TRIBUNAL OF INQUIRY INTO PROTECTED DISCLOSURES MADE UNDER
THE PROTECTED DISCLOSURES ACT 2014 AND CERTAIN OTHER
MATTERS FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DÁIL ÉIREANN AND
SEANAD ÉIREANN ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017

ESTABLISHED BY INSTRUMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY UNDER THE TRIBUNALS OF INQUIRY (EVIDENCE) ACT 1921, ON 17 FEBRUARY 2017

SOLE MEMBER: MR. JUSTICE PETER CHARLETON, JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT

HELD IN DUBLIN CASTLE

ON THURSDAY, 10TH MAY 2018 - DAY 72

72

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DESIGNATED ACTIVITY COMPANY, THE IRISH TIMES TRUST & CONOR LALLY:

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DUBLIN 2

INDEX

WI TNESS	PAGE
MS. ELAINE STRACHAN	
DIRECTLY EXAMINED BY MR. MCGUINNESS	5
CROSS-EXAMINED BY MS. BURNS	32
MR. SIMON MARK McCONNELL	
DIRECTLY EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER	36
CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DONAL MCGUINNESS	73

1			THE HEARING RESUMED, AS FOLLOWS, ON THURSDAY, 10TH MAY	
2			<u>2018:</u>	
3				
4			MR. McGUINNESS: Chairman, the first witness this	
5			morning is Ms. Elaine Strachan.	10:29
6				
7			MS. ELAINE STRACHAN, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS DIRECTLY	
8			EXAMINED BY MR. McGUINNESS:	
9			MR. McGUINNESS: Chairman, for your benefit and those	
10			of my colleagues, Ms. Strachan's statements and reports	10:30
11			are all in volume 17, and I'm commencing with her	
12			statement and report in relation to SM1, and that's to	
13			be found at commencing at page 4610 of volume 17.	
14	1	Q.	Ms. Strachan, could I just ask you to outline your	
15			qualifications and your experience.	10:30
16		Α.	I hold a BEng Honours Degree in Electronic Engineering	
17			from the University of Ulster.	
18	2	Q.	Would you mind perhaps just speaking a little closer to	
19			the microphone?	
20		Α.	Sorry. Is that better?	10:31
21	3	Q.	Yes, thank you.	
22		Α.	I hold a BEng Honours Degree in Engineering from the	
23			University of Ulster in Electronic Systems. I am a	
24			Higher Scientific Officer in Forensic Science Northern	
25			Ireland, and I have been a member of the Digital	10:31
26			Electronic Unit for over ten years conducting	
27			examinations on electronic and electrical devices and	
28			retrieve information from electronic devices, including	
29			mobile phones and memory cards.	

1	4	Q.	Yes. It might help if you angle the microphone up	
2			slightly. And I think you have been working in that	
3			capacity for the Forensic Service of Northern Ireland?	
4		Α.	I have been, yes.	
5	5	Q.	And how long have you been working for them?	10:31
6		Α.	Over ten years.	
7	6	Q.	And could you just explain to the Tribunal what that is	
8			and what work it does?	
9		Α.	The Forensic Science Northern Ireland is part of the	
10			Department of Justice. The employees are all civil	10:32
11			servants. It is an independent forensic service	
12			provider, with responsibility for the provision of	
13			impartial forensic services to a wide range of	
14			customers.	
15	7	Q.	Yes. It's not exclusively, therefore, a State-based	10:32
16			service; you provide services to all parties who wish	
17			to avail of your services?	
18		Α.	That is correct.	
19	8	Q.	Right. Both within Northern Ireland, within the island	
20			of Ireland and the United Kingdom?	10:32
21		Α.	And further afield.	
22	9	Q.	And further afield?	
23		Α.	Yes.	
24	10	Q.	And it's based in Northern Ireland?	
25		Α.	Yes, it's based in Carrickfergus.	10:32
26	11	Q.	In Carrickfergus. Now, the first item that I am going	
27			to ask you to give evidence on today relates to an item	
28			called SM1 and you provided a statement which is at	
29			page 4622 in relation to that and a report at 4611 of	

Т			Volume 17. It you wish to refer to the volume or your	
2			own notes or your own statement, please do so at any	
3			stage.	
4		Α.	Yes, please.	
5	12	Q.	And I think this is a black Nokia phone that was	10:33
6			received into evidence by the Forensic Science of	
7			Northern Ireland and you received it from Mr. Mark	
8			McConnell, is that correct?	
9		Α.	That is correct.	
10	13	Q.	And could you just outline the purpose of the	10:33
11			examination of the phone?	
12		Α.	The purpose of the examination was to retrieve	
13			information present on the handset to assist an	
14			investigation into certain disclosures made by members	
15			of An Garda Síochána in a time period from the 1st July	10:34
16			2012 to the 31st May 2014.	
17	14	Q.	Yes. And could you just outline the procedures and	
18			methodology used by you in examining that phone?	
19		Α.	Okay. This phone was examined in line with Forensic	
20			Science Northern Ireland's Mobile Phone and Memory Card	10:34
21			Procedure. The procedure involves a manual examination	
22			to visually access the item and to ascertain the	
23			current date and time setting of the mobile phone, if	
24			available. The item was then examined using	
25			examination, forensic examination systems which consist	10:34
26			of forensic hardware and software for electronically	
27			downloading information from the handset. The system	
28			used in this case, or the systems used were	
29			Microsystemation XRY and Cellebrite's UFED.	

2			each of which can be used but they have different, as	
3			it were, capabilities, is that right, in a general	
4			sense?	
5		Α.	In a general sense, not every software will retrieve	10:35
6			all information, and so both systems together gives the	
7			best result of recovering as much information as	
8			possible.	
9	16	Q.	Yes. Now, I think this phone was provided by the	
10			Tribunal?	10:35
11		Α.	Yes, that is correct.	
12	17	Q.	And I don't know whether you knew that it was	
13			identified as a phone that had been belonging or in the	
14			possession of the former Commissioner Martin Callinan?	
15		Α.	Yes, I was aware of that. It was in the information	10:35
16			provided by the Tribunal.	
17	18	Q.	Yes.	
18			CHAIRMAN: If you wouldn't mind giving me the dates	
19			because I think I am going to take this as read,	
20			Mr. McGuinness; if you tell me that it's such-and-such	10:35
21			a phone, such-and-such a date used between A and B, I	
22			am going to take that as a given because I know this	
23			stuff, I am inquiring, after all.	
24			MR. McGUINNESS: Yes. Chairman, this phone was I think	
25			issued to former Commissioner Callinan in December of	10:36
26			2013 and remained in his possession until it was	
27			surrendered to the Fennelly Commission and then	
28			pursuant to an order made by the Tribunal it was	
29			surrendered to the Tribunal on behalf of the	

1 15 Q. They are two different systems, as I understand it,

1			Commission.	
2			CHAIRMAN: And the Fennelly Commission would have been	
3			around what date, Mr. McGuinness?	
4			MR. McGUINNESS: well, the precise dates upon which it	
5			sat and reported, Chairman, I don't have	10:36
6			CHAIRMAN: It's certainly after the target 23 months we	
7			are talking about.	
8			MR. McGUINNESS: Yes.	
9			CHAIRMAN: So it's '15 or thereabouts.	
10			MR. McGUINNESS: Yes. But the Chairman will know that	10:36
11			Commissioner Callinan retired on 23rd March 2014, and	
12			the phone and the SIM, as I understand it, were	
13			surrendered after that date but we can get the precise	
14			date.	
15	19	Q.	But in any event, Ms. Strachan, I think you used those	10:36
16			extraction systems in relation to the phone, and I	
17			think you report on that at page 4623 of the volume,	
18			and you set out details of the make, model and IMEI	
19			number of the phone.	
20		Α.	Yes, I do.	10:37
21	20	Q.	And Chairman, that phone number is one of the phone	
22			numbers in respect IMEI numbers in respect of which	
23			Superintendent Flynn gave evidence as having been	
24			issued to Commissioner Callinan. Could you explain in	
25			detail what you found on the phone?	10:37
26		Α.	On this mobile phone handset there was in excess of	
27			1,100 contacts, including deleted contacts. There was	
28			email and web addresses associated with some of the	
29			contacts. There was also ten calls stored on the phone	

1			and all of these were to 171 voicemail. There was 278	
2			SMS messages recovered from the memory of the handset,	
3			277 of these messages had been deleted. In addition,	
4			there was 241 email messages stored in the memory of	
5			the phone, including some that were identified as being	10:38
6			deleted.	
7	21	Q.	In relation to the deleted SMS messages, I think it	
8			didn't prove possible to retrieve full details in	
9			relation to those, in particular the identity of the	
10			sender or the recipient, is that correct?	10:39
11		Α.	That is correct. The direction, as in an incoming or	
12			an outcoming message, and the sender or the party it	
13			intended to be received by have not been recovered.	
14	22	Q.	Yes. I think you note on page 2 of your statement, at	
15			the bottom of it, that a number of SMS messages making	10:39
16			reference to "Thanks Dave" were recovered but the	
17			direction and message sender details have not been	
18			recovered?	
19		Α.	That is correct.	
20	23	Q.	Okay. You refer to the number of contacts stored in	10:39
21			the memory of the phone and were they contacts that	
22			were, as it were, not deleted but available to be	
23			discovered?	
24		Α.	There was a mixture of deleted contacts and live	
25			contacts.	10:40
26	24	Q.	Yes. I see. At page 2 of your report on page 4610,	
27			you identify a number of contacts that might be	
28			considered relevant from the point of view of the	
29			Tribunal, and if you see that list there, I think at	

number 5 there appears to be one which is "Con Noel", 1 2 which perhaps is Noel Cunningham; at number 8 there is "Diarmuid O'Sullivan"; number 14, there is a "Leo 3 McGinn"; number 15, a "J McCann"; number 24, "Paul 4 5 Reynolds"; 25, "Brian Purcell"; 28, "J Sheridan"; 29, a 10:41 "O'Sullivan Diarmuid"; and there is a "Tom Brady" there 6 7 as well - is that correct? 8 That is correct. Α. And that is a selection of the potentially relevant 9 25 Q. contacts, as far as the Tribunal is concerned? 10 10 · 41 11 Yes, it's just a selection. Α. 12 26 At page 3 of your report, you describe the SMS deleted 0. 13 messages and at page 4 you detail a number of those 14 that have been recovered, is that correct? 15 That is correct. Α. 10:41 16 27 They continue on page 5, and on to page 6 of your Q. 17 report. The emails that you report upon are contained 18 at pages 6, 7, 8 of your report, isn't that correct? 19 That is correct. Α. There's a number of images which are of no relevance, I 10:42 20 28 Q. think? 21 22 Yes, they were newspaper cuttings. Α. 23 Yes. You have provided a glossary of terms and perhaps 29 Q. 24 it's appropriate to go through this just at this stage, 25 it will be applicable to all of your other reports 10.42 also, isn't that correct? 26 27 That is correct. Α. 28 30 And at page 10 of your report you describe what is an Q.

IMEI number?

29

1		Α.	Yes. Yes. It's an international manufacturer's	
2			equipment identity number.	
3	31	Q.	Yes. And that is a unique 15-digit number?	
4		Α.	It is unique. It's found on the label on the handset	
5			and also stored electronically inside the device.	10:43
6	32	Q.	Yes. You provide a definition then of a number of	
7			other terms: SIM service provider, SIM card number,	
8			IMSI, MSIDN, suggested phone numbers, and other details	
9			there, which are all available for people to see.	
10		Α.	That's correct, yes.	10:43
11	33	Q.	Okay. You may or may not be asked any questions in	
12			relation to those, but on page 3 of your report you set	
13			out your conclusions and findings, and I think	
14		Α.	Sorry, is that 3 of the statement?	
15	34	Q.	Page 3 of your statement, I beg your pardon. You were	10:43
16			provided with a number of search terms by the Tribunal?	
17		Α.	Yes, I was.	
18	35	Q.	And I think part of your conclusion is that:	
19				
20			"No evidence was recovered from item SM1 to support a	10:44
21			claim made by Superintendent Taylor that he was	
22			instructed by the former Commissioner Martin Callinan	
23			to brief the media against Sergeant Maurice McCabe or	
24			the allegation made by Superintendent David Taylor that	
25			the former Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, Nóirín	10:44
26			O'Sullivan, was aware of the said instruction. It	
27			should be noted that all of the information obtained	
28			from item SM1 was within the time period covering the	
29			17th January 2014 to the 16th April 2014. This is	

1			within the time period of relevance."	
2				
3			Is that correct?	
4		Α.	That is correct.	
5	36	Q.	Okay. I think you set out at the conclusion of your	10:4
6			statement your understanding of your duty in relation	
7			to providing an expert opinion in these matters, and	
8			that's as recorded there by you in your statement?	
9		Α.	That is correct.	
10	37	Q.	Okay. Could I ask you to deal with the next relevant	10:4
11			phone, which is SM3, and that's to be found in volume	
12			17 at page 4527. And this relates to a Nokia Lumia	
13			925, is that correct?	
14		Α.	That's correct.	
15	38	Q.	And at page 2 of your statement you identify the IMEI	10:4
16			number?	
17		Α.	Yes.	
18	39	Q.	And, Chairman, just for your information, that's the	
19			Nokia Lumia that was issued to Superintendent Taylor on	
20			or about the 9th September of 2014 and was seized by	10:4
21			Chief Superintendent Clerkin on 18th of December of	
22			2014. And I think you received this from the Tribunal?	
23		Α.	I did.	
24	40	Q.	And I think you were asked to perform the same task in	
25			relation to this matter, in relation to this phone?	10:4
26		Α.	Yes, I was.	
27	41	Q.	And you came to a conclusion from the data recovered	
28			that it was determined this was used by Superintendent	

Taylor from the 5th September 2014 to the 18th December

1			2014, and the recovered information from the memory of	
2			the mobile phone handset pertains to Superintendent	
3			David Taylor. You note that some image files predate	
4			the 5th September, and this would support a suggestion	
5			made by Superintendent Taylor that material from his	10:47
6			previous phone was transferred to item SM3, these image	
7			files include photographs of a private family nature,	
8			is that correct?	
9		Α.	That's correct.	
10	42	Q.	Okay. And did your examination disclose how those	10:47
11			predated photographs might have got on to the phone or	
12			not, or could it determine that?	
13		Α.	Not conclusively. There is a number of ways that data	
14			could have got on to the phone: If a memory card had	
15			been used and the photographs were stored on a memory	10:47
16			card and then transferred from a previous handset into	
17			this one, it would account for the movement of the	
18			photos.	
19	43	Q.	Yes.	
20		Α.	Or if they were attached to an account.	10:47
21	44	Q.	Yes. Was there any evidence of any texts transferred	
22			from a previous phone or predating the issue of the	
23			phone?	
24		Α.	No. The only information that predated the issue of	
25			the phone was image files.	10:48
26	45	Q.	Yes. I think you set out on page 3 of your statement	
27			that this handset was examined so as to ascertain	
28			whether or not there was any data relevant to the	

Disclosures Tribunal terms of reference and you set out

- the identical search terms that were used in that regard, isn't that correct?

 A. That's correct.

 And I think you reached a similar conclusion, that
- 4 46 Q. And I think you reached a similar conclusion, that
 5 there was no evidence recovered from this item SM3 to 10:48
 6 support either of the claims made by Superintendent
 7 Taylor in that regard?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 47 Q. I think in your report, which commences on page 4532,
 10 you have a 63-page report in relation to the contents 10:49
 11 of the phone, I think you found over 200 -- sorry, 2000
 12 contacts stored there, is that correct?
- 13 A. That's correct.
- 14 48 Q. I think you set out the contacts commencing at page 2 15 of the report, and among the contacts are, at number 3, 10:49 16 there is Alison O'Reilly; number 10, Cathal McMahon; number 19, Conor Lally; number 21, Cormac O'Keeffe; 17 18 number 28, Debbie McCann; number 33, Eavan Murray; 19 number 39, Finan Sheehan, number 62, John Mooney, number 65, John O'Reilly; number 66, John Burke; number 10:49 20 72, Juno McEnroe; number 95, Mark Hilliard; number 103, 21 22 Michael O'Toole; number 108, Mick Clifford; number 109, 23 Mick McCaffrey; on page 8 of your report, number 142, 24 Paul Reynolds; 143, Paul Williams; 146, Philip Boucher-Hayes; 165, Sarah Bardon. And there is a large 10:50 25 26 variety of other contacts there, many other journalists
- 28 A. Yes, that's correct.

29 49 Q. You report on the call history log, commencing at page

and media organisations also?

2 received in that period? 3 Α. Yes. 50 You report on SMS messages from page 12 of your report 4 0. 5 onwards, a number of which have been redacted by the 10:51 Tribunal, isn't that correct? 6 7 That's correct. Α. 8 51 And a number of phone numbers which have been redacted Ο. at the request of parties also. 9 10 Yes. Α. 10:51 11 52 You report on a number of emails from page 4547 of the Q. I think there is in excess of 800 12 report onwards. 13 email messages stored there? 14 Α. Yes, that's correct. 15 53 There's some relevant to, it would appear, work in Q. 10:51 16 progress of Superintendent Taylor's, and you report on a document stored which relates to some thesis work of 17

10 of your report in relation to calls dialled and

19 A. Yes.

18

1

- 20 54 Q. -- it would appear.
- 21 A. Yes, that's correct. That is in the -- towards the

10:52

10:52

Superintendent Taylor, I think --

- 22 end, on page 4584.
- 23 55 Q. Yes. You reported in relation to a number of image
- files that the Tribunal isn't concerned with, and in
- short, you found no evidence directly relating to any
- of the claims made by Superintendent Taylor?
- 27 A. No, I didn't.
- 28 56 Q. Could I ask you then to turn to SM2, which is to be
- found at Volume 17, page 4726. And this again is a

- 1 Nokia Lumia phone?
- 2 A. Yes, it is.
- 3 57 Q. The IMEI is set out on page 1 of your report, at the
- 4 top and, Chairman, that corresponds to the second
- Nokia Lumia 925 seized by Chief Superintendent Clerkin, 10:53

10:53

10:54

10.54

- 6 as detailed in his statement in the matter, seized on
- 7 19th February 2015 and provided to the Tribunal and
- 8 you received this from the Tribunal?
- 9 A. I did.
- 10 58 Q. And this is dealt with by you as SM2, isn't that
- 11 correct?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 CHAIRMAN: So that it starts on 18th December '14,
- isn't that correct?
- MR. McGUINNESS: Yes.
- 16 CHAIRMAN: Yes.
- 17 MR. McGUINNESS: And goes --
- 18 59 Q. I think you discovered that it was in use by
- 19 Superintendent Taylor between the 18th December 2014
- and the 19th February 2015?
- 21 A. I don't have a copy of the statement in this volume.
- 22 60 Q. In this volume. Perhaps just looking at your report.
- 23 A. The report is --
- 24 CHAIRMAN: Yes, we have the evidence from Chief
- 25 Superintendent Clerkin, it wasn't challenged, we can
- take it as a given.
- 27 A. Okay.
- 28 61 Q. MR. McGUINNESS: Yes. You record that the user of the
- phone was David Taylor and there is a device account,

1			davidtaylor@garda.ie stored in the memory of the phone?	
2		Α.	Yes.	
3	62	Q.	I think you reported on 950 contacts in that phone, is	
4			that correct?	
5		Α.	That's correct, in excess of 950.	10:54
6	63	Q.	Yes. And you set out contact information associated	
7			with some potentially relevant parties from page 2 of	
8			your report onwards, including at number 6, Cormac	
9			O'Keeffe	
10		Α.	Yes.	10:55
11	64	Q.	Debbie McCann at number 7; number 9, Eavan Murray;	
12			number 16, John Burke; number 18, John Mooney; number	
13			20, Juno McEnroe; number 25, Michael O'Toole; number	
14			37, Paul Reynolds; and number 38, Paul Williams. Is	
15			that correct?	10:55
16		Α.	That's correct.	
17	65	Q.	I think you report on calls made and received on pages	
18			3 to 4?	
19		Α.	Yes.	
20	66	Q.	And you report on the SMS message history commencing at	10:55
21			page 5 of your report, isn't that correct?	
22		Α.	That's correct.	
23	67	Q.	And there's a number of texts there which have been	

26 68 Q. And the full details of those are in your original

Α.

24

25

27 report?

redacted by the Tribunal at present?

A. They are.

Yes.

29 69 Q. Yes. I think you report on 600 emails there which you

- 1 considered not to be of any relevance in the matter?
- 2 That's correct. Α.
- 3 70 Ο. And I think were your findings the same in relation to
- 4 SM2, that, having regard to the search terms and your
- 5 analysis, there was no evidence found on the phone to

10:56

10:57

10:57

- 6 support either of the claims made by Superintendent
- 7 Taylor?
- That's correct. 8 Α.
- Right. Could we turn to SM4, upon which you reported, 9 71 Q.
- and it's dealt with at page 4735 of Volume 17. 10
- 11 your statement commences there, I think do you have
- 12 that?
- 13 I do have it. Α.
- 14 72 Q. And I think this is reported as SM4, a Nokia mobile in
- a brown envelope? 15
- 16 Correct. Α.
- 17 73 This was presented to you by the Tribunal? Q.
- 18 It was. Α.
- 19 74 And the IMEI number is reported on at page 2 of your Q.
- 20 statement?
- 21 Yes. Α.
- 22 75 And this was a Nokia Lumia 930 --Q.
- 23 Α. Correct.
- 24 -- which was reported as having been seized by Chief 76 Q.
- 25 Superintendent Clerkin?
- 26 Yes. Α.
- 27 77 Q. Okay. And I think from your examination, you report at
- the bottom of page 2 of your statement that it was 28
- ascertained that this mobile handset was used by 29

- 1 Superintendent Taylor from approximately the 24th
- February to the 29th May 2015?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 78 Q. And all of the recovered information from the memory

10:58

10:58

10:59

- 5 pertained to Superintendent Taylor?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 79 Q. I think it was examined for the same purpose and with
- 8 the same search terms by you?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 80 Q. And I think your conclusion was that no evidence was
- recovered from it to support either of the claims made
- 12 by Superintendent Taylor?
- 13 A. That is correct.
- 14 81 Q. I think your report on the matter commences at page
- 15 4738?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 82 Q. You report that there were 9 -- sorry, 580 contacts?
- 18 A. In excess of.
- 19 83 Q. In excess of that. You set out a number of those,
- commencing at page 2 of your report onwards?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 84 Q. And included there at number 5 is Debbie McCann --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 85 Q. -- number 18 John McCann; number 19 John Burke; number
- 25 20, Juno McEnroe; number 28, Michael O'Toole, number
- 39, Paul Reynolds; number 40, Paul Williams is that
- 27 correct?
- 28 A. That's correct.
- 29 86 Q. You set out the call history log there?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 87 Q. And you set out the message history log there, and
- include a number of SMS messages which have been
- 4 redacted by the Tribunal?
- 5 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 6 88 Q. But they were located by you on the phone?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 89 Q. There is a Viber message history reported upon from

11:00

11:01

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- 9 page 7 onwards?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 90 Q. And your conclusion obviously remains the same, there
- was no evidence to support the claims based upon the
- search criteria given to you by the Tribunal?
- 14 A. That's correct.
- 15 91 Q. Could we turn to SM6, which is dealt with in the volume 11:00
- at page 4749. I am sorry, I meant to deal with item
- 17 number 5 next, sorry. SM6, which is at 4626. And SM6
- is a Nokia Lumia 520, is that correct?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 92 Q. And this was provided to you by the Tribunal?
- 21 A. Yes, it was.
- 22 93 Q. And you set out the IMEI number at page 2 of your
- 23 statement?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 94 Q. And Chairman, that is the IMEI number of a phone that
- had been issued to Superintendent Taylor -- or
- 27 Commissioner Callinan, which had been handed back and
- has been faulty and was repaired and was issued to
- 29 Superintendent Howard and this was disclosed to the

_			Tribular and provided to the Tribular. And I think you	
2			examined this phone	
3			CHAIRMAN: And the dates for that phone oh, yes, you	
4			are going to tell me.	
5			MR. McGUINNESS: Yes.	11:02
6			CHAIRMAN: It would have been wiped prior to being	
7			given to in the ordinary routine.	
8			MR. McGUINNESS: Yes.	
9	95	Q.	I think, could you just detail the period that you	
10			found that this phone was operational for in relation	11:02
11			to Superintendent Howard?	
12			CHAIRMAN: It seems to be June to July of '15, is it?	
13		Α.	The SMS message history was in the period the 30th	
14			August '14 to 8th July '15.	
15			CHAIRMAN: Okay.	11:03
16	96	Q.	MR. McGUINNESS: The call history was for a shorter	
17			period, it would appear?	
18		Α.	It was, yes.	
19	97	Q.	And I think you determined that the user of this SM6,	
20			this Nokia, was Detective Superintendent Tony Howard,	11:03
21			is that correct?	
22		Α.	That's correct.	
23	98	Q.	And all of the recovered information from the memory	
24			pertained to him?	
25		Α.	It did.	11:03
26	99	Q.	And no information was recovered that was attributed to	
27			the previous user of the phone as reported to you?	

Q. And did you find that to be consistent with that having

A. No, no.

28

29

100

1			been the subject of a factory reset prior to the	
2			detective superintendent coming into possession of it?	
3		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
4	101	Q.	Yes. I think it's obvious then no evidence was	
5			recovered from the phone which related to any of the	11:03
6			search terms or matters of relevance to support any	
7			claim made by Superintendent Howard	
8		Α.	No.	
9	102	Q.	Superintendent Taylor.	
10		Α.	No.	11:04
11	103	Q.	And could I ask you then to deal with SM8, which is	
12			reported upon by you in Volume 17 at page 4749, and	
13			this was an iPad, is that correct?	
14		Α.	Yes, yes, an Apple iPad.	
15	104	Q.	And this was received from the Tribunal?	11:04
16		Α.	Yes, it was.	
17	105	Q.	And could you just explain the methodology for	
18			examining this particular iPad; what is used to examine	
19			the contents of the iPad, including any deleted	
20			matters?	11:05
21		Α.	It's handled exactly the same as a mobile phone, the	
22			same software is used, but in this case the iPad was	
23			passcode locked when it was received into the	
24			laboratory, and there was three attempts left at	
25			entering the passcode before it was it would be	11:05
26			wiped.	
27	106	Q.	And were there any unsuccessful attempts recorded as	
28			having been made to open it before you received it?	
29		Α.	Well, it was on it was on its seventh attempt out of	

- ten, with three remaining, and three possible passwords
- were provided, so I didn't attempt any of them.
- 3 107 Q. Yes.
- 4 A. But we sent it to an external company to get it
- 5 unlocked.
- 6 108 Q. But were those three passwords provided by the Tribunal

11:06

11:06

11:06

- 7 as having come from An Garda Síochána --
- 8 A. They were, yes.
- 9 109 Q. -- as being the appropriate passwords?
- 10 A. Yes. But again, there was no degree of certainty with
- them as to which was the correct one.
- 12 110 Q. Yes. These were possible alternative ones that were
- being asserted as being the ones likely to open it, is
- 14 that right?
- 15 A. That is correct.
- 16 111 Q. Okay. Were they in fact the correct passcodes?
- 17 A. I'm sorry, I can't answer that at the moment, I'm
- 18 not -- I would have to check back on the notes, what
- 19 the passcode was.
- 20 112 Q. Yes. Did you use any of the passcodes to open it or
- 21 did you open it otherwise?
- 22 A. Opened it otherwise. I erred on the side of caution
- because there was three attempts left and three
- 24 possible passcodes, if the wrong passcode was entered
- 25 the device would have been wiped so I thought it best
- 26 not to attempt any of them.
- 27 113 Q. Yes.
- 28 A. And to get it --
- 29 114 Q. Is that a regular setting or is it a customised

Т			setting, that the contents are wiped after ten	
2			unsuccessful attempts?	
3		Α.	It's an option available to the user to set. It's	
4			quite common with iPads belonging to a company, many	
5			companies would set that for security reasons.	11:07
6	115	Q.	Okay. I think at page 2 of your statement you detail	
7			the model and the serial number - and, Chairman, that	
8			is consistent with the iPad that was surrendered to the	
9			Tribunal on behalf of Commissioner O'Sullivan in June	
10			of 2017 - and I think the user was recorded as Nóirín	11:07
11			O'Sullivan, is that correct?	
12		Α.	That's correct.	
13	116	Q.	And I think from the data recovered, it was determined	
14			that the item was used by the former Commissioner from	
15			approximately the 14th May 2014 to 21st November 2016?	11:07
16		Α.	That's correct.	
17	117	Q.	I think you examined the iPad to see whether there was	
18			any data relevant to the Tribunal's terms of	
19			reference	
20		Α.	That's correct.	11:08
21	118	Q.	by reference to search terms, and I think no	
22			evidence was recovered from that to support a claim	
23			made by Superintendent Taylor that he was instructed by	
24			former Commissioner Martin Callinan to brief the media	
25			against Sergeant Maurice McCabe or the allegation that	11:08
26			the former Commissioner was aware of the said	
27			instruction?	
28		Α.	That's correct.	
29	119	Q.	And I think you indicate that the period of relevance	

- was both within and without the specified period --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 120 Q. -- of time there.
- 4 CHAIRMAN: I think, Mr. McGuinness, the necessity to
- 5 have the matter unlocked was because of Commissioner

11:09

11:09

11:09

11 - 10

- 6 O'Sullivan indicating that she had forgotten the
- 7 four-digit password?
- 8 MR. McGUINNESS: Yes, and there were three ones then
- 9 proffered with it.
- 10 CHAIRMAN: Yes. As potential possibles.
- MR. McGUINNESS: Yes.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 CHAIRMAN: And if they were wrong, that was it.
- 14 121 Q. MR. McGUINNESS: I think your report, a 67-page report
- on the iPad commences at page 4752 of the volume. I
- think you set out a list of contacts, many of which are
- 17 Garda email contacts?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 122 Q. And you recovered a number of emails from that?
- 20 A. Yes. There was in excess of 800 emails stored in the
- 21 memory of the iPad.
- 22 123 Q. Yes. And commencing from page 4 onwards, from page
- 4755 up until page 4794, you report on a number of
- 24 potentially relevant emails, and I think you had
- 25 provided an earlier report in January of 2018 of -- in
- relation to emails that were then brought to the
- 27 Tribunal's attention in connection with the O'Higgins
- 28 module?
- 29 A. That's correct.

1	124	Q.	And I think you were asked to modify your search by	
2			searching for a number of persons named within the	
3			Department of Justice, and you reported on those also	
4			at the time?	
5		Α.	At the time, yes.	11:10
6			MR. McGUINNESS: Yes. And, Chairman, those have been	
7			already considered in the context of the O'Higgins	
8			module and they contained, as you may well recall, a	
9			number of emails from the Commissioner to the Minister	
10			at the time and to members of her Department.	11:10
11			CHAIRMAN: Yes. And all of those were actually given	
12			in open evidence before the Tribunal during that	
13			hearing.	
14			MR. McGUINNESS: Yes, yes. But none of those related	
15			to Superintendent Taylor or his allegations.	11:11
16	125	Q.	And your conclusion was that there was nothing on the	
17			iPad relevant to the claims made by Superintendent	
18			Taylor, although these other matters were relevant to	
19			the Tribunal's other terms of reference?	
20		Α.	That's correct.	11:11
21	126	Q.	You also reported on another phone, SM7, and that's to	
22			be found in this volume at 4498. And this was an Apple	
23			iPhone 4 received from the Tribunal, isn't that	
24			correct?	
25		Α.	That's correct.	11:12
26	127	Q.	There's an IMEI number at page 2 of your statement?	
27		Α.	Yes.	
28			MR. McGUINNESS: Chairman, that is one of the phones	
29			issued to the former Commissioner O'Sullivan, which was	

1 set out in Superintendent Flynn's report, it's an Apple 2 iPhone 4. 3 128 Q. And at the time you examined it you determined that the user was a son of the former Commissioner? 4 5 That's correct. Α. 11:12 6 129 And there was no evidence found on that to support a Q. claim made by Superintendent Taylor --7 8 No, there wasn't. Α. -- of the type indicated? 9 130 Q. 10 Α. Yes. 11:12 11 131 You also examined SM 12 --Q. 12 Can I just go back to SM7, Mr. McGuinness? 13 Clearly if it's used by somebody else there is nothing 14 that one would certainly expect to find in relation to 15 anything to do with this, but the relevant dates, I 11:13 16 suppose, just for the sake of exactitude, when it was 17 used, when it ceased, when it started, when it stopped, 18 are we in a position just to indicate that? 19 MR. McGUI NNFSS: Yes. What did you find in terms of the use of it commencing, 11:13 20 132 Q. relevant to --21 22 Sorry, it commenced on the 1st February 2014 and --Α. 23 And that is, the then current user you believe 133 Q. 24 commenced using it on 1st February, is that right? 25 That's correct, '14. Α. 11:13 26 134 0. Yes. 27 CHAI RMAN: So it's within the target 23 months but it 28 has nothing whatever to do with anything to do with

law, Garda business, allegations, nothing?

29

1	Α.	No.
	,	

- 2 135 Q. MR. McGUINNESS: None of the Commissioner's contacts or 3 SMSs or --
- 4 A. No. All information recovered from it pertained to the former Commissioner's son.

11:15

- 7 Yes. SM12 then, just turn to that. That's a Samsung
 7 Galaxy S7 and I think you deal with that commencing in
 8 our papers at 4631. And, Chairman, this represents a
 9 Samsung Galaxy, one of a pair identified by the
- 10 Commissioner as being used by her and which was offered 11:14

 11 to the Tribunal in June of 2017 and then later provided
- by the Commissioner. And you report on this in your
- 13 statement dealing with it commences at page 4631. You
- use the same methodology in examining the phone, is
- 15 that correct?
- 16 A. That is correct.
- 17 137 Q. And you recovered no evidence from it in terms of supporting either of the claims made by Superintendent Taylor?
- 20 A. That is correct.
- 21 CHAIRMAN: Do we have dates for use in that one? Was 22 that possible to recover that?
- A. It was used approximately from the 26th April 2017 to the 20th July 2017.
- 25 138 Q. MR. McGUINNESS: You report on the contacts in your 11:16 report on this from page 2 of your report onwards?
- 27 A. Yes.
- 28 139 Q. And it includes a number of journalists in the contacts 29 there at that point, isn't that correct?

- 1 A. That is correct.
- 2 CHAIRMAN: Or it's again former Commissioner O'Sullivan

11:17

11:17

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- 3 as opposed to -- yes.
- 4 MR. McGUINNESS: Yes, former Commissioner O'Sullivan.
- 5 140 Q. There is, at number 12, there is a Debbie McCann;
- 6 number 13, Dave Taylor; there is number 41, John
- 7 McCann; number 42, John Mooney; number 81, a Paul R.
- 8 You set out the call history log, the SMS history, the
- page 7 to 23 of your report, which there's a number of
- 10 SMS messages, some of which have been redacted at
- 11 present?
- 12 A. That's correct.
- 13 141 Q. You set out emails from page 25 onwards. But in short,
- there was nothing which, in your opinion, supported
- either of the claims made by Superintendent Taylor?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 142 Q. I think the final phone you reported on was SM13, which
- is the other Samsung Galaxy proffered by the former
- 19 Commissioner, and you report on that in your statement
- at 4671 of our volume, and that is a Samsung Galaxy S6? 11:17
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 143 Q. And can you report on the period of use of that phone?
- 23 A. From approximately the 29th May 2016 to the 12th
- 24 October 2016.
- 25 144 Q. Yes. And I think you recovered no evidence from the
- 26 phone that supported either of the claims made by
- 27 Superintendent Taylor?
- 28 A. That's correct.
- 29 145 Q. In your report commencing at page 4674, you set out the

Т			contacts, you set out the SMS messages from page 5 of	
2			your report onwards?	
3		Α.	Yes.	
4	146	Q.	Some of which have personal phone numbers redacted?	
5		Α.	Mm-hmm.	11:18
6	147	Q.	And you set out the emails from page 7 onwards	
7		Α.	Yes.	
8	148	Q.	many of which relate to the Department of Justice	
9			and contacts that had been had and some of which are	
10			replicated from the iPad in terms of content?	11:19
11		Α.	That's correct.	
12	149	Q.	Would that support a conclusion that she was accessing	
13			her emails via her phone or getting them also sent to	
14			her phone?	
15		Α.	Yes, yes.	11:19
16	150	Q.	And there was nothing else of relevance on that phone,	
17			as far as you could see?	
18		Α.	No.	
19	151	Q.	Okay. I think that concludes the nine items that you	
20			examined on behalf of the Tribunal, is that correct?	11:19
21		Α.	That's correct.	
22			MR. McGUINNESS: Okay. Thank you. Would you answer	
23			any questions anyone else may have?	
24			MR. McGARRY: I don't have any questions, Chairman.	
25				11:19
26				
27				
28				

Τ			THE WITNESS WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MS. BURNS:	
2	152	Q.	MS. BURNS: I just have a few short questions.	
3			Ms. Strachan, just in relation to	
4			CHAIRMAN: Maybe you would tell Ms. Strachan who you	
5			are.	11:20
6	153	Q.	MS. BURNS: Sorry, my apologies, Ms. Strachan. My name	
7			is Tara Burns and I appear on behalf of Superintendent	
8			Taylor.	
9		Α.	Okay.	
10	154	Q.	Just in relation to your examination of SM1 and	11:20
11			specifically if I could ask page 4616 of the Tribunal	
12			papers to be placed on screen, my understanding,	
13			Ms. Strachan, is that this is your examination relating	
14			to former Commissioner Martin Callinan's phone and	
15			specifically it's page 6 of your report, and at item	11:20
16			number 35 there is a note of a text at 17:39:59 on the	
17			date of the 28/3/2014, and it reads:	
18				
19			"Commi ssi oner	
20			I feel so sorry for the way you have been treated.	11:20
21			It's despicable. You will always be the boss to me and	
22			I am proud to have served under you and worked with	
23			you. You were inspirational to me. I wish you and	
24			your family all the best for the future, and if I can	
25			do anything to help, please let me know. Dave."	11:21
26				
27			And it's noted "deleted carved". That was found on	
28			former Commissioner Callinan's phone, is that correct?	
29		Α.	That's correct.	

Τ	155	Q.	I see. And then, if I could also ask in relation to	
2			your examination of one of the phones of former	
3			Commissioner O'Sullivan, and specifically it's SM12 and	
4			if I could ask that page 4646 of the Tribunal papers be	
5			placed on screen. And at the end of that page, I hope,	11:21
6			at item number 29, yes, just there, I think that that	
7			reads, it's from and there is I think there probably	
8			is a number that is redacted?	
9		Α.	Yes, that would be the telephone number.	
10	156	Q.	And it reads "Eugene Corcoran" and the date is	11:21
11			13/2/2017, the time 13:39, and then a text message:	
12			"DPP has directed no prosecution against D Taylor."	
13			That is a text found on former Commissioner	
14			O'Sullivan's phone, is that correct?	
15		Α.	That's correct.	11:22
16	157	Q.	And just one further thing that I just don't understand	
17			more so than me having a question necessarily in	
18			relation to it. I note that in the course of your	
19			reports you are aware of use of a phone from a	
20			particular day, but then when you analyse the call	11:22
21			history it seems that the call history is at a later	
22			time, closer to when the phone in fact was no longer	
23			used; what is the reason for that?	
24		Α.	That sorry, that is the information that was	
25			recovered from the phone. The full content of	11:22
26			information on the phone is never going to be	

28 158 Q. I see.

recovered.

27

29 A. So it's -- there is internal housekeeping and whilst

			more information is put on the phone, other information	
2			is effectively wrote over, and that's what was	
3			recovered, the call history that was recovered from the	
4			phone. There is nothing to suggest that there wasn't	
5			call history prior to it, it's just I haven't recovered	11:23
6			it.	
7	159	Q.	I see. So in my very simple terms, is it that in terms	
8			of a call history, a phone only retains the call	
9			history for the last, we'll say, 200 calls, or it's	
10			probably less than that even, but any calls prior to	11:23
11			that are no longer retained on the handset, is that	
12			correct?	
13		Α.	It depends on the particular phone and what way the	
14			user has set it it up.	
15	160	Q.	I see.	11:23
16		Α.	A user can set it up to delete call history once it	
17			reaches a certain number, or the phone will do it	
18			automatically as, for example, it runs out of space	
19	161	Q.	I see.	
20		Α.	to fit other information on the phone. It really	11:23
21			depends on the make and model of the phone and the way	
22			the user has set it up.	
23			MS. BURNS: I see. Thank you very much.	
24				
25			CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ó Muircheartaigh?	11:24
26			MR. Ó MUIRCHEARTAIGH: No questions.	
27			MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: No questions, Chairman.	
28			CHAIRMAN: was there anything?	
29			MR McGIIINNESS: Nothing further	

1			
2		CHAIRMAN: I don't know, Ms. Strachan, how many hours	
3		in all have the Forensic Service of Northern Ireland	
4		spent on work for the Tribunal between coming up and	
5		down to Dublin visiting Garda Headquarters, meeting us	11:24
6		up there and doing these examinations, man and woman	
7		hours, are you in a position to give us even a ballpark	
8		figure?	
9	Α.	I am sorry, I don't know the exact number of hours, I	
10		would have to that would have to be worked out. It	11:24
11		is recorded somewhere, it could be found out. But a	
12		considerable amount of time.	
13		CHAIRMAN: Well, it's months of work effectively.	
14	Α.	Oh, yes. I have been working on this approaching a	
15		year.	11:24
16		CHAIRMAN: And can I just, a brief note of thanks. You	
17		have done a great job, you have always been very	
18		pleasant and the thoroughness and commitment has been	
19		outstanding, and thank you very much.	
20	Α.	Thank you.	11:25
21		CHAIRMAN: And to Mr. McConnell as well.	
22	Α.	Thank you very much.	
23			
24		THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW	
25			11:25
26		MS. LEADER: The next witness, sir, is Mark McConnell.	
27			
28			
29		MR. SIMON MARK McCONNELL, HAVING BEEN SWORN, WAS	

1			DIRECTLY EXAMINED BY MS. LEADER:	
2	162	Q.	MS. LEADER: The various reports that Mr. McConnell	
3			prepared are to be found in Volume 17 at different page	
4			numbers and I will refer to them as I deal with them in	
5			evidence. Mr. McConnell, if you could first of all	11:26
6			outline your qualifications?	
7		Α.	Yes. I have a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree	
8			in Electronics, Electronic Engineering, and a Master's	
9			Degree in Forensic Computing.	
10	163	Q.	And I think you, along with the last witness, are	11:27
11			currently employed about the Forensic Service of	
12			Northern Ireland?	
13		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
14	164	Q.	How long have you worked for the Forensic Service of	
15			Northern Ireland?	11:27
16		Α.	Fifteen years now.	
17	165	Q.	And your job there is what?	
18		Α.	Essentially it's in digital and electronics forensics.	
19			So, the examination of anything of a digital or	
20			electronic that has digital or electronic capacity,	11:27
21			computers, mobile phones, and any other items with a	
22			plug, switch or a wire.	
23			CHAIRMAN: Mr. McConnell, I don't know if you can move	
24			that device a bit closer to you there.	
25		Α.	Sorry.	11:27
26	166	Q.	MS. LEADER: And you, in common with the last witness,	
27			are an independent person working for the Forensic	
28			Service of Northern Ireland?	
29		Α.	Yes. We are independent and impartial. We do	

- examinations for a wide range of customers and offer a
- wide range of forensic services, not just digital.
- 3 167 Q. Okay. Now, I think for the purposes of the Tribunal,
- 4 you conducted a number of examinations, and if I could
- just, first of all, summarise exactly what you looked

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11:28

11:29

- at, and we will go into each of those in detail --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 168 Q. -- in turn. So, the first thing you looked at was a
- 9 laptop computer which is referred to as SM10, which was
- 10 previously in the possession of Superintendent David
- 11 Taylor, is that correct?
- 12 A. That's correct, yes.
- 13 169 Q. Thereafter, we are going to deal with an image of that
- laptop computer, which we refer to as SM5, which the
- 15 Gardaí prepared when they were investigating,
- 16 conducting their investigations?
- 17 A. Sorry, the SM10 was David Taylor's laptop image --
- 18 170 Q. Image. And SM5?
- 19 A. -- and SM5 was the actual laptop itself, yes.
- 20 171 Q. The laptop computer. So SM5 is his laptop and SM10 is
- 21 the image which the guards prepared, is that correct?
- 22 A. That's correct, yes.
- 23 172 Q. You also looked at the Spotlight system, is that
- 24 correct?
- 25 A. Yes, I did.
- 26 173 Q. You looked at former Commissioner Callinan's laptop
- 27 computer, is that correct?
- 28 A. I did, yes.
- 29 174 Q. And that is SM23.

- 1 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 2 175 Q. You looked at a wide range of Garda systems, is that
- 3 correct?
- 4 A. That's correct, yes.
- 5 176 Q. And you also, at the request of the Tribunal, conducted 11:29
- 6 some investigation around an operation which is
- 7 referred to as Operation Squeeze?
- 8 A. That's correct, yes.
- 9 177 Q. Right. So they are the areas that you were responsible

11:30

11:30

- for in particular, is that correct?
- 11 A. That's correct.
- 12 178 Q. Now, if I could first of all ask you about the
- 13 Spotlight system as we have been dealing with the press
- queries generally, and that appears at page 4506 of the
- materials, your report in relation to that.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 179 Q. Now, I think before you looked at the Spotlight system,
- 18 you were aware that it was a database used by the Press
- 19 Office in An Garda Síochána, is that correct?
- 20 A. That's correct, yes.
- 21 180 Q. And you looked at that system on the 24th November 2017
- 22 at the request of the Tribunal?
- 23 A. That's correct, yes.
- 24 181 Q. And you, in summary, conducted a search of that system,
- looking for entries relevant to Sergeant Maurice
- 26 McCabe, is that correct?
- 27 A. That's correct, yes.
- 28 182 Q. And all search results relating to Sergeant Maurice
- 29 McCabe you downloaded on to a USB stick, is that

1 correct? 2 I did, yes. Α. 3 183 So I think the methodology was, you searched the system Q. 4 for McCabe, you looked at the results and any McCabe 5 which was Sergeant Maurice McCabe, you downloaded it on 11:31 to the USB stick? 6 7 That's correct, yes. Α. 8 184 And you handed it over to the Tribunal? Q. 9 Yes. Α. And just for the purposes of the Tribunal, the contents 11:31 10 185 Ο. 11 of that USB stick have been distributed in Volume 11 of 12 the materials, sir. And that begins at page 2874 of 13 the materials. Now, the next thing I want to ask you 14 about is Superintendent Taylor's computers, his laptop 15 computer, which is SM5 and the report begins at page 11:31 16 4520, and the mirror image of that laptop computer, SM10, which begins at 4502 of the materials. Now, just 17 18 generally, your instruction given to you by the 19 Tribunal, if you could confirm this to be the case, that you were to search that computer for any material 20 11:32 that would show or tend to show that there was a 21 22 campaign or an instruction or anything that can be 23 interpreted as such, to brief the media with material 24 that was negative to Sergeant McCabe, is that correct? 25 That's correct, yes. Α. 11:32 And you were asked to search the computer for that kind 26 186 0. 27 of material between July 2012 and May 2014?

And that, you may know at this stage that this refers

That is correct, yes.

28

29

187

Α.

Q.

- 1 to the period of time when Superintendent Taylor was
- 2 the Garda Press Officer?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 188 Q. And in order to identify any such material, I think you

11:33

11:33

- were supplied with a series of keywords that would
- 6 assist you in your searches for words that are likely
- 7 to throw up material of that nature, is that correct?
- 8 A. Yes, there was a list of search terms, yes.
- 9 189 Q. Yes. And those search terms, if you could confirm this
- to be the case, include the words "McCabe", "Maurice",
- 11 Ms. D, in her correct name --
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 190 Q. -- both first name and surname, is that correct?
- 14 A. That's correct, yes.
- 15 191 Q. The word "rat", "Oisin"?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 192 Q. The word "whistle", a separate word "blower" and then
- 18 "whistleblower" together, is that correct?
- 19 A. That's correct, yes.
- 20 193 Q. "Person of the year" as a phrase, is that correct?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 194 Q. "Child"?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 195 Q. "Child abuse"?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 196 O. "Kiddie fiddler"?
- 27 A. Yes.
- 28 197 Q. "Negative publicity"?
- 29 A. Yes.

- 1 198 Q. "Reputation" and "RTÉ"?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 199 Q. Is that correct?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 200 Q. So in all of the searches that you conducted, that was
- 6 your instruction, to look for material that would
- 7 suggest that there was some sort of a campaign, if I
- 8 can put it that way, or an instruction to disburse
- 9 negative material in relation to Sergeant McCabe and

11:34

- 10 you used those keywords in common over all your
- searches, is that correct?
- 12 A. That's correct, yes.
- 13 201 Q. Now, in relation to Superintendent Taylor's computer,
- the relevant report is at page 4520 of the materials,
- and I will take you through that. It was supplied to
- 16 you by the Tribunal, is that correct?
- 17 A. That is correct, yes.
- 18 202 Q. And you outline the procedure you followed in examining
- the Tribunal -- or in examining the computer,
- 20 essentially you downloaded an image on that computer,
- is that correct, and you examined your download?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 203 Q. All right. Now, it's a Dell computer, is that correct?
- A. That's correct, it's a Dell Latitude computer.
- 25 204 Q. All right. And it had been active from the period the
- 26 1st July 2012 to the 31st May -- to October 2014, I beg
- 27 your pardon. So active from the 31st July 2012 to the
- 28 8th October 2014. It's included in your comments
- section at page 4523 of your report.

1	Α.	That's	correct,	yes.
---	----	--------	----------	------

- 2 205 Q. All right. And during that period of time,
- 3 Superintendent Taylor didn't have access to his Garda
- 4 email account on that computer, is that correct?
- 5 A. That's correct. On a visit to Garda Headquarters IT on 11:35
- 6 21st September 2017, it was verbally confirmed that
- 7 during that period Garda email was not available on
- 8 issued laptops.
- 9 206 Q. All right. And I think you found, and this is at the

- top of page 4523 of your report, there were 149,339
- 11 search hits --
- 12 A. That's correct, yes.
- 13 207 Q. -- produced from a search using those keywords, is that
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 208 Q. And you reviewed each of those search hits and none of
- them displayed an instruction or any information that
- 18 would suggest that there was an instruction given to
- 19 disseminate negative material in relation to Sergeant
- 20 McCabe? 11:36
- 21 A. That's correct, yes.
- 22 209 Q. All right. And I think your notes and so on are
- available should people need to see them in relation to
- your search of that laptop, is that correct?
- 25 A. Yes.
- 26 210 Q. Now, if I could turn then to the laptop image, the
- 27 report begins at page 4502 of the materials. And as I
- understand it, the laptop image contains a subset of
- the information which is actually on the laptop, is

- 1 that correct?
- 2 A. That is correct. It would contain all the logical
- information, the information that is available to the
- 4 user but some of -- the unused space was not part of
- 5 that image.
- 6 211 Q. Okay. And that's not unusual in any way, is that
- 7 correct?
- 8 A. Well, essentially the size of the image is much reduced

11:37

11:38

11:38

- 9 because it doesn't include the unused space but the
- 10 unused space can contain information that has been
- 11 previously deleted and essentially that space is marked
- as unused. So it would not be available for any user
- of a laptop to actually see the content of that unused
- space.
- 15 212 Q. All right. And when you searched the laptop image, I
- think you found 90 -- and this is at page 4505 of the
- 17 materials -- 90,819 hits generated from a search using
- the keywords, is that correct?
- 19 A. That's correct, yes.
- 20 213 Q. And the lesser number is explained by the lesser
- 21 material on the laptop image, is that correct?
- 22 A. Yes. The unallocated space was not available so there
- were no hits from that area, which was quite extensive.
- 24 214 Q. Yes. And in relation to the hit, the search hits that
- 25 were generated, you reviewed each of those hits, is
- 26 that correct?
- 27 A. I did, yes.
- 28 215 Q. And you didn't find anything on each of those hits that
- 29 would suggest that there was an instruction given to

Т			Superintendent laylor to disseminate negative	
2			information in relation to Sergeant McCabe, is that	
3			correct?	
4		Α.	That's correct.	
5	216	Q.	And again, your notes, etcetera, are available, is that	11:39
6			correct?	
7		Α.	Yes, yes, if needed, yes.	
8	217	Q.	All right. The next thing I want to ask you about is	
9			former Commissioner Callinan's laptop computer, and	
10			that is SM23, and it's at page 4518 of the materials.	11:39
11			Now, I think you followed the same procedure in	
12			relation to examining that computer; you downloaded the	
13			computer, is that correct?	
14		Α.	Not on this case. Essentially the computer was	
15			examined at Garda Headquarters IT section and the hard	11:40
16			disk was removed and connected to a ripe locker to make	
17			sure that no data was changed on the hard disk and then	
18			it was examined in a live manner rather than actually	
19			making an image first and then recording it because of	
20			the nature of the examination, it was to confirm	11:40
21			certain issues prior to running searches if necessary	
22			but it was found that searches weren't necessary.	
23	218	Q.	All right. Now, the Tribunal has already heard that,	
24			in accordance with Garda protocol, that computer was	
25			made available to former Commissioner Callinan after he	11:41
26			retired, he made arrangements to buy it and the	
27			computer was cleaned of all material that had been on	
28			it, in accordance with Garda protocol?	
20		۸	Vos	

1	219	Q.	And what did your examination conclude?	
2		Α.	My examination confirmed that; that the dates that were	
3			found on the laptop for the installation of the new	
4			operating system were consistent with the indicated	
5			time-line and that the previously-held data that was on	11:41
6			that device, whenever it was an official laptop, was	
7			non-recoverable.	
8	220	Q.	All right. So that conclusion appears at page 4519 of	
9			the materials, we can see there that you conclude:	
10				11:42
11			"Former Commissioner Callinan's Laptop was found to	
12			have been sanitised and re-installed in accordance with	
13			Garda IT protocol. The Laptop user's account "Martin	
14			Callinan" was created on Friday, 4th April 2014. Any	
15			data from when Mr. Callinan was in post as Commissioner	11:42
16			is no longer available and non-recoverable."	
17		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
18	221	Q.	Yes.	
19			CHAIRMAN: So that's within ten days of his	
20			resignation?	11:42
21			MS. LEADER: Exactly.	
22	222	Q.	And you conducted that examination in Garda	
23			Headquarters on the 4th January of this year, is that	
24			correct? That would appear from page 4518 of the	
25			materials.	11:42
26		Α.	4th January 2018, that's correct, yes.	

Now, I think you are aware that the Tribunal has a term

of reference asking that we examine all electronic and

paper files relating to Sergeant McCabe held by An

223 Q.

27

28

29

1			Garda Síochána and to consider any material therein	
2			relevant to other terms of reference which relate to	
3			the dissemination of material negative to Sergeant	
4			McCabe?	
5		Α.	Yes.	11:43
6	224	Q.	Is that correct?	
7		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
8	225	Q.	And you were asked by the Tribunal to conduct an	
9			examination of the electronic systems of An Garda	
10			Síochána in furtherance of that term of reference,	11:43
11			isn't that correct?	
12		Α.	Yes, that's correct.	
13	226	Q.	And you actually did that, you attended at Garda	
14			Headquarters from the 19th to the 22nd September 2017,	
15			examining various Garda systems, is that correct?	11:43
16		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
17	227	Q.	Now, I think prior to you attending in Garda	
18			Headquarters, you had received two documents from An	
19			Garda Síochána, is that correct?	
20		Α.	Yes.	11:43
21	228	Q.	And those documents have recently been circulated in	
22			redacted format, you obviously got them in unredacted	
23			format, is that correct?	
24		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
25	229	Q.	And if page 6877 could be put up on screen in front of	11:44
26			you, that is an An Garda Síochána request for	
27			information from the Disclosures Tribunal and the next	
28			page, you will see the contents, it provides an	
29			executive summary - "Garda LT Service Catalogue	

1			provision of access, contents of Pulse and contact	
2			points" - is that correct?	
3		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
4	230	Q.	That is the document you were given beforehand?	
5		Α.	That is the document.	11:44
6	231	Q.	And if I could just turn to an example of the Garda	
7			Service Catalogue at page 6881, and this will have to	
8			be rotated. It provides a list of various applications	
9			that are available to members of An Garda Síochána, is	
10			that correct?	11:45
11		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
12	232	Q.	And all of those are separate electronic databases?	
13		Α.	Yes, they are separate systems.	
14	233	Q.	In very crude terms.	
15		Α.	Yes.	11:45
16	234	Q.	So, for instance, and this is just as an example, it	
17			shows "AFIS", which is the Automated Fingerprint	
18			Identification System?	
19		Α.	That's correct.	
20	235	Q.	And then there is "AFIS CT visa" which is a system	11:45
21			allowing for the receipt of files containing	
22			fingerprint data; and then underneath that there is	
23			"AGS portal", which is a web portal where the user can	
24			view Garda information; and then there is a system	
25			which automatically identifies number plate	11:45
26			registrations, is that correct?	
27		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
28	236	Q.	And the last one on that page is a bomb scare database	
29			system?	

- 1 That's correct. Α.
- 2 And the document goes on like that for a number of 237 Q.
- 3 pages, until page, I think it's 6892 of the materials,
- and it lists all the various Garda systems/databases, 4

11:46

11:46

11:46

11:47

- 5 is that correct?
- That's correct, yes. 6 Α.
- 7 238 Now, as I understand it, those databases are Q.
- 8 tailor-made for the information which they are designed
- 9 to keep and the systems that assist the guards in their
- 10 work, is that correct?
- 11 That's correct, yes. Α.
- 12 So, for instance, if I was trying to input negative 239 Q.
- material about Sergeant McCabe into the fingerprint 13
- 14 section, we will just take that as an example --
- 15 Yes. Α. -- it wouldn't take it, is that correct? 16 240
- 17 No, that's correct, yes. Α.
- 18 And you satisfied yourself that that was the case, is 241 Q.
- 19 that correct?

Q.

- 20 I did, yes, yes. Α.
- 21 242 So I think what you did is, you requested -- and also Q.
- 22 in that document there was a summary provided to you of
- 23 the contents of the Pulse system which is at page 6893,
- is that correct? And that will come up, you can just 24
- identify that. 25
- 26 Yes, that's correct. Α.
- 27 243 And I think again, in very simple terms, the Pulse Q.
- system is a database of information available to An 28
- Garda Síochána and that lists the main contacts --29

1			contents of the Pulse system, is that correct?	
2		Α.	Yes, it's a series of interconnected databases, yes.	
3	244	Q.	All right. And after you looked, considered that	
4			document, a further document was made available to you	
5			which the cover page appears at page 6895 of the	11:4
6			materials, which is a service catalogue "Additional	
7			Information" and the summary of that document is on the	
8			following page. And you asked for further information	
9			on the file share cluster, and we have heard some	
10			evidence in relation to the file share system from	11:4
11			Superintendent Ryan yesterday, the correspondence	
12			register, record ICT on line services, and then there	
13			are two matters which are redacted and there is the	
14			Computer Crime Investigation Unit and the post log, is	
15			that correct?	11:4
16		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
17	245	Q.	And that information was made readily available to you	
18			by members of An Garda Síochána, is that correct?	
19		Α.	We have the series of documents, yes, from	
20	246	Q.	Yes. And I think in relation to the at the risk of	11:4
21			getting too technical, the correspondence register is	

25 That's correct, yes. Α.

correct?

22

23

24

28

26 247 And the RECORD system is the successor to that system, Q. is that correct? 27

exactly what it says, it's a register which records

correspondence to and from Garda Headquarters, is that

11:48

That's correct, yes.

Α.

And there is a lot of information given to you in 29 248 Q.

Τ			respect of the migration of material or the starting	
2			of, when various stations used the record service, is	
3			that correct?	
4		Α.	Yes, I believe that occurred in 2009/2010.	
5	249	Q.	On a phased basis?	11:4
6		Α.	On a phased basis, yes.	
7	250	Q.	And that information was given to you. Now, I think I	
8			should say there were some systems that you weren't	
9			granted access to and there are two witnesses tomorrow	
10			to deal with those systems, Superintendent Brunton and	11:4
11			former Chief Superintendent Kirwan, you were made aware	
12			of that?	
13		Α.	Yes, they are privileged systems, yes.	
14	251	Q.	Privileged systems. And there was a different way of	
15			searching those systems?	11:4
16			CHAIRMAN: we are talking there about crime and	
17			security, is that right?	
18			MS. LEADER: Yes.	
19			CHAIRMAN: Which, in fact, I searched in my own way.	
20			MS. LEADER: Supervised. And there are two witnesses	11:4
21			tomorrow to deal with those systems.	
22	252	Q.	So I think following on your perusing of that system	
23			and various systems and the gathering of information,	
24			you decided to concentrate your efforts in relation to	
25			the following systems, and I will go through each of	11:5
26			these, not particularly in order, the summary is on	

28 A. Yes.

27

29 253 Q. The first one is the AGS portal, and I think one of the

page 4608 of your report.

Τ			ways you narrowed your searches down was, in relation	
2			to, perhaps we'll take the fingerprint example again,	
3			because it wouldn't accept any information other than	
4			fingerprint-related information it wasn't going to be	
5			searched, isn't that correct?	11:50
6		Α.	That's	
7	254	Q.	That was one of the criteria you applied?	
8		Α.	That was correct.	
9	255	Q.	And the other criteria you applied was the systems	
10			which the relevant parties, those being Commissioner	11:51
11			Callinan, Commissioner O'Sullivan and Superintendent	
12			Taylor, had access to, is that correct?	
13		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
14	256	Q.	So the first narrowing down of the search was would it	
15			hold information can it hold information that is	11:51
16			likely to be relevant to the terms of reference which	
17			we are supposed to be searching for, is that correct?	
18		Α.	Yes, that's correct, yes.	
19	257	Q.	And the first system you looked at was AGS portal, and	
20			that's described in the manual document, if I can refer	11:51
21			to it that way, at 6681, and which should come up on	
22			the screen in front of you, sorry, 6881, I beg your	
23			pardon. I wonder if a hard copy could be made	
24			available to the witness. It's just not reading it.	
25			6881. It's the most recently distributed one, volume	11:52
26			25.	
27			CHAIRMAN: Do we have that, I wonder?	
28			MS. LEADER: It's better now, yes. You can read it	
29			now Mr McConnell Ves	

- 1 258 Q. "AGS portal: The AGS portal is a web portal where the user can view Garda information."
- 3 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 4 259 Q. And that adequately describes it in your view, is that
- 5 correct?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 260 Q. And that is available to all members of An Garda Síochána, is that correct?
- 9 A. I believe so, yes.
- 10 261 Q. And it went live in 2011, according to that manual?

11:53

11:53

- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 262 Q. Yes. So when you searched that system, it generated 25
- searched hits, you reviewed each individual one of
- those and they were all found to be official documents
- and not of significance and not matters that would
- suggest that there was an instruction given or that
- 17 there was in actual fact material being disseminated
- 18 which would negatively reflect on Sergeant McCabe, is
- 19 that correct?
- 20 A. That is correct, yes.
- 21 263 Q. Now, I want to skip the correspondence register and
- file share just for the minute, and if we could then
- look at the Mail Meter searches, which is, in essence,
- the email system, isn't that correct?
- 25 A. That's correct, yes.
- 26 264 Q. Now, yesterday we heard evidence from Superintendent
- 27 Pat Ryan which, he explained to us that there was an
- 28 archiving system employed in An Garda Síochána which
- archives all emails going back a considerable period of

- time, and I think you searched that system using the
- 2 keywords, is that correct?
- 3 A. I did, yes.
- 4 265 Q. And in relation to what you found in relation to the
- searches, you found 71 search hits on Commissioner
- 6 Callinan's email and none -- you reviewed each of those

11:54

11:54

- 7 individually and none of them were significant insofar
- 8 as they were impacted on our terms of reference?
- 9 A. That's correct. The emails and any attachments that
- were attached to the emails as well.
- 11 266 Q. You opened each one of those?
- 12 A. I did, yes.
- 13 267 Q. And in relation to former Commissioner O'Sullivan's
- 14 email you found 480 search hits on her email account
- and did you review each of those individually?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 268 Q. And were any of them of significance insofar as what
- you were looking for in that time, as you have already
- 19 outlined?
- 20 A. Not in accordance with the terms.
- 21 269 Q. All right. And in relation to Superintendent Taylor's
- 22 emails, I think there were 692 search hits on his
- emails, is that correct?
- 24 A. That's correct, yes.
- 25 270 Q. And that would be using the keywords, is that correct?
- 26 A. Yes.
- 27 271 Q. And you reviewed each of those individually and none of
- them were of significance, is that correct?
- 29 A. No, there was no instruction to inform the press

- 1 negatively.
- 2 272 Q. All right. I just want to leave the Pulse and record
- 3 just for the minute. You also had decided that the
- 4 Computer Crime Investigation Unit was an area which
- 5 potentially could have had negative material stored on

11:55

11:56

- 6 it in relation to Sergeant McCabe, is that correct?
- 7 A. That was one of the shortlisted systems, yes.
- 8 273 Q. Yes. And the description of that system is at page
- 9 6882 of that manual that I referred to earlier on. I
- think our system is now reading it, yes. It's
- called -- it's described as "Forensic investigation of
- computers using CCIU database".
- 13 A. That's correct, yes.
- 14 274 Q. And I think when you looked further into that, you
- found that the former commissioners, both former
- 16 Commissioner Callinan and former Commissioner
- 17 O'Sullivan, and also Superintendent David Taylor, had
- no access to that system, is that correct?
- 19 A. That was correct, yes.
- 20 275 Q. So you didn't search it, that being the case?
- 21 A. No, it wasn't searched, yes. We made inquiries and
- were informed that there was no access for the parties
- to that system.
- 24 276 Q. All right. Okay. The next thing that was on the
- 25 shortlist was the Cohort Medical Access System and that 11:56
- is described at page 6883 of the materials as the
- 27 medical system used by staff in the medical centre.
- 28 And I think when you look further into that matter you
- found that it became active on the 24th June 2015,

1 which was after the time period you were searching in, 2 is that correct? 3 That's correct, yes. Α. All right. You also then shortlisted the fixed charge 4 277 0. 5 processing system, is that correct? 11:57 6 That's correct, yes. Α. 7 And you noted that none of the parties had accessed 278 Q. 8 that system during the relevant time period, is that correct? 9 That's correct. 10 Α. 11:57 11 279 And you left your searches at that --Q. 12 Yes. Α. 13 -- at that stage. 280 Q. 14 Α. Yes. 15 281 The next thing that is listed is GEMS, Garda Q. Yes. 11:57 16 Employment Management System, and that is described at 6886 of the materials, in redacted format, which is, 17 18 it's described as a management information system used 19 by the Internal Affairs section. "This application's 20 purpose is to store key metrics on complaints received 11:58 in relation to members of An Garda Síochána." 21 22 describes the system adequately? It does, yes. 23 Α. 24 And what you found when you looked further into that 282 Q. 25 was that the system wasn't in place during the 11:58 timeframe of interest and since auditing was only 26 27 introduced in October 2016 there is nothing of 28 relevance to the Tribunal on the GEM System, is that 29 correct?

1		Α.	That's correct.	
2	283	Q.	And you satisfied yourself with that. The next thing	
3			that was shortlisted was GRIPS, Garda Regional	
4			Integrated Personnel System, is that correct?	
5		Α.	That's correct.	11:5
6	284	Q.	And that is at 6887 of the materials, it's described in	
7			redacted format again as "a system tracking and	
8			updating members' personal records throughout the	
9			country", is that correct?	
10		Α.	That's correct.	11:5
11	285	Q.	And in actual fact, that system, no auditing is	
12			available on it, is that correct?	
13		Α.	That's correct.	
14	286	Q.	And that means you can't search it, am I correct in	
15			saying that?	11:5
16		Α.	Yes, you wouldn't be able to say who had accessed it	
17			and when.	
18	287	Q.	All right. Okay. And also, you found that the parties	
19			of interest, those being the two commissioners and	
20			Superintendent Taylor, didn't have access to the	11:5

24 A. Yes, that's correct.

that correct?

21

22

23

25 288 Q. The next thing that was shortlisted was ICT Online
26 Services, and that is described at page 6888 of the
27 materials. And I think, in essence, that is a service
28 where various members of An Garda Síochána can request
29 access to other databases that they may not have access

system; therefore, on that basis you satisfied yourself

that there was nothing of relevance to the Tribunal, is

1			to or other applications, is that correct?	
2		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
3	289	Q.	It's a way of managing the system the systems, is	
4			that correct?	
5		Α.	Yes, it is.	12:00
6	290	Q.	Yes. And what you found in relation to that was, when	
7			you searched it, that nothing of significance to the	
8			Tribunal was located during searches, is that correct?	
9		Α.	Yes. There's only a small period of overlap between	
10			the time in which the system went live and the date	12:00
11			frame of interest to the Tribunal, and during that date	
12			frame there were only a small number of services	
13			available via the system, which were a web access,	
14			email and standard Pulse.	
15	291	Q.	Okay. All right. And when you searched that system,	12:00
16			was it using the keywords and applying the criteria, is	
17			that correct?	
18		Α.	Essentially, looking at that system, it would be to	
19			look to see who actually had access.	
20	292	Q.	Had access?	12:01
21		Α.	Yes. So it was a matter of accessing permissions,	
22			rather than actual key-word searches.	
23	293	Q.	Key-word search. All right. The next thing that was	
24			shortlisted was the NBCI database, the National Bureau	
25			of Criminal Investigation, and I think that may be	12:01
26			totally redacted, the description of that database, but	
27			I think it's no secret, it deals with serious criminal	

matters?

A. Yes, that's correct, yes.

28

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Т	294	Q.	res. And your search of that, you found that the	
2			persons of interest to the Tribunal do not have direct	
3			access to the system. While that may seem unusual, I	
4			think the system is that they go through somebody else	
5			who has direct access to the system, if they need	12:01
6			information from it, is that correct?	
7		Α.	That's correct. We made inquiries and that was the	
8			responses that we got.	
9	295	Q.	All right. And you then eliminated that database, is	
10			that correct?	12:02
11		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
12	296	Q.	In relation to, finally, before I go into the detail of	
13			what you actually found, the post log system, which is	
14			described at page 6890 of the materials, which is	
15			exactly what it says, it's a logging system to record	12:02
16			correspondence, isn't that correct?	
17		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
18	297	Q.	Yes. And you discovered that the commissioners and	
19			Superintendent Taylor did not have access to the system	
20			and you eliminated that from your inquiries, is that	12:02
21			correct?	
22		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
23	298	Q.	Now, in relation to the correspondence register which	
24			is described at page 6883 of the materials, and again,	
25			that is exactly what is suggested it is, it's a	12:03
26			register of correspondence, is that correct?	
27		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
28	299	Q.	It's described as "a local access database used to	

29

trace correspondence sent by each department in Garda

1 Headquarters", is that correct? 2 That's correct, yes. Α. 3 300 And it's used to keep track of correspondence coming in Ο. and out of the office? 4 5 Yes. Α. 12:03 6 301 Yes. So what you found when you searched that was that Q. there were 12 search hits for correspondence in 7 8 relation to Maurice McCabe? 9 That's correct, yes. Α. And one item related to the correct Maurice 10 302 Q. 12:03 11 McCabe/Sergeant McCabe, isn't that correct? 12 That's correct, yes. Α. 13 And when you looked for an electronic version of that 303 Q. 14 file there was none to be found, is that correct? 15 Yes. Α. 12:04 16 And you concluded that it most likely is in paper 304 Ο. 17 format only, which has been searched using a different 18 system, not you? 19 Yes. We were informed that that could often be the Α. 20 case. 12:04 It wouldn't be unusual. Now, the next thing of 21 305 Yes. Q. 22 significance, I think you looked at, was the RECORD 23 system, which is at 68 -- described at page 6891 of the 24 materials, and that is, as I understand it, the 25 successor to the correspondence register, is that 12.04

And it, again, records correspondence, but I

think it's not confined to Garda Headquarters, is that

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correct?

Α.

Q.

306

It is, yes.

			correct, the system: Am I	
2		Α.	Yes, I do believe that it is distributed.	
3	307	Q.	Yes. Certainly on a phased basis, and you were given	
4			lists of dates for that, isn't that correct, in the	
5			first the second manual, is that correct?	12:05
6		Α.	Yes, yes.	
7	308	Q.	And if we just look at page 6891 - "The RECORD system	
8			is a replacement for the correspondence register system	
9			and has been designed to provide similar	
10			functionality." - is that correct?	12:05
11		Α.	That's correct.	
12	309	Q.	Now, in relation to that system, you found six search	
13			hits in total, is that correct?	
14		Α.	That's correct.	
15	310	Q.	And two of those entries were of potential interest to	12:05
16			the Tribunal but weren't an instruction to inform the	
17			press negatively or distribute negative information to	
18			An Garda Síochána, is that correct?	
19		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
20	311	Q.	Now, if we just turn to the body of your report in	12:05
21			respect of that document. I will just get the the	
22			page number is 4600. Sorry, I beg your pardon, it's	
23			4606. And what you found, your report starts at page	
24			4605:	
25				12:06
26			"A search across offices of relevance yielded five	
27			search results, only one result"	
28				
29			And you reviewed each of those five search hits, is	

1			that correct?	
2		Α.	Yes, that's correct.	
3	312	Q.	" and only one result, item 55, record date 16/5/2014	
4			was deemed to be of significance to the Tribunal."	
5				12:07
6			And you outline the details of that. You give the	
7			reference CMR19101262/14, and it was the Tusla record	
8			correspondence number CMR with reference 19101262/14	
9			Sligo, is that correct?	
10		Α.	That's correct, yes.	12:07
11	313	Q.	And a broad description of that document is "The Tusla	
12			referral notification of suspected child abuse", is	
13			that correct?	
14		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
15	314	Q.	And you may not be familiar but the Tribunal has heard	12:07
16			evidence in relation to those documents of how they	
17			travelled from Sligo to Dublin to the Commissioner's	
18			office, from former Commissioner Kenny and various	
19			other officials?	
20		Α.	Yes.	12:08
21	315	Q.	And I think you downloaded there was a second search	
22			performed then on the RECORD system and it showed	
23			something received by the Commissioner's office on the	
24			7th January 2013, and it would appear to be an FCPS	
25			complaint, which is fixed charge penalty notice, is	12:08
26			that correct?	
27		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
28	316	Q.	But there was no electronic copy of that	
29			correspondence	

- 1 A. No, there wasn't.
- 2 317 Q. -- ever found?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 318 Q. So it goes into a different search criteria?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 319 Q. So I think prompted by the results of that RECORD
- 7 search you then searched the file share system, is that

12:09

12:09

- 8 correct?
- 9 A. That's correct, yes.
- 10 320 Q. And you used that as a way of navigating your search in $_{12:09}$
- 11 the file share system?
- 12 A. Yes. I used the reference numbers that were found in
- the RECORD system and applied those search terms in the
- file share.
- 15 321 Q. All right. Now, again, yesterday, Superintendent Ryan
- told us, gave us some information about the file share
- 17 system but the description of it, it's at page 6883 of
- the materials with the manual, and you'll see -- sorry,
- maybe I am incorrect. Sorry, it's 6885. And it's
- 20 essentially a file storage platform for An Garda
- 21 Síochána?
- 22 A. That's correct, yes.
- 23 322 O. It stores the files for the whole of the
- 24 organisation --
- A. Mm-hmm.
- 26 323 O. -- is that correct?
- 27 A. It stores pretty much everything file-wise, yes.
- 28 324 Q. Yes. So it's a very big database, is that correct?
- 29 A. Yes, yes, considerable.

So you managed your search in relation to that 1 325 Q. 2 system as outlined in the body of your report, starting 3 at page 4600. So you looked at former Commissioner O'Sullivan's user file share, which she has. 4 5 think, member of An Garda Síochána has a user account 12:10 6 in the file share system, is that correct? 7 Yes. Α. 8 326 Yes. It's at page 4600, sorry, if you want to look at Q. 9 it in hard copy, it's your own report, or page 5 of 10 your report. You have it. So what you found was, 12.11 11 Commissioner O'Sullivan's user file share was found to 12 be unused, is that correct? It's at the very top of 13 the page under --14 Α. Yes. 327 15 Yes. And former Commissioner Callinan's user file Q. 12:11 16 share was reviewed and nothing of significance found, 17 is that correct? 18 That's correct. Α. 19 328 You looked through it using the keywords and --Q. 20 Α. Yes. 12:11 -- applying the search criteria. And Superintendent 21 329 Q. 22 Taylor's user file share was found to contain only 23 information outside the timeframe of interest, is that 24 correct? That's correct, yes. 25 Α. 12:11 And then you commenced searching through the file share 26 330 Q.

to, is that correct?

system in its entirety, as I understand it, using the

RECORD search results which we have already referred

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Т		Α.	res, rooking for those documents that we came across	
2			previously from RECORD.	
3	331	Q.	All right. And then again that showed you the Tusla	
4			notification, is that correct?	
5		Α.	That's correct, yes.	12:12
6	332	Q.	And it was in two formats, is that correct; it was in	
7			PDF and a Word file, is that correct?	
8		Α.	That's correct. But the two documents weren't have	
9			the same content, they complemented each other rather	
10			than being the same material, yes.	12:12
11	333	Q.	Exactly. And I may be incorrect in this, but the PDF	
12			one showed the notification, it was in essence like a	
13			photograph of the notification, is that correct? And	
14			the other file was the correspondence generated, is	
15			that correct?	12:12
16		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
17	334	Q.	In very broad terms?	
18		Α.	Terms, yes.	
19	335	Q.	That is how the breakdown was. In relation to the	
20			fixed charge penalty notice complaint, you couldn't	12:13
21			find a file in the file share system corresponding with	
22			the record reference, is that correct?	
23		Α.	That's correct. There was no digital copy.	
24	336	Q.	All right. Now, you also looked at the in its	

searches, is that correct?

That's correct, yes.

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29

Α.

337 Q.

entirety, the Commissioner's office group file share

And that is the part of the file share system which

directly relates to the Commissioner's office in its

- 1 entirety, is that correct?
- 2 A. That's correct.
- 3 338 Q. So everybody in the Commissioner's office has access to that part of the file share system?
- A. Yes. In the office, they would apply for access and then there would be a group, which is a list of people

12:13

12:14

12:14

12.14

- 7 which would have access to the --
- 8 339 Q. To the system?
- 9 A. To the system, yes.
- 10 340 Q. And I think when you searched that system, you found
- seven separate files relating to Sergeant McCabe, is
- 12 that correct?
- 13 A. That's correct, yes.
- 14 341 Q. All right. And in relation to those files, they
- haven't been distributed but I think you downloaded
- those files along with the Tusla file on to a USB stick
- 17 and you gave that to the Tribunal in the last few days,
- is that correct?
- 19 A. I did, yes.
- 20 342 Q. Yes. And they will be available. But the first one,
- it says "Confidential Report 1 to 10 Documents" and
- there is also a synopsis of that report at number 4,
- you see in your report, at the bottom of page 4600?
- Sorry, it's page 5 of your report, internal pagination,
- 25 at the very bottom.
- 26 A. Page 5. Yes, that is correct.
- 27 343 Q. Okay. And that, having looked at it, relates -- and
- 28 this is again in very general terms, in relation to a
- 29 meeting Sergeant McCabe had with Assistant Commissioner

1			Byrne and Chief Superintendent McGinn in the Hillgrove	
2			Hotel, is that correct?	
3		Α.	Yes.	
4	344	Q.	Now, the next thing is, sorry, I beg your pardon, the	
5			confidential report to 2/2 8, and that is at number 2,	12:15
6			and there is also a synopsis of that report and a	
7			supplementary file in relation to that. So that	
8			appears, in your table at number 2, is the confidential	
9			report, number 4 is the confidential report sorry,	
10			number 5, the synopsis of that report, and then there	12:15
11			is supplementary matters related to that report, at	
12			number 3, isn't that correct?	
13		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
14	345	Q.	They all can be read as one, isn't that correct?	
15		Α.	Yes.	12:16
16	346	Q.	And in very, very general terms they relate to issues	
17			of policing in the Cavan-Monaghan division, isn't that	
18			correct?	
19		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
20	347	Q.	And again, and they are available. Now, at number 7	12:16
21			you have a Maurice McCabe chronological sequence	
22			report, June 2013, and they relate to various matters	
23			relating to Sergeant McCabe, but in particular, the	
24			Ms. D issue is particularly referenced in that, isn't	
25			that correct?	12:16
26		Α.	That's correct.	
27	348	Q.	And also there is a complete synopsis report and again	
28			that may be, having quickly looked at the document, a	
29			summary which was prepared by Superintendent Walsh in	

1 relation to Sergeant McCabe? 2 Yes. Α. It lists a mixture of all different items in relation 3 349 0. to Sergeant McCabe and confidential reporting, his 4 5 dealings with the Commissioner and the confidential 12:17 recipient? 6 Yes, it's a compilation. 7 Α. Yes. And I think you also placed all of those files on 8 350 Q. 9 to the memory stick which has been made available to the Tribunal? 10 12.17 11 I did, yes. Α. 12 Now, you also searched the Pulse system, isn't that 351 Ο. correct? 13 14 Α. That's correct, yes. 15 352 Now, the summary of that is again at page 13 of your Q. 12:17 16 report at page 4608. You found 32 search hits for 17 entries pertaining to Maurice McCabe on the system, 15 18 were false positives -- 17, sorry, I beg your pardon, 17 were false positives, is that correct? 19 20 That's correct, yes. Α. 12:18 Now, we will go back to that in a minute, but in 21 353 Ο. 22 general terms you found 57 accesses by Nóirín 23 O'Sullivan on Pulse and none of them were of relevance, 24 is that correct? 25 Yes, that's correct, none related to Maurice McCabe. Α. 12 · 18 26 354 So what you mean there, as I understand it, is: Ο. 27 Commissioner O'Sullivan accessed the Pulse system 57

That's correct.

times during the relevant period, is that correct?

28

29

Α.

- 1 355 Q. And on none of those occasions was she accessing it in relation to Sergeant McCabe, is that correct?
- 3 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 4 356 Q. And you could see that from your searches, is that correct?
- A. Yes, that was the -- essentially the searches were run using Scripts and the results came out along those

- 8 lines.
- 9 357 Q. Yes. And just in my very basic terms, Scripts is a
 10 computer programme which you instructed the computer to 12:19
 11 search for different things but it takes quite a long
 12 time to do it, is that correct?
- 13 A. That's correct. It's a form of a computer programme
 14 and the search terms would be actually embedded in that
 15 computer programme and then the computer programme is 12:19
 16 run.
- 17 358 Q. So it wouldn't be quite as simple as just entering the keywords?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 359 Q. It would have to be put into a particular programme in 12:19 order to search the Pulse system, is that correct?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 360 Q. And I think they take quite a long time to run, it's an overnight procedure, is that correct, or a long number of hours?
- A. Yes. Well, it depends on the search criteria and the breadth of the search across the system, how long it will actually take. But it can be quite long, yes.
- 29 361 Q. Yes. And you also found that former Commissioner

- Callinan and Superintendent David Taylor have no
- 2 recorded inquiries on Pulse during the timeframe of
- interest, is that correct?
- 4 A. That's correct, yes.
- 5 362 Q. Now, you, at the request of the Tribunal, ran a search
- in order to locate people who were looking up Pulse for
- 7 Sergeant McCabe, is that correct?
- 8 A. That's correct, yes.
- 9 363 Q. And in relation to that you generated a list on an
- 10 Excel spreadsheet, and that accounts for the search

12:20

12:21

12.21

- 11 hits of relevance, is that correct?
- 12 A. That's correct, yes.
- 13 364 Q. And that's is at present -- some inquiries are being
- carried out in relation to that but there were people
- 15 accessing the system in An Garda Síochána relating to
- 16 Sergeant McCabe and that document will be distributed
- in due course?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 365 Q. I see. But essentially, you provided that information
- to the Tribunal?
- 21 A. Yes, it is on the memory stick, yes.
- 22 366 Q. Yes. And I think that concludes your searches of the
- 23 -- in Garda Headquarters, is that correct?
- 24 A. Yes, I think we have covered all --
- 25 367 Q. In relation to the systems?
- 26 A. Yes.
- 27 368 Q. Yes. And how you came to the conclusions you came to
- and what documents you found?
- 29 A. Yes.

Т	369	Q.	now, there was one i mai thing the irrbunal asked you	
2			to search about, and that is a particular operation	
3			which was run by An Garda Síochána called Operation	
4			Squeeze, isn't that correct?	
5		Α.	That's correct, yes.	12:21
6	370	Q.	And your report in relation to that matter appears at	
7			page 4512 of the materials, isn't that correct? It's	
8			dated 13th March 2018.	
9		Α.	Yes, that's correct.	
10	371	Q.	All right. And if I could just go to the comments	12:22
11			section of your report, which is at page 4 of that	
12			report. Sorry, page 4516 of the materials. Your	
13			inquiries established that "it was an investigation	
14			into the cancellation (squashing) of fixed charge	
15			penalties in relation to traffic offences", isn't that	12:22
16			correct?	
17		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
18	372	Q.	And you established that the first job number was the	
19			6th November 2012, isn't that correct?	
20		Α.	That's correct, yes.	12:22
21	373	Q.	And you couldn't establish who had commissioned the	
22			operation, isn't that correct?	
23		Α.	That's correct. Inquiries were made but they came back	
24			as unknown.	
25	374	Q.	All right. And the objective of the operation was to	12:23
26			investigate and establish if the cancellation of fixed	
27			charged penalties were in line with the correct policy	
28			and procedure?	

29

A. That's correct.

1	375	Q.	And in relation to why it was given an operational	
2			name, first of all could you explain, from your	
3			inquiries, what an operational name is, as you	
4			understand it from the guards?	
5		Α.	As I understand it, an operation is a series of	12:23
6			investigations which combine in focusing on one thing.	
7	376	Q.	On one thing.	
8		Α.	So each operation would then be given an operation name	
9			to identify that particular series of investigations.	
10	377	Q.	To associate it with an overall aim, is that correct?	12:23
11		Α.	Yes.	
12	378	Q.	So it could perhaps be described as follows: That it's	
13			a number of small individual investigations or maybe	
14			not so small individual investigations, but it links	
15			into an overall theme, is that correct?	12:24
16		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
17	379	Q.	And maybe to take the fixed charge penalty notice,	
18			there may be an investigation into inspector A in	
19			relation to the quashing of penalty points, which is an	
20			individual operation, and there may be another	12:24
21			investigation or an individual investigation, another	
22			one into inspector B, which is an individual	
23			investigation, but they all come under the umbrella of	
24			Operation Squeeze?	
25		Α.	That's correct.	12:24
26	380	Q.	Yes. But in relation to particular, a particular	
27			series of questions that were asked of a number of	
28			people, they fell under Operation Squeeze since it	
29			related in very broad terms to menalty moints is that	

Т			correct?	
2		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
3	381	Q.	And I think in the summary of the results at the bottom	
4			of page 3 of your report, at page 4515 of the	
5			materials, you set out your findings. The	12:2
6			correspondence register was outside the time period, is	
7			that correct?	
8		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
9	382	Q.	The file share system found a number of files and they	
10			have been downloaded on to a memory stick, which you	12:25
11			gave to the Tribunal, is that correct?	
12		Α.	Yes, they have been provided, yes.	
13	383	Q.	And then the Mail Meter, you found 33,167 search hits	
14			on Squeeze, is that correct?	
15		Α.	That's correct, yes.	12:25
16	384	Q.	And you refine that downwards and you limit it to 16	
17			mail messages, is that correct?	
18		Α.	That's correct, yes.	
19	385	Q.	And on Pulse there was no record of Operation Squeeze,	
20			is that correct?	12:26
21		Α.	That's correct.	
22	386	Q.	And on RECORD, which records correspondence, there was	
23			14 relevant search hits in total?	
24		Α.	Yes, that's correct.	
25			MS. LEADER: Could you answer any questions anybody	12:26
26			else might have for you, Mr. McConnell.	
27			CHAIRMAN: It might be useful to say at this point that	
28			all of the reports of Ms. Strachan and Mr. McConnell	
29			are now in evidence not just the hits we have done	

1 through, the whole lot are in evidence. Thanks. MR. GORDON: 2 No questions. 3 MS. BURNS: No questions, Chairman. MR. Ó MUIRCHEARTAIGH: No questions. 4 5 MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: Yes, Chairman, just one 12:26 6 question. 7 8 THE WITNESS WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: Donal McGuinness, on behalf of 9 387 Q. Martin Callinan and Nóirín O'Sullivan. Just one issue 10 12:26 11 I'd like to explore with you. In relation to SM10, 12 which is the image of the Toshiba laptop --13 Yes. Α. 14 388 Q. -- you are familiar with that particular one --15 Α. Yes. 12:27 16 -- there was no access at the relevant time. 389 Ο. 17 should set out relevant time 31 July '12 to 8 October 18 '14 was the time when that laptop was in use, isn't 19 that correct? This was the image -- I will have to check back on --20 Α. 12:27 It begins on 4502. 21 390 It's 4505. Q. 22 MS. LEADER: It is internal pagination page 215. 23 The period of use of the user account G22459F was Α. 24 the 31st July 2012 to the 8th October 2014. 25 MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: Yes. And, as I understand it, 391 0. 12:28 26 this particular laptop didn't have access to Garda 27 email at the time because it wasn't generally 28 available, Garda email wasn't available on laptops at that time. 29

- 1 A. On laptops at that time, that's correct, yes.
- 2 392 Q. However, this laptop would have been able to access the
- ordinary email, the personal email account of
- 4 Superintendent Taylor?
- 5 A. Yes. There was a SIM card connected to it and 12:28
- 6 attached -- Internet access, yes.
- 7 393 Q. Yes. And in relation to your search of the image, as I

12.29

12:29

12:29

12:30

- 8 understand it there were 90 -- approximately 90,000
- 9 hits on the image --
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 394 Q. -- and 149,000 on the actual laptop itself, and you
- have already explained the reason for the differential
- 13 between those two.
- 14 A. Yes, it was the unallocated space.
- 15 395 Q. Yes. And then on page 4505, which is page, internal
- pagination of your report page 4, and you gave evidence
- to this effect, you used the formula of words: "No
- 18 evidence was recovered from item SM10 to support a
- claim made by Superintendent David Taylor that he was
- instructed by former Commissioner Martin Callinan to
- 21 brief the media against Sergeant Maurice McCabe or the
- 22 allegation made by Superintendent David Taylor that the
- former Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, Nóirín
- O' Sullivan, was aware of the said instruction."
- 25 A. That's correct, yes.
- 26 396 Q. And just in relation to leaving that formula of words
- 27 aside for a second, and I understand the reason why you
- 28 would use that formula because it's directly associated
- with the terms of reference, I take it that in the

1			event that there had been any information denigrating	
2			Sergeant McCabe at all found on that computer that that	
3			is information that you would consider relevant?	
4		Α.	Yes, absolutely.	
5	397	Q.	And there was no such information?	12:30
6		Α.	No.	
7			MR. DONAL McGUINNESS: Thank you.	
8		Α.	Yes.	
9				
10			CHAIRMAN: Have you any questions?	12:30
11			MS. LEADER: No.	
12			CHAIRMAN: Just a couple of things. Obviously what we	
13			couldn't supply you with was Superintendent Taylor's	
14			phone of October 2013, I think you noted that	
15			somewhere, that that was one of the things that is not	12:30
16			available. That is the first thing. Then I am	
17			assuming from the tenor of your reports and from our	
18			previous correspondence that you received the fullest	
19			possible cooperation from the Gardaí?	
20		Α.	Yes, absolutely. The help that we received was first	12:3
21			rate, yes.	
22			CHAIRMAN: Yes. And just the same note of thanks to	
23			you as to Ms. Strachan. It's been a great comfort to	
24			know that you have done this job so thoroughly, so	
25			thank you.	12:3
26				
27			THE WITNESS THEN WITHDREW	
28				
29			MR. McGUINNESS: Chairman, they are the two witnesses	

1	that we had scheduled for today and we have got through
2	them a lot quicker and without any intensive
3	cross-examination, so that concludes the evidence that
4	we are scheduled to give today.
5	CHAIRMAN: Yes. So maybe you would just tell me, tell 12:32
6	us all about - I'm assumed to know, of course - about
7	tomorrow and Monday and Tuesday.
8	MR. McGUINNESS: Tomorrow we have former Chief
9	Superintendent Peter Kirwan and Superintendent Brian
10	Brunton from Crime and Security, Headquarters. And 12:32
11	then next week we intend to commence the evidence of
12	Superintendent Taylor, commencing on Monday.
13	CHAIRMAN: Very good.
14	
15	THE TRIBUNAL THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL FRIDAY, 11TH MAY 2018 12:32
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23	
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25	
26	
27	
28	
29	

•	19th [3] - 17:7,	28 [3] - 11:5, 15:18,	4605 [1] - 60:24	6887 [1] - 56:6
	17:20, 46:14	20:25	4606 [1] - 60:23	6888 [1] - 56:26
	1st [4] - 7:15, 28:22,	28/3/2014 [1] - 32:17	4608 [2] - 50:27,	6890 [1] - 58:14
'12 [1] - 73:17	28:24, 41:26	2874 [1] - 39:12	67:16	6891 [3] - 59:23,
'14 [4] - 17:13, 22:14,		29 [2] - 11:5, 33:6	4610 [2] - 5:13, 10:26	59:28, 60:7
28:25, 73:18	2	29th [2] - 20:2, 30:23	4611 [1] - 6:29	6892 [1] - 48:3
'15 [3] - 9:9, 22:12,			4616 [1] - 32:11	6893 [1] - 48:23
22:14	2 [19] - 2:25, 3:6,	3	4622 [1] - 6:29	6895 [1] - 49:5
4	3:10, 3:31, 3:32,		4623 [1] - 9:17	692 [1] - 53:22
1	10:14, 10:26, 13:15,	3 roz 11:10 10:10	4626 [1] - 21:17	6th [1] - 70:19
	15:14, 18:7, 19:19,	3 [9] - 11:12, 12:12, 12:14, 12:15, 14:26,	4631 [2] - 29:8, 29:13	
1 [3] - 3:26, 17:3,	19:28, 20:20, 21:22,	15:15, 18:18, 66:12,	4646 [1] - 33:4	7
65:21	25:6, 27:26, 29:26,	72:4	4671 [1] - 30:20	
1,100 [1] - 9:27	66:5, 66:8	30th [1] - 22:13	4674 [1] - 30:29	7 [8] - 2:12, 2:29,
10 [4] - 11:28, 15:16,	2/2 [1] - 66:5	31 [1] - 73:17	4726 [1] - 16:29	11:18, 18:11, 21:9,
16:1, 65:21	20 [2] - 18:13, 20:25	31st [4] - 7:16, 41:26,	4735 [1] - 19:10	30:9, 31:6, 66:20
103 [1] - 15:21	200 [2] - 15:11, 34:9	41:27, 73:24	4738 [1] - 20:15	71 [1] - 53:5
108 [1] - 15:22	2000 [1] - 15:11	32 [3] - 2:12, 4:5,	4749 [2] - 21:16,	72 [2] - 1:18, 15:21
109 [1] - 15:22	2009/2010 [1] - 50:4	67:16	23:12	73 [1] - 4:9
10:00AM [1] - 76:16	2011 [1] - 52:10	33 [1] - 15:18	4752 [1] - 26:15	75[1] - 4.9 7th [1] - 61:24
10TH [3] - 1:18, 5:1,	2012 [6] - 7:16,	33,167 [1] - 72:13	4755 [1] - 26:23	741[1] - 01.24
76:15	39:27, 41:26, 41:27,	35 [1] - 32:16	4794 [1] - 26:23	8
11 [1] - 39:11	70:19, 73:24	36 [1] - 4:8	480 [1] - 53:14	0
12 [4] - 16:4, 28:11,	2013 [4] - 8:26,	37 [1] - 18:14	4th [3] - 45:14,	
30:5, 59:7	61:24, 66:22, 75:14	38 [1] - 18:14	45:23, 45:26	8 [7] - 2:20, 3:20,
12th [1] - 30:23	2014 [17] - 1:4, 7:16,	39 [2] - 15:19, 20:26		11:2, 11:18, 15:23,
13 [2] - 30:6, 67:15	9:11, 12:29, 13:20,	00 [2] 10.10, 20.20	5	66:5, 73:17
13/2/2017 [1] - 33:11	13:22, 13:29, 14:1,	4		800 [2] - 16:12, 26:20
13:39 [1] - 33:11	17:19, 25:15, 28:22,		5 [11] - 4:4, 11:1,	81 [1] - 30:7
13th [1] - 70:8	39:27, 41:26, 41:28,		11:16, 18:21, 20:22,	8th [3] - 22:14,
14 [2] - 11:3, 72:23	45:14, 73:24	4 [9] - 11:13, 18:18,	21:17, 31:1, 63:9,	41:28, 73:24
142 [1] - 15:23	2015 [4] - 17:7,	26:22, 27:23, 28:2,	65:24, 65:26, 66:10	_
143 [1] - 15:24	17:20, 20:2, 54:29	65:22, 66:9, 70:11,	520 [1] - 21:18	9
146 [1] - 15:24	2016 [4] - 25:15,	74:16	55 [1] - 61:3	
149,000 [1] - 74:11	30:23, 30:24, 55:27	40 [1] - 20:26	57 [2] - 67:22, 67:27	9 [2] - 18:11, 20:17
149,339 [1] - 42:10	2017 [9] - 1:6, 1:10,	41 [1] - 30:6	580 [1] - 20:17	90 [2] - 43:16, 74:8
14th [1] - 25:15	25:10, 29:11, 29:23,	42 [1] - 30:7	5th [2] - 13:29, 14:4	90,000 [1] - 74:8
15 [2] - 11:4, 67:17	29:24, 38:21, 42:6,	4498 [1] - 27:22		90,819 [1] - 43:17
15-digit [1] - 12:3	46:14	4502 [3] - 39:17,	6	925 [2] - 13:13, 17:5
16 [3] - 1:6, 18:12,	2018 [6] - 1:18, 5:2,	42:27, 73:21		930 [1] - 19:22
72:16	26:25, 45:26, 70:8,	4505 [3] - 43:16,		95 [1] - 15:21
16/5/2014 [1] - 61:3	76:15	73:21, 74:15	6 [4] - 11:16, 11:18,	950 [2] - 18:3, 18:5
165 [1] - 15:25	20th [1] - 29:24	4506 [1] - 38:14	18:8, 32:15	9th [1] - 13:20
16th [1] - 12:29	21 [2] - 2:25, 15:17 215 [1] - 73:22	4512 [1] - 70:7 4515 [1] - 72:4	600 [1] - 18:29	
17 [11] - 1:10, 5:11,		4313111-72.4	62 [1] - 15:19	Λ.
• • • • • • •	= =			A
5:13, 7:1, 13:12,	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6	4516 [1] - 70:12	63-page [1] - 15:10	Α
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12,	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10,	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20	
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27,	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] -
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16,	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4,
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12,	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29,	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12, 20:24	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4 24th [3] - 20:1,	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29, 42:10	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25 6881 [3] - 47:7,	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20 abuse [2] - 40:24,
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12, 20:24 18th [4] - 13:21,	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4 24th [3] - 20:1, 38:21, 54:29	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29, 42:10 4527 [1] - 13:12	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25 6881 [3] - 47:7, 51:22, 51:25	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20 abuse [2] - 40:24, 61:12
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12, 20:24 18th [4] - 13:21, 13:29, 17:13, 17:19	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4 24th [3] - 20:1, 38:21, 54:29 25 [5] - 11:5, 18:13,	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29, 42:10 4527 [1] - 13:12 4532 [1] - 15:9	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25 6881 [3] - 47:7, 51:22, 51:25 6882 [1] - 54:9	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20 abuse [2] - 40:24, 61:12 accept [1] - 51:3
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12, 20:24 18th [4] - 13:21, 13:29, 17:13, 17:19 19 [2] - 15:17, 20:24	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4 24th [3] - 20:1, 38:21, 54:29 25 [5] - 11:5, 18:13, 30:13, 51:26, 52:12	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29, 42:10 4527 [1] - 13:12 4532 [1] - 15:9 4547 [1] - 16:11	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25 6881 [3] - 47:7, 51:22, 51:25 6882 [1] - 54:9 6883 [3] - 54:26,	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20 abuse [2] - 40:24, 61:12 accept [1] - 51:3 access [24] - 7:22,
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12, 20:24 18th [4] - 13:21, 13:29, 17:13, 17:19 19 [2] - 15:17, 20:24 19101262/14 [1] -	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4 24th [3] - 20:1, 38:21, 54:29 25 [5] - 11:5, 18:13, 30:13, 51:26, 52:12 26th [1] - 29:23	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29, 42:10 4527 [1] - 13:12 4532 [1] - 15:9 4547 [1] - 16:11 4584 [1] - 16:22	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25 6881 [3] - 47:7, 51:22, 51:25 6882 [1] - 54:9 6883 [3] - 54:26, 58:24, 62:17	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20 abuse [2] - 40:24, 61:12 accept [1] - 51:3 access [24] - 7:22, 42:3, 47:1, 50:9,
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12, 20:24 18th [4] - 13:21, 13:29, 17:13, 17:19 19 [2] - 15:17, 20:24 19101262/14 [1] - 61:8	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4 24th [3] - 20:1, 38:21, 54:29 25 [5] - 11:5, 18:13, 30:13, 51:26, 52:12 26th [1] - 29:23 277 [1] - 10:3	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29, 42:10 4527 [1] - 13:12 4532 [1] - 15:9 4547 [1] - 16:11 4584 [1] - 16:22 4600 [4] - 60:22,	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25 6881 [3] - 47:7, 51:22, 51:25 6882 [1] - 54:9 6883 [3] - 54:26, 58:24, 62:17 6885 [1] - 62:19	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20 abuse [2] - 40:24, 61:12 accept [1] - 51:3 access [24] - 7:22, 42:3, 47:1, 50:9, 51:12, 54:18, 54:22,
5:13, 7:1, 13:12, 16:29, 19:10, 23:12, 36:3, 67:18, 67:19 171 [1] - 10:1 17:39:59 [1] - 32:16 17th [1] - 12:29 18 [3] - 2:28, 18:12, 20:24 18th [4] - 13:21, 13:29, 17:13, 17:19 19 [2] - 15:17, 20:24 19101262/14 [1] -	21st [2] - 25:15, 42:6 22nd [1] - 46:14 23 [3] - 9:6, 28:27, 30:9 23rd [1] - 9:11 24 [1] - 11:4 241 [1] - 10:4 24th [3] - 20:1, 38:21, 54:29 25 [5] - 11:5, 18:13, 30:13, 51:26, 52:12 26th [1] - 29:23	4516 [1] - 70:12 4518 [2] - 44:10, 45:24 4519 [1] - 45:8 4520 [2] - 39:16, 41:14 4523 [2] - 41:29, 42:10 4527 [1] - 13:12 4532 [1] - 15:9 4547 [1] - 16:11 4584 [1] - 16:22	63-page [1] - 15:10 65 [1] - 15:20 66 [1] - 15:20 6681 [1] - 51:21 67-page [1] - 26:14 68 [1] - 59:23 6877 [1] - 46:25 6881 [3] - 47:7, 51:22, 51:25 6882 [1] - 54:9 6883 [3] - 54:26, 58:24, 62:17	able [2] - 56:16, 74:2 above-named [1] - 1:27 absolutely [2] - 75:4, 75:20 abuse [2] - 40:24, 61:12 accept [1] - 51:3 access [24] - 7:22, 42:3, 47:1, 50:9,

57:19, 57:20, 58:3, 31:22, 72:25 attending [1] - 46:17 58:5, 58:19, 58:28, apologies [1] - 32:6 attention [1] - 26:27 65:3, 65:5, 65:7, appear [6] - 16:15, attributed [1] - 22:26 73:16, 73:26, 74:2, 16:20, 22:17, 32:7, auditing [2] - 55:26, 45:24 61:24 56:11 Access [1] - 54:25 APPEARANCES[1] -August [1] - 22:14 accessed [3] - 55:7, AUGUSTUS [1] -56:16, 67:27 apple [3] - 23:14, accesses [1] - 67:22 27:22, 28:1 automated [1] applicable [1] accessing [4] -47:17 31:12, 57:21, 68:1, automatically [2] -69:15 application's [1] -34:18, 47:25 accordance [4] -55:19 avail [1] - 6:17 44:24, 44:28, 45:12, applications [2] available [26] - 7:24, 53:20 47:8. 57:1 10:22, 12:9, 25:3, according [1] - 52:10 applied [3] - 51:7, 42:7, 42:23, 43:3, account [9] - 14:17, 51:9, 62:13 43:12, 43:22, 44:5, 14:20, 17:29, 42:4, apply [1] - 65:5 44:25, 45:16, 47:9, 45:13, 53:14, 63:5, applying [2] - 57:16, 48:28, 49:4, 49:17, 73:23, 74:3 51:24, 52:7, 56:12, 63:21 accounts [1] - 69:10 approaching[1] -57:13, 65:20, 66:20, ACT [2] - 1:4, 1:9 35:14 67:9, 73:28, 75:16 aware [8] - 8:15, action [1] - 1:28 appropriate [2] active [3] - 41:25, 11:24, 24:9 12:26, 25:26, 33:19, 38:18, 45:27, 50:11, 41:27, 54:29 April [3] - 12:29, **ACTIVITY**[1] - 3:29 29:23. 45:14 74:24 actual [5] - 37:19, archives [1] - 52:29 52:17, 56:11, 57:22, archiving [1] - 52:28 В 74:11 area [2] - 43:23, 54:4 **addition** [1] - 10:3 areas [1] - 38:9 bachelor's [1] - 36:7 additional [1] - 49:6 ARRAN[1] - 2:12 ballpark [1] - 35:7 addresses [1] - 9:28 arrangements [1] -Bardon [1] - 15:25 adequately [2] -44:26 based [4] - 6:15, 52:4, 55:22 AS [1] - 5:1 6:24, 6:25, 21:12 ADJOURNED[1] ascertain [2] - 7:22, **basic** [1] - 68:9 76:15 14:27 Affairs [1] - 55:19 ascertained [1] -56:21, 60:3 afield [2] - 6:21, 6:22 19.29 became [1] - 54:29 **AFIS**[2] - 47:17, aside [1] - 74:27 47:20 asserted [1] - 24:13 beforehand [1] -**AGS**[5] - 47:23, assist [3] - 7:13, 50:29, 51:19, 52:1 40:6. 48:9 beg [6] - 12:15, aim [1] - 71:10 Assistant [1] - 65:29 41:26, 51:22, 60:22, **ALISON**[2] - 2:17, associate [1] - 71:10 66:4. 67:18 2:27 associated 131 begins [5] - 39:12, Alison [1] - 15:16 9:28, 18:6, 74:28 39:15, 39:17, 42:27, allegation [3] -ASSOCIATED[1] -73:21 12:24, 25:25, 74:22 3:12 behalf [5] - 8:29, allegations [2] **assumed** [1] - 76:6 25:9, 31:20, 32:7, 27:15, 28:29 assuming [1] - 75:17 allowing [1] - 47:21 AT [1] - 76:16 belonging [2] - 8:13, alternative [1] attached [3] - 14:20, 24.12 53:10, 74:6 **benefit** [1] - 5:9 amount [1] - 35:12 attachments [1] analyse [1] - 33:20 53.9 analysis [1] - 19:5 attempt [3] - 23:29, 32:24 AND [4] - 1:4, 1:5, 24:2, 24:26 better [2] - 5:20, 1:9, 3:2 attempts [4] - 23:24, 51:28 angle [1] - 6:1 23:27, 24:23, 25:2 between [6] - 8:21, answer [3] - 24:17, attended [1] - 46:13

74:21 3:24 basis [4] - 50:5, 50:6, 76:10 BEEN [2] - 5:7, 35:29

BY [18] - 1:5, 1:8,

BEng [2] - 5:16, 5:22 best [3] - 8:7, 24:25,

17:19, 35:4, 39:27, 57:9, 74:13 big [1] - 62:28 **bit** [1] - 36:24 bits [1] - 72:29 BL [9] - 2:7, 2:10, 2:16, 2:16, 2:17, 2:23, 2:27, 2:31, 3:3 black [1] - 7:5 blower [1] - 40:17 **body** [2] - 60:20, 63.2

bomb [1] - 47:28 boss [1] - 32:21 bottom [5] - 10:15, 19:28, 65:23, 65:25, 72:3

Boucher [1] - 15:25 Boucher-Hayes [1] -15:25

BOW [1] - 2:28 Brady [1] - 11:6 breadth [1] - 68:27 breakdown [1] -64:19

BREFFNI [1] - 2:10 Brian [2] - 11:5, 76:9 brief [5] - 12:23, 25:24, 35:16, 39:23,

broad [3] - 61:11, 64:17, 71:29 BRODERICK [1] -

brought [1] - 26:26 **brown** [1] - 19:15 Brunton [2] - 50:10,

bureau [1] - 57:24 Burke [3] - 15:20, 18:12, 20:24 Burns [1] - 32:7 BURNS [7] - 2:22,

4:5, 32:1, 32:2, 32:6, 34:23, 73:3 business [1] - 28:29 buy [1] - 44:26

2:11, 2:17, 2:23, 2:28, 2:32, 3:4, 3:14, 4:4, 4:5, 4:8, 4:9, 5:8, 32:1, 36:1, 73:8

Byrne [1] - 66:1

C

Callinan [15] - 8:14, 8:25, 9:11, 9:24, 12:22, 21:27, 25:24,

44:25, 45:14, 45:15, 51:11, 54:16, 69:1, 73:10, 74:20 Callinan's [7] -32:14, 32:28, 37:26, 44:9, 45:11, 53:6, 63:15 campaign [2] -39:22, 41:7 cancellation [2] -70:14, 70:26 capabilities [1] - 8:3 capacity [2] - 6:3, 36:20 card [5] - 7:20, 12:7, 14:14, 14:16, 74:5 cards [1] - 5:29 Carrickfergus [2] -6:25, 6:26 carried [1] - 69:14 CARTHAGE[1] -2:23 carved" [1] - 32:27 case [8] - 7:28, 23:22, 39:19, 40:10, 44:14, 48:18, 54:20, 59.20 CASTLE[1] - 1:17 catalogue [3] -46:29, 47:7, 49:6 Cathal [1] - 15:16 caution [1] - 24:22 Cavan [1] - 66:17 Cavan-Monaghan [1] - 66:17 **CCIU** [1] - 54:12 ceased [1] - 28:17 Cellebrite's [1] -

centre [1] - 54:27 certain [3] - 7:14, 34:17, 44:21

CERTAIN[1] - 1:4 certainly [3] - 9:6, 28:14, 60:3 certainty [1] - 24:10

certify [1] - 1:25 Chairman [18] - 5:4, 5:9, 8:24, 9:5, 9:10, 9:21, 13:18, 17:4, 21:25, 25:7, 27:6, 27:28, 29:8, 31:24, 34:27, 73:3, 73:5, 75:29

CHAIRMAN[37] -8:18, 9:2, 9:6, 9:9, 17:13, 17:16, 17:24, 22:3. 22:6. 22:12. 22:15, 26:4, 26:10, 26:13, 27:11, 28:12,

28:27, 29:21, 30:2, 32:4, 34:25, 34:28, 35:2, 35:13, 35:16, 35:21, 36:23, 45:19, 50:16, 50:19, 51:27, 72:27, 75:10, 75:12, 75:22, 76:5, 76:13 challenged [1] -17:25 CHAMBERS [1] -2:24 changed [1] - 44:17 **charge** [5] - 55:4, 61:25, 64:20, 70:14, 71:17 charged [1] - 70:27 CHARLETON [2] -1:12, 2:2 check [2] - 24:18, 73:20 Chief [6] - 13:21, 17:5, 17:24, 19:24, 66:1, 76:8 **CHIEF** [1] - 2:18 chief [1] - 50:11 child [3] - 40:22, 40:24, 61:12 chronological [1] -66:21 circulated [1] - 46:21 civil [1] - 6:10 claim [5] - 12:21, 23:7, 25:22, 28:7, 74:19 **claims** [9] - 15:6, 16:26, 19:6, 20:11, 21:12, 27:17, 29:18, 30:15, 30:26 cleaned [1] - 44:27 clearly [1] - 28:13 Clerkin [4] - 13:21, 17:5, 17:25, 19:25 Clifford [1] - 15:22 closer [3] - 5:18, 33:22, 36:24 cluster [1] - 49:9 CMR [1] - 61:8 CMR19101262/14 [1] - 61:7 cohort [1] - 54:25 **colleagues** [1] - 5:10 combine [1] - 71:6 comfort [1] - 75:23 coming [3] - 23:2, 35:4, 59:3 commence [1] -76:11 commenced [3] -28:22, 28:24, 63:26 commences [5] -

15:9, 19:11, 20:14, 26:15, 29:13 commencing [11] -5:11, 5:13, 15:14, 15:29, 18:20, 20:20, 75.2 26:22, 28:20, 29:7, 30:29, 76:12 comments [2] -41:28, 70:10 Commission [3] -8:27, 9:1, 9:2 50:24 commissioned [1] -70:21 COMMISSIONER [1] - 2:14 45.9 Commissioner [46] -8:14, 8:25, 9:11, 9:24, 12:22, 12:25, 21:27, 25:9, 25:14, 25:24, 25:26, 26:5, 27:9, 27:29, 28:4, 29:10, 29:12, 30:2, 30:4, 30:19, 32:14, 32:19, 32:28, 33:3, 33:13, 37:26, 44:9, 44:25, 45:11, 45:15, 51:10, 51:11, 53:5, 53:13, 54:16, 61:18, 63:3, 63:11, 63:15, 65:29, 67:5, 67:27, 68:29, 74:20, 74:23 45:22 Commissioner's [7] - 29:2, 29:5, 61:17, 5:26, 37:16 61:23, 64:25, 64:29, 65:3 commissioners [3] -54:15, 56:19, 58:18 commitment [1] -35:18 40:9, 44:20 common [3] - 25:4, 36:26, 41:10 companies [1] - 25:5 company [2] - 24:4, 44:16, 74:5 **COMPANY** [2] - 2:11, 3:29 26:27 compilation [1] -67:7 complaint [2] -

61:25, 64:20

55:20

complaints [1] -

complemented [1] -

complete [1] - 66:27

computer [28] - 37:9,

37:14, 37:20, 37:27,

39:15, 39:16, 39:20,

39:26, 41:13, 41:19,

41:20, 41:23, 41:24,

42:4, 44:9, 44:12, 44:13, 44:14, 44:24, 44:27, 49:14, 54:4, 68:10, 68:13, 68:15, computers [3] -36:21, 39:14, 54:12 computing [1] - 36:9 Con [1] - 11:1 concentrate [1] concerned [2] -11:10, 16:24 conclude [2] - 45:1, concluded [1] concludes [3] -31:19, 69:22, 76:3 conclusion [9] -12:18, 13:5, 13:27, 15:4, 20:10, 21:11, 27:16, 31:12, 45:8 conclusions [2] -12:13 69:27 conclusively [1] conduct [1] - 46:8 conducted [5] - 37:4, 38:5, 38:24, 41:5, conducting [2] confidential [6] -65:21, 66:5, 66:8, 66:9, 67:4, 67:5 confined [1] - 59:29 confirm [3] - 39:19, confirmed [2] - 42:6, **CONLON** [1] - 2:23 connected [2] connection [1] -Conor [1] - 15:17 CONOR [3] - 2:15, 3:14, 3:30 consider [2] - 46:1, 75:3 considerable [3] -35:12, 52:29, 62:29 considered [4] -10:28, 19:1, 27:7, 49:3 consist [1] - 7:25 consistent [3] -22:29, 25:8, 45:4 contact [2] - 18:6,

47:1 contacts [23] - 9:27, 9:29, 10:20, 10:21, 10:24, 10:25, 10:27, 11:10. 15:12. 15:14. 15:15, 15:26, 18:3, 20:17, 26:16, 26:17, 29:2, 29:25, 29:28, 31:1, 31:9, 48:29 contain [3] - 43:2, 43:10, 63:22 contained [2] -11:17, 27:8 containing [1] -47:21 contains [1] - 42:28 content [4] - 31:10, 33:25, 43:13, 64:9 contents [8] - 15:10, 23:19, 25:1, 39:10, 46:28, 47:1, 48:23, 49:1 context [1] - 27:7 **continue** [1] - 11:16 cooperation [1] -75:19 copy [5] - 17:21, 51:23, 61:28, 63:9, 64:23 Corcoran [1] - 33:10 Cormac [2] - 15:17, **CORMAC** [1] - 3:24 correct [358] - 6:18, 7:8, 7:9, 8:11, 10:10, 10:11, 10:19, 11:7, 11:8, 11:14, 11:15, 11:18, 11:19, 11:26, 11:27, 12:10, 13:3, 13:4, 13:9, 13:13, 13:14, 14:8, 14:9, 15:2, 15:3, 15:8, 15:12, 15:13, 15:28, 16:6, 16:7, 16:14, 16:21, 17:11, 17:12, 17:14, 18:4, 18:5, 18:15, 18:16, 18:21, 18:22, 19:2, 19:8, 19:16, 19:23, 20:3, 20:6, 20:13, 20:27, 20:28, 21:5, 21:14, 21:18, 21:19, 22:21, 22:22, 23:3, 23:13, 24:11, 24:15, 24:16, 25:11, 25:12, 25:16, 25:20, 25:28, 26:18, 26:29, 27:20, 27:24, 27:25, 28:5, 28:25, 29:15, 29:16, 29:20, 29:29, 30:1, 30:12,

30:16, 30:28, 31:11, 31:20, 31:21, 32:28, 32:29, 33:14, 33:15, 34:12, 36:13, 37:11, 37:12, 37:21, 37:22, 37:24, 37:27, 38:1, 38:3, 38:4, 38:8, 38:10, 38:11, 38:19, 38:20, 38:23, 38:26, 38:27, 39:1, 39:7, 39:24, 39:25, 39:28, 40:7, 40:11, 40:13, 40:14, 40:18, 40:19, 40:20, 41:3, 41:4, 41:11, 41:12, 41:16, 41:17, 41:21, 41:23, 41:24, 42:1, 42:4, 42:5, 42:12, 42:14, 42:15, 42:21, 42:24, 43:1. 43:2. 43:7. 43:18, 43:19, 43:21, 43:26, 44:3, 44:4, 44:6, 44:13, 45:17, 45:24, 45:26, 46:6, 46:7. 46:11. 46:12. 46:15, 46:16, 46:19, 46:23, 46:24, 47:2, 47:3, 47:10, 47:11, 47:19, 47:26, 47:27, 48:1, 48:5, 48:6, 48:10, 48:11, 48:16, 48:17, 48:19, 48:24, 48:26, 49:1, 49:15. 49:16, 49:18, 49:24, 49:25, 49:27, 49:28, 50:3, 51:5, 51:8, 51:12, 51:13, 51:17, 51:18, 52:3, 52:5, 52:8, 52:19, 52:20, 52:24, 52:25, 53:2, 53:9, 53:23, 53:24, 53:25, 53:28, 54:6, 54:13, 54:18, 54:19, 55:2, 55:3, 55:5, 55:6, 55:9, 55:10, 55:29, 56:1, 56:4, 56:5, 56:9, 56:10, 56:12, 56:13, 56:14, 56:23, 56:24, 57:1, 57:2, 57:4, 57:8, 57:17, 57:29, 58:6, 58:7, 58:10, 58:11, 58:16, 58:17, 58:21, 58:22, 58:26, 58:27, 59:1, 59:2, 59:9, 59:10, 59:11, 59:12, 59:14, 59:26, 60:1, 60:4, 60:5, 60:10, 60:11, 60:13, 60:14. 60:18, 60:19, 61:1, 61:2, 61:9, 61:10,

61:13, 61:14, 61:26,

61:27, 62:8, 62:9, 11:13, 22:9, 25:6, 51:7, 51:9, 57:16, .ie [1] - 18:1 distribute [1] - 60:17 62:22, 62:26, 62:28, 62:4, 63:21, 68:26 **DAY** [1] - 1:18 37:6, 58:12 distributed [5] -63:6, 63:12, 63:17, cross [1] - 76:3 days [2] - 45:19, detailed [1] - 17:6 39:11, 51:25, 60:2, 63:18, 63:24, 63:25, CROSS [4] - 4:5, 4:9, details [6] - 9:18, 65:17 65:15, 69:16 63:29, 64:4, 64:5, 32:1 73:8 10:8, 10:17, 12:8, division [1] - 66:17 **deal** [8] - 13:10, 64:6, 64:7, 64:8, cross-examination 21:16. 23:11. 29:7. 18:26, 61:6 **DMG** [1] - 3:15 64:13, 64:15, 64:16, 36:4, 37:13, 50:10, detective [2] - 22:20, [1] - 76:3 **DOCK** [1] - 3:25 64:22, 64:23, 64:26, **CROSS-EXAMINED** 50:21 23:2 document [13] -64:27, 65:1, 65:2, determine [1] - 14:12 [4] - 4:5, 4:9, 32:1, dealing [2] - 29:13, 16:17, 47:4, 47:5, 65:12, 65:13, 65:18, 73:8 38.13 determined [4] -48:2, 48:22, 49:4, 65:26, 66:2, 66:12, crude [1] - 47:14 dealings [1] - 67:5 13:28, 22:19, 25:13, 49:7, 51:20, 60:21, 66:13, 66:14, 66:18, CT [1] - 47:20 deals [1] - 57:27 28:3 61:11, 66:28, 69:16 66:19, 66:25, 66:26, **CULLEN** [1] - 2:28 device [5] - 12:5, documents [9] dealt [3] - 17:10, 67:13, 67:14, 67:19, Cunningham [1] -19:10, 21:15 17:29, 24:25, 36:24, 46:18, 46:21, 49:19, 67:20, 67:24, 67:25, 45.6 52:14, 61:16, 64:1, 11:2 **Debbie** [4] - 15:18, 67:28, 67:29, 68:2, CUNNINGHAM [1] -18:11, 20:22, 30:5 devices [2] - 5:27, 64:8, 65:21, 69:28 68:3, 68:5, 68:12, 3:19 **DEBBIE** [1] - 3:13 **DONAL**[8] - 2:16, 68:13, 68:21, 68:24, December [5] - 8:25, dialled [1] - 16:1 4:9, 34:27, 73:5, 73:8, current [2] - 7:23, 69:3, 69:4, 69:7, 69:8, 73:9, 73:25, 75:7 28:23 13:21, 13:29, 17:13, **DIARMAID**[1] - 2:6 69:11, 69:12, 69:23, Diarmuid [2] - 11:3, **Donal** [1] - 73:9 customers [2] - 6:14, 17:19 70:4, 70:5, 70:7, 70:9, done [2] - 35:17, 37:1 decided [2] - 50:24, 11:6 70:16, 70:17, 70:19, customised [1] -54:3 different [8] - 8:1, 75:24 70:20, 70:22, 70:23, 8:2, 36:3, 50:14, down [3] - 35:5, 24:29 deemed [1] - 61:4 70:27, 70:29, 71:10, cuttings [1] - 11:22 definition [1] - 12:6 59:17, 62:4, 67:3, 51:1, 51:14 71:15. 71:16. 71:25. 68.11 download [1] - 41:21 degree [6] - 5:16, 72:1, 72:2, 72:7, 72:8, differential [1] downloaded [7] -D 5:22, 24:10, 36:7, 72:11, 72:14, 72:15, 36:9 74:12 38:29, 39:5, 41:20, 72:17, 72:18, 72:20, delete [1] - 34:16 digit [1] - 26:7 44:12, 61:21, 65:15, 72:21, 72:24, 73:19, **DALY** [1] - 3:24 deleted [10] - 9:27, digital [6] - 5:25, 72:10 74:1, 74:25 **DANIEL**[1] - 3:23 36:18, 36:19, 36:20, downloading [1] -10:3, 10:6, 10:7, correspondence DARRYL[1] - 3:24 37:2, 64:23 7.27 10:22, 10:24, 11:12, [19] - 49:11, 49:21, data [9] - 13:27, 23:19, 32:27, 43:11 **DIGNAM** [1] - 2:15 downwards [1] -49:23, 52:21, 58:16, 14:13, 14:28, 25:13, direct [2] - 58:2, 58:5 **Dell** [2] - 41:23, 58:23, 58:26, 58:29, 25:18, 44:17, 45:5, 41:24 directed [1] - 33:12 **DPP** [1] - 33:12 59:3, 59:7, 59:25, 45:15, 47:22 denigrating [1] direction [2] - 10:11, **DUBLIN** [10] - 1:17, 59:28, 60:8, 61:8, database [8] - 38:18, 2:12, 2:20, 2:25, 2:29. 10.17 61:29, 64:14, 72:6, 47:28, 48:28, 57:24, **DIRECTLY** [4] - 4:4, 3:6, 3:10, 3:20, 3:26, Department [4] -72:22, 75:18 57:26, 58:9, 58:28, 4:8, 5:7, 36:1 6:10, 27:3, 27:10, 3:32 corresponding[1] -62:28 31:8 directly [3] - 16:25, **Dublin** [2] - 35:5, 64:21 database" [1] -61:17 department [1] -64:29, 74:28 corresponds [1] -54:12 due [1] - 69:17 disburse [1] - 41:8 58:29 17.4 databases [4] disclose [1] - 14:10 during [9] - 27:12, describe [2] - 11:12, COSTELLO [1] -47:12, 48:7, 49:2, 11:28 disclosed [1] - 21:29 42:2, 42:7, 55:8, 56:29 described [12] -DISCLOSURES [2] -55:25, 57:8, 57:11, country [1] - 56:9 date [10] - 7:23, 8:21. 67:28, 69:2 51:20, 54:11, 54:26, 1:3, 1:4 couple [1] - 75:12 9:3, 9:13, 9:14, 32:17, duty [1] - 13:6 55:16, 55:18, 56:6, Disclosures [2] course [3] - 33:18, 33:10, 57:10, 57:11, 56:26, 58:14, 58:24, **DÁIL** [1] - 1:5 14:29, 46:27 69:17, 76:6 61:3 58:28, 59:23, 71:12 disclosures [1] -COURT [2] - 1:13, dated [1] - 70:8 describes [2] - 52:4, 7:14 dates [7] - 8:18, 9:4, 55:22 discovered [3] cover [1] - 49:5 22:3, 28:15, 29:21, description [4] -10:23, 17:18, 58:18 covered [1] - 69:24 45:2, 60:4 EARLSFORT[1] -54:8, 57:26, 61:11, disk [2] - 44:16, 3:31 **covering** [1] - 12:28 **Dave** [3] - 10:16, 62:17 44.17 created [1] - 45:14 30:6. 32:25 **Eavan** [2] - 15:18, DESIGNATED[1] displayed [1] - 42:17 Crime [1] - 76:10 David [9] - 12:24, 18:11 3:29 disseminate [2] crime [3] - 49:14, 14:3, 17:29, 37:10, effect [1] - 74:17 designed [2] - 48:8, 42:19, 44:1 50:16, 54:4 37:17, 54:17, 69:1, effectively [2] - 34:2, disseminated [1] criminal [2] - 57:25, 74:19, 74:22 35:13 despicable [1] -52.17 **DAVID**[1] - 3:30 57:27 efforts [1] - 50:24 dissemination [1] davidtaylor@garda either [6] - 15:6, criteria [7] - 21:13, detail [6] - 9:25,

E

19:6, 20:11, 29:18, 30:15, 30:26 **ELAINE** [2] - 4:3, 5:7 **Elaine** [1] - 5:5 electrical [1] - 5:27 electronic [13] -5:16, 5:23, 5:26, 5:27, 5:28, 36:8, 36:20, 45:28, 46:9, 47:12, 59:13, 61:28 electronically [2] -7:26, 12:5 electronics [2] -36:8. 36:18 eliminated [2] - 58:9, 58:20 **ELIZABETH**[1] - 2:7 email [15] - 9:28, 10:4, 16:13, 26:17, 42:4, 42:7, 52:24, 53:6, 53:14, 57:14, 73:27, 73:28, 74:3 emails [16] - 11:17, 16:11, 18:29, 26:19, 26:20, 26:24, 26:26, 27:9, 30:13, 31:6, 31:13, 52:29, 53:9, 53:10, 53:22, 53:23 embedded [1] -68:14 EMMA [1] - 2:18 employed [2] -36:11, 52:28 **employees** [1] - 6:10 employment [1] -55:16 end [2] - 16:22, 33:5 engineering [3] -5:16, 5:22, 36:8 entered [1] - 24:24 entering [2] - 23:25, 68:17 entirety [3] - 63:27, 64:25, 65:1 entries [3] - 38:25, 60:15, 67:17 envelope [1] - 19:15 **EQUALITY**[1] - 1:9 equipment [1] - 12:2 erred [1] - 24:22 essence [3] - 52:23, 56:27, 64:12 essentially 191 -36:18, 41:20, 43:8, 43:11, 44:14, 57:18, 62:20. 68:6. 69:19 establish [2] - 70:21, 70:26 ESTABLISHED[1] -

1:8

established [2] -70:13, 70:18 etcetera [1] - 44:5 **Eugene** [1] - 33:10 event [2] - 9:15, 75:1 evidence [27] - 6:27, 7:6, 9:23, 12:20, 14:21, 15:5, 16:25, 17:24, 19:5, 20:10, 21:12, 23:4, 25:22, 27:12, 28:6, 29:17, 30:25, 36:5, 49:10, 52:26, 61:16, 72:29, 73:1, 74:16, 74:18, 76:3. 76:11 **EVIDENCE** [1] - 1:9 exact [1] - 35:9 exactitude [1] -28:16 exactly [7] - 23:21, 37:5, 45:21, 49:22, 58:15, 58:25, 64:11 examination [17] -7:11, 7:12, 7:21, 7:25, 14:10, 19:27, 32:10, 32:13, 33:2, 36:19, 44:20, 45:1, 45:2, 45:22, 46:9, 76:3 examinations [4] -5:27, 35:6, 37:1, 37:4 examine [2] - 23:18, 45:28 **examined** [12] - 7:19, 7:24, 14:27, 20:7, 22:2, 25:17, 28:3, 28:11, 31:20, 41:21, 44:15, 44:18 **EXAMINED**[8] - 4:4, 4:5, 4:8, 4:9, 5:8, 32:1, 36:1, 73:8 **EXAMINER** [1] - 3:22 examining [7] - 7:18, 23:18, 29:14, 41:18, 41:19, 44:12, 46:15 example [5] - 34:18, 47:6, 47:16, 48:14, 51:2 Excel [1] - 69:10 excess [6] - 9:26, 16:12, 18:5, 20:18, 20:19, 26:20 EXCHANGE [1] -3:25 exclusively [1] - 6:15 executive [1] - 46:29

expect [1] - 28:14

expert [1] - 13:7

explain [4] - 6:7,

9:24, 23:17, 71:2

experience [1] - 5:15

explained [3] -43:20, 52:27, 74:12 explore [1] - 73:11 extensive [1] - 43:23 external [1] - 24:4 extraction [1] - 9:16

fact [5] - 24:16, 33:22, 50:19, 52:17, 56:11 factory [1] - 23:1 false [2] - 67:18, 67:19 familiar [2] - 61:15, 73:14 family [2] - 14:7, 32:24 **FANNING** [3] - 3:3, 3:4. 3:8 far [2] - 11:10, 31:17 faulty [1] - 21:28 FCPS [1] - 61:24 **FEBRUARY** [2] - 1:6, February [5] - 17:7, 17:20, 20:2, 28:22, 28:24 fell [1] - 71:28 Fennelly [2] - 8:27, FERRY [1] - 2:23 few [2] - 32:2, 65:17 fiddler [1] - 40:26 fifteen [1] - 36:16 figure [1] - 35:8 file [26] - 49:9, 49:10, 52:22, 59:14, 62:7, 62:11, 62:14, 62:16, 62:20, 62:27, 63:4, 63:6, 63:11, 63:15, 63:22, 63:26, 64:7, 64:14, 64:21, 64:25, 64:28, 65:4, 65:16, 66:7, 72:9 file-wise [1] - 62:27 files [12] - 14:3, 14:7, 14:25, 16:24, 45:29, 47:21, 62:23, 65:11, 65:14, 65:16, 67:8, final [2] - 30:17, 70:1 finally [1] - 58:12 Finan [1] - 15:19 findings [3] - 12:13, 19:3, 72:5

51:2, 51:4 frame [2] - 57:11, fingerprint-related 57:12 [1] - 51:4 FRANCIS [1] - 3:19 $\pmb{\text{first}} \ [17] - 5{:}4, \ 6{:}26,$ **FREEMAN**[1] - 3:3 36:5, 37:5, 37:8. Friday [1] - 45:14 38:12, 40:13, 44:19, **FRIDAY** [1] - 76:15 50:29, 51:14, 51:19, front [2] - 46:25, 60:5, 65:20, 70:18, 51.22 71:2, 75:16, 75:20 full [3] - 10:8, 18:26, fit [1] - 34:20 33:25 FITZGERALD[1] fullest [1] - 75:18 2:17 functionality [1] five [2] - 60:26, 60:29 60.10 fixed [6] - 55:4, furtherance [1] -61:25, 64:20, 70:14, 46:10 70:26, 71:17 future [1] - 32:24 Flynn [1] - 9:23 FÍONÁN [1] - 2:27 Flynn's [1] - 28:1 focusing [1] - 71:6 G

followed [2] - 41:18,

FOLLOWING [1] -

following [4] - 1:26,

FOLLOWS [1] - 5:1

follows [1] - 71:12

FOR [13] - 1:8, 2:6,

2:9, 2:14, 2:22, 2:27,

forensic [8] - 5:24,

Forensic [8] - 6:3,

6:9, 7:6, 7:19, 35:3,

36:11, 36:14, 36:27

forensics [1] - 36:18

forgotten [1] - 26:6

form [1] - 68:13

format [5] - 46:22,

46:23, 55:17, 56:7,

formats [1] - 64:6

former [33] - 8:14,

8:25, 12:22, 12:25,

27:29, 28:4, 29:5,

30:2, 30:4, 30:18,

32:14, 32:28, 33:2,

33:13, 37:26, 44:9,

44:25, 45:11, 50:11,

53:13, 54:15, 54:16,

61:18, 63:3, 63:15,

68:29, 74:20, 74:23,

formula [3] - 74:17,

four-digit [1] - 26:7

74:26, 74:28

four [1] - 26:7

25:14. 25:24. 25:26.

59:17

6:11, 6:13, 7:25, 7:26,

2:31, 3:2, 3:8, 3:12,

3:17, 3:22, 3:28

36:9, 37:2, 54:11

49:8, 50:22, 50:25

44:11

1:5

G22459F [1] - 73:23 galaxy [4] - 29:7, 29:9, 30:18, 30:20 Garda [50] - 7:15, 12:25, 24:7, 26:17, 28:29, 35:5, 38:2, 38:19, 40:2, 42:3, 42:5, 42:7, 44:15, 44:24, 44:28, 45:13, 45:22, 46:1, 46:9, 46:13, 46:15, 46:17, 46:19, 46:26, 46:29, 47:6, 47:9, 47:24, 48:4, 48:29, 49:18, 49:23, 52:2, 52:7, 52:28, 55:15, 55:21, 56:3. 56:28. 58:29. 59:29, 60:18, 62:20, 63:5, 69:15, 69:23, 70:3, 73:26, 73:28, 74.23 Gardaí [2] - 37:15, 75:19 gathering [1] - 50:23 GEM [1] - 55:28 **GEMS** [1] - 55:15 general [5] - 8:3, 8:5, 65:28, 66:16, 67:22 generally [3] - 38:14, 39:18, 73:27 generated [5] -43:17, 43:25, 52:12, 64.14 69.9 GEORGE'S [1] - 3:25 given [15] - 8:22, 17:26, 21:13, 22:7, 27:11, 39:18, 42:18, 43:29, 47:4, 49:29, 50:7, 52:16, 60:3,

fingerprint [5] -

47:17, 47:22, 48:13,

36:29 53:17 71:1, 71:8 21:8, 22:13, 22:16, 31:10 glossary [1] - 11:23 30:8, 33:21, 34:3, IMSI [1] - 12:8 inspector [2] - 71:18, iPads [1] - 25:4 GORDON [2] - 2:10, 34:5, 34:8, 34:9, IN [1] - 1:17 71:22 iPhone [2] - 27:23, 34.16 include [4] - 14:7, inspirational [1] -73:2 28:2 granted [1] - 50:9 hit [1] - 43:24 21:3, 40:10, 43:9 32.23 IRELAND[1] - 3:15 hits [19] - 42:11, great [2] - 35:17, included [2] - 20:22, installation [1] - 45:3 Ireland [11] - 5:25, 42:16, 43:17, 43:23, 6:3, 6:9, 6:19, 6:20, 75.23 41.28 installed [1] - 45:12 43:24, 43:25, 43:28, GRIFFIN [1] - 2:18 includes [1] - 29:28 instance [2] - 47:16, 6:24, 7:7, 35:3, 36:12, 52:13, 53:5, 53:14, **GRIPS** [1] - 56:3 including [5] - 5:28, 48:12 36:15, 36:28 53:22, 59:7, 60:13, 9:27, 10:5, 18:8, INSTRUCTED [7] -Ireland's [1] - 7:20 group [2] - 64:25, 60:29, 67:16, 69:11, IRISH [3] - 3:22, 23:19 2:11, 2:17, 2:23, 2:28, 65:6 **GROUP** [1] - 3:17 72:13, 72:23, 74:9 incoming [1] - 10:11 2:32, 3:4, 3:14 3:28, 3:29 **hmm** [2] - 31:5, instructed [4] island [1] - 6:19 guards [3] - 37:21, incorrect [2] - 62:19, 62:25 48:9, 71:4 12:22, 25:23, 68:10, issue [4] - 14:22, hold [4] - 5:16, 5:22, **GWEN**[1] - 1:30 independent [3] -74:20 14:24, 66:24, 73:10 51:15 6:11, 36:27, 36:29 instruction [13] issued [7] - 8:25, Gwen [1] - 1:25 honours [2] - 5:16, 12:26, 25:27, 39:18, INDEPENDENT [1] -9:24, 13:19, 21:26, 5:22 39:22, 41:6, 41:8, 21:28, 27:29, 42:8 Н hope [1] - 33:5 42:17, 42:18, 43:29, INDEX [1] - 4:1 issues [2] - 44:21, Hotel [1] - 66:2 52:16, 53:29, 60:16, 66.16 indicate [2] - 25:29, HALIDAY[1] - 2:11 hours [4] - 35:2, 74:24 **IT** [4] - 42:5, 44:15, 28.18 **HALL** [2] - 3:4, 3:9 35:7, 35:9, 68:25 INSTRUMENT[1] -45:13, 46:29 indicated [2] - 28:9, **HAMILTON**[1] - 3:13 item [15] - 6:26, 6:27, **HOUSE** [4] - 2:11, 1:8 45.4 HANAHOE[1] - 2:24 2:19, 3:19, 3:31 integrated [1] - 56:4 indicating [1] - 26:6 7:22, 7:24, 12:20, handed [2] - 21:27, housekeeping [1] intend [1] - 76:11 12:28, 14:6, 15:5, individual [6] -39:8 intended [1] - 10:13 21:16, 25:14, 32:15, 52:13, 71:13, 71:14, handled [1] - 23:21 Howard [4] - 21:29, 71:20, 71:21, 71:22 intensive [1] - 76:2 33:6, 59:10, 61:3, handset [10] - 7:13, 22:11, 22:20, 23:7 individually [3] interconnected [1] -74:18 7:27, 9:26, 10:2, 12:4, 53:7, 53:15, 53:27 49:2 items [3] - 31:19, 14:2, 14:16, 14:27, 36:21, 67:3 I interest [7] - 55:26, inform [2] - 53:29, 19:29, 34:11 itself [2] - 37:19, 56:19, 57:11, 58:2, 60:16 hard [4] - 44:15, 60:15, 63:23, 69:3 74:11 information [50] -ICT [2] - 49:12, 56:25 44:17, 51:23, 63:9 internal [4] - 33:29, 5:28, 7:13, 7:27, 8:6, identical [1] - 15:1 hardware [1] - 7:26 J 8:7, 8:15, 12:27, 65:24, 73:22, 74:15 identification [1] -HARRINGTON[1] -13:18, 14:1, 14:24, Internal [1] - 55:19 47:18 2:32 18:6, 20:4, 22:23, international [1] identified [3] - 8:13, January [5] - 12:29, $\textbf{HATCH}\, [4] - 3 ; 4, \, 3 ; 5,$ 22:26, 29:4, 33:24, 10.5 29.9 26:25, 45:23, 45:26, 3:9, 3:9 33:26, 34:1, 34:20, Internet [1] - 74:6 identifies [1] - 47:25 61:24 **HAVING** [2] - 5:7, 42:17, 42:29, 43:3, interpreted [1] -**JERMYN** [1] - 3:24 identify [5] - 10:27, 35:29 43:10, 44:2, 46:27. 39:23 13:15, 40:4, 48:25, **job** [4] - 35:17, Hayes [1] - 15:25 47:24, 48:8, 48:28, **INTO** [1] - 1:3 71.9 36:17, 70:18, 75:24 **HAYES**[1] - 3:30 49:7, 49:8, 49:17, introduced [1] -**JOHN** [3] - 2:17, identity [2] - 10:9, Headquarters [11] -49:29, 50:7, 50:23, 55.27 2:23. 3:3 35:5, 42:5, 44:15, 51:3, 51:4, 51:15, investigate [1] -IFSC [1] - 3:26 John [9] - 15:19, 45:23, 46:14, 46:18, 52:2, 55:18, 58:6, 70:26 15:20, 18:12, 20:24, image [21] - 14:3, 49:23, 59:1, 59:29, 60:17, 62:16, 63:23, investigating [1] -14:6, 14:25, 16:23, 30:6, 30:7 69:23, 76:10 69:19, 75:1, 75:3, 37:15 37:13, 37:17, 37:18, journalists [2] heard [4] - 44:23, 75.5 investigation [11] -37:21, 39:16, 41:20, 15:26, 29:28 49:9, 52:26, 61:15 $\textbf{informed} \ [2] - 54:22,$ 7:14, 38:6, 49:14, 42:26, 42:28, 43:5, JUDGE [2] - 1:12, hearing [1] - 27:13 54:4, 54:11, 57:25, 43:8, 43:15, 43:21, **HEARING** [1] - 5:1 input [1] - 48:12 70:13, 71:18, 71:21, 44:19, 73:12, 73:20, **July** [9] - 7:15, 22:12, held [2] - 45:5, 45:29 inquiries [8] - 54:21, 71:23 74:7. 74:9 22:14, 29:24, 39:27, HELD_[1] - 1:17 58:7, 58:20, 69:2, investigations [5] images [1] - 11:20 41:26, 41:27, 73:17, help [3] - 6:1, 32:25, 69:13, 70:13, 70:23, 37:16, 71:6, 71:9, IMEI [9] - 9:18, 9:22, 73:24 75:20 71:3 71:13, 71:14 11:29, 13:15, 17:3, June [5] - 22:12, higher [1] - 5:24 inquiring [1] - 8:23 involves [1] - 7:21 19:19, 21:22, 21:25, 25:9, 29:11, 54:29, Hillgrove [1] - 66:1 **INQUIRY** [2] - 1:3, iPad [11] - 23:13, 27:26 66:22 hilliard [1] - 15:21 23:14, 23:18, 23:19, impacted [1] - 53:8 Juno [3] - 15:21, history [16] - 15:29, inside [1] - 12:5 23:22, 25:8, 25:17, 18:13, 20:25 impartial [2] - 6:13, 18:20, 20:29, 21:2, insofar [2] - 53:7, 26:15, 26:21, 27:17,

JUNO [1] - 3:23 Justice [3] - 6:10, 27:3, 31:8 **JUSTICE** [3] - 1:8, 1:12, 2:2

K

KATHLEEN[1] - 2:7 KAVANAGH[1] - 2:4 **KEELEY** [1] - 3:14 keep [2] - 48:9, 59:3 **KELLY** [3] - 3:4, 3:8, 3:8 **KENNEDY** [1] - 2:31 Kenny [1] - 61:18 **KEVIN'S** [2] - 3:5, 3:10 **key** [3] - 55:20, 57:22, 57:23 key-word [2] - 57:22, 57:23 keywords [9] - 40:5, 41:10, 42:13, 43:18, 53:2, 53:25, 57:16, 63:19, 68:18 kiddie [1] - 40:26 **KIERAN**[1] - 3:8 kind [1] - 39:26 Kingdom [1] - 6:20 Kirwan [2] - 50:11,

L

label [1] - 12:4 laboratory [1] -23:24 **LALLY**[1] - 3:30 **Lally** [1] - 15:17 laptop [26] - 37:9, 37:14, 37:17, 37:19, 37:20, 37:26, 39:14, 39:16, 42:24, 42:26, 42:28, 42:29, 43:13, 43:15, 43:21, 44:9, 45:3, 45:6, 45:11, 45:13, 73:12, 73:18, 73:26, 74:2, 74:11 laptops [3] - 42:8, 73:28, 74:1 large [1] - 15:25 last [5] - 34:9, 36:10, 36:26, 47:28, 65:17 latitude [1] - 41:24 **LAVERY** [1] - 3:31 **LAW**[1] - 2:28

law [1] - 28:29

LEADER [13] - 2:7, 4:8, 35:26, 36:1, 36:2, 36:26, 45:21, 50:18, 50:20, 51:28, 72:25, 73:22, 75:11 leave [1] - 54:2

leaving [1] - 74:26 left [3] - 23:24, 24:23, 55:11 Leo [1] - 11:3

less [1] - 34:10 lesser [2] - 43:20 likely [4] - 24:13, 40:6, 51:16, 59:16

limit [1] - 72:16 **LIMITED** [3] - 3:13, 3:17. 3:18

line [4] - 7:19, 45:5, 49:12, 70:27

lines [1] - 68:8 links [1] - 71:14 list [6] - 10:29, 26:16, 40:8, 47:8, 65:6, 69:9 listed [1] - 55:15 lists [4] - 48:4, 48:29,

60:4, 67:3 **LITTLE** [1] - 2:19 live [4] - 10:24, 44:18, 52:10, 57:10 local [1] - 58:28 locate [1] - 69:6

located [2] - 21:6, 57:8

locked [1] - 23:23 locker [1] - 44:16 log [6] - 15:29, 20:29, 21:2, 30:8, 49:14. 58:13

logging [1] - 58:15 logical [1] - 43:2 look [6] - 41:6, 52:23, 54:28, 57:19, 60:7, 63:8

looked [19] - 37:5, 37:8, 37:23, 37:26, 38:2, 38:17, 38:21, 39:4, 49:3, 51:19, 54:14, 55:24, 59:13, 59:22, 63:3, 63:19, 64:24, 65:27, 66:28 looking [6] - 17:22, 38:25, 53:18, 57:18,

LOWER [2] - 3:5, 3:9 Lumia [6] - 13:12, 13:19, 17:1, 17:5, 19:22, 21:18

64.1 69.6

M M.E [1] - 2:24 **MADE** [2] - 1:3, 1:8 mail [3] - 52:23, 72:13, 72:17 main [1] - 48:29 MALONE [1] - 1:30 Malone [1] - 1:25 man [1] - 35:6 managed [1] - 63:1 management [2] -55:16, 55:18 managing [1] - 57:3 manner [1] - 44:18 manual [6] - 7:21, 51:20, 52:10, 54:9, 60:5. 62:18 manufacturer's [1] -March [2] - 9:11, 70:8 **MARK**[2] - 4:7, 35:29 Mark [3] - 7:7, 15:21, 35:26 marked [1] - 43:11 **MARRINAN**[1] - 2:6 Martin [7] - 8:14, 12:22, 25:24, 32:14, 45:13, 73:10, 74:20 master's [2] - 36:7, 36.8 material [18] - 14:5, 39:20, 39:23, 39:27, 40:4, 40:7, 41:6, 41:9, 42:19, 43:21, 44:27, 46:1, 46:3, 48:13,

50:1, 52:17, 54:5, 64:10 materials [23] -

39:17, 41:14, 42:27, 43:17, 44:10, 45:9, 45:25, 48:3, 49:6, 54:26, 55:17, 56:6, 56:27, 58:14, 58:24, 59:24, 62:18, 70:7, 70:12, 72:5

38:15, 39:12, 39:13,

matter [8] - 13:25, 17:6, 19:1, 20:14, 26:5, 54:28, 57:21,

MATTERS[1] - 1:5 matters [9] - 13:7, 23:6. 23:20. 27:18. 49:13, 52:15, 57:28, 66:11.66:22 Maurice [12] - 12:23, 25:25, 38:25, 38:28, 39:5, 40:10, 59:8, 59:10, 66:21, 67:17, 67:25, 74:21 MAY [3] - 1:18, 5:1,

76:15

Mcalese [2] -3:18, 3:18 McCabe [33] - 2:9,

12:23, 25:25, 38:26, 38:29, 39:4, 39:5, 39:24, 40:10, 41:9, 42:20, 44:2, 45:29, 46:4, 48:13, 52:18, 54:6, 59:8, 59:11, 65:11, 65:29, 66:21,

66:23, 67:1, 67:4, 67:17, 67:25, 68:2, 69:7, 69:16, 74:21, 75:2

McCabe/Sergeant

[1] - 59:11 McCaffrey [1] -15:23

McCann [8] - 3:13, 11:4, 15:18, 18:11, 20:22, 20:24, 30:5, 30:7

McConnell [12] -3:23, 4:7, 7:8, 35:21, 35:26, 35:29, 36:2, 36:5, 36:23, 51:29, 72:26, 72:28

McDOWELL [1] - 2:9 McEnroe [4] - 3:23, 15:21, 18:13, 20:25 McGARRY [2] - 2:10,

31:24 McGinn [2] - 11:4, 66:1

MCGUINNESS [4] -2:6, 2:16, 4:4, 4:9 McGuinness [38] -5:4, 5:8, 5:9, 8:20, 8:24, 9:3, 9:4, 9:8, 9:10, 17:15, 17:17, 17:28, 22:5, 22:8, 22:16, 26:4, 26:8, 26:11, 26:14, 27:6, 27:14, 27:28, 28:12, 28:19, 29:2, 29:25, 30:4, 31:22, 34:27, 34:29, 73:5, 73:8, 73:9, 73:25, 75:7, 75:29. 76:8

McMahon [1] - 15:16 mean [1] - 67:26 means [1] - 56:14 meant [1] - 21:16 **MEDIA** [2] - 3:2, 3:15

media [5] - 12:23, 15:27, 25:24, 39:23, 74:21 medical [3] - 54:25, 54:27 meeting [2] - 35:5, 65:29 **MEMBER** [2] - 1:12, member [2] - 5:25, members [7] - 7:14, 27:10, 47:9, 49:18, 52:7, 55:21, 56:28 members' [1] - 56:8

memory [15] - 5:29. 7:20, 10:2, 10:4, 10:21, 14:1, 14:14, 14:15, 18:1, 20:4, 22:23, 26:21, 67:9, 69:21, 72:10 MERCHANTS[1] -

3:20

10:17. 18:20. 21:2.

21:8, 22:13, 33:11 messages [12] -10:2, 10:3, 10:4, 10:7, 10:15, 11:13, 16:4, 16:13, 21:3, 30:10,

message [7] - 10:12,

31:1, 72:17 meter [2] - 52:23, 72:13

methodology [4] -7:18, 23:17, 29:14, metrics [1] - 55:20

Michael [3] - 15:22, 18:13. 20:25 MICHAEL [4] - 2:9, 2:22, 3:8, 3:14

Mick [2] - 15:22, 15:23 microphone [2] -

5:19, 6:1 microsystemation

[1] - 7:29 might [5] - 6:1, 10:27, 14:11, 72:26, 72.27

migration [1] - 50:1 mind [2] - 5:18, 8:18 Minister [1] - 27:9 MINISTER [1] - 1:8 minute [3] - 52:22, 54:3. 67:21

mirror [1] - 39:16 mixture [2] - 10:24, 67:3

mobile [9] - 5:29,

74:23 7:20, 7:23, 9:26, 14:2, Murray [2] - 15:18, 53:7, 53:27, 55:7, once [1] - 34:16 19:14, 19:29, 23:21, 18:11 59:14, 67:23, 67:25, one [32] - 9:21, 11:1, MÍCHEÁL [1] - 2:15 36:21 68:1 0 14:17, 24:11, 27:28, model [3] - 9:18, Northern [11] - 5:24, 28:14, 29:9, 29:21, 33:2, 33:16, 47:28, 25:7, 34:21 6:3, 6:9, 6:19, 6:24, Ν O'DONNELL [1] -7:7, 7:20, 35:3, 36:12, modify [1] - 27:1 50:29, 51:7, 51:25, 3.14 module [2] - 26:28, 36:15, 36:28 52:13, 53:11, 54:7, O'HIGGINS [2] name [6] - 32:6, 27:8 **note** [6] - 10:14, 59:10, 60:27, 61:3, 40:11, 40:13, 71:2, 2:15. 2:22 14:3, 32:16, 33:18, 64:12, 65:20, 66:14, moment [1] - 24:17 O'Higgins [2] -71:3, 71:8 35:16, 75:22 70:1, 71:6, 71:7, Monaghan [1] named [2] - 1:27, 26:27, 27:7 66:17 noted [4] - 12:27, 71:22, 73:5, 73:10, 27.2 O'Keeffe [2] - 15:17, Monday [2] - 76:7, 32:27, 55:7, 75:14 73:14, 75:15 narrowed [1] - 51:1 18.9 76:12 notes [5] - 1:27, 7:2, ones [3] - 24:12, narrowing [1] -**O'KEEFFE** [1] - 3:24 24:18, 42:22, 44:5 24:13, 26:8 months [3] - 9:6, 51:14 O'REILLY [1] - 2:27 nothing [12] - 27:16, online [1] - 56:25 28:27, 35:13 national [1] - 57:24 O'Reilly [2] - 15:16, 28:13, 28:28, 28:29, onwards [10] - 16:5, Mooney [3] - 15:19, nature [3] - 14:7, 15:20 30:14, 31:16, 34:4, 16:12, 18:8, 20:20, 18:12, 30:7 O'Sullivan [16] -40:7, 44:20 34:29, 55:27, 56:22, 21:9, 26:22, 29:26, morning [1] - 5:5 11:3, 11:6, 12:26, navigating[1] -30:13, 31:2, 31:6 57:7. 63:16 MORRISSEY [1] -62:10 25:9, 25:11, 26:6, notice [3] - 61:25, open [5] - 23:28, 2:17 NBCI [1] - 57:24 27:29, 30:2, 30:4, 64:20, 71:17 24:13, 24:20, 24:21, most [2] - 51:25, necessarily [1] -33:3. 51:11. 54:17. 59:16 notification [4] -27:12 67:23, 67:27, 73:10, 33:17 opened [2] - 24:22, move [1] - 36:23 61:12, 64:4, 64:12, 74:24 necessary [2] -64:13 53:11 movement [1] -O'Sullivan's [4] -44:21, 44:22 November [3] operating [1] - 45:4 14:17 33:14, 53:13, 63:4, necessity [1] - 26:4 25:15, 38:21, 70:19 **Operation** [1] - 72:19 MR [67] - 1:12, 2:2, need [2] - 42:23, 63.11 number [101] - 9:19, operation [12] - 38:6, 2:4, 2:6, 2:6, 2:9, O'Toole [3] - 15:22, 58:5 9:21, 10:15, 10:20, 38:7, 70:2, 70:3, 2:10, 2:10, 2:14, 2:15, 18:13, 20:25 needed [1] - 44:7 10:27, 11:1, 11:2, 70:22, 70:25, 71:5, 2:15, 2:16, 2:16, 2:17, O'TOOLE [1] - 3:8 negative [9] - 39:24, 11:3, 11:4, 11:13, 71:8, 71:20, 71:24, 2:22, 2:23, 2:23, 2:27, objective [1] - 70:25 40:28, 41:9, 42:19, 11:20, 11:29, 12:2, 71:28 2:31, 3:3, 3:3, 3:8, 44:1, 46:3, 48:12, obtained [1] - 12:27 12:3, 12:6, 12:7, 3:14, 3:18, 3:24, 3:30, operational [3] obvious [1] - 23:4 54:5, 60:17 12:16, 13:16, 14:13, 22:10, 71:1, 71:3 4:4, 4:7, 4:9, 5:4, 5:8, obviously 131 negatively [3] -15:15, 15:16, 15:17, 5:9, 8:24, 9:4, 9:8, opinion [2] - 13:7, 52:18, 54:1, 60:17 21:11, 46:22, 75:12 15:18, 15:19, 15:20, 9:10, 17:15, 17:17, never [1] - 33:26 15:21, 15:22, 15:23. occasions [1] - 68:1 opposed [1] - 30:3 17:28, 22:5, 22:8, occurred [1] - 50:4 new [1] - 45:3 16:5, 16:8, 16:11, 22:16, 26:8, 26:11, option [1] - 25:3 October [7] - 30:24, NEWS [2] - 3:2, 3:17 16:23, 18:8, 18:11, 26:14, 27:6, 27:14, order [5] - 8:28, 40:4, 41:26, 41:28, 55:27, newspaper [1] -18:12, 18:13, 18:14, 27:28, 28:19, 29:2, 50:26, 68:21, 69:6 73:17, 73:24, 75:14 11:22 18:23, 19:19, 20:19, 29:25, 30:4, 31:22, ordinary [2] - 22:7, **OF** [4] - 1:3, 1:9, NEWSPAPERS [3] -20:22, 20:24, 20:25, 31:24, 34:26, 34:27, 74:3 1:12, 2:3 3:12, 3:17, 3:17 20:26, 21:3, 21:17, 34:29, 35:29, 73:2, organisation [1] next [14] - 13:10, 21:22, 21:25, 25:7, offences [1] - 70:15 73:4, 73:5, 73:8, 73:9, 62:24 offer [1] - 37:1 21:17, 35:26, 39:13, 26:19, 26:23, 27:2, 73:25, 75:7, 75:29, organisations [1] offered [1] - 29:10 27:9. 27:26. 29:28. 76.8 44:8. 46:27. 54:24. 15:27 55:15, 56:2, 56:25, 30:5, 30:6, 30:7, 30:9, Office [1] - 38:19 **MS** [25] - 2:7, 2:7, original [1] - 18:26 32:16, 33:6, 33:8, 57:23, 59:21, 66:4, **OFFICE** [1] - 2:18 2:17. 2:18. 2:22. 4:3. **OSMOND** [1] - 2:19 33:9, 34:17, 35:9, 4:5, 4:8, 5:7, 32:1, 76:11 office [7] - 59:4, OTHER [1] - 1:4 37:4, 43:20, 47:25, nine [1] - 31:19 61:18, 61:23, 64:25, 32:2, 32:6, 34:23, otherwise [2] -48:2, 57:12, 60:22, 35:26, 36:1, 36:2, Noel [2] - 11:1, 11:2 64:29, 65:3, 65:5 24:21, 24:22 61:8, 65:22, 66:5, **NOEL** [1] - 2:16 Officer [1] - 40:2 36:26, 45:21, 50:18, outcoming [1] -**Nokia** [9] - 7:5, officer [1] - 5:24 66:8. 66:9. 66:10. 50:20, 51:28, 72:25, 10:12 66:12, 66:20, 68:24, 13:12, 13:19, 17:1, 73:3, 73:22, 75:11 offices [1] - 60:26 outline [6] - 5:14, 70:18, 71:13, 71:27, MSIDN [1] - 12:8 17:5, 19:14, 19:22, official [2] - 45:6, 7:10, 7:17, 36:6, 72:9 MUIRCHEARTAIGH 21:18, 22:20 52:14 41:18, 61:6 non [2] - 45:7, 45:16 numbers [7] - 9:22, [3] - 2:27, 34:26, 73:4 officials [1] - 61:19 outlined [2] - 53:19, 12:8, 16:8, 31:4, 36:4, Muircheartaigh [1] non-recoverable [2] often [1] - 59:19 62:12 34:25 - 45:7. 45:16 Oisin [1] - 40:15 outside [2] - 63:23, Nóirín [5] - 12:25, MULLAN [1] - 2:7 none [11] - 27:14, **ON**[4] - 1:6, 1:10, 72.6 25:10, 67:22, 73:10, MURPHY [1] - 2:14 29:2, 42:16, 53:6, 1:18, 5:1 outstanding [1] -

35:19 overall [2] - 71:10, 71:15 **overlap** [1] - 57:9 overnight[1] - 68:24 own [4] - 7:2, 50:19, 63.9

Ρ

PAGE[1] - 4:2 page [103] - 5:13, 6:29, 9:17, 10:14, 10:26, 11:12, 11:13, 11:16, 11:28, 12:12, 12:15, 13:12, 13:15, 14:26, 15:9, 15:14, 15:23, 15:29, 16:4, 16:11, 16:22, 16:29, 17:3, 18:7, 18:21, 19:10, 19:19, 19:28, 20:14, 20:20, 21:9, 21:16, 21:22, 23:12, 25:6, 26:15, 26:22, 26:23, 27:26, 29:13, 29:26, 30:9, 30:13, 30:29, 31:1, 31:6, 32:11, 32:15, 33:4, 33:5, 36:3, 38:14, 39:12, 39:15, 41:14, 41:29, 42:10, 42:27, 43:16, 44:10, 45:8, 45:24, 46:25, 46:28, 47:7, 47:28, 48:3, 48:23, 49:5, 49:8, 50:27, 54:8, 54:26, 56:26, 58:14, 58:24, 59:23, 60:7, 60:22, 60:23, 62:17, 63:3, 63:8, 63:9, 63:13, 65:23, 65:24, 65:26, 67:15, 67:16, 70:7, 70:11, 70:12, 72:4, 73:22, 74:15, 74:16 pages [3] - 11:18, 18:17, 48:3 pagination [3] -65:24, 73:22, 74:16 pair [1] - 29:9 paper [2] - 45:29, 59:16 papers [3] - 29:8, 32:12, 33:4 pardon [6] - 12:15, 41:27, 51:23, 60:22, 66:4. 67:18 PARLIAMENT[1] part [5] - 6:9, 12:18, 43:4, 64:28, 65:4

particular [13] - 10:9, 23:18, 33:20, 34:13, 38:10, 66:23, 68:20, 70:2, 71:9, 71:26, 73:14, 73:26 particularly [2] -50:26, 66:24 parties [7] - 6:16, 16:9, 18:7, 51:10, 54:22, 55:7, 56:18 party [1] - 10:12 passcode [4] -23:23, 23:25, 24:19, 24:24 passcodes 131 -24:16, 24:20, 24:24 PASSED[1] - 1:5 password [1] - 26:7 passwords [3] -24:1, 24:6, 24:9 Pat [1] - 52:27 PATRICIA[1] - 2:32 PATRICK[1] - 2:6 Paul [8] - 11:4, 15:24, 18:14, 20:26, 30.7 PAUL [2] - 2:10, 3:3 **PDF** [2] - 64:7, 64:11 penalties [2] - 70:15, 70.27 penalty [5] - 61:25, 64:20, 71:17, 71:19, 71:29 people [6] - 12:9, 42:23, 65:6, 69:6, 69:14, 71:28 perform [1] - 13:24 performed [1] -61:22 perhaps [6] - 5:18, 11:2, 11:23, 17:22, 51:2. 71:12 period [21] - 7:15, 12:28, 13:1, 16:2, 22:9, 22:13, 22:17, 25:29, 26:1, 30:22,

40:1, 41:25, 42:2, 42:7, 52:29, 55:1, 55:8, 57:9, 67:28, 72:6. 73:23 permissions [1] -57:21 person [2] - 36:27, 40:20

56.8 74.3 personnel [1] - 56:4 persons [2] - 27:2, 58:2

personal [3] - 31:4,

pertained [3] - 20:5,

22:24, 29:4 pertaining [1] -67:17 pertains [1] - 14:2 perusing [1] - 50:22 **PETER** [3] - 1:12, 2:2, 2:4 Peter [1] - 76:9 phased [3] - 50:5,

50:6. 60:3 PHELAN [1] - 3:30 Philip [1] - 15:24 phone [69] - 7:5, 7:11, 7:18, 7:19, 7:20,

7:23, 8:9, 8:13, 8:21, 8:24, 9:12, 9:16, 9:19, 9:21, 9:25, 9:26, 9:29, 10:5, 10:21, 12:8, 13:11, 13:25, 14:2,

14:6. 14:11. 14:14. 14:22, 14:23, 14:25, 15:11, 16:8, 17:1, 17:29, 18:1, 18:3,

19:5, 21:6, 21:25, 22:2, 22:3, 22:10, 22:27, 23:5, 23:21, 27:21, 29:14, 30:17, 30:22, 30:26, 31:4,

31:13, 31:14, 31:16, 32:14, 32:28, 33:14, 33:19, 33:22, 33:25, 33:26, 34:1, 34:4, 34:8, 34:13, 34:17,

34:20, 34:21, 75:14 phones [4] - 5:29, 27:28, 33:2, 36:21

photograph [1] -64:13

photographs [3] -14:7, 14:11, 14:15 photos [1] - 14:18 **phrase** [1] - 40:20

place [1] - 55:25 placed [3] - 32:12, 33:5, 67:8

plate [1] - 47:25 platform [1] - 62:20 pleasant [1] - 35:18 plug [1] - 36:22

point [3] - 10:28, 29:29, 72:27

points [3] - 47:2, 71:19, 71:29 policing [1] - 66:17

policy [1] - 70:27 portal [7] - 47:23, 50:29, 51:19, 52:1

position [2] - 28:18,

positives [2] - 67:18,

67:19

10:8, 24:1, 24:12, 24:24, 29:22, 75:19

potential [2] - 26:10,

18:7, 26:24, 54:5

9:13

predated [2] - 14:11,

present [4] - 7:13, 18:24, 30:11, 69:13

press [3] - 38:13, 53:29, 60:17

Press [2] - 38:18,

pretty [1] - 62:27 previous [5] - 14:6,

75:18 previously [4] -37:10, 43:11, 45:5,

64.2 previously-held [1] -

private [1] - 14:7 privileged [2] -

procedure [6] - 7:21, 41:18, 44:11, 68:24, 70:28

procedures [1] -7:17

processing [1] - 55:5 produced [1] - 42:13 proffered [2] - 26:9,

68:10, 68:13, 68:15, 68:20

33.12

possession [4] -8:14, 8:26, 23:2, 37:10 possible [7] - 8:8, **possibles** [1] - 26:10 post [3] - 45:15, 49:14. 58:13 60:15 potentially [4] - 11:9,

precise [2] - 9:4, predate [1] - 14:3

14:24 predating [1] - 14:22 prepared [4] - 36:3,

37:15, 37:21, 66:29

presented [1] - 19:17

14:16, 14:22, 22:27,

50:13, 50:14

30:18 programme [5] -

progress [1] - 16:16 prompted [1] - 62:6 prosecution [1] -

PROTECTED [2] -1:3. 1:4 protocol [3] - 44:24, 44:28, 45:13 proud [1] - 32:22 **prove** [1] - 10:8

provide [3] - 6:16, 12:6.60:9 provided [15] - 6:28, 8:9, 8:16, 11:23, 12:16, 17:7, 21:20, 22:1, 24:2, 24:6, 26:25, 29:11, 48:22,

69:19, 72:12 provider [2] - 6:12, 12.7

provides [2] - 46:28,

providing [1] - 13:7 provision [2] - 6:12,

publicity [1] - 40:28 Pulse [13] - 47:1, 48:23, 48:27, 49:1, 54:2, 57:14, 67:12, 67:23, 67:27, 68:21, 69:2, 69:6, 72:19

Purcell [1] - 11:5 purpose [4] - 7:10, 7:12, 20:7, 55:20

purposes [2] - 37:3, 39:10

pursuant [1] - 8:28 put [4] - 34:1, 41:8, 46:25, 68:20

Q

qualifications [2] -5:15, 36:6 quashing [1] - 71:19 QUAY [2] - 2:12, 3:20 queries [1] - 38:14 questions [12] -12:11, 31:23, 31:24, 32:2, 34:26, 34:27, 71:27, 72:25, 73:2. 73:3, 73:4, 75:10 quicker [1] - 76:2 quickly [1] - 66:28 quite [6] - 25:4, 43:23, 68:11, 68:17, 68:23, 68:28

R

ran [1] - 69:5 range [4] - 6:13, 37:1, 37:2, 38:2 rat [1] - 40:15 rate [1] - 75:21 rather [3] - 44:18,

_		-	<u></u>	_
57:22, 64:9	56:7, 57:26	74:26	request [6] - 16:9,	Sarah [1] - 15:25
re [1] - 45:12	reduced [1] - 43:8	relevance [11] -	38:5, 38:22, 46:26,	sat [1] - 9:5
re-installed [1] -	refer [5] - 7:1, 10:20,	11:20, 13:1, 19:1,	56:28, 69:5	satisfied [3] - 48:18,
45:12	36:4, 37:14, 51:20	23:6, 25:29, 31:16,	requested [1] - 48:21	56:2, 56:21
reached [1] - 15:4	reference [15] -	55:28, 56:22, 60:26,	reset [1] - 23:1	SC [9] - 2:6, 2:6, 2:9,
reaches [1] - 34:17	10:16, 14:29, 25:19,	67:23, 69:11	resignation [1] -	2:10, 2:14, 2:15, 2:15,
read [3] - 8:19,	25:21, 27:19, 45:28,	relevant [23] - 10:28,	45:20	2:22, 3:3
51:28, 66:14	46:2, 46:10, 51:16,	11:9, 13:10, 14:28,	RESOLUTIONS [1] -	scare [1] - 47:28
readily [1] - 49:17	53:8, 61:7, 61:8,	16:15, 18:7, 25:18,	1:5	scheduled [2] - 76:1,
reading [2] - 51:24,	62:12, 64:22, 74:29	26:24, 27:17, 27:18,	respect [4] - 9:22,	76:4
54:10	referenced [1] -	28:15, 28:21, 38:25,	50:1, 60:21	science [1] - 5:24
reads [3] - 32:17,	66:24	41:14, 46:2, 51:10,	responses [1] - 58:8	Science [3] - 6:9,
33:7, 33:10	referral [1] - 61:12	51:16, 55:8, 67:28,	responsibility [1] -	7:6, 7:20
really [1] - 34:20	referred [4] - 37:9,	72:23, 73:16, 73:17,	6:12	scientific [1] - 5:24
reason [3] - 33:23,	38:7, 54:9, 63:28	75:3	responsible [1] -	screen [4] - 32:12,
74:12, 74:27	refers [1] - 39:29	remained [1] - 8:26	38:9	33:5, 46:25, 51:22
reasons [1] - 25:5	refine [1] - 72:16	remaining [1] - 24:1	result [3] - 8:7,	scripts [2] - 68:7,
receipt [1] - 47:21	reflect [1] - 52:18	remains [1] - 21:11	60:27, 61:3	68:9
received [16] - 7:6,	regard [3] - 15:2,	removed [1] - 44:16	results [7] - 38:28,	SEAN [1] - 2:11
7:7, 10:13, 13:22,	15:7, 19:4	repaired [1] - 21:28	39:4, 60:27, 62:6,	SEANAD [1] - 1:6
16:2, 17:8, 18:17,	regional [1] - 56:3	replacement [1] -	63:28, 68:7, 72:3	search [53] - 12:16,
23:15, 23:23, 23:28,	register [9] - 49:12,	60:8	RESUMED [1] - 5:1	15:1, 19:4, 20:8,
27:23, 46:18, 55:20,	49:21, 49:22, 52:21,	replicated [1] - 31:10	retained [1] - 34:11	21:13, 23:6, 25:21,
61:23, 75:18, 75:20	58:23, 58:26, 59:25,	report [79] - 5:12,	retains [1] - 34:8	27:1, 38:24, 38:28,
recently [2] - 46:21,	60:8, 72:6	6:29, 9:17, 10:26,	retired [2] - 9:11,	39:20, 39:26, 40:8,
51:25	REGISTRAR [1] - 2:4	11:12, 11:17, 11:18,	44:26	40:9, 42:11, 42:13,
recipient [2] - 10:10,	registrations [1] -	11:28, 12:12, 15:9,	retrieve [4] - 5:28,	42:16, 42:24, 43:17,
67:6	47:26	15:10, 15:15, 15:23,	7:12, 8:5, 10:8	43:24, 51:14, 53:5,
RECORD [9] - 49:26,	regular [1] - 24:29	15:29, 16:1, 16:4,	review [1] - 53:15	53:14, 53:22, 54:20,
59:22, 60:7, 61:22,	relate [4] - 31:8,	16:11, 16:12, 16:16,	reviewed [7] - 42:16,	56:14, 57:23, 58:1,
62:6, 62:13, 63:28,	46:2, 66:16, 66:22	17:3, 17:22, 17:23,	43:25, 52:13, 53:6,	59:7, 60:12, 60:26,
64:2, 72:22	related [7] - 23:5,	18:8, 18:17, 18:20,	53:27, 60:29, 63:16	60:27, 60:29, 61:21,
record [9] - 17:28,	27:14, 51:4, 59:10,	18:21, 18:27, 18:29,	Reynolds [4] - 11:5,	62:4, 62:7, 62:10,
49:12, 50:2, 54:2,	66:11, 67:25, 71:29	19:27, 20:14, 20:17,	15:24, 18:14, 20:26	62:13, 63:1, 63:21,
58:15, 61:3, 61:7,	relates [5] - 6:27,	20:20, 26:14, 26:23, 26:25, 28:1, 29:12,	ripe [1] - 44:16	63:28, 67:16, 68:11,
64:22, 72:19	13:12, 16:17, 64:29,	29:25, 29:26, 30:9,	risk [1] - 49:20	68:14, 68:21, 68:26,
recorded [5] - 13:8,	65:27	30:19, 30:22, 30:29,	RONAN [2] - 2:31,	68:27, 69:5, 69:10, 70:2, 72:13, 72:23,
23:27, 25:10, 35:11,	relating [7] - 16:25,	31:2, 32:15, 38:15,	3:24	74:7
69:2	32:13, 38:28, 45:29,	39:15, 41:14, 41:29,	ROSSA[1] - 3:3	searched [15] - 39:3,
recording [1] - 44:19	65:11, 66:23, 69:15	42:10, 42:27, 50:27,	rotated [1] - 47:8	43:15, 50:19, 51:5,
records [4] - 49:22, 56:8, 59:28, 72:22	relation [63] - 5:12, 6:29, 9:16, 10:7, 10:9,	60:20, 60:23, 63:2,	routine [1] - 22:7	52:12, 52:13, 53:1,
recover [1] - 29:22	12:12, 13:6, 13:25,	63:9, 63:10, 65:21,	RTÉ [3] - 2:31, 2:32,	54:21, 57:7, 57:15,
recoverable [2] -	15:10, 16:1, 16:23,	65:22, 65:23, 65:24,	41:1	59:6, 59:17, 62:7,
45:7, 45:16	19:3, 22:10, 26:26,	66:5, 66:6, 66:9,	run [4] - 68:6, 68:16, 68:23, 70:3	65:10, 67:12
recovered [26] -	28:14, 32:3, 32:10,	66:10, 66:11, 66:22,	running [1] - 44:21	searches [15] - 40:6,
10:2, 10:13, 10:16,	33:1, 33:18, 38:15,	66:27, 67:16, 70:6,	runs [1] - 34:18	41:5, 41:11, 44:21,
10:18, 11:14, 12:20,	41:9, 41:13, 42:19,	70:11, 70:12, 72:4,		44:22, 51:1, 52:23,
13:27, 14:1, 15:5,	42:23, 43:24, 44:2,	74:16	Ryan [3] - 49:11, 52:27, 62:15	53:5, 55:11, 57:8,
20:4, 20:11, 22:23,	44:12, 49:10, 49:20,	reported [13] - 9:5,	32.27, 02.13	57:22, 64:26, 68:4,
22:26, 23:5, 25:13,	50:24, 51:1, 53:4,	16:23, 18:3, 19:9,	S	68:6, 69:22
25:22, 26:19, 29:4,	53:13, 53:21, 54:6,	19:14, 19:19, 19:24,	<u> </u>	searching [5] - 27:2,
29:17, 30:25, 33:25,	55:21, 57:6, 58:12,	21:8, 22:27, 23:12,		50:15, 51:17, 55:1,
33:27, 34:3, 34:5,	58:23, 59:8, 60:12,	27:3, 27:21, 30:17	S6 [1] - 30:20	63:26
74:18	61:16, 63:1, 64:19,	reporting [1] - 67:4	S7 [1] - 29:7	SEBASTIAN[1] -
recovering [1] - 8:7	65:14, 65:28, 66:7,	reports [6] - 5:10,	SAINT [2] - 3:5, 3:10	3:13
redacted [12] - 16:5,	67:1, 67:3, 68:2, 69:9,	11:25, 33:19, 36:2,	sake [1] - 28:16	second [4] - 17:4,
16:8, 18:24, 21:4,	69:14, 69:25, 70:6,	72:28, 75:17	Samsung [4] - 29:6,	60:5, 61:21, 74:27
30:10, 31:4, 33:8,	70:15, 71:1, 71:19,	represents [1] - 29:8	29:9, 30:18, 30:20	secret [1] - 57:27
46:22, 49:13, 55:17,	71:26, 73:11, 74:7,	reputation [1] - 41:1	sanitised [1] - 45:12	section [5] - 41:29,
1				

20:19, 20:29, 21:2, 69:10 44:15, 48:14, 55:19, SM13 [1] - 30:17 subject [1] - 23:1 70:11 21:22, 25:3, 25:5, SM2 [3] - 16:28, squashing [1] subset [1] - 42:28 successor [2] -**Security** [1] - 76:10 26:16, 28:1, 30:8, 17:10, 19:4 70:14 30:13, 30:29, 31:1, **squeeze** [5] - 38:7, security [2] - 25:5, SM23 [2] - 37:29, 49:26, 59:25 50:17 31:6, 34:14, 34:16, 70:4, 71:24, 71:28, such-and-such [2] -44:10 34:22, 72:5, 73:17 see [20] - 10:26, **SM3** [3] - 13:11, 72.14 8:20 8:21 10:29, 12:9, 25:17, setting [3] - 7:23, Squeeze [1] - 72:19 14:6, 15:5 suggest [5] - 34:4, 24:29, 25:1 31:17, 33:1, 33:28, SM4 [2] - 19:9, 19:14 staff [1] - 54:27 41:7, 42:18, 43:29, seven [1] - 65:11 34:7, 34:15, 34:19, SM5 [5] - 37:14, stage [4] - 7:3, 52:16 34:23, 42:23, 43:13, seventh [1] - 23:29 11:24, 39:29, 55:13 37:18, 37:19, 37:20, suggested [2] - 12:8, 45:9, 46:28, 57:19, SGT [1] - 2:9 standard [1] - 57:14 58:25 39:15 62:18, 65:23, 68:4, **SHANE** [1] - 2:14 SM6 [4] - 21:15, started [1] - 28:17 suggestion [1] - 14:4 69:19 share [18] - 49:9, 21:17, 22:19 starting [2] - 50:1, **summarise** [1] - 37:5 seem [1] - 58:3 49:10, 52:22, 62:7, SM7 [2] - 27:21, 63:2 summary [8] - 38:24, seized [4] - 13:20, 62:11, 62:14, 62:16, 28:12 **starts** [2] - 17:13, 46:29, 48:22, 49:7, 17:5, 17:6, 19:24 63:4, 63:6, 63:11, 50:26, 66:29, 67:15, SM8 [1] - 23:11 60.23 selection [2] - 11:9, 63:16, 63:22, 63:26, **small** [4] - 57:9, State [1] - 6:15 72:3 11:11 64:21, 64:25, 64:28, 57:12, 71:13, 71:14 **STATE**[1] - 2:18 **SUNLIGHT** [1] - 2:24 sender [3] - 10:10, 65:4. 72:9 SMITHFIELD [1] -State-based [1] -Superintendent [56] 10:12, 10:17 Sheehan [1] - 15:19 2:29 6.15 - 9:23, 12:21, 12:24, sense [2] - 8:4, 8:5 Sheridan [1] - 11:5 SMS [11] - 10:2, 13:19, 13:21, 13:28, statement [20] sent [3] - 24:4, SHIP [1] - 2:19 10:7, 10:15, 11:12, 14:2, 14:5, 15:6, 5:12, 6:28, 7:2, 10:14, 31:13, 58:29 short [3] - 16:25, 16:16, 16:18, 16:26, 16:4, 18:20, 21:3, 12:14, 12:15, 13:6, separate [4] - 40:17, 30:13, 32:2 13:8, 13:15, 14:26, 22:13, 30:8, 30:10, 17:5, 17:19, 17:25, 47:12, 47:13, 65:11 shorter [1] - 22:16 19:6, 19:25, 20:1, 31:1 17:6, 17:21, 19:11, September [5] shortlist [1] - 54:25 20:5, 20:12, 21:26, SMSs [1] - 29:3 19:20, 19:28, 21:23, 13:20, 13:29, 14:4, shortlisted [5] software [3] - 7:26, 25:6, 27:26, 29:13, 21:29, 22:11, 23:7, 42:6, 46:14 54:7, 55:4, 56:3, 8:5, 23:22 30:19 23:9, 25:23, 27:15, 27:17, 28:1, 28:7, **sequence** [1] - 66:21 56:25, 57:24 SOLE [2] - 1:12, 2:2 **statements** [1] - 5:10 29:18, 30:15, 30:27, Sergeant [24] show [2] - 39:21 **SOLICITOR** [1] - 2:7 **stations** [1] - 50:2 12:23, 25:25, 38:25, **showed** [3] - 61:22, 32:7, 37:10, 39:14, stenographic [1] -SOLICITOR'S [1] -38:28, 39:5, 39:24, 64:3, 64:12 40:1, 41:13, 42:3, 2:18 44:1, 51:11, 53:21, 41:9, 42:19, 44:2, shows [1] - 47:17 STENOGRAPHY[1] SOLICITORS [7] -54:17, 56:20, 58:19, 45:29, 46:3, 48:13, side [1] - 24:22 2:24, 2:28, 3:4, 3:8, - 1:30 52:18, 54:6, 65:11, 63:21, 66:1, 66:29, significance [7] -3:18, 3:24, 3:30 stenography [1] -65:29, 66:23, 67:1, 69:1, 74:4, 74:19, 52:15, 53:17, 53:28, 1.25 somewhere [2] -74:22, 75:13, 76:9, 67:4, 68:2, 69:7, 57:7, 59:22, 61:4, 35:11. 75:15 stick [7] - 38:29, 69:16, 74:21, 75:2 76:12 39:6, 39:11, 65:16, 63:16 son [2] - 28:4, 29:5 serial [1] - 25:7 superintendent [7] significant [1] - 53:7 67:9, 69:21, 72:10 sorry [25] - 5:20, 22:20, 23:2, 49:11, series [6] - 40:5, stopped [1] - 28:17 **SIM** [4] - 9:12, 12:7, 12:14, 15:11, 20:17, 49:2, 49:19, 71:5, 50:10, 50:11, 52:26, 74.5 storage [1] - 62:20 21:16, 21:17, 24:17, 62:15 71:9, 71:27 similar [2] - 15:4, 28:22, 32:6, 32:20, store [1] - 55:20 supervised [1] serious [1] - 57:27 60:9 33:24, 35:9, 36:25, stored [11] - 9:29, 50:20 servants [1] - 6:11 **SIMON** [4] - 3:18, 37:17, 51:22, 60:22, 10:4, 10:20, 12:5, supplementary [2] served [1] - 32:22 3:18, 4:7, 35:29 62:18, 62:19, 63:8, 14:15, 15:12, 16:13, 66:7. 66:11 service [8] - 6:11, 65:24, 66:4, 66:9, **simple** [3] - 34:7, 16:17, 18:1, 26:20, supplied [2] - 40:5, 6:16, 12:7, 46:29, 48:27. 68:17 67:18, 70:12, 73:16 54:5 41:15 47:7, 49:6, 50:2, sort [1] - 41:7 stores [2] - 62:23, six [1] - 60:12 supply [1] - 75:13 56:27 **space** [8] - 34:18, 62:27 size [1] - 43:8 Service [5] - 6:3, support [11] - 12:20, 43:4, 43:9, 43:10, skip [1] - 52:21 **STRACHAN**[2] - 4:3, 14:4, 15:6, 19:6, 35:3, 36:11, 36:14, 43:11, 43:14, 43:22, slightly [1] - 6:2 20:11, 21:12, 23:6, 36:28 74:14 Strachan [10] - 5:5, **Sligo** [2] - 61:9, 25:22, 28:6, 31:12, **SERVICES** [1] - 1:30 speaking [1] - 5:18 5:14, 9:15, 32:3, 32:4, 61:17 74:18 **Services** [1] - 1:25 specifically [3] -32:6, 32:13, 35:2, SM [1] - 28:11 supported [2] services [7] - 6:13, 32:11, 32:15, 33:3 72:28, 75:23 SM1 [5] - 5:12, 6:28, 30:14, 30:26 6:16, 6:17, 37:2, **specified** [1] - 26:1 Strachan's [1] - 5:10 12:20, 12:28, 32:10 supporting [1] -49:12, 56:26, 57:12 spent [1] - 35:4 **STREET** [6] - 2:19, SM10 [6] - 37:9, 29:18 set [26] - 9:18, 12:12, 37:17, 37:20, 39:17, Spotlight [3] - 37:23, 2:25, 2:28, 3:5, 3:9, **suppose** [1] - 28:16 13:5, 14:26, 14:29, 38:13, 38:17 3:19 73:11. 74:18 15:14, 17:3, 18:6, supposed [1] - 51:17 SM12 [2] - 29:6, 33:3 spreadsheet [1] stuff [1] - 8:23

SUPREME [2] - 1:13, 2:3 **SUPT** [1] - 2:22 **surname** [1] - 40:13 surrendered [4] -8:27, 8:29, 9:13, 25:8 suspected [1] -61:12 switch [1] - 36:22 **SWORN** [2] - 5:7, 35:29 synopsis [4] - 65:22, 66:6, 66:10, 66:27 System [1] - 55:16 system [78] - 7:27, 37:23, 38:13, 38:17, 38:21, 38:24, 39:3. 45:4, 47:18, 47:20, 47:24, 47:29, 48:23, 48:28, 49:1, 49:10, 49:26, 50:22, 51:19, 52:12, 52:24, 52:28, 53:1, 54:8, 54:10, 54:18, 54:23, 54:25, 54:27, 55:5, 55:8, 55:18, 55:22, 55:25, 55:28, 56:4, 56:7, 56:11, 56:21, 57:3, 57:10, 57:13, 57:15, 57:18, 58:3, 58:4, 58:5, 58:13, 58:15, 58:19, 59:18, 59:23, 60:1, 60:7, 60:8, 60:12, 61:22, 62:7, 62:11, 62:13, 62:17, 63:2, 63:6, 63:27, 64:21, 64:28, 65:4, 65:8, 65:9, 65:10, 67:12, 67:17, 67:27, 68:21, 68:27, 69:15, 72.9 systems [23] - 5:23, 7:25, 7:28, 8:1, 8:6, 9:16, 38:2, 46:9, 46:15, 47:13, 48:9, 50:8, 50:10, 50:13, 50:14, 50:15, 50:21, 50:23, 50:25, 51:9, 54:7, 57:3, 69:25 systems/databases [1] - 48:4 Síochána [21] - 7:15, 12:25, 24:7, 38:19, 46:1, 46:10, 46:19, 46:26, 47:9, 48:29, 49:18, 52:8, 52:28, 55:21, 56:28, 60:18, 62:21, 63:5, 69:15, 70:3, 74:23

T

table [1] - 66:8 tailor [1] - 48:8 tailor-made [1] -48:8 Tara [1] - 32:7 TARA[1] - 2:22 target [2] - 9:6, 28:27 task [1] - 13:24 **Taylor** [40] - 12:21, 12:24, 13:19, 13:29, 14:3, 14:5, 15:7, 16:18, 16:26, 17:19, 17:29, 19:7, 20:1, 20:5, 20:12, 21:26, 23:9, 25:23, 27:15, 27:18, 28:7, 29:19, 30:6, 30:15, 30:27, 32:8, 33:12, 37:11, 40:1, 42:3, 44:1, 51:12, 54:17, 56:20, 58:19, 69:1, 74:4, 74:19, 74:22, 76:12 **TAYLOR**[1] - 2:22 Taylor's [7] - 16:16, 37:17, 39:14, 41:13, 53:21, 63:22, 75:13 technical [1] - 49:21 telephone [1] - 33:9 ten [6] - 5:26, 6:6, 9:29, 24:1, 25:1, 45:19 tend [1] - 39:21 tenor [1] - 75:17 term [2] - 45:27, 46:10 terms [34] - 11:23, 12:7, 12:16, 14:29, 15:1, 19:4, 20:8, 23:6, 25:18, 25:21, 27:19, 28:20, 29:17, 31:10, 34:7, 40:8, 40:9, 46:2, 47:14, 48:27, 51:16, 53:8, 53:20, 62:13, 64:17, 64:18, 65:28, 66:16, 67:22, 68:9, 68:14, 71:29, 74:29 **TERRACE**[1] - 3:31 text [3] - 32:16, 33:11, 33:13 texts [2] - 14:21, 18:23 THE [17] - 1:4, 1:8, 1:9, 1:12, 2:3, 2:6, 2:14, 3:22, 3:25, 3:28, 3:29, 5:1, 32:1, 35:24, 73:8, 75:27, 76:15

theme [1] - 71:15

thereabouts [1] - 9:9 thereafter [1] - 37:13 therefore [2] - 6:15, 56:21 therein [1] - 46:1 thesis [1] - 16:17 thoroughly [1] -75:24 thoroughness [1] -35:18 three [7] - 23:24, 24:1, 24:6, 24:23, 26.8 throughout [1] - 56:8 throw [1] - 40:7 THURSDAY [2] -1:18. 5:1 time-line [1] - 45:5 timeframe [3] -55:26, 63:23, 69:2 **TIMES** [3] - 3:17, 3:28, 3:30 today [3] - 6:27, 76:1, 76:4 together [2] - 8:6, 40.18 Tom [1] - 11:6 tomorrow [4] - 50:9, 50:21, 76:7, 76:8 **Tony** [1] - 22:20 top [3] - 17:4, 42:10, 63:12 Toshiba [1] - 73:12 total [2] - 60:13, 72:23 totally [1] - 57:26 towards [1] - 16:21 trace [1] - 58:29 track [1] - 59:3 tracking [1] - 56:7 traffic [1] - 70:15 transcript [1] - 1:26 transferred [3] -14:6. 14:16. 14:21 travelled [1] - 61:17 treated [1] - 32:20 Tribunal [57] - 6:7, 8:10, 8:16, 8:28, 8:29, 10:29, 11:10, 12:16, 13:22, 14:29, 16:6, 16:24, 17:7, 17:8, 18:24, 19:17, 21:4, 21:13, 21:20, 22:1, 23:15, 24:6, 25:9, 27:12, 27:23, 29:11, 31:20, 32:11, 33:4, 35:4, 37:3, 38:5. 38:22, 39:8, 39:10,

THEN [3] - 35:24,

75:27, 76:15

39:19, 41:16, 41:19, 44:23, 45:27, 46:8, 46:27, 55:28, 56:22, 57:8, 57:11, 58:2, 60:16, 61:4, 61:15, 65:17, 67:10, 69:5, 69:20, 70:1, 72:11 TRIBUNAL [3] - 1:3, 2:6, 76:15 Tribunal's [3] -25:18, 26:27, 27:19 **TRIBUNALS**[1] - 1:9 **TRUST** [1] - 3:30 trying [1] - 48:12 Tuesday [1] - 76:7 turn [8] - 16:28, 19:9, 21:15, 29:6, 37:8, 42:26, 47:6, 60:20 Tusla [4] - 61:7, 61:11, 64:3, 65:16 two [11] - 8:1, 46:18, 49:13, 50:9, 50:20, 56:19, 60:15, 64:6, 64:8, 74:13, 75:29 type [1] - 28:9

U

Ulster [2] - 5:17, 5:23

umbrella [1] - 71:23

UFED [1] - 7:29

unallocated [2] -

under [4] - 32:22,

63:13, 71:23, 71:28

UNDER [2] - 1:3, 1:9

43:22, 74:14

underneath [1] -47.22 unique [2] - 12:3, unit [3] - 5:26, 49:14, 54.4 United [1] - 6:20 University [2] - 5:17, unknown [1] - 70:24 unlocked [2] - 24:5, 26:5 unredacted [1] -46:22 unsuccessful [2] -23:27, 25:2 **UNTIL** [1] - 76:15 unused [6] - 43:4, 43:9, 43:10, 43:12, 43:13, 63:12 unusual [3] - 43:6, 58:3, 59:21 **up** [12] - 6:1, 26:23,

34:14, 34:16, 34:22, 35:4, 35:6, 40:7, 46:25, 48:24, 51:21, 69.6 updating [1] - 56:8 USB [4] - 38:29, 39:6, 39:11, 65:16 useful [1] - 72:27 user [20] - 17:28, 22:19, 22:27, 25:3, 25:10, 28:4, 28:23, 34:14, 34:16, 34:22, 43:4, 43:12, 47:23, 52:2, 63:4, 63:5, 63:11, 63:15, 63:22, 73:23 user's [1] - 45:13

٧

variety [1] - 15:26 various [9] - 36:2, 46:15, 47:8, 48:4, 50:2, 50:23, 56:28, 61:18. 66:22 verbally [1] - 42:6 verbatim [1] - 1:26 version [1] - 59:13 via [2] - 31:13, 57:13 Viber [1] - 21:8 view [4] - 10:28, 47:24, 52:2, 52:4 visa [1] - 47:20 visit [1] - 42:5 visiting [1] - 35:5 visually [1] - 7:22 voicemail [1] - 10:1 Volume [1] - 39:11 volume [17] - 5:11, 5:13, 7:1, 9:17, 13:11, 16:29, 17:21, 17:22, 19:10, 21:15, 23:12, 26:15, 27:22, 30:20, 36:3. 51:25

W

Walsh [1] - 66:29
WAS [4] - 5:7, 32:1,
35:29, 73:8
ways [2] - 14:13,
51:1
web [4] - 9:28, 47:23,
52:1, 57:13
week [1] - 76:11
WHELAN [1] - 2:16
whilst [1] - 33:29
whistle [1] - 40:17

whistleblower [1] -Ó 40:18 whole [2] - 62:23, **Ó** [4] - 2:27, 34:25, 73:1 34:26, 73:4 wide [4] - 6:13, 37:1, 37:2, 38:2 **WILLIAMS**[1] - 3:3 Williams [3] - 15:24, 18:14, 20:26 wiped [4] - 22:6, 23:26, 24:25, 25:1 wire [1] - 36:22 wise [1] - 62:27 wish [3] - 6:16, 7:1, 32:23 WITHDREW [2] -35:24, 75:27 WITNESS [5] - 4:2, 32:1, 35:24, 73:8, 75:27 witness [5] - 5:4, 35:26, 36:10, 36:26, 51:24 witnesses [3] - 50:9, 50:20, 75:29 woman [1] - 35:6 wonder [2] - 51:23, 51:27 word [6] - 40:15, 40:17, 57:22, 57:23, 64:7 words [4] - 40:6, 40:10, 74:17, 74:26 wrote [1] - 34:2 X **XRY** [1] - 7:29 Υ year [3] - 35:15, 40:20, 45:23 years [3] - 5:26, 6:6, 36:16 yesterday [3] -49:11, 52:26, 62:15 yielded [1] - 60:26 yourself [3] - 48:18, 56:2, 56:21 É ÉIREANN [2] - 1:5,