASAP," and then "Ten minute chase
 11 direction yet unknown, bailed to June,
 12 pursuit not reported to CAD, need to
 13 establish communication lines, community
 14 impact, check PMB duty mobile," and then
 15 over the page, "Manage investigation under
 16 small island's chief and agreed," and then
 17 there is an entry from you, AG, "Essential to
 18 establish line of communication to
 19 demonstrate that the two forces are talking to
 20 each other. Who initiated it is not fatal.
 21 Who made first call useful. Where were they
 22 arrested, element of chase with BGTW," and
 23 then the Commissioner of Police,
 24 "Interrogate our own devices, AIS phone
 25 GPS, chase up Windmill Hill obs," and then

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1 from you, "Suggest no more comments until
 2 clearer view." Just focusing on the part that
 3 is attributed to you, there is one bullet point
 4 that says, "Element of chase within BGTW,"
 5 do you recall saying something to that effect?
 6 **A. I don't recall it but it's very likely that I**
 7 **did because I think we were still --- the RGP**
 8 **were still at that stage trying to determine**
 9 **what exactly had happened.**
 10 Q. Is that note as far as you recall an
 11 accurate note of what was discussed at that
 12 meeting?
 13 **A. I don't recall the details in the first part of**
 14 **the note but it is very likely that it was**
 15 **discussed. I certainly do remember my**
 16 **statement essential to establish line of**
 17 **communication to demonstrate that the two**
 18 **forces are talking to each other and the**
 19 **purpose of that is that I was trying to prepare**
 20 **the ground for what was likely to be a**
 21 **significant diplomatic fall out and what I**
 22 **wanted to achieve was to be able to show that**
 23 **the RGP and the Guardia Civil had been**
 24 **cooperating in this chase, so maybe**
 25 **eventually that could have been helpful.**

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1 Q. Did Mr Pyle raise with the Commissioner
 2 of Police what he had communicated to the
 3 FCO that morning in terms of a collision
 4 potentially having happened as much as six
 5 miles inside Spanish waters?
 6 **A. I don't recall that.**
 7 Q. There is a reference to --- towards the
 8 beginning, the second entry on the previous
 9 page, "exact coordinates of collision still not
 10 determined ..."
 11 **A. Exactly.**
 12 Q. Does that mean that the unconfirmed
 13 coordinates were mentioned at the meeting?
 14 **A. I don't think they were.**
 15 Q. Did the words "exact coordinates" either
 16 follow or prompt a conversation about the
 17 current information in terms of location?
 18 **A. I think that Mr Pyle was keen to know**
 19 **the coordinates because that would determine**
 20 **what he was reporting back to the FCDO and**
 21 **would inform the position --- well, just**
 22 **generally they needed to know and, secondly,**
 23 **it would inform the position for the meeting**
 24 **we had --- I think it was in Madrid, I think it**
 25 **was the Thursday of that week.**

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1 Q. Do you recall whether Mr Pyle
 2 specifically asked about location?
 3 **A. I think he did.**
 4 Q. And what is your recollection as to what
 5 the Commissioner said in response?
 6 **A. Words to that effect in the second bullet**
 7 **point. I think that Mr McGrail still the**
 8 **following day he was very keen in getting the**
 9 **exact coordinates. That is my recollection. I**
 10 **think at that stage they were still relying on**
 11 **what had been provided by the Guardia Civil.**
 12 Q. Was what had been provided by the
 13 Guardia Civil mentioned at that point?
 14 **A. I don't think so.**
 15 Q. Given the question that was asked and the
 16 answer that came back, why did you not
 17 jump in and say what you were aware of, as
 18 of the previous day?
 19 **A. For the same reason as I said before. I do**
 20 **not know what the lines of communication**
 21 **are between the Commissioner of Police and**
 22 **the Governor and if Mr McGrail wanted to**
 23 **be absolutely certain of the coordinate before**
 24 **confirming it to the Government, that was ---**
 25 **that's a matter for him. I had told almost**

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1 **certainly Mr Pyle what I had been told**
 2 **including the six nautical miles during the**
 3 **supper of the previous night and I just did not**
 4 **consider it to be my business to be interfering**
 5 **on how Mr McGrail communicates with the**
 6 **office of the governor.**
 7 Q. But if you had told him the previous
 8 evening, why could you not tell him in that
 9 meeting?
 10 **A. In front of Mr McGrail? In other words,**
 11 **if Mr McGrail did not appear to be as**
 12 **generous with the best available information,**
 13 **because he wasn't sure at the time and, in all**
 14 **fairness to him, he was very obsessed with**
 15 **being sure those two days, but, look, if he**
 16 **was more relaxed about sharing information**
 17 **that he had received from the Guardia Civil**
 18 **with me than he was with the Governor, that**
 19 **was a matter for him.**
 20 Q. Did you consider informing him what
 21 you had shared with the Governor, given
 22 that appeared that he was not sharing it?
 23 **A. No, no.**
 24 Q. Very briefly I will take you to C5737 --- I
 25 do not think that that is the correct --- sorry,

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<p>1 we will skip that one and go to C3278. This 2 is Mr Pyle's account to the FCO on 9 March 3 at 4.43, so it is after this briefing on 9 March 4 and he says, "The AG and I received a 5 further briefing from the Commissioner of 6 police this morning at my request. The 7 headlines are as follows: CoP started by 8 saying he had sent two inspectors to 9 (Inaudible) to establish face to face contact 10 with the Guardia Civil. The GC confirmed 11 they had opened up an investigation which 12 they would pursue regardless of where the 13 collision took place. This infers even they 14 are not sure where it happened." Then 15 jumping over one paragraph and halfway 16 down the next paragraph, "The RGP 17 helmsman did not report the start of the chase 18 to OP centre as per SOPs. The CoP brushed 19 this off to an oversight due to the pressure of 20 the moment. I was less forgiving. The RGP 21 officers will be interviewed tomorrow or 22 Wednesday. CoP confirmed that the exact 23 location is still to be determined as were 24 details of the chase which lasted ten 25 minutes," and then skipping one paragraph,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 Q. And then there was reference to 2 inspectors going to Spain to establish face to 3 face contact with the Guardia Civil. 4 A. I remember that. 5 Q. And the Guardia Civil had confirmed that 6 they had opened up an investigation which 7 they would pursue regardless of where the 8 collision took place which suggests that they 9 were not sure where it happened? 10 A. Yes, I remember that. 11 Q. Then the next part I read was that the 12 RGP helmsman did not report the start of the 13 chase op centre as per SOPs and the CoP 14 brushed this off as an oversight due to the 15 pressure of the moment, "I was less 16 forgiving." Do you recall an exchange to 17 that effect? 18 A. Very well. 19 Q. What exactly was the Commissioner of 20 Police brushing off as an oversight? 21 A. Well, that an essential aspect of the 22 recording system in an RGP vessel was not 23 working at the time. 24 Q. What is stated there actually is that they 25 had not reported the start of the chase at op</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 "The AG said it was clear with the entry at 2 some point of a vessel into BGTW that the 3 law had been broken and that, therefore, the 4 chase was legitimate. He said it was 5 important that we are able to present this to 6 the Spanish as cooperation. He stressed the 7 need for the details of the communication 8 between the GC and RGP and especially who 9 instigated it. I suspect this is as much as we 10 will get until the investigation including 11 interviews of the RGP and the mining of 12 phones and AIS have been completed." Was 13 that what is reported in the email as to the 14 briefing of 9 March --- do you regard that as 15 accurate? 16 A. I mean, you have gone over a lot of 17 material. 18 Q. Yes, I am sorry, I am aware of that. I do 19 not mind going through each one, one by one 20 perhaps. 21 A. It is up to you. 22 Q. In terms of --- I do not think it is disputed 23 that, for example, the meeting was at Mr 24 Pyle's request. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 centre. There is no reference to the AIS 2 which is why I am focusing on that because it 3 seems from that that the exchange appears to 4 relate to reporting the start of the chase of op 5 centre rather than the AIS? 6 A. Yes, to the extent that I remember it, for 7 me this formed part and parcel of what was 8 not working on the vessel when the collision 9 happened. 10 Q. And the Commissioner of Police you say 11 brushed this off? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Due to an oversight? 14 A. Yes, I do remember that and certainly I 15 remember it in relation to the AIS. 16 Q. Just for the sake of completeness, in the 17 final line Mr Pyle says, "I suspect that this is 18 as much as we will get until the investigation, 19 including the interviews of the RGP and the 20 mining of phones and AIS have been 21 completed." Do you know what he is 22 referring to when he talks about --- when he 23 refers to AIS? 24 A. I am sorry ---- 25 Q. I am sorry, at the bottom of this email</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 there is a reference in the final line to mining 2 of phones and AIS. 3 A. I don't know. 4 Q. Did Mr Pyle in your recollection ask 5 specifically about GPS or AIS at ---- 6 A. It was certainly discussed. 7 Q. When Mr McGrail replied to the words of 8 "pressure" or "heat of the moment," what is 9 your recollection as to Mr Pyle's reaction to 10 that? 11 A. He was quite startled by that. 12 Q. I think Mr Pyle describes the manner of 13 Mr McGrail in saying that as "slightly 14 flippant." Is that something that you would 15 agree or disagree with? 16 A. It could be described as that, yes. 17 Q. In terms of location, did Mr Pyle ask Mr 18 McGrail about the location of the incident? I 19 am sorry, I think we have covered that 20 actually. Can we now go to B703, please. 21 This is an exchange on 11 March and Mr 22 McGrail says, "HE, Nic, is asking for 23 confirmation of where collision took place as 24 London are keen to know. I have informed 25 him along the same lines that you advised</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 A. No, it was discussed at the meeting of the 2 9th where I was present. 3 Q. What is said in this message on 11 May 4 is, "I have informed him along the same lines 5 that you advised CM; i.e., it is highly 6 probable that it happened outside BGTW." 7 Would you accept that that roughly tallies 8 with what you had been told on 8 March? 9 A. There is certainly a difference between 10 what he told me on 8 March. It seems to be 11 different to what he told Mr Pyle on 8 March. 12 Q. Yes. 13 A. And what he said in the 9th March --- I 14 cannot, Mr Santos, reply with certainty as to 15 what he said on 9 March. What I do know 16 with certainty is that he did not refer to the 17 six nautical miles. Whether he said on 9 18 March "highly probable," or "highly likely," I 19 honestly do not remember that. 20 Q. Are you saying it is possible that he said 21 "highly probable" on 9 March? 22 A. No, I am not saying that. I am saying that 23 I can't --- I remember a discussion on 9 24 March because Mr Pyle raised the issue and I 25 remember Mr McGrail saying effectively that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 CM, i.e., that it is highly probable that it 2 happened outside BGTW." You reply, "Ian, 3 that seems fine to me, factual whilst being 4 amenable to further precision once you 5 obtain further details," and he replies with a 6 thumbs up. Why was Mr McGrail informing 7 you what he was telling the Governor as far 8 as you are aware? 9 A. I have no idea. 10 Q. You say it was factual but on what basis 11 did you consider it to be factual? 12 A. Well, on the basis of this is 11 March. I 13 didn't think that Mr McGrail had received by 14 then the absolute confirmation that he was 15 seeking and therefore it was factual because I 16 know that he was keen in getting those exact 17 coordinates, so that is why I reply, "factual 18 whilst being amenable to further precision 19 once you obtain the further details." I think 20 what I must have been referring to there by 21 further details are the exact coordinates of 22 where the collision took place. 23 Q. Did you understand Mr McGrail based on 24 your involvement to be informing Mr Pyle of 25 this information for the first time?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 he was still waiting for the exact coordinates. 2 That is my recollection. 3 Q. My question to you is if you had sat 4 through the meetings on 8 and 9 March and 5 you had the discussion with Mr Pyle it would 6 have been apparent to you --- it seems from 7 your evidence, it would have been apparent 8 to you that you had been told different 9 information to what Mr Pyle had been told in 10 terms of location. Is that right? 11 A. I seem to have received the --- well, the 12 information that the RGP and Mr Field 13 provided which did not appear to have been 14 provided to Mr Pyle. That's what I can 15 remember about that. 16 Q. But by this stage, 11 March and the 17 message being sent by Mr McGrail here on 18 11 March, it seems based on your evidence 19 that that is the first time as far as you were 20 aware that Mr McGrail was informing Mr 21 Pyle of the belief that it had taken place in 22 Spanish waters? 23 A. So the high probability is your question -- 24 -- 25 Q. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

34 (Pages 133 to 136)

<p>1 A. Yes, I think that's probably true.</p> <p>2 Q. And did you --- why did you not at that</p> <p>3 stage ask him why he had taken three days to</p> <p>4 share this information with Mr Pyle?</p> <p>5 A. Why I didn't ask him? For the same</p> <p>6 reason as I have explained before.</p> <p>7 Q. Can I clarify, when were you first told</p> <p>8 about coordinates, whether they were the</p> <p>9 precise ones or the ones that were obtained</p> <p>10 on 8 March --- the actual coordinates, when</p> <p>11 were you first told?</p> <p>12 A. If was told it would have been</p> <p>13 immediately on 8 March but the way I</p> <p>14 answered your question before is that I</p> <p>15 remember more distinctly the six nautical</p> <p>16 miles which immediately spoke to me and</p> <p>17 whether the coordinates were also provided</p> <p>18 at the time, it is quite possible --- it obviously</p> <p>19 just didn't speak to me --- I don't recall seeing</p> <p>20 a map, for example, plotting where those</p> <p>21 coordinates were but the six nautical miles</p> <p>22 obviously was easier to understand.</p> <p>23 Q. In terms of coordinates, was the --- we</p> <p>24 know that they were disclosed in the Solis</p> <p>25 report, do you have any recollection of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 be six nautical miles off the coast of Spain</p> <p>2 but only 100 metres away from the dividing</p> <p>3 line between Gibraltar waters and Spanish</p> <p>4 waters?</p> <p>5 A. At what? At six ---</p> <p>6 Q. For example, just to show you on a map,</p> <p>7 if we take the dividing line that comes out</p> <p>8 towards the east --- actually we can pass one</p> <p>9 up to you. [Same handed] If we look at the</p> <p>10 line between the red and the green ----</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Gibraltar waters do not go as far as six</p> <p>13 nautical miles, that is --- so my question to</p> <p>14 you about 100 metres from Gibraltar waters</p> <p>15 is an incorrect premise but if we go east six</p> <p>16 nautical mile from the coast, we can still be</p> <p>17 on the borderline, for example, between</p> <p>18 Spanish waters and international waters if we</p> <p>19 are ----</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. ---- working away from the coast?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, the blue here is the high seas.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes, the international waters.</p> <p>24 A. And the green is what we accept as</p> <p>25 Spanish waters and the pink as BGTW. I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 receiving coordinates or being told about</p> <p>2 coordinates, whether precise or yet to be</p> <p>3 confirmed at any stage between 8 March and</p> <p>4 seeing them in the Solis report?</p> <p>5 A. No, I don't recall that anyway.,</p> <p>6 Q. This six nautical miles thing, just to get</p> <p>7 something clear, there is a difference, would</p> <p>8 you agree, between six nautical miles into</p> <p>9 Spanish waters and six nautical miles off the</p> <p>10 coast of Spain?</p> <p>11 A. It is a moot question, I would say. Spain</p> <p>12 certainly claims that they are theirs. We, the</p> <p>13 United Kingdom, has notified (inaudible) on</p> <p>14 the three nautical miles. The issue there was</p> <p>15 that it was six and this was the basis on</p> <p>16 which we were proceeding at that time. If it</p> <p>17 was six, it was Spanish waters.</p> <p>18 Q. No, no, sorry, let me just clarify that.</p> <p>19 There is a difference between six nautical</p> <p>20 miles off the coat of Spain ----</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. --- and six nautical miles from the border</p> <p>23 between Spanish and Gibraltar waters which</p> <p>24 is parallel, say, to the runway, so, for</p> <p>25 example, would you agree that a vessel can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 understand your question but I don't think</p> <p>2 that that was ---</p> <p>3 Q. Can I ask you what I am getting to, which</p> <p>4 is was your understanding based on the</p> <p>5 briefing that it was six nautical miles off the</p> <p>6 coast or that it was six nautical miles up</p> <p>7 north into Spanish waters?</p> <p>8 A. The latter for sure. I don't know whether</p> <p>9 it was here that the mention of Santa Barbara</p> <p>10 beach is already mentioned. I mean, it was</p> <p>11 absolutely clear that this was not a question</p> <p>12 of the collision having occurred in the high</p> <p>13 seas, it was clearly either BGTW or Spanish</p> <p>14 waters and I think the conclusion we all</p> <p>15 reached when those coordinates were first</p> <p>16 provided that if that was confirmed to be</p> <p>17 true, then the incident had happened --- the</p> <p>18 collision had happened in Spanish waters. I</p> <p>19 mean, that is absolutely clear.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you accept that where the coordinates</p> <p>21 were plotted --- do you know --- you may not</p> <p>22 know where the coordinates were plotted, but</p> <p>23 they were not six nautical miles from</p> <p>24 Gibraltar waters northwards, they were six</p> <p>25 nautical miles out from the coast?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 140</p>

35 (Pages 137 to 140)

1 **A. My recollection --- I mean, at some stage**
 2 **I saw the coordinates plotted and my**
 3 **recollection is that they were opposite the**
 4 **Spanish coast.**
 5 Q. Yes, but not six nautical miles up from
 6 Gibraltar waters? They were six nautical
 7 miles off the coast.
 8 THE CHAIRMAN: I think everybody
 9 understands the point.
 10 MR SANTOS: Yes, I think we are in
 11 agreement. Can we now just move --- oh,
 12 sorry, it is one o'clock and I was about to
 13 move on to legal claims, so I think that is
 14 probably an opportune moment for us to take
 15 lunch.
 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
 17 (13.02)
 18 (The short adjournment)
 19 (14.00)
 20 MR SANTOS: Good afternoon, Mr Llamas.
 21 **A. Good afternoon.**
 22 Q. If we can go to B1355, please, this is a
 23 timeline prepared by Mr McGrail on the
 24 incident at sea in response to the Chief
 25 Minister's section 15 request for information,

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1 and I just want to look at the entry for 22
 2 April 2020 which records a meeting between
 3 you, the DPP and Mr McGrail about
 4 potential civil claims arising from the
 5 incident at sea. I just want to focus on half
 6 way down. There is a sentence that says:
 7 "AG undertook to keep the matter alive with
 8 CM pending any developments on the
 9 political front." In fairness to you, I should
 10 read the whole thing that precedes that.
 11 "Correspondence been received from the
 12 lawyers representing the families indicating
 13 that they would be making civil claims for
 14 damages. I enquired about legal
 15 representation and again the need to agree a
 16 Gibraltar strategy given all the strands the
 17 matter had. 1. Coroner's inquiry; 2. The
 18 Professional standards investigation; 3. The
 19 Spanish dimension in terms of courts and
 20 politics. AG undertook to keep the matter
 21 alive with CM pending any developments on
 22 the political front." Then jumping over one
 23 sentence: "DPP said the civil claim hadn't
 24 been filed yet so there was no need to engage
 25 counsel as yet. AG wanted to have sight of

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1 the final investigation report from the UK
 2 before giving further thought to the strategy."
 3 Do you remember that meeting?
 4 **A. Vaguely, yes.**
 5 Q. Do you agree with that note and
 6 specifically do you recall undertaking to keep
 7 the matter alive with the Chief Minister?
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Did you keep the matter alive with the
 10 Chief Minister?
 11 **A. As much as I could yes.**
 12 Q. Then if we go to C4086, please. Just
 13 while we are getting that up, when you say
 14 that you kept the matter alive with the Chief
 15 Minister as much as you could, did you give
 16 him notice of these potential claims on the
 17 back of 22 April?
 18 **A. I don't think I did then because there was**
 19 **still nothing. The claims had not been filed,**
 20 **if I remember correctly, and if you go to**
 21 **paragraph 89 of my first witness statement,**
 22 **because I think these are the same claims --**
 23 Q. It is page A296.
 24 **A. A296. There I say: "On 29 May 2020,**
 25 **the DPP forwarded to me a letter that had**

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1 **been sent to the RGP by Gibraltar lawyers**
 2 **seeking to bring a claim for damages for**
 3 **personal injuries on behalf of one of the**
 4 **individuals in the suspect vessel." I think**
 5 **that was the first time that this manifested**
 6 **itself in a real sense, rather than the**
 7 **discussion on 22 April where nothing had**
 8 **been filed and we still - we were speculating**
 9 **about what was going to happen.**
 10 Q. If we can go to C6854, please, that is 14
 11 May. It is exchanges between the DPP and
 12 you, and if we look at 18 May there is a
 13 reference by the DPP to a meeting with the
 14 RGP tomorrow regarding the claim files in
 15 respect of the death at sea. That is 18 May.
 16 Then if we go to C4086, this is the email
 17 from Mr Yeats to you in relation to
 18 representation. There had been some
 19 exchange between Mr Yeats and the DPP as
 20 to representation and a potential conflict in
 21 relation to the OCPL. The DPP's evidence is
 22 that he then raised this with you and a view
 23 was taken as to conflict. Do you recall that?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. And then this letter comes on 20 May. I

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<p>1 think it is fair to point out that there was not, 2 in fact, a claim filed at this stage. What there 3 was was a letter indicating a potential claim 4 and asking some questions of the RGP. That 5 prompted this.</p> <p>6 A. I don't remember the content of the letter.</p> <p>7 Q. This email that we have on screen is sent 8 to you as Attorney General and then you 9 forward it to the Chief Minister. That is on 10 4088. You forward that to the Chief 11 Minister.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Why did you forward it to the Chief 14 Minister?</p> <p>15 A. Well, as part of my commitment to keep 16 him informed and also because if we were 17 going or the RGP were going to require 18 outside counsel, that has a financial aspect to 19 it and, as Chief Minister, is also Minister for 20 Finance so ultimately a matter for him.</p> <p>21 Q. At 4090, that is the response of the Chief 22 Minister and in the third line down he says: 23 "I think it is entirely inappropriate for this 24 matter not to have been raised with me in the 25 first instance by the Commissioner." Did the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 that is at C4104, and he says: "You were 2 evidently very disappointed but I want to 3 reassure you that it has never been my 4 intention to withhold anything from you 5 concerning this very serious matter." If we 6 go to B1418 there is an exchange between 7 you and the Chief Minister of WhatsApps. 8 The entry at 18.49 is a message from you to 9 the Chief Minister and it is actually 10 forwarding the message from Mr McGrail to 11 you which says: "Michael, aside from Delhi, 12 the CM's response to our ask for legal 13 representation, I honestly do not know why 14 he has reacted like this. Have you briefed 15 him of our meetings we have had on the 16 matter?" You say: "He is aware you and I 17 have spoken about this. I forwarded to him 18 Cathal's email to me today since it was 19 necessary in view of the wider issues." He 20 replies: "Good, but the wobbler he's thrown 21 is what I do not understand. Anyway, 22 something for me to take up with him. 23 Thanks." Then you forward that to the Chief 24 Minister. The Chief Minister replies with: 25 "Wobbler?" You reply: "Yeah." He says: "I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 Chief Minister's response take you by 2 surprise?</p> <p>3 A. Well, again, it's a similar situation to the 4 one with the Governor. I would have 5 expected the Commissioner to be reporting 6 directly because these are very serious 7 officeholders and there is a duty to report 8 between themselves. I was there assisting as 9 much as I could, so yes, I was surprised that 10 the Chief Minister was not aware of this at 11 all. I had become aware the previous day on 12 the 19th; I received this --</p> <p>13 Q. It looks like you received a text on the 14 18th, the one that I showed you.</p> <p>15 A. Of anticipating a meeting?</p> <p>16 Q. Yes.</p> <p>17 A. I mean, I wasn't informed what was 18 happening.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes.</p> <p>20 A. I think that became clear when, on 19 21 May when the DPP forwarded me that letter, 22 and certainly by 20 May when I received this 23 message from Mr Yeats and I passed it on 24 immediately to the Chief Minister.</p> <p>25 Q. Mr McGrail replied later that afternoon;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 understand", or something to that effect. 2 Then you say: "They are very stubborn. I 3 can't understand why he said 'wobbler'." Did 4 you tell Mr McGrail that you were 5 forwarding his message to the Chief 6 Minister?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you consider it appropriate for you to 9 forward that message to the Chief Minister, 10 given that he seemed to be confiding in you 11 or asking for your advice on the Chief 12 Minister's --</p> <p>13 A. Yes. I mean, I don't - I didn't see any 14 reason why I should hide this from the Chief 15 Minister.</p> <p>16 Q. You say: "They are very stubborn. I can't 17 understand why he said 'wobbler'." First of 18 all, who are you referring to and why did you 19 consider them to be very stubborn?</p> <p>20 A. I'm obviously referring to the RGP and I 21 honestly don't remember why I said 22 "stubborn".</p> <p>23 Q. You say: "Just seen his email to you. 24 Does not address the issue." I didn't really 25 give you too much of an opportunity to see</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

37 (Pages 145 to 148)

<p>1 the email that he had sent, which is at C4104. 2 Take the time to read the email but why did 3 you consider that his email did not address 4 the issue? 5 A. Of the direct reporting. 6 Q. So what you are referring to is that his 7 email does not deal with the -- 8 A. Why he doesn't answer. 9 Q. Can we now move to Operation Delhi. If 10 we go to your witness statement at paragraph 11 17, your first affidavit, paragraph 16, you 12 say: "My involvement in the criminal 13 investigation was initiated by Mr McGrail 14 himself when, on 11 May, he sent an email to 15 the Chief Minister, the Minister of Justice, 16 the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary, 17 the Director of Public Prosecutions and 18 myself." You set out the email. Then you 19 refer to a meeting that took place on 13 May 20 2019. You say: "During the meeting Mr 21 McGrail stated that the investigation 22 concerned the suspected hacking of the 23 NSCIS platform by the three suspects. 24 Messrs. Cornelio and Perez were ex- 25 employees of Bland Limited, the company</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 meeting at all? Did you perhaps join by 2 telephone or -- 3 A. No, certainly not by telephone, and unless 4 I didn't take the flight for whatever reason. I 5 haven't got anything on my calendar for that 6 day. I've got things happening in London the 7 following day, so I was certainly in London 8 by the 14th, but I've assumed if I've got the air 9 ticket I must have travelled to London on the 10 Saturday. 11 Q. Can we now look at paragraph 18 of your 12 witness statement, which is A275. I 13 understand the point you make which is that 14 this may be second-hand information, but I 15 just want to focus on the information. "Mr 16 McGrail explained that the case revealed that 17 very serious failures had occurred with 18 regard to the operation and management of 19 the NSCIS platform which directly impacted 20 the national security of Gibraltar. He also 21 explained that the investigation covered a 22 company, 36 North Limited, formed by 23 Messrs. Cornelio and Perez for the suspected 24 purpose of taking over from Bland Limited 25 the provision of the NSCIS platform service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 that had been providing the NSCIS platform 2 service to the Government. Mr Sanchez is a 3 civil servant who acted as the Government's 4 main contact point." Can I now just take you 5 to A1434, please, paragraph 57. This is an 6 exchange of WhatsApps between Mr 7 McGrail and Superintendent Richardson that 8 says: "Monday at 9.15 a.m. meeting with the 9 CM, Minister of Justice, DPP, FS and CS." 10 Mr Richardson replies: "No AG?" and Mr 11 McGrail says: "CS may be travelling to UK 12 with Brexit meeting so we have to be quick 13 in reeling him in. AG in London", is what 14 Mr McGrail says. Do you know whether you 15 attended that meeting or whether you were in 16 London at the time of that meeting? 17 A. I thought, but since I've seen this issue 18 has gained prominence, I've got here the 19 invoice from a travel agent confirming that I 20 did travel to London on Saturday 11 May. 21 It's just here. So I was not in that meeting. I 22 thought it had been. So what I know about 23 that meeting must have been reported back to 24 me by the DPP. 25 Q. Do you think you were not at that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 to the Government. Mr McGrail confirmed 2 that the law firm Hassans, the partners of 3 which include the Chief Minister, held shares 4 in that company. He also said that Mr James 5 Levy CBE QC, the senior partner of Hassans, 6 was mentioned in communications with the 7 three suspects and that he was potentially a 8 person of interest to the investigation." You 9 say: "I assumed that Mr McGrail took the 10 unusual initiative of seeking a meeting to 11 discuss an ongoing police investigation with 12 the Chief Minister and the other 13 abovementioned officeholders including 14 myself because of the seriousness and 15 delicacy of the issues that arose in the 16 investigation." Did Mr Levy's links with the 17 Chief Minister cause you concern at this 18 point? 19 A. Not particularly. I mean, I noted it, of 20 course, but I wouldn't elevate it to concern. 21 Q. Were you concerned about potential 22 conflicts of interest caused by Hassans' 23 investment in 36 North? 24 A. Potentially. I mean, if I wasn't in that 25 meeting and I was in London, I may have - I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

1 **probably made a mental note of that but**
 2 **without doing much more than, this was**
 3 **information probably relayed back to me by**
 4 **the DPP, so I can't precisely now say whether**
 5 **all these things were said in that meeting or**
 6 **whether the DPP gave me further**
 7 **information beyond what was discussed in**
 8 **the meeting.**
 9 Q. If we go to B74, please, this is an email
 10 sent by Mr McGrail to himself on 12 May
 11 2020, the night of the meeting that followed
 12 the RGP attending Hassans with a search
 13 warrant. I just want to focus on the second
 14 and third paragraphs. He says: "For quite
 15 some time I have been meeting with Her
 16 Majesty's Attorney General, Mr Llamas, at
 17 his request, to discuss matters relating to this
 18 investigation. Mr Llamas has a view that
 19 Caine Sanchez in particular should be dealt
 20 with internally via civil service disciplinary
 21 mechanisms. To this date however the AG
 22 has not been privy to the evidence that the
 23 team has gathered against CS or indeed the
 24 other suspects. The said evidence has been
 25 discussed with the DPP at great length, who

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1 has advised that there is a criminal case for
 2 CS, JP and TC to answer and that there is a
 3 realistic prospect of conviction if prosecuted
 4 on community misuse offences and
 5 conspiracy to defraud offences. At most of
 6 these meetings with the AG, particularly the
 7 latter ones, I have been accompanied by
 8 Superintendent Richardson. The views I
 9 have expressed all along have been that the
 10 alleged criminal behaviour of all the parties
 11 concerned is very serious." Just pausing
 12 there, am I correct that your position is that
 13 there was no contact between you and Mr
 14 McGrail about Operation Delhi between 13
 15 May 2019 and 7 April 2020?
 16 **A. Essentially, yes.**
 17 Q. Your position is set out in paragraph 21
 18 of your witness statement, A275. You say:
 19 "It was not until early April 2020 that the
 20 criminal investigation was brought to my
 21 attention again." But Mr McGrail's evidence
 22 to the Inquiry has been that these discussions
 23 were not organised specifically about
 24 Operation Delhi but took place on the back
 25 of meetings about other subjects. Do you

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1 recall any discussions of that nature?
 2 **A. Not at all. Mr McGrail in evidence gave**
 3 **three examples of such cases. The first**
 4 **example he gave was the work that he was**
 5 **involved in when we were trying to recover**
 6 **the situation after the airport incident when I**
 7 **was working to draft a protocol between he**
 8 **MoD and the RGP on the exercise of**
 9 **criminal jurisdiction in Gibraltar. That**
 10 **protocol, and effectively he was involved in**
 11 **that, that protocol was signed and therefore**
 12 **the work completed on 7 November 2017,**
 13 **six months before I even know that Op Delhi**
 14 **existed. And the second example he gave**
 15 **was the Grace one which was an Iranian**
 16 **tanker that we detained in Gibraltar pursuant**
 17 **to the EU sanctions regime. Well, the Grace**
 18 **one sailed away from Gibraltar in August**
 19 **2019, so certainly as from that date it doesn't**
 20 **give Mr McGrail any cover for that. I think**
 21 **the evidence of Mr Richardson and the**
 22 **evidence of Mr Rocca also corroborate that**
 23 **this is not - Mr McGrail's story here is**
 24 **simply not true.**
 25 Q. I think just stick to your own evidence on

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1 it.
 2 **A. Sorry.**
 3 Q. If I can take you to A299, please, this is
 4 your second affidavit, paragraph 7. You say:
 5 "During this period we had no meetings."
 6 First of all, in paragraphs 12 to 27 of
 7 McGrail 1 which concern the Op Delhi
 8 investigation, Mr McGrail clearly seeks to
 9 create the impression that I was in regular
 10 contact with him in relation to Op Delhi.
 11 This is not true." In 7 you say: "During this
 12 period, we had no meetings, I made no
 13 enquiries of IM and he provided me with no
 14 briefings in relation to Op Delhi of any
 15 specific or substantive kind. I cannot
 16 completely rule out the possibility (although
 17 I have no recollection of any instance) that,
 18 in a chance encounter, perhaps in the margins
 19 of a meeting on a different matter, the subject
 20 of Op Delhi may have been mentioned by
 21 him or by me and there may have been the
 22 most superficial brief and perfunctory
 23 exchange between us on that subject, but I
 24 am absolutely certain that any such incident
 25 would not provide in truth for the statements

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<p>1 or insinuations made by Mr McGrail." Is 2 that still your position? 3 A. Absolutely. 4 Q. In particular, do you recall any 5 discussions about Operation Delhi before or 6 after a meeting about the incident at sea on 7 22 March 2020? 8 A. No. 9 Q. If we go to A4 now, please. This is Mr 10 McGrail's first affidavit, paragraph 12. He 11 says: "Because of the complexities of the 12 case, I was aware that the investigating 13 officers were consulting with the OCPL, 14 particularly with the DPP. I also discussed 15 the investigation with the AG on a few 16 occasions when he brought it up and very 17 briefly verbally went over the evidence and 18 progress made. I would normally provide 19 these briefings on the back of other subject 20 matters that I had met the AG on. The AG 21 was initially enquiring about what evidence 22 we were coming across and I was content to 23 disclose this verbally to him, albeit in a very 24 brief fashion." Did you enquire about the 25 evidence the RGP was coming across?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 April. I think he's remembered it 2 subsequently. That was discussed - those 3 issues were discussed in the meeting of 7 4 April. 5 Q. Of 7 April. 6 A. Then at paragraph 15 he says: "During at 7 least two of the meetings at which I 8 discussed Op Delhi with the AG, he enquired 9 whether Mr Caine Sanchez could be dealt 10 with internally via the Civil Service 11 disciplinary route. At the time Mr Sanchez I 12 believe was interdicted from the Civil 13 Service following his arrest with three other 14 suspects ... though the said interdiction was 15 subsequently lifted. I briefly imparted the 16 evidential information I had from the 17 investigating officers that Mr Sanchez was 18 suspected of a conspiracy to defraud together 19 with the other suspects and possibly other 20 persons and therefore treating him differently 21 to the others would be totally unjust." Did 22 you enquire with Mr McGrail whether Caine 23 Sanchez could be dealt with via the 24 disciplinary route? 25 A. This is an issue that I have found truly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 A. No. This is at the lowest level or highest 2 level, the way you want to look at it. "How's 3 it going?" You know, "What are you doing, 4 how is this going?" That is it. I think the 5 DPP described a light touch. I mean, at most 6 it was light touch. It was just - I was not 7 enquiring and certainly not asking for 8 briefings. That is simply not true. 9 Q. In paragraph 13 he says: "During these 10 briefings the AG would express views of 11 how chaotic and messy the matter was for 12 Her Majesty's Governor on a number of 13 fronts. No Government official other than 14 Caine Sanchez knew the ins and outs of the 15 dealings between the service provider of the 16 NSCIS platform and Her Majesty's 17 Government. The AG expressed concern 18 over how all this was being managed 19 internally by Her Majesty's Government with 20 the consequent potential embarrassment to 21 the administration." Do you recall 22 expressing such concerns? 23 A. That's his first witness statement, yes? 24 Q. Yes. 25 A. Well, he'd forgotten the meeting of 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 perplexing in the evidence which has been 2 given so far in this Inquiry. I did ask about 3 Caine Sanchez in the meeting of the 7th but 4 all I was doing was enquiring how the 5 criminal procedure and the disciplinary 6 procedure were going to run in parallel. That 7 is all I was doing. At no moment in time, 8 which is the insinuation that is being made, 9 was I seeking to protect Mr Sanchez. You 10 may recall the reaction of the DPP when you 11 asked him the question last week, and you've 12 seen the transcript of what I say about Caine 13 Sanchez. It's plainly obvious. I really do not 14 know why Mr McGrail formed that view, nor 15 indeed why Mr Richardson two weeks ago in 16 the Inquiry was shocked about something he 17 did not note in his daybook nor even mention 18 in his witness statement. 19 Q. So just to put it plainly to you, did you 20 ever suggest that a disciplinary route should 21 be taken in lieu of a criminal -- 22 A. Certainly not. 23 Q. What was your position? That they 24 should run alongside each other or -- 25 A. I didn't have a position other than trying</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

40 (Pages 157 to 160)

<p>1 to understand how both procedures would 2 run in parallel. Indeed, even if they would 3 run in parallel or whether the disciplinary 4 procedure would be stopped and wait for the 5 criminal procedure to go ahead. That is all I 6 was doing. 7 Q. At paragraph 16 Mr McGrail says: "The 8 AG also advised that the investigation should 9 not progress until such time as the question 10 of ownership of the NSCIS platform was 11 clarified. This was a matter that the 12 investigation team had already identified and 13 were working to address together with the 14 DPP. It was my understanding that the 15 question of ownership of the platform, 16 though important, was not critical to the 17 prosecution of the suspects." Did you at any 18 point other than the meeting of 7 April 2020 19 advise that the investigation should not 20 progress until such time as the question of 21 ownership was clarified? 22 A. I never spoke to Mr McGrail of this 23 investigation until 7 April. 24 Q. So is your position that that advice by 25 you was given on 7 April?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 Q. - is it based on your understanding from 2 your dealings with him? 3 A. I just saw that. 4 Q. Yes. 5 A. And it just reminded me that on 8 April 6 he was saying the complete opposite of what 7 he's saying in that sentence. 8 Q. In paragraph 17 he says: "At a point 9 during one of the meetings with the AG and 10 whilst discussing the issue of ownership of 11 the platform, the AG mentioned what he 12 described as a hypothetical situation, 13 enquiring what the RGP's position would be 14 in terms of pursuing the investigation were it 15 to be assumed that HMGoG were the defined 16 owners of the platform and that they 17 consented to the alleged hacking/sabotage 18 taking place. The AG's thinking really 19 startled me despite it being a hypothetical 20 situation. I was beginning to read that there 21 were seemingly some signs of reluctance 22 from HMGoG being transmitted by the AG 23 for this investigation to proceed. I expressed 24 my concerns there and then about this 25 thought process, exclaiming that if it were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 A. I'll deal with that, if we are coming to the 2 meeting of 7 April, but at this stage I can 3 confirm that I certainly did not mention any 4 of that prior to 7 April. On 7 April there was 5 a discussion on those lines. 6 Q. We will come to this. 7 A. But we will come to that, I would 8 imagine. 9 Q. In paragraph 17 Mr McGrail -- 10 A. Sorry, Mr Santos, again, just in case, 11 when he says there at the end of 16: "It was 12 my understanding that the question that the 13 question of ownership of the platform, 14 though important, was not critical to the 15 prosecution of the suspects", you will see that 16 the day after the meeting of the 7th, so 17 therefore on the 8th, he wrote a letter to the 18 Financial Secretary in which he said that this 19 was - ownership was a key issue which was 20 integral to the investigation. So that is what 21 he was saying on 8 April. 22 Q. So your evidence is that as far as you 23 were aware -- Is that just a comment on what 24 is said in that letter or -- 25 A. Yes --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 the case as suggested, that HMGoG had 2 consented to the hacking/sabotage, they 3 would by default have been part of the 4 alleged conspiracy to defraud Bland Ltd of 5 the contract to run the platform. The AG 6 agreed with me and we agreed to literally 7 rubbish the hypothetical situation. It 8 nonetheless left me bemused and to a degree 9 worried that the suggestion had even been 10 mooted by the AG." Do you recall asking 11 questions about this hypothetical situation? 12 A. Yes. I was trying to make him 13 understand - bear in mind that this is again 7 14 April meeting, so the DPP had called me the 15 day before and he had briefed me on 16 Operation Delhi. The two principal issues 17 that the DPP had brought to my mind on the 18 6th was rationalisation of the charges and 19 ownership. This, which is a recollection of 20 the meeting of 7 April, I was trying to make 21 him understand that ownership, if held by the 22 Gibraltar Government, would certainly have 23 an impact on at least some of the charges. So 24 all I was trying to do by this hypothetical 25 situation is that. I was just telling him:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

41 (Pages 161 to 164)

1 **"Look, Ian, just imagine that the platform**
 2 **belongs to the Gibraltar Government. Surely**
 3 **that's going to have an effect on some of the**
 4 **charges which are being brought?" That is all**
 5 **I was trying to do. And the thing is, it's very**
 6 **confusing because of his own confusion**
 7 **when he described this, when he says there in**
 8 **17, "I was beginning to read that there were**
 9 **seemingly signs of reluctance and that this is**
 10 **part of this fiction that for many months I**
 11 **was putting pressure on him." This is the**
 12 **meeting of 7 April. We left that meeting in**
 13 **perfectly amicable terms. There was nothing**
 14 **controversial about that meeting.**
 15 **(14.31)**
 16 Q. In paragraph 20 he then says, "The AG
 17 was also fully aware that JL was the subject
 18 of interest and investigation but we have not
 19 discussed when he was going to be dealt
 20 with. What was discussed was that I was
 21 hopeful that JL would provide an account
 22 that would clarify many of the suspicions that
 23 hung over him. I was saying this knowing
 24 how the reputation of Gibraltar could
 25 potentially be tainted if indeed JL was found

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1 to be criminally liable. I was also clear that
 2 if JL had questions to answer as a suspect in
 3 the matter, that due process had to be
 4 followed. However, we would not know
 5 what, if anything, he would say until he was
 6 approached by the investigating officers. I
 7 acutely knew this would be a sensitive matter
 8 due to the professional connections JL has
 9 with the CM, other members of Parliament
 10 and the Financial Secretary." Did Mr
 11 McGrail raise any concerns with you about
 12 the link between the investigation and the
 13 Chief Minister?
 14 **A. Again, this is 7 April meeting, and he**
 15 **raised that issue. I did not particularly**
 16 **engage with him then. My focus in that**
 17 **meeting was exclusively the matters that Mr**
 18 **Rocca had brought to my attention the day**
 19 **before.**
 20 Q. Did you have concerns about the link
 21 between the investigation and the Chief
 22 Minister at that stage?
 23 **A. (inaudible)**
 24 Q. If we can look at paragraph 24, Mr
 25 McGrail states, "During one of the meetings

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1 with the AGs we discussed Op Delhi. He
 2 advised that he would be taking a step back
 3 from discussing the criminal investigation as
 4 he was now advising Government on the
 5 intellectual property rights of the NSCIS
 6 platform case and it was not compatible to
 7 advise on both matters. I cannot recall
 8 whether this was before or after discussion
 9 about the charges but believe Superintendent
 10 Richardson has a timeline concerning this
 11 matter." Your evidence on this is in your
 12 second affidavit at paragraph 21, A303, and
 13 you say that you do not recall having said
 14 that you would be taking a step back, but if
 15 you did do so, it was at the meeting of 7
 16 April and you say, "The fact that after this
 17 meeting I concentrated on helping to clarify
 18 the question of ownership of the platform is
 19 confirmed by Lloyd DeVincenzi." When
 20 you talk about taking a step back, why would
 21 you have taken a step back given that you
 22 were advising the Government on the
 23 intellectual property rights?
 24 **A. The logic of this statement is this. In that**
 25 **meeting, I am telling Mr McGrail, "Sort out -**

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1 **rationalise the charges and sort out the**
 2 **ownership", right? So, I took it upon myself**
 3 **to help him with the ownership. I knew that**
 4 **the Gibraltar Government had not given him**
 5 **the statements - the RGP - that the**
 6 **statements were after. Blands had done it**
 7 **many, many months before and I knew that**
 8 **the RGP were seeking it and they were not**
 9 **getting it, so what I did - and that was the**
 10 **purport of my statement to him, is that, "I'm**
 11 **going to help you advance with the**
 12 **ownership. I've just told you that you should**
 13 **do it and the least I can do is try to help you**
 14 **to get the Government to give you their view**
 15 **on the ownership of the platform." All I did**
 16 **after that meeting was to push it and to push**
 17 **it and to push the Government. Lloyd**
 18 **DeVincenzi had already been working on the**
 19 **platform - on the ownership - back to 2019**
 20 **as you heard this morning. When I inquired**
 21 **with the Financial Secretary I knew that he**
 22 **had already been looking into it and I also**
 23 **knew that the Chief Secretary was having**
 24 **problems in getting the materials upon which**
 25 **to base a claim on ownership. It wasn't very**

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1 **well organised, it must be said, and therefore**
 2 **what I did is, "Look, you've got to get**
 3 **going." It was never my intention to sit**
 4 **down and draft a contract. It's not the work I**
 5 **do.**
 6 Q. But what he says that you said is that you
 7 advised you would be taking a step back
 8 from discussing the criminal investigation.
 9 Did you say anything to that effect?
 10 **A. Well, in the sense that it is not - I got**
 11 **involved, or rather, I get - I organise the**
 12 **meeting of 7 April for reasons which I will**
 13 **explain to you but it's not something - I**
 14 **didn't get involved with the criminal**
 15 **investigations and therefore I just thought**
 16 **that there were reasons which had been**
 17 **brought to my attention by the DPP the day**
 18 **before, and then which I put into place in my**
 19 **perception of how things were happening and**
 20 **what was happening in particular, and that**
 21 **was it, really.**
 22 Q. So, sorry, just asking you directly: did
 23 you say, as far as you remember, that you
 24 would be taking a step back from the
 25 criminal investigation?

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1 point out that the DPP very rarely seeks to
 2 discuss criminal cases with me and typically
 3 acts completely independently from me. The
 4 fact that he called me gave me cause for
 5 concern that there was something seriously
 6 wrong." Why were you concerned?
 7 **A. For the reason that I state. It is very rare**
 8 **for the DPP to want to talk to me about a**
 9 **criminal investigation.**
 10 Q. You say very rare. How often do you say
 11 that you would discuss criminal matters with
 12 the DPP?
 13 **A. Well, as the DPP explained in his**
 14 **evidence, we meet. It's not very organised.**
 15 **He's very - he's virtually totally independent**
 16 **from me but we do catch up. I mean we do**
 17 **meet. It's not strict in the sense of once a**
 18 **month or once every two months. It depends**
 19 **on what is going on. We have a chat, we**
 20 **have a lot of chats about administrative**
 21 **matters, recruitment of Crown Counsel,**
 22 **especially for his department and on the back**
 23 **of that he asks me what I'm doing and I ask**
 24 **him what he's doing but I can't - but what is**
 25 **unique is that he felt he had to speak to me in**

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1 **A. I don't remember correctly but I may well**
 2 **have said it for the reasons I've just**
 3 **explained.**
 4 Q. Given your role in the events of May
 5 2020, do you agree that you did not in fact,
 6 as things transpired, step back from
 7 discussing the criminal investigation?
 8 **A. No, because after the first letter from**
 9 **Hassans, Mr McGrail himself asked to meet**
 10 **me and I don't blame him for having done so**
 11 **because there were very, very serious**
 12 **allegations being made in that letter and**
 13 **indeed the letter had been addressed to me.**
 14 Q. Can we now go to 6 April, which is when
 15 the DPP contacted you? If we go to your
 16 witness statement at paragraph 21, your first
 17 witness statement this time, paragraph 27,
 18 which is A275, you say, "It was not until
 19 early April 2025 that the criminal
 20 investigation was brought to my attention
 21 again. On this occasion it was as a result of a
 22 call I received from the Director of Public
 23 Prosecutions ... Christian Rocca QC, who
 24 wished to discuss with me certain aspects of
 25 the RGP's investigation. I would like to

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1 **a way that I don't think he's ever done, he had**
 2 **never done before or even subsequently.**
 3 **That is what was unique.**
 4 Q. What level of experience would you say
 5 that you have in criminal law?
 6 **A. Very little.**
 7 Q. Can we go now to C3313, please. This is
 8 an email exchange on 6 April. If you go to
 9 the bottom of the page, there is an email from
 10 Robert Fischel QC on behalf of some of the
 11 arrested parties and he says - he writes to
 12 Sean Reyes of the RGP but copies it to the
 13 DPP and to you and he says: "I am fully
 14 aware of the legislation that has been brought
 15 into effect following the declaration by the
 16 Chief Minister of the outbreak being a major
 17 incident", so he is talking about the Covid
 18 outbreak, and just over the page, if we just
 19 glance over the page, there is a discussion
 20 about a decision being made to extend bail,
 21 interviews, all those sorts of things and
 22 ultimately on the following page there is an
 23 invitation for them to be released from bail
 24 and then he says, just at the penultimate
 25 paragraph - I am sorry, three from the

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<p>1 bottom: "I am copying in the DPP and AG 2 because this unilateral conduct is troubling 3 me and I have to ask myself, given the 4 identity, wealth and influence of the 5 complainant, James Gaggero, whether or not 6 undue pressure is being or has been placed 7 on the RGP." That is the email that goes to 8 the DPP and to you at 20 past 11 and then 9 you reply at half past 11 saying, - sorry, you 10 do not reply; I think you respond to the email 11 directly to the DPP saying, "See, I'm not 12 cited on this. M" and then the response that 13 comes from the DPP is at 12.06: "Hi 14 Michael, this is something we are going to 15 have to discuss soon because it does have 16 very serious implications in terms of people 17 that might be dragged in", and you say, 18 "Sure, Christian, whenever you want." That 19 exchange on 6 April appears to have been the 20 trigger for your conversation with the DPP. 21 A. Absolutely. 22 Q. Is that because - you do not make any 23 mention of it in your witness statement but I 24 just wanted to show it to you because it does 25 appear -</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 as a result of this exchange, and which I 2 think the DPP has confirmed in his evidence 3 as an accurate record of what he told me. 4 Q. I was just about to take you to that. It is 5 page A275, at the very bottom: "During our 6 discussion" - sorry, it is 22 of your witness 7 statement: "During our discussion the DPP 8 confirmed to me", and you set out five 9 matters: first, "On the basis of the 10 information that was available to the DPP at 11 the time it was clear there had been serious 12 failures; second, "that Hassans held shares in 13 the "rival" company ... and that Mr Levy was 14 potentially a person of interest"; third, "that a 15 senior civil servant, Mr Sanchez, was one of 16 the suspects"; fourth, that the CEO of 17 Borders and Coastguard Agency ... may also 18 have been implicated", and finally, "that 19 ownership of the NSCIS platform was 20 contested and that there was no form of 21 written contract between the Government and 22 Bland Ltd in this regard." Then you say that 23 he informed you that there were 76 - that a 24 list of 76 charges had been drawn up and was 25 news to you. The DPP took the view that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. - as though that may have been the 3 trigger. 4 A. I must say, I was very surprised to even 5 have been copied to the email that Robert 6 Fischel sent. Some lawyers in Gibraltar 7 write to me or copy me to correspondence. 8 Robert used to work in the old AG's 9 Chambers so maybe it is just by way of habit. 10 Anyway, I asked Christian to inform me 11 what all this was about and this must have 12 led to the conversation we had on 6 April. 13 Q. And would you agree that the DPP 14 contacting you appears to have been 15 prompted by your email to him saying that 16 you were not cited on it? 17 A. Yes, perhaps. 18 Q. And you maintain, nevertheless, that the 19 DPP then asking to speak to you meant that 20 there was something which was seriously 21 wrong? 22 A. Well, I've set out in my witness statement 23 the issues that the DPP brought to my 24 attention, so that is the content of the 25 discussion he and I had on the 6th, probably</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 that was excessive and wholly inappropriate, 2 the issue of ownership was still live and you 3 say: "It seemed clear to both of us that the 4 ownership of the platform was key to the 5 viability of a number of the proposed charges 6 and that on one possible ownership outcome, 7 a number of the proposed charges would 8 necessarily fall away." Did at this stage the 9 DPP inform you that the RGP intended to 10 seek search warrants against Mr Levy? 11 A. Not at all. 12 Q. You see, if we go to C4732, please, this is 13 your letter of 5 June to the GPA where you 14 also give an account of your discussion with 15 the DPP and you refer to the charges and you 16 refer to - you say, "During that discussion" - 17 I am sorry, let us just pick it up from, "Far 18 from seeking to intervene" - you say, "Far 19 from seeking to intervene or interfere for that 20 reason, I had no further involvement with the 21 criminal investigation until over 11 months 22 later when in early April 2020 the DPP called 23 me to discuss the Government's position in 24 relation to the ongoing issues about the 25 ownership of a computer platform and its</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

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<p>1 software that HMGoG uses to which the 2 criminal investigation related. During that 3 discussion, the DPP explained to me that the 4 RGP had drawn up a list of 76 charges and 5 that the RGP were thinking of issuing search 6 warrants against Mr James Levy QC. I was 7 alarmed, both by the number of charges, 8 which would be quite inappropriate in any 9 prosecution, and also by the proposal to 10 obtain and issue a search warrant against a 11 senior lawyer without first seeking voluntary 12 cooperation or voluntary production of 13 evidence. My concern was not because of 14 any sense that lawyers should be exempt 15 from this mechanism; rather it was as would 16 be the case of any person, that such warrants 17 should reflect the reality of the risk of 18 destruction of evidence unless the person is 19 taken by surprise or the refusal of the person 20 to provide the evidence voluntarily. Not only 21 can that not be assumed against any person, 22 still less a practising lawyer, but Mr Levy 23 had been aware of RGP's interest in him for 24 many months and had had plenty of 25 opportunity to destroy evidence if he were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 ownership and rationalisation of charges. 2 My recollection of the meeting, of the 3 conversation with the DPP, was that, 4 rationalisation and ownership. 5 Q. If we go back to your statement, 6 paragraph 23, you say that the DPP told you 7 - from the second line: "The DPP told me 8 that the excessive number of charges seemed 9 wholly inappropriate." Did you apply your 10 own mind to this question or did you simply 11 follow the advice of the DPP as to whether 12 the number of charges was appropriate or 13 inappropriate? 14 A. The latter. 15 Q. Why did you and the DPP consider that 16 the issue of rationalising the charges was so 17 important? 18 A. Because certainly the way he expressed it 19 to me was that it was important to get to the 20 bottom of critical issues in the investigation, 21 such as ownership. On the charges, he just 22 thought that 76 charges was absurd, I think is 23 the word he used to describe it, so that is the 24 information that he passed on to me and that 25 is what I acted upon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 minded or inclined to do so. I have a 2 legitimate public interest role and function, 3 indeed a responsibility in respect of both 4 these matters" and then you say, "I asked to 5 meet with the COP in relation to these two 6 matters and we did so on 7 April." So, would 7 you agree that in your letter of 5 June it 8 seems as though at that point your 9 recollection was that in fact the DPP had 10 raised the prospect of search warrants against 11 Mr Levy with you in your phone call with 12 him? 13 A. Absolutely. 14 Q. And we have seen that your witness 15 statement does not mention this, so are you 16 able to say which of those accounts is the 17 more likely one as far as your recollection is 18 concerned? 19 A. My recollection, my very clear 20 recollection, is that it was all about 21 rationalisation and ownership. That was 22 what the meeting - I am quite surprised to 23 read this now and that was spoken - I had 24 forgotten that - or maybe was not as 25 important to me at that stage in relation to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 Q. So, these two issues, rationalisation of the 2 charges and ownership, did you consider that 3 either of those issues was relevant to the 4 RGP's investigation into Mr Levy as opposed 5 to the other suspects? 6 A. I didn't think they were because they go 7 to the computer misuse offence and I wasn't 8 even going into that sort of detail. I was just 9 concerned that the investigation proceeded in 10 a safe and prudent manner for reasons that I 11 can explain. That was my main concern at 12 the time. 13 Q. If we then go to 27 of your witness 14 statement, you say that following the 15 conversation, "The DPP and I therefore 16 agreed that I should seek a meeting with Mr 17 McGrail about the quantity and 18 rationalisation of charges. Contrary to Mr 19 McGrail's accusations against me and the 20 improper motives that he imputes to me, I 21 would not have known about this or 22 intervened at all if the DPP had not himself 23 brought this matter to my attention and 24 requested me to act as aforesaid." Why was 25 it agreed that you would seek this meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>

45 (Pages 177 to 180)

<p>1 with the Commissioner of Police and not the 2 DPP?</p> <p>3 A. For the following reasons, I would say, 4 and this comes to the motives for the meeting 5 of 7 April, and just please indulge me a little 6 bit so that I can explain where I was coming 7 from. So, there were three reasons in my 8 mind. The first reason was the complexity of 9 Op Delhi itself. It was a very complex case. 10 It was generally a difficult case, I would say, 11 and it had potential to affect the reputation of 12 Gibraltar because of 36 North and its 13 shareholders and all that. If we may go to 14 B3272, just to give you a sense that this was 15 a view shared by everyone, and the extent to 16 which it was shared -</p> <p>17 Q. So, this is -</p> <p>18 A. So, this is an email from Mr McGrail to 19 Mr Richardson of 1 March, that is to say just 20 one month before our meeting. He had just 21 read the NDA and on 1 March -</p> <p>22 Q. NDM, sorry?</p> <p>23 A. Sorry, NDM. He is saying to Mr 24 Richardson, in the last sentence, "Given the 25 complex nature of this investigation, and the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 consequence of this case. So, that is reason 2 number one. Reason number two, if we can 3 go to paragraph 64 -</p> <p>4 Q. Of your statement?</p> <p>5 A. Of my first witness statement. So here, at 6 the beginning of 64, I am addressing 7 allegations which were made by Mr McGrail 8 against me in his letter of 29 May, right, and 9 in particular when he is criticising me for 10 having given him the strong impression that I 11 was primarily concerned with protecting the 12 Chief Minister and Gibraltar plc. So, if you 13 go now to 64.4 and if I may just read it out, 14 there I say: "This concern to protect our 15 jurisdiction has to be understood in the 16 context known to everyone in Gibraltar, 17 including to Mr McGrail and to everyone 18 outside Gibraltar who follows the way in 19 which Spain plays out its claim to the 20 sovereignty of Gibraltar and how opposition 21 to any and all self-government and 22 constitutional advancement for Gibraltar. 23 During my many years in the roles in 24 Government that I describe in paragraph 1", 25 which is my history with the Gibraltar</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 reputational risks at stake, I would ask you to 2 consult the DPP to ensure the intended 3 activities are legally supported." If you now 4 go to the NDM, which I think is -</p> <p>5 Q. Mr Llamas, are you reading from some 6 notes or -</p> <p>7 A. No, I've just got the bundle number.</p> <p>8 Q. I see, the reference.</p> <p>9 A. If you go to the NDM -</p> <p>10 Q. Yes, the NDM itself?</p> <p>11 A. (no reply)</p> <p>12 Q. Perhaps you can just tell us --</p> <p>13 A. Anyway, in the NDM itself, which Mr 14 McGrail had read at that stage, he says, "Mr 15 Richardson speaks about the sensitivity of 16 this case which may require application for 17 the search warrant to be made to the Chief 18 Justice." Mr Richardson also says at the end 19 of the NDM in the last paragraph that there 20 was a possibility or a likelihood that Hassans 21 would send the whole team to go there.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes.</p> <p>23 A. So, this was a very complex case and the 24 RGP knew it was complex because of the 25 reputational risks and the political</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 Government,, I have had much first-hand 2 experience of how Spain in those contexts 3 has historically and persistently exploited any 4 opportunity that she can to criticise and bring 5 international opprobrium to bear on Gibraltar 6 in order to tarnish our reputation and our 7 economy and thus undermine our quest for 8 international recognition of our right to self- 9 determination. This is well known to 10 everyone in Gibraltar and further afield."</p> <p>11 Q. So, that is your second -</p> <p>12 A. My second point. If we go back to 29 13 now, which is the meeting of 7 April, so 14 there a couple of lines down, the second 15 sentence: "I therefore advised Mr McGrail 16 that I considered it vital that the investigation 17 should proceed and be conducted prudently 18 and with tremendous care" and these are the 19 two words I will come to: "prudently" and 20 "tremendous care". So, we have a criminal 21 investigation that is in the RGP's own words, 22 had a risk to affect the reputation of Gibraltar 23 politically sensitive and that, so on one hand; 24 my role in - my capacity as I had been 25 advising the Gibraltar Government for many</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

46 (Pages 181 to 184)

<p>1 years that I know how our neighbours exploit</p> <p>2 any situation to undermine us in pursuance of</p> <p>3 its claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar and I</p> <p>4 tell him, "Be careful, be prudent." I was not</p> <p>5 giving legal advice to Mr McGrail, and on</p> <p>6 that I agree with Mr Richardson.</p> <p>7 Q. Sorry, my question was why you attended</p> <p>8 this meeting without - why it was you and</p> <p>9 not the DPP. Can you just focus your answer</p> <p>10 on exactly why it was you and not the DPP?</p> <p>11 A. Okay. It's important for me to explain.</p> <p>12 Q. I understand, I understand.</p> <p>13 A. Why? Because I think we happened to</p> <p>14 have a meeting on Operation Kram the</p> <p>15 following day and I just took the opportunity</p> <p>16 of that. I was not going to be giving legal</p> <p>17 advice to Mr McGrail and then Mr Harper</p> <p>18 was away and I just thought I would do it</p> <p>19 then.</p> <p>20 Q. So, was there a determination on 6 April</p> <p>21 that you would do it on 7 April or was it</p> <p>22 purely opportunistic when you were in the</p> <p>23 meeting that you decided to address him?</p> <p>24 A. I think it was the latter and I know that</p> <p>25 Mr Rocca could not recall whether we had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 Q. If we go to A315, please, this is where</p> <p>2 you address the 7 April 2020 meeting and in</p> <p>3 paragraph 61 you say, "With reference to</p> <p>4 paragraph 106 of McGrail 3, where he sets</p> <p>5 out his recollection of a meeting on 7 April</p> <p>6 2020, I am asked to provide details of this</p> <p>7 meeting and in particular of the possible civil</p> <p>8 action as a result of the incident at sea." You</p> <p>9 say, "As above, I do not recall a specific</p> <p>10 meeting with IM on 7 April to discuss the</p> <p>11 incident at sea. It is unlikely that a meeting</p> <p>12 took place on 7 April since that is the date</p> <p>13 when I had my first meeting with IM on Op</p> <p>14 Delhi."</p> <p>15 (15.00)</p> <p>16 It seems from your answer now that actually</p> <p>17 you do recall a meeting to do with the</p> <p>18 incident at sea and that the meeting on Op</p> <p>19 Delhi happened on the back of that meeting.</p> <p>20 Is that correct?</p> <p>21 A. That seems to be the case, yes. I think</p> <p>22 that was the order, yes. I mean, there was no</p> <p>23 immediate urgency for me to speak to Mr</p> <p>24 McGrail on 7 April, so that is what makes me</p> <p>25 think that we already had the meeting on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 agreed for me to meet but I am pretty sure</p> <p>2 that we did agree that and if you go to the</p> <p>3 note that Mr Richardson did on 8 April,</p> <p>4 further to the AG video conference all with</p> <p>5 Mr Rocca - I don't know whether you can</p> <p>6 bring that up, but in the second bullet point -</p> <p>7 Q. There is a reference to - we will find that</p> <p>8 for you. I will take you to that now.</p> <p>9 A. Anyway, what Mr Rocca says there is</p> <p>10 that the AG will be speaking to (inaudible)</p> <p>11 the words -</p> <p>12 Q. Yes. I put to the DPP that it did not</p> <p>13 appear on 8 April that he was aware that you</p> <p>14 had already spoken.</p> <p>15 A. He was away for the whole week so what</p> <p>16 happened was that the DPP and I spoke on</p> <p>17 the 6th. At the end of that meeting I maybe</p> <p>18 told him, "Look, Christian, I'm going to</p> <p>19 speak to Ian" or we agreed then that I should</p> <p>20 speak. He certainly knew that I was going to</p> <p>21 speak to him and he certainly didn't object to</p> <p>22 it or else I would not have spoken to Mr</p> <p>23 McGrail, and I happened or we happened to</p> <p>24 have an Operation Kram meeting the</p> <p>25 following day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 Operation Kram set down for the 7th.</p> <p>2 Q. If there was no immediate urgency then</p> <p>3 would it not have been preferable to wait</p> <p>4 until the DPP was back so that the DPP could</p> <p>5 be present at the meeting as well?</p> <p>6 A. Not because of what I was going to tell</p> <p>7 him. I was not going to get into the law. The</p> <p>8 DPP had expressed serious concerns to me</p> <p>9 the day before. I could see where he was</p> <p>10 coming from. I had this meeting set up with</p> <p>11 Mr McGrail for the following day and I</p> <p>12 thought I'll just speak to him and tell him and</p> <p>13 tell him, "Ian, be careful. Take tremendous</p> <p>14 care with this investigation."</p> <p>15 Q. So the 7 April meeting then, just to be</p> <p>16 clear, your position is that that was an</p> <p>17 impromptu meeting rather than an organised</p> <p>18 meeting with Mr McGrail?</p> <p>19 A. Logically it seems to me to be the case,</p> <p>20 yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Now, on 7 April, that meeting took place.</p> <p>22 Superintendent Richardson and Mr</p> <p>23 DiVincenzi were both present. Your account</p> <p>24 of that is in your statement at paragraphs 28</p> <p>25 to 32. Can we just focus on page A277</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

47 (Pages 185 to 188)

1 paragraph 32 please. Your evidence is:
 2 "After a long, and from my recollection,
 3 amicable discussion, we reached what, for
 4 me, was a very clear understanding between
 5 us, namely, that the RGP would not take any
 6 further action until they had (i) clarified the
 7 question of the ownership of the NSCIS
 8 platform (ii) rationalised the charges (which
 9 the DPP had told me was extremely possible
 10 to do), and (iii) whereupon Mr McGrail
 11 would meet with me and the DPP before
 12 taking any further steps. It was clear beyond
 13 peradventure that nothing, other than what
 14 we had agreed to, would happen until we met
 15 again."
 16 You say that the agreement was clear beyond
 17 peradventure, can you be as specific as
 18 possible about the words that were used
 19 when arriving at this agreement, I mean, not
 20 so much about the specifics of the agreement,
 21 but how do you say that it was clear beyond
 22 per adventure in terms of what you
 23 communicated to Mr McGrail?
 24 **A. Because I rarely take the step to speak to**
 25 **the Commissioner about a criminal**

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1 **the charges, establish ownership and then do**
 2 **that and then come and speak to the DPP and**
 3 **myself. That for me was a prudent and a**
 4 **careful approach, considering the context and**
 5 **reputation and everything else. Not trying to**
 6 **interfere, certainly not, but just giving him**
 7 **the benefit of my view of what is really**
 8 **important to this jurisdiction at a particularly**
 9 **difficult period of our history. And if I have**
 10 **called him in to tell him, "Ian, be careful,**
 11 **take tremendous care with this investigation",**
 12 **that meant what it meant and, as a minimum,**
 13 **I think it would have meant "Don't take any**
 14 **radical steps, not any major steps in the**
 15 **investigation until you've done this." Just**
 16 **pure advice, which obviously he's chose to**
 17 **ignore, which is fine, but that is all I was**
 18 **doing.**
 19 Q. But is your evidence that you said to him
 20 in terms "Don't take any steps in this
 21 investigation before you come and see me"?
 22 **A. Yes, absolutely I said that, in the sense of**
 23 **I thought he could do that quickly. I was**
 24 **going to help him with the ownership issue,**
 25 **which was being in dispute, and I thought**

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1 **investigation. I did so here for the reasons**
 2 **that I have done so. I don't think was even**
 3 **speaking to him as Attorney General and**
 4 **Commissioner of Police, it was more a**
 5 **conversation by two of the most senior**
 6 **persons in the law enforcement team in**
 7 **Gibraltar, where I felt, because I have a more**
 8 **panoramic view of what's happening in the**
 9 **jurisdiction. I just felt that it was important**
 10 **for Mr McGrail to think, you know, I know**
 11 **how our northern neighbours exploit this sort**
 12 **of thing to undermine us, to undermine**
 13 **British sovereignty, to really make ... give us**
 14 **a bad reputation. You have just seen it in the**
 15 **Chronicle this morning, the latest example of**
 16 **that. Therefore, I was just telling him be**
 17 **very careful. If I took such an unprecedented**
 18 **step as to call him in to come and see me, to**
 19 **say "Be careful. Take care how you do this**
 20 **because of the political consequences, the**
 21 **reputational risks that they, the RGP itself**
 22 **had already recognised, and I said it seems to**
 23 **me that a prudent and careful approach to**
 24 **this investigation, based on what the DPP**
 25 **had told me the day before, meant, rationalise**

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1 **that would put the investigation in a more**
 2 **solid basis in accordance with what the DPP**
 3 **had told me the day before.**
 4 Q. Is there any written record of the
 5 agreement that was reached?
 6 **A. No.**
 7 Q. Given your evidence about the
 8 importance of these issues and the need to
 9 address them and the dangers of not
 10 addressing them, why did you not consider
 11 noting that agreement down in writing,
 12 whether in a file note or in an email to him?
 13 **A. I don't tend to take -- I take notes on very**
 14 **few of my meetings, Mr Santos. That's the**
 15 **reality.**
 16 Q. In terms, if we go to Mr McGrail's
 17 evidence on this, it is at A7, if we look at that
 18 paragraph, 22, Mr McGrail's understanding
 19 of what was agreed at the meeting, he said:
 20 "the question of proffering charges was still
 21 in my view premature because the
 22 investigating team still had to interview JL.
 23 His interview could lead to more counts
 24 being added or clarify matters and therefore
 25 generate less counts. It was clear to me and

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1 the investigating team that charges could not
 2 be proffered until all enquires with suspects
 3 had been closed. That particular meeting
 4 ended with the AG asking us to revert to see
 5 him once we had listed all the charges that
 6 had been uncovered."
 7 How do you respond to Mr McGrail's
 8 arguments that the interview of Mr Levy
 9 could lead to counts being added or
 10 removed?
 11 **A. I had no view on that at the time.**
 12 Q. Then, if we look at Mr DiVincenzi's
 13 account, it is at A1300, this is paragraph 11,
 14 his account is set out there. He said that you
 15 asked him to attend a meeting you were
 16 about to hold in your office. Then he says,
 17 picking it up from five lines down:
 18 "The focus of the meeting was possible
 19 charges against various individuals allegedly
 20 connected with the NSCIS matter, including
 21 Mr Sanchez. The Attorney General inquired
 22 about the significant number of charges, and
 23 expressed concern that these should probably
 24 be rationalised, noting that this was a matter
 25 for the police to consider and decide (or

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1 words to that effect). It was also mentioned
 2 during the meeting that Mr James Levy was
 3 being investigated. The Attorney General
 4 asked Mr McGrail to keep him informed
 5 until they could next meet."
 6 Do you accept that that evidence does not go
 7 quite as far as yours in the sense that there is
 8 no record by Mr DiVincenzi of any
 9 agreement being reached that no further steps
 10 would be taken in the investigation?
 11 **A. Yes, I accept that.**
 12 Q. Do you maintain nevertheless that,
 13 despite Mr DiVincenzi's account and Mr
 14 McGrail's account that it was clear beyond
 15 peradventure that no further steps should be
 16 taken until those issues were resolved?
 17 **A. As I said before, if I took the step that I**
 18 **took then, and I discussed this criminal**
 19 **investigation with him, and he knows the**
 20 **reputational risks because he had already**
 21 **commented on that a month earlier, and I tell**
 22 **him, "Just be careful. Be careful, especially**
 23 **at this moment of time when we are in the**
 24 **process of negotiating a vital treaty for our**
 25 **homeland, just be really careful. We don't**

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1 **need bad publicity and, whilst you can**
 2 **proceed with your case, of course you can,**
 3 **just be careful how you do it." And on the**
 4 **basis of the information I had received from**
 5 **the DPP the day before, I thought that**
 6 **rationalisation and ownership were important**
 7 **steps to take at that moment, in order to**
 8 **proceed on a prudent basis. If I took that**
 9 **unprecedented step, I think it meant what it**
 10 **meant. Taking major steps, like the**
 11 **execution of a search warrant, look, if he**
 12 **decided to do that obviously it was within**
 13 **what he could decide to do, but I was**
 14 **certainly very disappointed, very**
 15 **disappointed when I discovered that he had**
 16 **not spoken to me about it.**
 17 Q. Did you understand that he had agreed
 18 not to take further steps?
 19 **A. I thought it was obvious from the context**
 20 **of the meeting that we had agreed that, yes.**
 21 **We did not shake hands over it, we did not**
 22 **say, "We've reached this agreement. Come**
 23 **back to me." No, but I thought the context of**
 24 **the meeting was one in which he should have**
 25 **understood that he would certainly speak to**

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1 **the DPP or me again if a radical, a big step in**
 2 **the investigation was going to take place.**
 3 Q. In your recollection, did he say "I will not
 4 take any further steps", or was it more of an
 5 implication in terms of your agreement?
 6 **A. The latter.**
 7 Q. If we now turn ... I think you said it was
 8 unprecedented, but just to be clear, have you
 9 ever been involved in this way in a police
 10 operation and come to an agreement where
 11 the RGP ceases to continue with its operation
 12 pending resolution of matters of this nature?
 13 **A. No, not on the operational side. I have**
 14 **been involved in criminal matters like they**
 15 **had been mentioned by Mr Richardson and**
 16 **Mr McGrail, like the airport incident,**
 17 **although it is true that I was only involved in**
 18 **the jurisdictional points rather than the**
 19 **operation point rather than the operational**
 20 **point there. I mean, the Grace 1 has been**
 21 **mentioned as well.**
 22 Q. Sorry, maybe let me rephrase my
 23 question. Had you ever agreed a pause on an
 24 investigation in order to resolve issues such
 25 as ... like this one?

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<p>1 A. No, I do not see it as -- no, I mean the 2 simple answer to your question is no. 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Did you realise that 4 normally the application for a search warrant 5 was an operational matter to be considered 6 by the RGP? 7 A. Yes. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Did you know that? 9 You have told us several times that you did 10 not have a background in criminal law, did 11 you understand that at the time? 12 A. On 7 April? 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. 14 A. Probably not. I think I became aware of 15 that later on. 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Did you understand that 17 by suggesting that the RGP should not take 18 the step of applying for a search warrant 19 without previous consultation with you that 20 this was actually something very unusual? 21 A. I did not understand it that way at the 22 time. And it is not the search warrant that I 23 had in mind at the time. That was not my 24 concern, even though it is an example of the 25 sort of step which I thought he should not</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 high level of what I see in this jurisdiction 2 and how investigations like these can be 3 exploited by others. That was really my only 4 concern. I was not concerned about the 5 search warrant at that stage, other than it 6 being a manifestation of taking a step in the 7 investigation. I was just more worried that 8 on the basis of what the DPP had told me the 9 day before that these two issues were squared 10 up and then allow the investigation to 11 proceed on that basis. 12 MR SANTOS: Can I now take you back to 13 your letter of 5 June, C4732 please, because 14 your evidence in your second -- I think in 15 fairness to you I should show you your 16 evidence. A302. Your evidence in 17 paragraph 16 is that in response to Mr 18 McGrail's first affidavit where he says that 19 you discussed James Levy as a person of 20 interest to the investigation, you say: 21 "While JL was mentioned in passing by IM 22 at our meeting on 7 April 2020, there was no 23 discussion about him. My recollection as set 24 out in paragraph 31 of Llamas 1, is that IM 25 simply remarked that he hoped JL would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 take until he had bottomed out the ownership 2 and the rationalisation. 3 THE CHAIRMAN: What was your concern 4 then? 5 A. That the investigation proceeds on a 6 prudent basis, that the DPP had expressed to 7 me the day before that he was concerned 8 about the number of charges, that he was 9 concerned that ownership could have an 10 effect on some of the charges which were 11 being preferred. So, the impression I got was 12 that there were a number of issues which 13 needed to be sorted out in the management of 14 the investigation. That is what I was focused 15 on. 16 THE CHAIRMAN: So, your concern was 17 not that the RGP applied for a search warrant 18 without consulting you, what was your 19 concern then about what happened on 12 20 May? 21 A. My concern about what happened on 12 22 May was a separate matter to my concerns on 23 7 April. My concerns on 7 April were 24 exclusively to secure a safe management of 25 the investigation as I perceived it at the very</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 assist the investigation, and I do not recall 2 saying anything to this. As such the matters 3 stated at paragraph 20 of McGrail 1 would 4 appear to be IM's thoughts, rather than 5 anything that was said at our meeting." 6 Now, if we go to C4732, this is your letter of 7 5 June to the Gibraltar Police Authority, and 8 at the very final paragraph, we have already 9 gone through the preceding paragraph where 10 you talk about being alarmed both by the 11 number of charges and by the search warrant, 12 potential search warrant, and then you say: 13 "I asked to meet the CoP in relation to these 14 two matters and we did so on 7 April. In that 15 meeting ... 16 You talk about the ownership issue and then 17 the final sentence over the page: 18 "We also discussed in the terms that I have 19 described above, the proposal to obtain and 20 execute a search warrant against Mr Levy." 21 Then you say: 22 "The outcome of that discussion was that we 23 reached a clear understanding that the RGP 24 would not take any further action until they 25 had considered my advice about the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 200</p>

50 (Pages 197 to 200)

<p>1 rationalisation of the charges and then the 2 CoP would come back to see me again." 3 So again, your evidence does seem to be 4 slightly different to what is said in the letter, 5 because the letter does suggest that there was 6 a discussion, or does state that there was a 7 discussion about the search warrant. Is it still 8 your position that Mr Levy was not discussed 9 at the meeting or is the recollection in your 10 letter the more accurate one? 11 A. I have a doubt, Mr Santos. I mean, my 12 recollection all along has been that the 13 meeting of 7 April was about rationalisation 14 and ownership. That is what has always 15 stuck in my mind. That is what has always 16 been the issue for me. But I mean, I say what 17 I say in the letter of 5 June. 18 Q. Just as a matter of fairness, that letter of 5 19 June is much closer to the time than your 20 affidavit? 21 A. Yes, true. 22 Q. So, would you accept that you may be 23 misremembering now? 24 A. Yes, I accept that. 25 Q. Did you draft this letter?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 (15.22) 2 (Adjourned for a short time) 3 (15.32) 4 MR SANTOS: Mr Llamas, we are going to 5 turn to 12 May, which is, as you know, the 6 day that the RGJ attended Hassans with the 7 warrants. Can we just look at your witness 8 statement, your first statement, paragraph 9 37. This is at A279. You set out there that 10 you were messaged by Mr McGrail to notify 11 you of the warrant. We can see that that was 12 at 12.26 hours, you say. If we then can turn 13 to B1417 please, these are your WhatsApp 14 exchanges with the Chief Minister. At 12.29 15 on 12 May, which is three minutes after the 16 message that you receive from Mr McGrail, 17 you send a message to the Chief Minister 18 saying, "Are you free. Two minutes." Did 19 you speak to the Chief Minister at that point 20 prior to your conversation with Mr McGrail? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Was that over the phone or in person? 23 A. It must have been in person. 24 Q. What was said between you? 25 A. While we had both received the same</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. So, on reflection, do you think that -- 3 sorry, let me just ask this. Did you consider 4 that your agreement with Mr McGrail 5 applied to any steps to be taken against Mr 6 Levy? 7 A. Not ... it was just a more general concern 8 as I have explained. It would have covered 9 this. Obviously it would have covered this 10 because if a search warrant was going to be 11 executed at the time, it would have been with 12 Mr Levy. So it would have covered it. It is 13 clear from what I say in that letter of 5 June. 14 But it's honestly my recollection about that 15 meeting was about rationalisation and 16 ownership. 17 Q. And on reflection, do you think that there 18 was a misunderstanding as to what you 19 thought had been agreed with Mr McGrail 20 and what he had taken from the meeting? 21 A. I can't say. 22 MR SANTOS: I am going to turn to 12 May, 23 sir, so perhaps now would be a convenient 24 moment to take a pause. 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>	<p>1 message from Mr McGrail, the Chief 2 Minister didn't know what was happening but 3 was very surprised about it and I expressed 4 my own view as to my surprise that this had 5 happened. 6 Q. When you say your surprise, were you 7 surprised at the fact that a search warrant had 8 been obtained or were you surprised because 9 of the agreement that you say that you had 10 arrived at with Mr McGrail? 11 A. The latter obviously. 12 Q. That a search warrant was being 13 considered? 14 A. Exactly. 15 Q. Did you at that point agree to speak to Mr 16 McGrail? 17 A. When I was with the Chief Minister? 18 Q. With the Chief Minister? 19 A. I don't know how it happened to be 20 honest. But the Chief Minister called, asked 21 his secretary to call Mr McGrail. 22 Q. What was the Chief Minister's demeanour 23 at that point? 24 A. Well, he wasn't very pleased and he was 25 very surprised.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 204</p>

1 Q. If we go to B1432 please, this is the
 2 exchange between, just further down, 12.05,
 3 this is the similar message from Mr McGrail
 4 to the Chief Minister and then the response
 5 from the Chief Minister is, "Ian, thank you
 6 for the courtesy of this information. I think
 7 that is a bad decision. A search warrant
 8 should only have been sought if you believed
 9 that the person in question was not going to
 10 cooperate and will try and destroy evidence.
 11 If, as you say, you are hoping for
 12 cooperation, especially in a case involving a
 13 senior silk and head of Gibraltar's largest
 14 legal firm, you should, in my view, first have
 15 sought to contact that person and obtain co-
 16 operation. Given my close personal
 17 relationship with JL, I won't comment
 18 further." That was sent at 12.34. Were you
 19 with the Chief Minister at the time that he
 20 sent this?
 21 **A. I don't remember.**
 22 Q. And if we go to B1417, I just want to
 23 look at the messages between you and the
 24 Commissioner of Police. Perhaps we will
 25 come back to those.

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1 **A. They are in my witness statement.**
 2 Q. Yes. Paragraph 37 and 38, thank you.
 3 Thank you, Mr Llamas. You say, "This took
 4 me by surprise since it was a clear violation
 5 of what we had agreed ... I was very
 6 disappointed and I responded to him two
 7 minutes later, 'Ian, we had agreed that you
 8 would come to me with rationalisation of the
 9 charges before doing anything?'"
 10 Then at 12.29, which is at the same time as
 11 you send the message to the Chief Minister,
 12 "We agreed we'd do that when all the loose
 13 ends were tied up and this included the
 14 enquiries with JL." You reply a minute late,
 15 "No. That was not what we agreed." Then
 16 he said, "I am in the bunker. Will come
 17 round to your office as soon as I finish here."
 18 So, you then speak to the Chief Minister very
 19 briefly and then you do not recall how but
 20 eventually Mr McGrail is asked to attend the
 21 cabinet room, I believe it was. You saw that
 22 at the end of the Chief Minister's reply to Mr
 23 McGrail he says, "Given my close personal
 24 relationship with JL, I won't comment
 25 further." Did he raise that point with you

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1 when you discussed the matter with him?
 2 **A. I can't remember.**
 3 Q. Did you consider whether it was
 4 appropriate for the Chief Minister to be
 5 involved in discussions about Operation
 6 Delhi, given his connection to Mr Levy and
 7 given his own investment in the project?
 8 **A. I don't know what discussions the Chief
 9 Minister was having in relation to Operation
 10 Delhi. What I know was what happened on
 11 that day. He had received this message from
 12 Mr McGrail and he reacted to it.**
 13 Q. My question was: did you consider
 14 whether it was appropriate for him to be
 15 discussing the matter with Mr McGrail given
 16 his relationship with Mr Levy and given the
 17 36 North angle?
 18 **A. Well, it all happened very quickly from
 19 what I remember that day. He had received -
 20 - he was the recipient of this email or this
 21 WhatsApp and he reacted to the message.
 22 He had received it. I just saw him as reacting
 23 to the WhatsApp more than anything else.**
 24 Q. You address the meeting at 39, A280, can
 25 you estimate what time more or less that

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1 meeting started?
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. Mr McGrail's last message to you is at
 4 12.31 and your message to the Chief Minister
 5 is at 12.29. Are you able to say at the end ...
 6 from the conclusion of those messages to the
 7 start of the meeting, are we talking five
 8 minutes, half an hour or two hours?
 9 **A. No, it would have been a short period of
 10 time.**
 11 Q. A short period of time. And your
 12 evidence at 40 you say:
 13 "My recollection of the meeting (which could
 14 not have lasted more than around 20 minutes)
 15 ..."
 16 Is that still your recollection that the meeting
 17 was about 20 minutes long?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Again, it does not appear that you took
 20 any notes of this. Is there any reason why no
 21 notes were taken?
 22 **A. Well, certainly not contemporaneously
 23 but not thereafter, no.**
 24 Q. Mr McGrail's evidence is that the Chief
 25 Minister berated him. Do you agree with that

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<p>1 characterisation of what the Chief Minister 2 did? 3 A. No, I think that berating is putting it too 4 far. It was a difficult exchange It was 5 uncomfortable. The Chief Minister was 6 angry. That for sure. Berating, I would not 7 consider it a berating as such. I mean, Mr 8 McGrail is a tough man and, as I saw it, he 9 was standing his feet there and standing his 10 ground. So, berating for me is slightly 11 exaggerated or even exaggerating. It was 12 just a very difficult, uncomfortable meeting 13 from what I remember. We didn't sit down, 14 we were standing up and the exchanges 15 between them were very, very fast. That is 16 what I remember. 17 Q. Do you agree with Mr McGrail's 18 description that the Chief Minister gave him 19 a "dressing down"? 20 A. No, it was more anger than anything else. 21 Dressing down, well, it's subjective I 22 suppose. I wouldn't have considered it 23 dressing down, but certainly a very difficult 24 exchange. 25 Q. Mr McGrail alleges that you didn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 209</p>	<p>1 Q. Can we look at your paragraphs 43 and 2 44 please, just pick it up at 42, you say: 3 "My recollection is that Mr McGrail 4 defended his decision on two grounds. 5 Firstly, he stated that the warrants had been 6 granted by a judge who must have therefore 7 been satisfied that the relevant threshold was 8 met." 9 We can jump then to 43: 10 "Secondly, Mr McGrail sought to defend his 11 decision by making two comments which 12 startled me. He first said that he had been 13 taking advice from me and intimated that I 14 had approved of the course of action the RGP 15 had taken. This was totally untrue and I said 16 so. I could not believe he had said that. In 17 fact, we had only discussed the criminal 18 investigation once in the meeting of 7 April 19 2020 during which we had not discussed the 20 issue of a search warrant on Mr Levy at all." 21 Now, Mr McGrail's evidence as far as your 22 allegation that he said that you had given him 23 advice, is that he did not -- I think it is fair to 24 say he did not recollect saying that, but at the 25 same time recognises that he may have and if</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 211</p>
<p>1 intervene to stop the Chief Minister from 2 what he was saying without seeking to 3 describe it in any way, that you did not 4 intervene. Would you agree that you didn't 5 intervene? 6 A. Yes, I agree with that, but look, this was a 7 very intense exchange between both of them. 8 It was not as if Mr McGrail was keeping 9 quiet. I mean, it was an exchange. It was 10 very fast and it did not last very long. That is 11 what I recall. 12 Q. Mr McGrail also alleges that you were 13 part of the berating. Do you agree that you 14 were part of -- 15 A. I totally disagree with that. I hardly 16 spoke. 17 Q. How did Mr McGrail react to what the 18 Chief Minister was saying? In what sort of 19 tone? 20 A. He was defending his position. I mean, 21 he was defending his position. I don't 22 particularly recall the tone. He was just 23 answering the questions he was being asked 24 and he just stood his ground on what he was 25 saying.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 210</p>	<p>1 he did, it was in reference to the AG's 2 chambers rather than you directly. Do you 3 recall a reference to the AG's chambers rather 4 than for you personally? 5 A. No, because had he said that, I wouldn't 6 have intervened. The only reason why I 7 intervened is because he said the AG, which 8 surprised me. 9 Q. Because you recognise that if he had 10 referred to the AG's chambers, that could be 11 old speak for the OCPL? 12 A. Exactly. 13 Q. But your recollection is that he didn't 14 refer to the AG's chambers; he referred to 15 you? 16 A. No, no, he referred to me or else I would 17 not have intervened. 18 Q. You say there: 19 "In fact, we had only discussed the criminal 20 investigation once in the meeting of 7 April 21 2020 during which we had not discussed the 22 issue of a search warrant on Mr Levy at all." 23 But you accept, don't you, that it appears 24 from 5 June letter, your 5 June letter, that in 25 fact there may have been a discussion about a</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 212</p>

53 (Pages 209 to 212)

<p>1 search warrant on Mr Levy? 2 A. Yes, I mean, I am quite surprised to be 3 honest about the 5 June letter, because that 4 was really not in my mind as a matter which 5 was discussed on 7 April. For me, my 6 memory, 7 April was a meeting about 7 rationalisation and ownership. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, we have covered 9 that ground. 10 MR SANTOS: Then in 44 you say: 11 "When I refuted this, Mr McGrail then said 12 that he had been taking advice from the DPP 13 and that the DPP had advised him that the 14 RGP should proceed by way of a search 15 warrant. The Chief Minister and I told Mr 16 McGrail that we found it very difficult to 17 believe that he could have received such 18 advice from the DPP." 19 Can I ask you to be as specific as possible 20 about the words that Mr McGrail used to 21 describe the DPP's advice. What exactly did 22 he say as far as you recall? 23 (14.45) 24 A. He said what is said there that the DPP 25 had advised that they should proceed by way</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 213</p>	<p>1 Mr McGrail that there had been a breach of 2 trust between us since he had acted in 3 complete disregard to what we had agreed. 4 After Mr McGrail left the meeting the Chief 5 Minister asked me to ask the DPP whether or 6 not it was true that he had advised the RGP 7 to proceed by way of a search warrant 8 against Mr Levy. The DPP confirmed to me 9 that he had never given such that advice. I 10 passed this information to the Chief 11 Minister." Can you be as specific as possible 12 about he words the DPP when you asked him 13 to confirm that? You say in your evidence, 14 "The DPP confirmed to me that he had never 15 given such advice." Is that what the DPP 16 said? 17 A. I think that I asked him the question. I 18 asked him, "Have you advise the RGP that 19 they should proceed by way of search 20 warrant," and he said, "No." The 21 conversation lasted longer than that. It 22 wasn't a very long conversation but he 23 answered that specific question with a "no." 24 Q. If we can go to B1417, this is you 25 reporting on the conversation you had with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 215</p>
<p>1 of search warrant. 2 Q. So he specifically referred to the warrant? 3 Do you recall it specifically referring to a 4 warrant? 5 A. Yes, because that was the subject matter 6 of the discussion with the Chief Minister at 7 that moment in time 8 Q. Could he have said that the DPP had 9 advised on the intervention? 10 A. That's not my recollection, no. 11 Q. Could he have said that the DPP advised 12 on whether to treat Mr Levy as a suspect? 13 A. No. 14 Q. Was it a more general, "The DPP has 15 been advising throughout"? 16 A. He may have mentioned that, I don't 17 remember, but what I do remember because 18 this is what caused the issue that he did say 19 that the DPP had advised that the RGP 20 should proceed by way of search warrant. 21 Q. Then at 45 you say, "In this meeting I 22 refer to the understanding that Mr McGrail 23 and I had reached in our meeting of 7 April 24 2020 that he would take no further action 25 until the charges had been rationalised. I told</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 214</p>	<p>1 the DPP and the second message from the 2 top, you say, "Spoken to DPP, he is 3 categorical that while he told RGP that an 4 interview with JL would likely be necessary, 5 he strongly advised against a search 6 warrant." Did that text accurately convey 7 what the DPP had said to you? 8 A. No. 9 Q. No? 10 A. No, I got confused about that. I don't 11 know why. I may have other things that 12 maybe were said by the DPP to me like 13 maybe I was conveying the impression that 14 he had strongly told me that he had not 15 advised. I don't know whether mentioned or 16 expressed a view about his own preference 17 for a production order which may have 18 confused me but I accept that's what I 19 reported back, that it was not what the DPP 20 had told me. 21 Q. Just to be as clear as possible, you say 22 that he strongly advised against a search 23 warrant, but your evidence is that what he 24 said to you was that he had not advised on a 25 search warrant?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 216</p>

54 (Pages 213 to 216)

<p>1 A. Correct.</p> <p>2 Q. In response to what you say, the Chief</p> <p>3 Minister says (Spanish spoken), "in that case</p> <p>4 he lied to both of us," and you say, "Exactly,</p> <p>5 he certainly gave us the impression that SW</p> <p>6 decision was sanctioned by DPP." You use</p> <p>7 the words "gave us the impression," but do</p> <p>8 you accept that there is a difference between</p> <p>9 him stating that the DPP advised against it</p> <p>10 and giving the impression that --- sorry, let</p> <p>11 me rephrase it. Do you accept there is a</p> <p>12 difference between him saying that the DPP</p> <p>13 had not advised on the warrant and him</p> <p>14 telling you specifically that the DPP had</p> <p>15 advised? I am sorry, I am butchering my</p> <p>16 question. Let me have one more go; there is</p> <p>17 a difference between him saying specifically</p> <p>18 that he had not advised --- let me try one last</p> <p>19 time. I think you know what I am going to</p> <p>20 ask you?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. But I have got to get it out first.</p> <p>23 A. I think I can answer it.</p> <p>24 Q. I think I should answer it for the</p> <p>25 transcript. There is a difference between Mr</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 217</p>	<p>1 Q. His anger had commenced before there</p> <p>2 was any discussion about the DPP's advice?</p> <p>3 A. His anger happened when Mr McGrail</p> <p>4 came to see him, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. At A1297 we have the DPP's evidence</p> <p>6 and at paragraph 13 is his account of his</p> <p>7 conversation with you. He says, "I was</p> <p>8 called by the Attorney General and was</p> <p>9 asked by hi, whether I had advised the RGP</p> <p>10 on the use of the search warrant in this case.</p> <p>11 I informed him that my advice had not been</p> <p>12 sought and that it was unlikely that they</p> <p>13 would ever do so in such circumstances as</p> <p>14 these were operational matters for the RGP.</p> <p>15 I recall that I informed him that I was aware</p> <p>16 they had been considering making an</p> <p>17 appropriate application but that was all. I</p> <p>18 reminded the Attorney General that we had</p> <p>19 provided charging advice in relation to the</p> <p>20 number of suspects. The Attorney General</p> <p>21 advised me that he would inform the Chief</p> <p>22 Minister of our conversation." Is that an</p> <p>23 accurate account of your discussion?</p> <p>24 A. It may well be, I can't remember exactly.</p> <p>25 My only concern was to establish whether</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 219</p>
<p>1 McGrail telling you specifically that the DPP</p> <p>2 had advised on the warrant and giving you</p> <p>3 the impression that the DPP had advised on</p> <p>4 the warrant. You accept there is a difference,</p> <p>5 so why did you use the word "impression" in</p> <p>6 your text message?</p> <p>7 A. This is a WhatsApp exchange. Clearly it</p> <p>8 is loose language but it wasn't that I'm trying</p> <p>9 to explain that it was an impression. It</p> <p>10 wasn't, it was a very simple question and</p> <p>11 there was a very clear reply to that. I think</p> <p>12 what is also important in that message is my</p> <p>13 first word "exactly," and that is a reply to the</p> <p>14 Chief Minister's previous comment that he</p> <p>15 lied to both of us. It was clear. Whether I</p> <p>16 said "impression" or he told us, maybe</p> <p>17 WhatsApps should not be used so much in a</p> <p>18 professional context, that's for sure.</p> <p>19 Q. Was the Chief Minister incensed by the</p> <p>20 RGP having proceeded by way of a search</p> <p>21 warrant per se, without a discussion as to the</p> <p>22 DPP's advice?</p> <p>23 A. No, no, he was incensed because he</p> <p>24 thought it was a completely disproportionate</p> <p>25 measure to take.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 218</p>	<p>1 Mr McGrail had lied to the Chief Minister</p> <p>2 and that was my main question. If Christian</p> <p>3 is saying that he went on to say things like</p> <p>4 the appropriate application, maybe that is</p> <p>5 indeed what may have led to my confusion in</p> <p>6 reporting back but I don't remember that</p> <p>7 detail of the conversation.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you accept that there is a difference</p> <p>9 between the DPP on the one hand advising</p> <p>10 against the warrant and not having advised at</p> <p>11 all on the warrant?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>13 Q. In terms of you reporting that to the Chief</p> <p>14 Minister, that could also have had a</p> <p>15 difference in impact between --- in one</p> <p>16 scenario whether Mr McGrail has acted</p> <p>17 without advice and another scenario where</p> <p>18 Mr McGrail has acted contrary to the DPP's</p> <p>19 advice?</p> <p>20 A. I don't think it was relevant and I don't</p> <p>21 even think that my --- that the misdescription</p> <p>22 in my WhatsApp is relevant. What was</p> <p>23 relevant here was has the DPP advised the</p> <p>24 RGP that they should proceed on the basis of</p> <p>25 a search warrant. That was the question. So</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 220</p>

55 (Pages 217 to 220)

1 **--- and that was the question I put to the DPP.**
 2 Q. If we go to B3294, this is an email sent
 3 to you by Mr Baglietto KC late on the same
 4 day. Mr Baglietto's evidence is that it was
 5 likely that you spoke earlier in the day, do
 6 you recall that conversation?
 7 **A. No, no, not on the 12th. I spoke to Mr**
 8 **Levy on the 12th but not to Mr Baglietto.**
 9 Q. Was the 12 May, that letter, the first time
 10 that you had heard from Mr Baglietto about
 11 Operation ---
 12 **A. I think so, yes.**
 13 Q. Were you surprised that Mr Baglietto was
 14 contacting you on this matter?
 15 **A. Well, if I remember well, this is the letter**
 16 **that he says he is addressing to me in my**
 17 **capacity as guardian of the public interest.**
 18 **They obviously felt very aggrieved and this**
 19 **is I think the letter where they are making**
 20 **very serious accusations against Mr**
 21 **Richardson, in particular, of misfeasance in**
 22 **public office and abuse of power, so I**
 23 **suppose because of the seriousness of the**
 24 **allegations being made, they considered it**
 25 **appropriate to write to me. It's not the first**

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1 discuss the ongoing investigation?
 2 **A. Yes, at that stage and considering the**
 3 **gravity of the accusations made in the letter, I**
 4 **thought it was an avenue worth pursuing.**
 5 Q. Did you consider passing the meeting
 6 over to the DPP?
 7 **A. The letter had been addressed to me.**
 8 Q. If we look at C3664 Mr McGrail then on
 9 the following day --- sorry, on the previous
 10 page, C3663 he then writes to you again and
 11 says that he is confident that Mr Baglietto is
 12 incorrect in some of the facts he sets out and
 13 then he says, "My response would be on the
 14 understanding that it is in your capacity as
 15 guardian of the public interest, as this is how
 16 Lewis Baglietto has sought urgent
 17 intervention from yourself in what is a
 18 protracted and serious live criminal
 19 investigation," and then over the page he
 20 says, "In my view, it would not be
 21 appropriate for the Commissioner of Police
 22 and the Attorney General to meet with
 23 counsel representing a person under
 24 investigation to discuss matters concerning
 25 a live investigation and which may be subject

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1 **time.**
 2 Q. That was going to be my next question;
 3 how often are you contacted by suspects'
 4 lawyers in criminal cases?
 5 **A. It depends on the lawyers. Mr Fischel,**
 6 **for example, is a lawyer who has historically**
 7 **contacted me directly.**
 8 THE CHAIRMAN: (To the witness): It is
 9 eleven o'clock at night?
 10 **A. The email, yes.**
 11 MR SANTOS: (To the witness): Are you
 12 regularly contacted at eleven o'clock at
 13 night?
 14 **A. I receive emails all the time, yes.**
 15 Q. One page back from this, you forward the
 16 email to Mr McGrail and you say, "Please
 17 see below, I suggest you, Mr Baglietto and
 18 myself meet in my office at ten am tomorrow
 19 to discuss this. Can you please confirm this
 20 is possible for you," and then Mr McGrail
 21 says, "I am seeking a written response from
 22 the investigation team, I would rather the
 23 meeting takes place at a later time." Did you
 24 consider that it was proper for you and Mr
 25 McGrail to meet with a suspect's lawyer to

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1 to a legal challenge at a later date. This is
 2 particularly so as Mr Levy has indicated he is
 3 likely to ask Mr Baglietto to represent him in
 4 the formal police interview under caution
 5 scheduled for next week. That said, it would
 6 be appropriate for you and I to meet and
 7 discuss the preparation of legal arguments to
 8 defend any possible legal challenge." So he
 9 indicated that he did not think it was
 10 appropriate for him and you and Mr Baglietto
 11 to meet and then your reply is further up
 12 where you say, "With all due respect, I can
 13 formulate my own view on what is or is not
 14 appropriate. Be that as it may, yes, we
 15 should meet. The DPP will also be present."
 16 Did the Commissioner of Police email to you
 17 make you pause for thought as to whether
 18 you should be meeting Mr Baglietto?
 19 **A. No, no, and it was crisis management at**
 20 **that stage.**
 21 Q. Can we go to A306 please, which is your
 22 second affidavit at paragraph 32, you say, "I
 23 wish to reiterate that the meeting was
 24 convened at the request of I M not me and
 25 that mine and the DPP's focus was to help the

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<p>1 RGP to deal with the serious accusations that 2 were being made by Hassans. We were not 3 interfering anything. This is borne out by the 4 transcript ..." this is the 13 May meeting, 5 what was the purpose of the meeting as you 6 understood it? 7 (16.00) 8 A. To see how we would reply to the 9 Hassans letter of the previous evening. That 10 is the reason why Mr McGrail sought to see 11 me in that email you've just read out, and that 12 is the reason why we met, and I think a big 13 part of that meeting is dealing with that. Mr 14 Richardson, as you can see from the 15 transcript, was very offended about the 16 misfeasance allegations and there were other 17 allegations, so it was primarily to deal with 18 the response to that letter. 19 Q. What was the general tone of the 20 meeting? 21 A. The 13th, tense. It was tense because, 22 well, there had been the exchange between 23 Mr McGrail - well, there was the incident of 24 the 12th, firstly. Secondly, we had had an 25 exchange where I said to him there had been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 225</p>	<p>1 A. What you can imagine. 2 Q. I would ask you to just spell it out. 3 A. Spell it out. Well, a complete betrayal. I 4 mean, I thought there'd been a betrayal of 5 trust the day before but this certainly 6 confirmed it. I felt it was completely 7 unacceptable and unbecoming behaviour. 8 Q. If we go to your first statement, 9 paragraph 58, A285, you say: "Mr McGrail 10 appeared to take umbrage with what was 11 being said to him. I recall from the defensive 12 nature of their replies later to be confirmed 13 by the statements made in the 29 May letter, 14 that both he and DS Richardson appeared to 15 think that I or the DPP and I were seeking to 16 interfere with the conduct of the criminal 17 investigation in the sense of closing off 18 certain aspects of it." Can you explain why 19 you formed this impression as to what Mr 20 McGrail and Richardson appeared to be 21 thinking? 22 A. That is in relation to the meeting of the 23 13th. 24 Q. Yes. 25 A. Well, because they were very defensive</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 227</p>
<p>1 a breach of trust, and I think that even though 2 by the last exchange that evening things had 3 calmed down a bit, but it was still very tense 4 from the day before. 5 Q. You asked Mr DeVincenzi to join the 6 meeting. Why did you ask for him to join the 7 meeting? 8 A. Because he had been in the meeting of 7 9 April, he had a history on the file, he's 10 somebody whose views I value, and I just 11 told him to - I asked him to join just for that 12 reason. 13 Q. If we go to B169, this is the transcript of 14 that meeting. Were you aware that the 15 meeting was being secretly recorded by - 16 sorry, that may be not a very felicitous 17 construction of a question. Were you aware 18 that the meeting was being recorded? 19 A. No. 20 Q. By Mr McGrail. 21 A. No. 22 Q. What do you think about the fact that it 23 was recorded? 24 A. What you can imagine. 25 Q. Sorry?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 226</p>	<p>1 about what we were saying and it soon - I 2 think it soon emerged into a more collegiate 3 discussion, is what I remember, so that's 4 probably what I'm referring to there. And 5 insofar as the criticism is concerned, it's 6 because certainly the DPP had probably by 7 that stage expressed his view to them that he 8 thought the production order would have 9 been a more appropriate way to have done - 10 more appropriate than the search warrant. 11 Q. Do you agree or disagree that you were 12 seeking to interfere in the investigation? 13 A. Absolutely not. 14 Q. Would you accept that you were seeking 15 to influence the investigation? 16 A. Absolutely not. 17 Q. Given that you noticed this apparent 18 impression on the part of Mr McGrail and 19 Richardson, did you do anything to ease their 20 concerns about whether or not you were 21 seeking to interfere? 22 A. No. I don't think so. As I said, most of 23 this meeting is spent on the letter and I think 24 Mr Richardson has summarised that meeting 25 very well in the recording in the car. I was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 228</p>

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<p>1 asking questions, I was trying to see it</p> <p>2 rationaly and logically, and that is all I was</p> <p>3 doing. I mean, I can't describe it better than</p> <p>4 he does.</p> <p>5 Q. Can we now look at B184, please,</p> <p>6 towards the bottom of the page. This is the</p> <p>7 transcript. Just picking it up from about six</p> <p>8 boxes down, Superintendent Richardson</p> <p>9 says: "Abuse of law and abuse of</p> <p>10 misfeasance in public office." Then they are</p> <p>11 talking about the complaints made by</p> <p>12 Hassans about Superintendent Richardson,</p> <p>13 and the Commissioner of Police says: "I, I've</p> <p>14 held on to that but I am duty bound to act</p> <p>15 gross", and the DPP says: "Gross abuse" and</p> <p>16 the Commissioner of Police says: "I've got to,</p> <p>17 I'm duty bound to refer to the fact that there</p> <p>18 is a criminal investigation made to me</p> <p>19 against us", and you say: "Yes, I do. If the, if</p> <p>20 the gross is judicial review I think", and he</p> <p>21 says: "This is a start to a complaint against</p> <p>22 police which is, and if they are looking at</p> <p>23 me", and then over the page you say: "At the</p> <p>24 moment, at the moment you shouldn't do</p> <p>25 anything." Mr McGrail has given evidence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 229</p>	<p>1 the document that we are talking about and</p> <p>2 item nine is: "Communication with the Chief</p> <p>3 Minister in relation to any of the above."</p> <p>4 Who gave you this document?</p> <p>5 A. I think this document was attached to the</p> <p>6 Lewis Baglietto letter of the previous night.</p> <p>7 Q. C3520. That is the email from Mr</p> <p>8 Baglietto. At the top of that page there is an</p> <p>9 attachment, reference to an attachment that is</p> <p>10 scanned.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And then on page 3522 is the document.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Is that where you obtained this</p> <p>15 document?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I think that's where I would have got</p> <p>17 it the first time.</p> <p>18 Q. You appear to be suggesting here that</p> <p>19 your only interest in the matter - sorry, the</p> <p>20 part of the transcript that I took you to, which</p> <p>21 is B188 - you appear to be suggesting there</p> <p>22 that the only reason that you are involved in</p> <p>23 this is this is highly sensitive as point nine</p> <p>24 here, which is communications with the</p> <p>25 Chief Minister. Is that correct, the only</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 231</p>
<p>1 to the Inquiry that at the time of this</p> <p>2 exchange he was pointing across the road to</p> <p>3 the convent, indicating that he wanted to</p> <p>4 report or he felt duty bound to report to the</p> <p>5 Governor. Do you remember him doing</p> <p>6 this?</p> <p>7 A. No, no, I heard him say that. I honestly</p> <p>8 don't remember it.</p> <p>9 Q. And then your response is: "At the</p> <p>10 moment you shouldn't do anything." Why</p> <p>11 did you say that?</p> <p>12 A. Because I thought the allegations were a</p> <p>13 bit too strong against Mr Richardson, and I</p> <p>14 was confident that between the DPP and I we</p> <p>15 would be able to refute them and protect Mr</p> <p>16 Richardson's position.</p> <p>17 Q. Can we go to B188, please. You say</p> <p>18 about six boxes down: "I'm still, and it's the</p> <p>19 only reason why I'm involved in this. It's that</p> <p>20 this is highly sensitive as point nine here."</p> <p>21 The point nine you refer to here is the</p> <p>22 voluntary attendance for police interview</p> <p>23 under caution document that the RGP gave to</p> <p>24 Mr Levy when they attended his office. I</p> <p>25 will just show you that. It is B5392. This is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 230</p>	<p>1 reason why you were involved in this</p> <p>2 meeting was the reference to the Chief</p> <p>3 Minister in that document?</p> <p>4 A. Sorry, where is it in this transcript? I</p> <p>5 can't see it on the screen.</p> <p>6 Q. It is about --</p> <p>7 A. I've got it.</p> <p>8 Q. "I'm still, and it's the only reason why I'm</p> <p>9 involved in this. It's that this is highly</p> <p>10 sensitive as point nine here."</p> <p>11 A. Yes. I think this goes back to the reasons</p> <p>12 why I asked to see Mr McGrail on 7 April.</p> <p>13 We are in a very critical moment of our</p> <p>14 history where we are trying to negotiate an</p> <p>15 extremely difficult treaty setting out our</p> <p>16 future relationship with the EU. The Chief</p> <p>17 Minister is our political leader and is leading</p> <p>18 the negotiations with tremendous skill, if I</p> <p>19 may say so, and therefore this is the sort of</p> <p>20 thing that I wanted for the investigation to be</p> <p>21 very careful about. So all I'm doing here is</p> <p>22 why do you need to mention the Chief</p> <p>23 Minister when you can - as Mr McGrail did</p> <p>24 the following day. You just need to say</p> <p>25 communications between Mr Levy and any</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 232</p>

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1 **person, which doesn't curtail the interview in**
 2 **any way whatsoever but doesn't expose the**
 3 **office of the Chief Minister in such a**
 4 **document.**
 5 Q. But this document, if we go back to it,
 6 C3522, and then over the page is the
 7 reference to the Chief Minister. The final
 8 sentence of the document said that the
 9 information provided herein must not be
 10 disclosed to any third party without authority
 11 of the Royal Gibraltar Police. So what was
 12 your fear about the inclusion of the Chief
 13 Minister's name in a document that was not
 14 to be disclosed beyond Mr Levy himself?
 15 **A. That it leaps(leaves?), that it gets lost.**
 16 Q. If we go to A288, this is your first
 17 witness statement, paragraph 64.7 you deal
 18 wit this point nine, and then in 64.8 you say:
 19 "In expressing myself in relation to this part
 20 of the discussion I recall using over-
 21 expressive and emotional language which,
 22 though it was motivated by my concern to
 23 protect Gibraltar from unnecessary harm,
 24 with hindsight I now regret. That said, this in
 25 no way affected the substance of the

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1 discussion or its outcome. It was simply the
 2 expression of justified views and concerns in
 3 unnecessarily emotive terms, perhaps
 4 reflecting the fact that I have lived and
 5 grappled with Spain's exploitation of
 6 whatever it can against Gibraltar for so many
 7 years and at such close quarters, but I
 8 acknowledge that that did not make it
 9 necessary." Just to be clear, just going back
 10 to B118 and just picking up from the next
 11 thing you say, and it starts: "In my view it's
 12 just a view completely unjust." Is what you
 13 are saying in your evidence - does it relate to
 14 that statement?
 15 **A. Well, yes. I mean, and worse, because**
 16 **there's language there which I regret, as I say.**
 17 **I mean, I said this already in my first witness**
 18 **statement before I knew that the recordings**
 19 **had been made. So I've been very upfront**
 20 **with that, that I regret some of the language**
 21 **used. I was just very nervous, again, I repeat,**
 22 **at a moment in time where we've got to be**
 23 **very careful. There's too much at stake.**
 24 Q. What are the precise words that you
 25 regret?

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1 **A. The death, the tears, that sort of thing. I**
 2 **must say, I wasn't the only one who was**
 3 **tense in that meeting or emotional. I think**
 4 **Mr McGrail came up with his own gems in**
 5 **that meeting as well.**
 6 Q. When you look at that language you say:
 7 "And for that I shall fight until I die." Could
 8 that language have been interpreted by Mr
 9 McGrail and Mr Richardson as pressure on
 10 the investigation?
 11 **A. No, I don't see why. Certainly Mr**
 12 **Richardson didn't think so at the end of the**
 13 **meeting.**
 14 Q. So what you say is: "In my view, it's just
 15 a view, completely unjustifiable to me that
 16 this man should even be appearing on a
 17 formal document and I will not, if it's not
 18 legitimate, I want that to disappear
 19 immediately. My concern here is the
 20 reputation of this jurisdiction and that passes
 21 to the reputation of our Chief Minister,
 22 especially in this moment in time, and for
 23 that I shall fight until I die." Mr McGrail
 24 says: "The thing is, you have the magic wand
 25 here. You have it." And you say: "I am sure,

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1 and if it's the case, I would ask you to get it
 2 out of this as soon as possible." Why was it
 3 your view that it was completely
 4 unjustifiable for the Chief Minister to appear
 5 in that document?
 6 **A. Firstly, because I was convinced that he**
 7 **had done nothing wrong and nobody had**
 8 **ever suggested that to me. And secondly, it**
 9 **was simply a presentational point in**
 10 **accordance with the very simple change that**
 11 **was made to replace the word "Chief**
 12 **Minister" by "person".**
 13 Q. Were you aware of the communications
 14 between Mr Levy and the Chief Minister that
 15 the RGP had uncovered in their
 16 investigation?
 17 **A. No.**
 18 Q. If we go to C4731, this is your letter of 5
 19 June and the second paragraph from the top
 20 of that page you say, "Part of the narrative of
 21 the CoP's allegations against me is that I
 22 apparently gave him the strong impression
 23 that I was primarily concerned with
 24 protecting the Chief Minister and Gibraltar
 25 plc, the AG's words." And you say, "I am

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<p>1 not aware that the Chief Minister is a person 2 in need of protection in the context of the 3 criminal investigation in question." It is fair 4 to say, is it not, that you did see fit to attend 5 the meeting and intervene because of the 6 inclusion of the Chief Minister's office 7 appearing on that document and did manage 8 to secure the removal of the reference to the 9 Chief Minister.</p> <p>10 A. Sorry, what's the first part of your 11 question?</p> <p>12 Q. I just point out what you say there, "I am 13 not aware that the Chief Minister is a person 14 in need of protection in the context of the 15 criminal investigation in question.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. In the context of what you say there, it is 18 fair to say that you saw fit to intervene and 19 secure the removal of the reference to the 20 Chief Minister from that document.</p> <p>21 A. But that didn't give him any extra 22 protection or less protection. It remained ... 23 the position remained exactly the same. It is 24 not a question of protecting that. I was only 25 protecting the actual reference to the Chief</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 237</p>	<p>1 is not necessarily a reference to the office of 2 the Chief Minister but rather the Chief 3 Minister himself?</p> <p>4 A. No. All along, all along, it is the office, 5 because that is what matters and I think I 6 make it very clear to Mr McGrail at the end 7 of the first meeting when we are alone -- 8 Q. B228.</p> <p>9 A. -- when I mention the surnames of a 10 number of Chief Ministers of Gibraltar.</p> <p>11 Q. Yes. I am going to take you there right 12 now. It is B228 at the bottom of the page, 13 the Commissioner of Police says, "I've seen 14 you, Michael. I've seen you Michael. I 15 respect you and I hope all this passes and we 16 can crack on with normal life, but I have seen 17 you in an awkward position, really awkward 18 with all of this in quite a compromised 19 position for you and, and, and ...", and you 20 say, "Well, I know what you mean. But you 21 can be sure that Fabian and I will ..." and he 22 says, "And I respect you", and you say, 23 "Defend to the death, okay. Um, if tomorrow 24 you come and tell me, 'Look what we've 25 found', I will break into tears. I'm sure that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 239</p>
<p>1 Minister on the face of the document, but in 2 no way affecting the investigation.</p> <p>3 Q. In response to your comments, we have 4 seen that Mr McGrail says, "The thing is you 5 have the magic wand here. You have it." 6 What did you understand him to be saying 7 there?</p> <p>8 A. Well, he'd already mentioned the 9 discontinuance once and he mentioned it 10 again here and he mentioned it a third time 11 and as I say in my witness statement, both 12 the DPP and I were completely surprised 13 because it was nothing that was in my mind 14 at that time</p> <p>15 Q. If we go to B --</p> <p>16 A. It's the defensive ... it surprises me 17 because I think the meeting ended quite well, 18 even though it started ... it was very tense at 19 the beginning.</p> <p>20 Q. In your evidence at paragraph 64.6, you 21 state that you "made it very clear that I was 22 indeed concerned about protecting the office 23 of the Chief Minister." In that extract, 24 though, you refer to the reputation of "our 25 Chief Minister". Would you accept that that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 238</p>	<p>1 will not exist anyway. I'm 100 per cent 2 certain but that's talking about Fabian 3 Picardo, the office of the Chief Minister. Ya 4 sea Picardo, ya sea Azzopardi, ya sea 5 Caruana o Hassans." So what you are saying 6 is the office of the Chief Minister whether it 7 is Picardo or Azzopardi, or Caruana or 8 Hassans. And Mr McGrail says, "That needs 9 protection." And you say, "I will protect 10 them. Yeah, yeah, yeah, because that is what 11 has happened always. One of my big regrets 12 of being Attorney General ... well, you like 13 football, don't you. I say I've spent 20 and-a- 14 half years in Brussels and I only played for 15 the Gibraltar national team, I didn't play to 16 fight against Gibraltarians and I love that. 17 I've spent my whole life defending this 18 jurisdiction and promoting this jurisdiction as 19 a lot of us do. No, no, I know I am not the 20 only one and being Attorney General I have 21 to get involved in the messes like this which I 22 don't like in the least because it is not what I 23 like to do. But look, it comes with the job 24 and I assume my responsibilities 25 wholeheartedly, but that protection of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 240</p>

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<p>1 jurisdiction and there can be no office more 2 symbolic of the jurisdiction than that of a 3 Chief Minister, I will defend it." 4 So there you refer to the office of the Chief 5 Minister and make the point by listing 6 Azzopardi and Caruana. Was that an attempt 7 by you to qualify the earlier remark where 8 you refer to the Chief Minister directly? 9 A. Not at all. 10 Q. Mr McGrail said that he saw you in an 11 awkward position as we see, and you say (if 12 we go to the top of the page), "Well, I know 13 what you mean." Did you agree with him 14 that you were in an awkward position? 15 A. No, I think all I was referring to there is 16 that, look, this was an investigation where it 17 involved Mr Levy who was close to Mr 18 Picardo and there were lines of enquiries. 19 That's always going to be awkward. But it is 20 awkward, irrespective of who is the Chief 21 Minister. It is a person with whom I work 22 very closely, and of course whoever is in the 23 office, it would be equally awkward. That is 24 all I was meaning. I want to qualify as well 25 because, I don't know whether you are going</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 241</p>	<p>1 can defuse the situation between him and the 2 Chief Minister. So, when I say I'm trying to 3 understand better from him his view of what 4 happened the previous day, and find a way of 5 calming down things with the Chief Minister. 6 I am trying to -- help him help the situation 7 really. That is why I asked him to stay alone 8 behind with me. 9 Q. I am just focusing on you saying "I will 10 try to calm things down which, in all 11 honesty, will be difficult." Why did you 12 think it would be difficult? 13 A. Well, because by that stage the Chief 14 Minister was convinced that he had lied to 15 him. 16 Q. And were you able to calm things down, 17 as you said you would try to do with the 18 Chief Minister? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Why not? 21 A. Because the Chief Minister would not 22 accept it. 23 Q. When did you realise that what you had 24 reported to the Chief Minister about what the 25 DPP had told you, was inaccurate?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 243</p>
<p>1 to get to it, it was always on flimsy grounds. 2 I made that very clear, as I also say if you've 3 got a smoking gun I can't do anything, 4 because it was never my intention. 5 My intention all along here is to protect the 6 office of the Chief Minister from exposure on 7 flimsy grounds, because it is vital to do so. 8 (16.22) 9 Q. If we go to the bottom of that page, 10 further on in the exchange you say, "Well, I 11 will try to calm things down which, in all 12 honesty, will be difficult and I cannot control 13 Hassans." Now, the first part of that, I think 14 it is clear that you are referring to the Chief 15 Minister when you say, "I will try to calm 16 things down which, in all honesty, will be 17 difficult." Why did you think it would be 18 difficult? 19 A. Well, this is the end, this is where I am 20 alone with Mr McGrail, isn't it? 21 Q. Yes. 22 A. So, I had asked him to stay alone, just to 23 have a very frank discussion with him, just 24 to tell him what had happened the previous 25 day and I am actually trying to see whether I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 242</p>	<p>1 A. On the 13th. 2 Q. On the 13th itself? 3 A. The DPP made the point very clearly 4 then. 5 Q. In the meeting? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Did you report that back to the Chief 8 Minister? 9 A. Yes. I don't remember when, but I did. 10 It's clear ... I mean, I don't have the 11 chronology, but if you look at his letter to the 12 GPA on 5 June, by that stage he is saying 13 accurately what the position was and then 14 from memory, I think he made a file note on 15 21 May of his meeting with Mr Pyle on 18 16 May and there he uses the expression 17 "misled", "we were misled by Mr McGrail". 18 So, I certainly told him and he obviously 19 registered it, and I can't tell you whether it 20 was on the 13th, 14th or the 15th. I think I'd 21 been looking at that because obviously I feel 22 quite bad about the misdescription I made, 23 and the only person that really keeps on 24 using that phrase is Nick Pyle in his reports 25 up to the FCDO.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 244</p>

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<p>1 Q. When you reported, whenever it took 2 place, when you reported that inaccuracy, 3 what was the Chief Minister's reaction to 4 that? 5 A. Nothing. He just accepted it. 6 Q. Did it change his disposition towards Mr 7 McGrail? 8 A. No. 9 Q. You've referred to your functions and Mr 10 McGrail refers to your function, quoting the 11 Hassans's letters, as "including first of all 12 legal advice to the Government but also 13 guardian of the public interest". What is the 14 source of the function of guardian of the 15 public interest? 16 A. The source? 17 Q. Yes. 18 A. I think it's a constitutional aspect of the 19 role. 20 Q. A constitution convention? 21 A. Convention, yes. 22 Q. Is it your position that, either your 23 function as legal adviser to the Government 24 or guardian of the public interest translates to 25 defending the Chief Minister even to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 245</p>	<p>1 most lawyers use it in Gibraltar and 2 politicians use it in that sense. 3 Q. If we adopt the metaphor of a plc, would 4 you accept that a plc must be transparent 5 with its shareholders? 6 A. I think you're pushing that phrase a bit 7 too much. I think it's just a concept that is 8 used here to express the public interest and 9 the jurisdiction as a whole. I don't think that 10 much attaches to the plc aspect of that 11 slogan. 12 Q. Just exploring that shorthand, because 13 similarly plcs would have to investigate and 14 report on and address misconduct if it arises, 15 no matter at what level. Would you accept 16 that? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. After the meeting, you and Mr McGrail 19 stayed behind and your evidence is that, "I 20 told him that we had to move on from our 21 profound disagreement on what we had 22 agreed on 7 April 2020." Would it be fair to 23 say that at that stage you personally were 24 willing to continue to work with Mr 25 McGrail?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 247</p>
<p>1 death? 2 A. The office. 3 Q. The office. 4 A. From flimsy grounds. From unjustified 5 criticism. 6 Q. So you don't -- it's not your position that 7 you should defend a Chief Minister to the 8 death in any circumstances? 9 A. Of course not. 10 Q. At C4731 you say, just after the part that 11 we picked up earlier in the second paragraph, 12 "I am not aware that the Chief Minister is a 13 person in need of protection in the context of 14 the criminal investigation in question." You 15 say, "Insofar as concerns the fact that I was 16 primarily concerned with protecting Gibraltar 17 plc, which is vernacular for the public 18 interest of Gibraltar, that is absolutely 19 correct. That is my constitutional role and 20 my job, a fact that the CoP and those 21 advising him appear to overlook." Do you 22 think that Gibraltar plc is an accurate 23 metaphor for the public interest of Gibraltar? 24 A. Whether it's accurate or not I don't know, 25 Mr Santos. What I do know is that we will --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 246</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, absolutely, and I did. As I told him, 2 I am not a person who bears grudges. We 3 had to work together. This is the first 4 meeting. We knew that more was coming. 5 Of course I was prepared to move on. 6 Q. Then can we just talk about your 7 interactions with Mr DiVincenzi after the 8 meeting. If we go to Mr DiVincenzi's first 9 statement at paragraph 19, A1302, referring 10 to 7 April meeting he says: 11 "Shortly after the meeting I recall the 12 Attorney General raising briefly with me the 13 applicable legal test or threshold for a nolle 14 prosequi. The conversation was of an 15 academic nature, and to the best of my 16 recollection it was against the background of 17 protecting the jurisdiction and the office of 18 Chief Minister." 19 Do you recall raising briefly with Mr 20 DiVincenzi the applicable legal test or 21 threshold for a nolle prosequi? 22 A. I don't recall it but this is after the 23 meeting of 13 May, right? 24 Q. Sorry, my apologies. I have seen 7 April 25 high on the page and I have quoted the wrong</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 248</p>

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<p>1 date, apologies. Do you recall after 13 May 2 meeting raising the legal test or threshold for 3 a nolle prosequi with Mr DiVincenzi? 4 A. I do not, but he seems to and if I did, it is 5 because Mr McGrail referred to it three or 6 four times during the meeting. What Mr 7 DiVincenzi says there is probably true. I 8 mean, you saw Mr DiVincenzi this morning. 9 He's a deep thinker. 10 (16.30) 11 He is fascinated by constitutional concepts 12 and conventions and he took it upon himself 13 later on, I think it was that day, to send me 14 some document. So it was certainly of 15 an academic nature and only because, I 16 mean, you're not confronted with a nolle ... 17 you are not being afraid to do a nolle very 18 often in this profession, and we just had 19 an academic debate probably, um, as we 20 often did on a lot of issues, especially 21 constitutional or international issues. 22 Q. Were you considering a nolle on that 23 date? 24 A. Not at all. 25 Q. If we can go to the exchange, it is C6806.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 249</p>	<p>1 prosecution agreements and he says: 2 "Timing of the legislation would need to be 3 considered but DPA provisions would allow 4 an accorded settlement to take place where 5 a potential defendant pays a fine and/or 6 agrees not to engage in certain business lines 7 for a time and in exchange there is no 8 prosecution. It would not necessarily be 9 useable in the present situation. Essentially it 10 is for businesses, but it could be in the future 11 an example of corporate economic crime, 12 US, UK and Canada (inaudible). Takes heat 13 off unfair collateral damages to corporations 14 where only a few individuals might have 15 committed wrongdoing and means you as 16 AG would have a more subtle and 17 proportionate tool than a nuclear nolle." 18 He is referring to deferred prosecution 19 agreements. Why do you think that he was 20 referring to deferred prosecution agreements 21 in particular? 22 A. For the reason I have just told you. I 23 don't know why he sent me this. It was just 24 unsolicited and I read, I skimmed through the 25 Trudeau Report. I don't think I read the --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 251</p>
<p>1 (Pause). And Mr DeVincenzi says on 13 2 May, this is late on 13 May, 11.55: 3 "Michael, especially after today working 4 some kind of deferred prosecution agreement 5 provisions into the Criminal Procedure and 6 Evidence Act could make sense." 7 Why was he saying that: "Especially after 8 today"? 9 A. It's him. I mean, this was completely 10 unsolicited. I didn't ask for anything. I can 11 imagine, knowing Lloyd as I know, he went 12 back, he must have been thinking about it. 13 He probably found the topic very interesting 14 on an academic basis and he was looking 15 maybe to send the information that was 16 relevant to the sort of context that he thought 17 we could be heading towards. I mean, what I 18 do know is that it was unsolicited. They had 19 already sent me the Trudeau Report, I think, 20 and this was just another piece of information 21 that he was sending to me for us to discuss in 22 due course, I suppose. 23 Q. The Trudeau Report, we will come to it, 24 it is just a little bit further down in the 25 exchange, but he talks about deferred</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 250</p>	<p>1 Q. The SFO link. 2 A. -- the SFOs. 3 Q. Why did he refer to an nuclear nolle? 4 A. I don't know. I mean, maybe because we 5 had been discussing nolles on an academic 6 basis earlier on that day. 7 Q. Did you consider the nolle to be a nuclear 8 tool? 9 A. I think the nolle, I mean, in the time I 10 have been AG I have received three serious 11 requests for nolles and I have rejected all 12 three. 13 Q. So is that an agreement that it is a nuclear 14 tool? 15 A. It is a view that the threshold for a nolle 16 is very high. 17 Q. And then, 13 May, he says: 18 "Also the Trudeau 2 Report I sent last week 19 [I think you are correct actually in pointing 20 out that he had previously sent you the 21 Trudeau 2 report] is thoroughly worth a read 22 for modern exposition of Shawcross doctrine 23 and phenomenon of government going to 24 outside counsel when disagree with AG 25 among many other issues."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 252</p>

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<p>1 The Trudeau Report, as I said in questioning 2 earlier today, held that the Prime Minister of 3 Canada breached conflict of interests law by 4 seeking to influence the Attorney General of 5 Canada and further the interests of 6 a company which was the subject of 7 a criminal prosecution. In fact what 8 happened there was a deferred ... there was 9 a push to push the company towards 10 a deferred prosecution and it was found that 11 there was pressure on the Attorney General 12 to do so. Were there concerns on your part 13 that the government was seeking to influence 14 your decision? 15 A. No. 16 Q. Did Mr DeVincenzi have concerns that 17 the government or the Chief Minister was -- 18 A. He was concern ... I think he had some 19 concerns about what could come rather than 20 that there was ... he had evidence that this 21 was happening. He just in his own mind 22 made the connections that he explained this 23 morning and, I mean, we were quite close 24 when we worked and as a friend he was 25 sending me this for me to consider just in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 253</p>	<p>1 colleagues with the government and 2 therefore -- 3 A. Yes, but -- 4 Q. -- you are somewhat removed. 5 A. Yes, I am much more removed from the 6 politicians than an AG would be in the 7 United Kingdom or the UK. Yes, at least in 8 the sense, you know, that, I mean, I'm not 9 part of the political party. 10 Q. Would you accept nevertheless that you 11 have been working very closely with the 12 Chief Minister on a number of matters, for 13 example, the Brexit negotiations have been 14 mentioned? 15 A. Absolutely. Very closely indeed, yes. 16 Q. Were you perhaps too close to the Chief 17 Minister to be able to exercise independent 18 judgment? 19 A. When? 20 Q. At this moment. 21 A. I hardly spoke to the Chief Minister about 22 this investigation during this period. 23 Q. There are two deleted messages there 24 between you and Mr DeVincenzi. Do you 25 recall what they stated?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 255</p>
<p>1 case I found myself in a difficult position for 2 the reasons he thought I might do. 3 Q. Did you share those concerns that he had 4 in terms of something potentially down the 5 line arising? 6 A. No. No, it was, it was difficult. There 7 had been the meeting with Mr McGrail on 12 8 May. But once we were embarked on this, 9 the whole emphasis as far as I was concerned 10 was to advise and to manage the situation, 11 which is what I think the DPP and I were 12 doing with Mr McGrail and Mr Richardson 13 in the three meetings of May 2020. 14 Q. Mr DeVincenzi also referred to the 15 Shawcross doctrine in his exchanges, which 16 is a principle that the Attorney General can 17 consult government colleagues but ultimately 18 must make decisions independently. 19 A. I didn't think the Shawcross doctrine is 20 completely applicable in this jurisdiction. I 21 mean, it is very relevant where the AG is 22 a member of the cabinet and is a political 23 animal. That is not the case in Gibraltar. 24 Q. Is a distinction that you are drawing the 25 fact that you are not actually Parliamentary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 254</p>	<p>1 A. No. No, unfortunately not. 2 Q. You responded to Mr DeVincenzi's 3 messages saying: "Most interesting Lloyd, 4 many thanks. Let us discuss tomorrow." Did 5 you manage to have a discussion the next 6 day? 7 A. I don't recall. 8 Q. Did you think that the Trudeau Report, 9 you say you flicked through it when it was 10 sent to you, did you think that it raised any 11 pertinent points that you had to bear in mind? 12 A. No. No, I thought it was an interesting, 13 an interesting read. I didn't read it in detail 14 either. It was an interesting read and I just ... 15 that is what I took from it. 16 MR SANTOS: Sir, I notice the time, it is 17 4.40. I think we could do with making 18 a little bit more progress if I could ask for 19 your indulgence today. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I let somebody else 21 go on until 5 o'clock, I seem to remember. 22 We will go on until 5. 23 MR SANTOS: I just need to check with the 24 witness. 25 THE CHAIRMAN: The witness will agree.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 256</p>

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<p>1 MR SANTOS: I think he is just indicating 2 something. 3 A. Can I just go to the bathroom very 4 quickly? 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Of course, yes. 6 MR SANTOS: Of course, yes. Shall we 7 break for five minutes or shall we just wait? 8 We will just wait. 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it is rather 10 undignified, but I think we just wait. 11 Because if never ends up as five minutes. 12 MR SANTOS: Yes. (Pause). 13 A. Thank you. 14 THE CHAIRMAN: You will understand I 15 am sure that it is as much for your benefit as 16 it is for everyone else's. I am anxious that 17 you finish your evidence by tomorrow. 18 A. I'm very happy to carry on as long as 19 necessary today. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 21 MR SANTOS: Just following up on your 22 point about the Shawcross doctrine and the 23 distinction that you draw. Is that something 24 that you have considered in reflection or is 25 that something that was on your mind at the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 257</p>	<p>1 You say that on 12 May you received: 2 "Two missed voice calls from Mr Levy, at 3 12.57 and at 13.07 which, since they were 4 just a few minutes after the search warrants 5 had been executed, I assumed were in 6 relation to this matter. I recall that I did 7 speak to him, either later that day or the 8 following day, and that, whilst being 9 respectful, he complained to me about the 10 way he had been treated by the RGP. He felt 11 very aggrieved. I listened to what he had to 12 say and told him that the DPP was handling 13 this matter and that he should speak to him, 14 which I believe he did." 15 Did you consider that it would be 16 inappropriate to talk to him about the matter? 17 A. Not the type of conversation I had with 18 him. 19 Q. Did you give any reassurances to him 20 over the phone? 21 A. No. My recollection of that is, as I say 22 there, that he expressed how aggrieved he 23 was and I think he told me that a letter 24 coming from his chambers to me and that 25 was it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 259</p>
<p>1 time? 2 A. No, no. I mean, I have known about the 3 Shawcross doctrine for a very long time, 4 even before I became AG. Look, I mean, 5 you take your views. I think my appointment 6 is through the specialised ... the Special 7 Appointments Committee, which is 8 a committee set up by the Constitution for 9 the appointment of certain posts in Gibraltar, 10 and I am, as section 59 says, required to act 11 independently. So I think by that, by virtue 12 of that constitutional requirement, and the 13 nature of my office, which is not a political 14 one, I think that secures independence. And 15 then look, yes, you do work closely with the 16 Chief Minister and I do work very closely 17 with the incumbent, that is clear, but you 18 learn how to keep matters separate, and this 19 is one example of it. I never discussed the 20 Delhi investigation with him before meeting 21 Mr McGrail on the 7th, nor after, then there 22 was the event of the 12th, which is really 23 when it all exploded. 24 Q. Can we now turn it A282, your paragraph 25 48, please, if your first witness statement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 258</p>	<p>1 Q. And if you go to C6901 we have the 2 exchange, the message exchange, between 3 you and Mr Levy on 13 May 2020, which 4 you refer to in your first affidavit. This is at 5 8.57 on 13 May. Mr Levy says: 6 "On the other matter I feel I have been hung 7 out to dry. Certainly not by you." 8 And you reply: "Don't worry." What did you 9 understand Mr Levy to be referring to by 10 saying he had been hung out to dry? 11 A. I don't remember. 12 Q. Who did you think he was suggesting had 13 hung him out to dry? 14 A. I don't know. 15 Q. Do you consider that it was appropriate 16 for the Attorney General to say, "Don't 17 worry" to a suspect in a live criminal 18 investigation? 19 A. Yes, this is obviously the famous don't 20 worry. Look, it means all I was doing is 21 ending a conversation or an exchange before 22 it started. In the context now of this Inquiry, 23 that looks very sinister and there is nothing to 24 it. It was 20.57 when I received ... when we 25 had that exchange. It had been a long day,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 260</p>

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<p>1 a tense day. That was the day of the first 2 meeting with Mr McGrail. I was still at the 3 office. I sent my last email that day from the 4 office at 23 hours 49. I had left office after 5 midnight. There was tonnes for me to catch 6 up. We had an extremely important meeting 7 of the Specialised Committee on Gibraltar set 8 up under the Withdrawal Agreement coming 9 up. I was working until midnight that day 10 and this message arrived in the middle of all 11 that. And the last thing I was going to do 12 was to engage. So I said, "Don't worry" and 13 the conversation ended and I succeeded in 14 doing that, and that's all there is to it. 15 Q. Did you consider ignoring the message? 16 A. I wouldn't do that to somebody of 17 Mr Levy's seniority. 18 Q. Did you consider responding with 19 something like: I cannot discuss this? Or 20 suggesting that he speak to Mr -- 21 A. Mr Santos, I got the message. What is 22 the ... there is -- 23 Q. It is 45 seconds. 24 A. Exactly. I was probably working on 25 something. The WhatsApp comes, I got it, I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 261</p>	<p>1 what was the general tone of that meeting? 2 A. I thought it was collegiate, I mean, as the 3 DPP described it. 4 THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, you thought 5 it was? 6 MR SANTOS: Collegiate. 7 THE CHAIRMAN: Collegiate. 8 A. Can you go to the first ... hour one, the 9 first hour of that transcript? 10 MR SANTOS: If we go to 270. 11 A. Where the left column indicates that one 12 hour has passed. 13 Q. You mean sort of the hour mark? 14 A. Yes, the hour mark. 15 Q. I think we are ... yes, it is 291, the top of 16 291. 17 A. Okay, so this is one hour into a meeting 18 which lasted one and a half hours. So 19 two-thirds of the meeting had already gone 20 and this is what Mr McGrail says: 21 "I welcome the fact that you are consulting it 22 with us. Because in other days, in other 23 years by, the AG, before the DPP existed, 24 would have said he would have been the one 25 who calls the shots on whatever actions I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 263</p>
<p>1 wanted to carry on working, and I wrote 2 down the first thing that came to my mind to 3 just stop the exchange and not continue it. I 4 didn't think about what to say. 5 Q. Do you accept that your message could 6 be understood as giving an assurance to 7 Mr Levy that he would be protected? 8 A. I don't care because exactly the opposite 9 had been agreed that same morning. I was in 10 fact lying to Mr Levy because in that day's 11 meeting the outcome was that we were going 12 to rebuff the letters that we were receiving 13 from Hassans and that the investigation was 14 continuing. So there was everything for him 15 to be worried about that evening. That's all it 16 was. 17 Q. Were those two communications, that 18 phone call and that message, were those your 19 only direct communications with Mr Levy 20 during this period or did you have other 21 phone calls and messages? 22 A. No, that was it. 23 Q. Moving to 15 May, we will address the 24 communications with Hassans separately, but 25 first just turning to the 15 May 2020 meeting,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 262</p>	<p>1 suppose after charge. But I am really, really 2 grateful that you are consulting this and 3 getting our views." 4 Q. Can I just ask you to turn to C6854, 5 please? This is an exchange between the 6 DPP and you on 14 May and the DPP 7 messages you at 5.28 and says: "Hi M, I have 8 been thinking about the current case and have 9 a few ideas to discuss with you." And you 10 say: "Come earlier to my office tomorrow." 11 He says: "Will do." The DPP's evidence is 12 that you spoke for half an hour. Does that 13 accord with your recollection? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. What ideas was he discussing with you in 16 that meeting? 17 A. Well, again we were in crisis 18 management. This is the 14th, so it is after 19 the first -- 20 Q. Yes, that is the evening before the next 21 meeting on the 15th and you meet just in 22 advance of the -- 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. You arranged to meet them in advance. 25 A. And we were looking, we were looking at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 264</p>

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<p>1 options and he came with proposals on how 2 the investigation could go ahead. That is my 3 recollection. 4 Q. Was one of the ideas that Mr Levy should 5 be allowed to give an interview but not hold 6 it under caution? Was that one of the ideas? 7 A. I don't remember. I mean, while 8 obviously the transcripts have reminded me 9 of exactly what was discussed, but I think the 10 DPP came to me with options that could be 11 considered going forward considering the 12 reactions that we were getting. 13 Q. If we go to B270, which is the beginning 14 of the meeting, and I just want to look at the 15 entry at 5.34. You say: 16 "Okay chaps, Christian and I have been 17 spending quite a bit of time together today. 18 We are heading towards a major collision 19 here." 20 And you are talking about, you say: 21 "I think it is clear whether you agree with 22 what they are saying or not. It is our view 23 that it is clear that it is going to become very 24 nasty very quickly and we are facing 25 a potential as escalation of the whole thing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 265</p>	<p>1 an unorthodox proposal? 2 A. Again, I think we were in crisis 3 management. I think this is the meeting of 4 the 15th, correct? I think I had spoken to 5 Mr Baglietto once. I've been trying to place 6 the exact date of that call, probably the 13th, 7 but maybe the 14th, and I think he had 8 already told me that Mr Levy would give 9 a no comment interview so we were heading 10 nowhere. And then we were starting to look 11 at options, which is what I think the meeting 12 of the 15th was really all about. 13 Q. Had this proposal about the interview not 14 being done under caution, had that been 15 proposed to you by Mr Baglietto? 16 A. No. 17 Q. Were you -- 18 A. I think the conversation with 19 Mr Baglietto was fairly short because, as you 20 know, we were originally going to meet, I 21 cancelled the meeting when Mr McGrail 22 didn't want to attend and we had our own 23 meeting. And then he called, I think, he must 24 have called after the 12th, after he sent me 25 the letter, but it's not something I discussed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 267</p>
<p>1 And therefore we think that is best avoided." 2 Then you say you want to discuss whether 3 things can be done to avoid the collision and 4 then you say: 5 "I want us to have a completely relaxed 6 discussion between the five of us on the 7 handling of this and the best way to get to 8 where you feel you have to get. So with that 9 in mind, has your position changed in any 10 way since we met?" 11 And over the page the Commissioner of 12 Police says that it has not. You then say at 13 271, on the same page, he starts talking about 14 it being in the line of inquiry that is essential 15 to an investigation. And you responded at 16 8.17: 17 "Correct. Christian and I are with you 18 entirely on that. What we think would be 19 helpful for the management of the whole 20 thing is if that interview would still go ahead 21 but not have it under caution." 22 Was that something that was the product of 23 your discussion with Mr Rocca earlier on? 24 A. I don't know, but it could have been. 25 Q. Do you accept that that was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 266</p>	<p>1 with him. 2 Q. Were you in your view giving special 3 treatment to Mr Levy by making the proposal 4 of the interview not under caution? 5 A. Well, I think, as the DPP said last week, 6 everyone seems to have been giving some 7 sort of special treatment to Mr Levy. For me 8 it was more a crisis management and to try to 9 see how we could move forward with the 10 investigations in the knowledge that he 11 would give a no comment interview on 12 Monday the 18th and to try to progress the 13 investigation as much as possible. 14 Q. If we go to B273, please. If we look at 15 the bottom boxes, the Commissioner of 16 Police says: 17 "But I am saying, looking at it from our 18 activity, imagine the dilemma of doing it 19 under caution does not come into place, that 20 we go as we are meaning to go and he 21 provides a no comment." 22 And Superintendent Richardson says: 23 "Sorry, sir, to interrupt you. I have had 24 a thought. If that is the case, get him to 25 submit his version of events, do not come in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 268</p>

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<p>1 for interview under caution, we are not going 2 to ask for it. Give us your versions of 3 events." 4 "In writing", says the DPP. "Yes." And the 5 Commissioner of Police says: 6 "But let me look at it because eventually, 7 eventually, you want to ask questions on that 8 version or we are going to be back to square 9 one." 10 It seems as though you were supportive 11 ultimately of that proposal. Is that correct? 12 A. Yes, especially as it came from 13 Mr Richardson. 14 Q. There was a further meeting on 20 May 15 to discuss the latest letter from Hassans. 16 What about that meeting and the general tone 17 of that meeting? 18 A. Well, I thought it was, um, that is when 19 Hassans, I think I met with Mr Baglietto in 20 the evening of the 15th, after our meeting, 21 and I told him what the RGP were prepared 22 to accept, which was a written statement. 23 And I think what came back from Hassans 24 was a witness statement and we were all in 25 fact livid about that because it was not what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 269</p>	<p>1 investigation? 2 A. Absolutely not. 3 Q. Do you consider that your actions 4 amounted to pressure on the RGP? 5 A. Absolutely not. 6 Q. Do you consider that you were 7 influencing -- 8 A. Absolutely not. 9 Q. -- the conduct of the investigation? 10 A. This was a collegiate exercise between all 11 of us. 12 Q. Do you consider that the RGP received 13 adequate support from you and the DPP 14 during this period? 15 A. That is all we were doing. 16 Q. When you were providing your advice 17 and interacting in that meeting, did you have 18 sight of the information that was laid before 19 the magistrate in support of the search 20 warrant? 21 A. Um, I can't remember. 22 Q. What about the charging advice report 23 that was provided by -- 24 A. No. 25 Q. And the NDM that you referred to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 271</p>
<p>1 had been suggested and they had converted 2 the written statement into a witness 3 statement, with all the implications that 4 carried, and therefore I think the meeting of 5 the 20th, which is I think quite a short one, 6 was really getting our strategy together to 7 reply to that. 8 Q. So, in your view had matters de-escalated 9 since the more tense 13 May -- 10 A. Oh yes, yes. Even in the meeting of the 11 13th I think it was tense at the beginning and 12 it became less tense. Or else I wouldn't have 13 asked Mr McGrail to stay alone with me to 14 have what I thought was quite a friendly chat, 15 especially on the 13th, so soon after the 16 events of the 12th. So I think that progressed 17 even during the meeting of the 13th, the very 18 first meeting, and that is my dominant feeling 19 about all three meetings. 20 Q. Across the three meetings, did you feel 21 that the RGP were at liberty to disagree with 22 what you and the DPP were proposing? 23 A. Absolutely, and they did. 24 Q. Do you consider that your actions 25 amounted to an interference with the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 270</p>	<p>1 earlier? 2 A. No. 3 Q. Do you know when the first time you saw 4 those documents was? 5 A. A year later. 6 Q. A year later. Who provided them to you? 7 A. DPP. 8 MR SANTOS: I think that is probably a 9 convenient moment. 10 THE CHAIRMAN: I agree. 11 MR SANTOS: Thank, Mr Llamas. 12 A. Thank you. 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. 10 o'clock 14 tomorrow? 15 MR SANTOS: Yes. 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thanks very 17 much. 18 (Adjourned until Friday, 26 April 2024 at 10 19 am) 20 (16.59)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 272</p>

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