

BUSINESS INTERRUPTION INSURANCE TEST CASE

DRAFT TRANSCRIPT

OF DAY 7 OF TRIAL (29 JULY 2020)

Pursuant to paragraph 30 of the court's order made on 26 June 2020, what follows is a <u>draft</u> transcript.

A final transcript will be published when it is available.

OPUS₂

The Financial Conduct Authority vs. MS Amlin Underwriting Limited and others

Day 7

July 29, 2020

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Day 7

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1	Wednesday, 29 July 2020
2	(9.58 am)
3	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Mr Orr.
4	MR ORR: My Lords, I hope you can hear me.
5	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes, thank you. Good morning.
6	Submissions by MR ORR (continued)
$\overline{7}$	MR ORR: Good morning, my Lords.
8	My Lords, I have limited time so I shall take our
9	skeleton as read. If I do not mention a point made by
10	the FCA this does not, of course, mean that we accept
11	it .
12	When we broke yesterday I was about to turn to the
13	meaning and application of the individual elements of
14	the AOCA extension. It may help to have that up; it is
15	{B/22/34}.
16	In order to fit the COVID-19 pandemic and the
17	government's response to that pandemic into this
18	extension, the FCA has been driven, we submit, to adopt
19	erroneous and extreme interpretations of the two most
20	important elements of the extension; that is the
21	requirement that the civil or other authority action
22	must be taken following a danger or disturbance in the
23	vicinity of the premises and, secondly, the requirement
24	that such action must have prevented access to the
25	premises. Those are the primary battlefields between
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1 Zurich and the FCA.

2 Turning to the first of those requirements, there 3 are three elements to that requirement: first , a danger 4 or disturbance; second, in the vicinity of the premises; 5and third, following. In our submission, the meaning of 6 each of those ingredients is informed by and takes 7 colour from the other ingredients .

8 It is in this context that we rely upon the 9 principle of construction that words may take their 10 meaning from their associates , ie noscitur a sociis . 11This is addressed in our skeleton at paragraphs 35 and 12130. That principle, we say, does not apply only where 13one has a list of words, it is of more general 14application and reflects the broader principle that any 15 term in a contract must be construed in its context, 16 which means in the context of the clause in which the 17term appears, as well as the context of the instrument 18 as a whole. We adopt Mr Gaisman's submissions to 19similar effect on $\{{\sf Day5}/113{:}1\}$ to 114. 20Turning to a danger or disturbance, this is a short 21 point, in our submission, but our position is that in

- 22the context of this extension the phrase does not 23encompass a national infectious disease pandemic.
- 24We set that argument out at paragraphs 127 to 136 of 25our skeleton. The main point we make is that the local

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1 focus of the clause makes clear that it is not intended 2 to cover a national infectious disease pandemic. 3 We rely in particular on three matters. First, the 4reference in the clause to "a danger" or disturbance, 5and not danger in a general sense. That connotes 6 a transient incident posing a risk of danger, such as $\overline{7}$ the bomb threat or fire , rather than a country-wide 8 pandemic. 9 Second, the words "or disturbance" give further 10colour to what is meant by a danger in the extension. 11 Those words reinforce the notion that the clause 12 contemplates an incident specific to the locality of the 13 premises rather than a continuing and country-wide state 14of affairs . 15Third, the fact that the danger or disturbance must 16be in the vicinity of the premises reaffirms that it is 17a localised danger or disturbance that is contemplated, 18 rather than a national public health risk . It is fair to say, though, that the "vicinity " requirement and 19 20" following ", are at the heart of Zurich's case on 21construction, so I will turn to those.

The "vicinity " requirement is fundamental; it emphasises the local focus of the clause, and also the fact that the civil authority action which triggers cover under the clause must follow a danger or

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1	a disturbance occurring locally .
2	I will come to the meaning of "following ", but at
3	this stage I note that the term clearly requires
4	a causal connection between the danger or disturbance
5	occurring in the locality of the premises, and the civil
6	authority action which prevents access.
7	In considering whether that causal connection is
8	satisfied in any particular case, one must focus on the
9	local danger or disturbance and its connection to the
10	relevant civil authority action. The focus is not on
11	the connection between the civil authority action and
12	any danger or disturbance outside the vicinity .
13	The intended meaning of the phrase "in the vicinity "
14	is best encapsulated, we say, by "in the immediate
15	locality ".
16	The FCA argues that " vicinity " cannot mean immediate
17	locality , because the term "immediate vicinity " is used
18	in the context of a special condition precedent in the
19	public and product liability cover in the Zurich
20	policies . We can see that in Zurich2 in $\{B/22/75\}.$ If
21	we could have that up on the screen, please.
22	We have dealt with this point in our skeleton at
23	paragraphs 142 and 143. The point, in our submission,
24	is a bad one. The special condition, as your Lordships
25	will see, it's condition 2, the use of heat condition;

1	it is concerned with the use of welding and other heat
2	generating equipment, and the need to keep the immediate
3	vicinity of any work using such equipment clear of all
4	loose combustible material. The immediate vicinity of
5	such work will necessarily be a smaller area than the
6	building or premises where the work is being carried
7	out, and so clearly the same meaning is not to be
8	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: You are saying that means the worktop,
9	effectively .
10	MR ORR: Effectively, my Lord. Indeed. It is a very
11	different context and it doesn't assist .
12	The FCA further argues that " vicinity " in the
13	context of the extension is an open-ended term that
14	applies not only to the local area around the insured's
15	premises, but extends to any such area as might affect
16	the insured's business in relation to a particular
17	danger or disturbance. And the FCA went so far as to
18	say that the vicinity could extend to the entire
19	country; that is ${Day3/109:1}$. That, in our submission,
20	is absurd. The FCA's interpretation renders the term
21	" vicinity " otiose and disregards the important
22	limitation placed on insurer's risk by that word. We
23	echo Mr Kealey's submissions to the same effect.
24	Finally on "vicinity ", the FCA is also wrong to
25	argue on an alternative basis that the term will always
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1	encompass at least the same city, town or village in
2	which a danger or disturbance occurs. That, we submit,
3	is simply incorrect . There is no basis for ascribing
4	such a fixed meaning to the term.
5	I turn then to "following". It is common ground, as
6	your Lordships know, that this term imports both
7	a temporal and causative requirement. Zurich submits
8	that the term "following " requires that the relevant
9	civil authority action (a) must come later in time to
10	a danger or disturbance in the vicinity of the premises,
11	and (b) must have a resulted from that danger or
12	disturbance. In other words, the action must be in
13	response to the danger or the disturbance. That aptly
14	encapsulates what is meant by "following" in the
15	extension .
16	Our interpretation accords with the
17	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Can you please repeat that point,
18	Mr Orr? I didn't quite pick it up. After you said
19	"must have resulted from", what was the
20	MR ORR: In other words, my Lords, the action must be in
21	response to the danger or disturbance.
22	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Thank you.
23	MR ORR: And we submit that "in response to" aptly
24	encapsulates what is meant by "following" in the
25	extension .

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1	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Once it is common ground that
2	" following " has a causative element to it , in one sense
3	it doesn't matter, does it? Because what it undoubtedly
4	connotes is there must be some connection. Not only
5	must the action be later than the danger in terms of
6	time, but there must be something that connects them.
7	So the action must in some way be connected to the
8	danger. If there were a danger in the locality , and the
9	local authority then shut down everybody's premises for
10	a completely different reason, then this clause wouldn't
11	operate. But quite how close the connection is and
12	whether, for example, it is a "but for" or proximate or
13	whatever, I don't think matters, really . Because once
14	you accept there has to be a connection I mean, it
15	may be you are right in saying that "in response to" is
16	as good as it gets.
17	MR ORR: Yes, my Lord. We do not disagree with anything
18	that your Lordship has said . We take the analysis in
19	three stages. We are simply try to elucidate as
20	a matter of language the meaning. But I entirely accept
21	that the real questions here are the strength of causal
22	connection required and, whatever the strength is,
23	whether that test is satisfied on the facts , on the
24	agreed facts . Because it is the FCA's case that they
25	make good a factual case on that causal connection on

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2	$Can\ I\ turn\ to\ those\ two\ points\ ,\ and\ it\ is\ our\ case$
3	that whatever the strength of the causal connection
4	required , it's not satisfied on the agreed facts , and
5	that is absolutely fundamental. So I entirely agree
6	with your Lordship. But in our submission it is useful,
$\overline{7}$	and probably helpful, to spend a little time considering
8	what might be the required degree of strength of
9	a causal connection. That is why the parties have
10	adopted by analogy concepts of proximate causation.
11	Perhaps if I can put it this way. Our primary case
12	on the strength of the connection is that it is
13	something akin to proximate causation, and we say that
14	that is the standard default causation test in indemnity
15	insurance. Though we absolutely take the point that
16	that test ordinarily applies in relation to the causal
17	connection between the insured peril and the loss, and
18	not an intra-insuring clause causal connection as we are
19	dealing with here.
20	To that extent we adopt Mr Kealey's submissions on
21	proximate causation, but we also make this point on
22	proximate causation : that ordinarily the causal nexus

proximate causation: that ordinarily the causal nexus between the relevant civil authority action and the occurrence of a danger or a disturbance in the vicinity of the premises will be clear and direct . And that is

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Day 7

1	why we say it is akin to proximate causation.
2	Indeed
3	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: When your example is the fire, I mean
4	that is the obvious example.
5	MR ORR: Yes, my Lord, yes.
6	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: There is a fire and the fire brigade or
$\overline{7}$	whoever it is, the relevant civil authority, evacuates
8	all the premises within three streets or whatever.
9	MR ORR: Yes, my Lord.
10	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That would satisfy the clause and you
11	wouldn't even be asking the question, because it is
12	perfectly clear that's the reason why they've done it .
13	So whatever "following " means, it must be satisfied .
14	MR ORR: Yes. When one is asking, perhaps on a slightly
15	philosophical basis, what is the strength of the test
16	required , that is why we say it is something akin to
17	proximate cause. But one can draw on other analogies .
18	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Perhaps your formulation "in response
19	to" is the better one, because one doesn't need to get
20	into the question of proximate causation. What you are
21	saying is that if the local authority or the police
22	react to a particular situation , it is going to be
23	obvious that that is following , and you don't get into
24	questions of whether it is the dominant cause or the
25	"but for" cause or anything like that.

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1	MR ORR: Quite so, my Lord. Quite so.
2	My Lords, I will take
3	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Only to the extent that if it isn't
4	there, then you don't have cover. I mean, in that sense
5	it is a "but for" element, if you like, of the insured
6	peril, and if all you have got is action of the local
7	authority closing down the streets without a danger,
8	then there is no cover. That was a point that Mr Kealey
9	made yesterday.
10	MR ORR: Exactly so, my Lord.
11	In a sense this point only arises because we are
12	dealing with, as we have put it, the FCA trying to
13	hammer a square peg into a round hole, because they are
14	struggling to find a basis for saying that there is
15	a causal connection between government measures taken on
16	a national basis and any danger or disturbance that
17	might be said to have occurred or been present in an
18	insured 's vicinity .
19	My Lords, in the light of your Lordships' comments
20	I will take our other points on the strength of the
21	causal connection very shortly, but one could draw on
22	other analogies; for example, the causal test that
23	applies in ordinary breach of contract cases, which is
24	whether or not the breach of contract was a sufficiently
25	substantial cause of the loss . That is obviously

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a reference to Galoo, which is in the authorities bundle at $\{K/80.1/1\}$, or your Lordships could look at Mr Peter 3 MacDonald Eggers' decision in Crowden v QBE Insurance to which reference has been made already, which is in {J/135/1}, I won't take your Lordships to it. There he considered causal connections in terms of whether a matter was specifically accountable as a cause, whether it was significant as a cause. So these are just phrases that courts have used to elucidate what the 10 causal connection might be or how you can describe it. 11 But we do absolutely agree with what your Lordships 12have both put to me, and ultimately the minimum 13requirement must be a "but for" causal requirement. 14There is no indication in the extension or elsewhere 15in the Zurich policies that the parties can be said to 16 have intended cover to be triggered under the AOCA 17extension even though the danger or the disturbance in 18the vicinity of the premises was not even a factual 19cause in the "but for" sense of the relevant civil 20authority action, or even though the civil authority 21 action would have been imposed regardless of any such 22 danger or disturbance as might have occurred in the 23vicinity of the premises. 24 If you were to construe the causal requirement 25as anything less than that, you would not be giving

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proper meaning and effect to the requirement in the extension, that it must be a danger in the vicinity that leads to the relevant action. My Lords, can I, though, then turn to the factual point, which actually is possibly the more important point in this case. The factual question is whether the FCA has made good the necessary causal connection on the agreed facts. And that, as is obvious, is a question of fact. 10The burden of proof on that lies on the FCA standing in 11the shoes of policyholders. It is for them to establish 12 that the causal connection is satisfied 13 In our submission, the FCA has not discharged that 14 burden. On the agreed facts, the FCA has not 15demonstrated, and is unable to demonstrate, any 16meaningful causal connection between the measures taken 17by the national UK Government, on a national basis, in 18 response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the occurrence of 19 any such danger as might be said to be present in the 20 vicinity of any particular insured's premises. 21On this issue, the starting point is the FCA's 22admission that it does not allege that the advice given 23and restrictions imposed by the UK Government were 24caused by any particular local occurrence of COVID-19. 25That is the FCA's reply, paragraph 52 $\{A/14/27\}$, and it

1	may be useful if we could have that up on the screen.	1
2	Paragraph 52:	2
3	"It is not alleged that the advice given and/or	3
4	restrictions imposed by the UK Government were caused by	4
5	any particular local occurrence of COVID-19."	5
6	Then they go on to make the jigsaw argument.	6
7	Now, it is implicit in that admission that the FCA	7
8	also does not allege that the government advice and	8
9	restrictions were caused by the danger of COVID-19 in	9
10	any particular locality . So the only way the FCA makes	10
11	good their point on "following" is on the basis of their	11
12	jigsaw argument, so I turn to that.	12
13	Now, the FCA has sought to portray the government as	13
14	having adopted from as early as the beginning of March	14
$15 \\ 16$	what they described as an " indivisible and interlinked strategy that was not piecemeal". That is {Day1/53:11}	15 16
10	to 12.	10 17
18		17
10	My Lords, we all lived through this and we know that is simply not correct. This mythical indivisible	18 19
20	strategy is not established by the agreed facts. It is	19 20
20 21	a creation of the FCA's to force the national government	20 21
21	measures responding to the pandemic into the AOCA	21
23	extension .	22
24	In Zurich's submission, the agreed facts as set out	20 24
25	in the chronology at $\{C/1/1\}$ and the supporting	25
_0		20
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1	documents at C2 establish the following seven points.	1
2	First , that the government was responding to a new	2
3	and emerging infectious disease about which it knew very	3
4	little in terms of, among other things, the disease's	4
5	precise mode of transmission, its symptoms and its	5
6	fatality risk .	6
7	Second, in the early stages of the epidemic the	7
8	government was responding to international and not	8
9	national developments.	9
10	Third, during February and March only limited	10
11	information was available to the government about the	11
12	number and geographical spread of cases of COVID-19 in	12
13	the UK.	13
14	Fourth, there was no coherent co-ordinated strategy,	14
15	the government and its advisers reacted in a piecemeal	15
16	manner to developing information about the incidence of	16
17	the disease and estimates of its likely growth.	17
18	Fifth , between 16 March and 26 March the government	18
19	was driven to take increasingly severe measures,	19
20	primarily out of a concern to avoid the NHS being	20
21	overwhelmed.	21
22	Sixth, there is no evidence that the government had	22
23	any considered assessment, let alone reliable	23
24	information, showing the incidence or risk of infection	24
25	in each and every area of the country at the time it	25

1 took action in March. $\mathbf{2}$ At that time, and this is the seventh point, the 3 government acted on a national basis in order to protect 4 the national health system, and not because it took $\mathbf{5}$ account of and aggregated the incidence or risk of 6 infection in each and every area of the country. 7Now in the time available, I would like to take your 8 Lordships to three documents to illustrate those points. 9 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: In a sense, Mr Orr, that point you just 10 made is made good by the contrast between what happened 11 in March and what has been happening in the last couple 2 of weeks, in terms of the lockdown in Leicester and we L3 now learn a lockdown in Oldham and potential lockdowns 4 elsewhere, all of which are a reaction or action, or 15 however you describe it , to specific instances . 16 Whether it would satisfy your policy wording is 7 a different question. One can see the argument that in 18 those cases there is a danger in the vicinity of 19 somebody's insured premises, to which the government is 20 reacting or the action is in response to it. 21 But non constat when what was going on, as you 22 rightly say, was a national response to what was 23 effectively a miasma. I mean, nobody knew how bad it 24was. Certainly when I left London there were concerns

people were going to be dropping dead in the street, $$15 \end{tabular}$

1	because nobody knew what was going to happen.
2	MR ORR: Indeed so, my Lord, and what your Lordship has just
3	said is entirely borne out by the SAGE minutes, and
4	I was going to take the court to three of those minutes.
5	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I would be obliged if you did that,
6	because I haven't looked at those.
7	MR ORR: Let's do that. These are in bundle C2. I was
8	going to start with $\{C/2/125\}.$ This is the SAGE minute
9	of 16 March.
10	The points I draw your Lordships' attention to we
11	seem to have (Pause)
12	The points I would draw your Lordships' attention to
13	are in particular points 6, 10 and 11 on that minute.
14	So, first of all the reference to:
15	"London has the greatest proportion of the UK
16	outbreak."
17	Point 10, and this is the key point on motivation:
18	"The objective is to avoid critical cases exceeding
19	NHS intensive care and other respiratory support bed
20	capacity. The figures for capacity are now clear but
21	intensive care bed capacity will increase by 20% or
22	more."
23	And 11:
24	"It is vital to understand numbers of cases
25	regionally relative to NHS capacity, to know where local
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1	more stringent interventions might need to be	1
2	introduced ."	2
3	But as you read these minutes through, there is	3
4	continuing reference to the lack of up-to-date or	4
5	reliable information and clearly the government didn't	5
6	have it at that stage.	6
7	That is not a criticism , it is just a reflection of	7
8	the novel and unprecedented and emerging situation that	8
9	the authorities were having to deal with.	9
10	The second SAGE minute that I draw to your attention	10
11	is at page 205 of this bundle $\{C/2/205\}.$ That is the	11
12	SAGE minute of 18 March.	12
13	The four critical points here are points 1, 4, 9,	13
14	and 13. Point 1:	14
15	"Based on limited available evidence, SAGE considers	15
16	that the UK is 2 to 4 weeks behind Italy"	16
17	But it is the reference there to "limited available	17
18	evidence ".	18
19	Point 4:	19
20	" Reliable data on the health impacts of existing	20
21	interventions will only be available in 2 to 3 weeks.	21
22	This would not be in time to inform judgment on	22
23	additional interventions to limit NHS pressures, which	23
24	are likely to be significant within 2 to 3 weeks. It	24
25	may be possible to collect intermediate data, and this	25
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1	should be a priority ."	1
2	Again, did your Lordships see there the concerns	2
3	about the lack of and the limited availability of	3
4	important data?	4
5	Point 9 there is a reference to 1,950 cases in the	5
6	UK and the number of intensive care cases.	6
7	Point 13, and this again is the key point:	7
8	"Modelling suggests that without mitigation, London	8
9	could reach COVID-19-related intensive care capacity by	9
10	early April ."	10
11	But then if we go to the third document, which is in	11
12	the same bundle at page 279, the SAGE minutes of	12
13	23 March. There are a number of points here.	13
14		
	First of all point 7, the data suggests that London	14
15	is one to two weeks ahead of the	$14 \\ 15$
16	is one to two weeks ahead of the LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is the wrong page, Mr Orr. Page 279	14 15 16
	is one to two weeks ahead of the	$14 \\ 15$
16	is one to two weeks ahead of the LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is the wrong page, Mr Orr. Page 279 seems to be halfway through the document. MR ORR: I am sorry, I am on the previous page, my Lord,	14 15 16
16 17 18 19	 is one to two weeks ahead of the LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is the wrong page, Mr Orr. Page 279 seems to be halfway through the document. MR ORR: I am sorry, I am on the previous page, my Lord, {C/2/278}. Thank you, my Lord, so {C/2/278}, point 7: 	14 15 16 17 18 19
16 17 18 19 20	is one to two weeks ahead of the LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is the wrong page, Mr Orr. Page 279 seems to be halfway through the document. MR ORR: I am sorry, I am on the previous page, my Lord, {C/2/278}. Thank you, my Lord, so {C/2/278}, point 7: "The data suggest that London is 1 to 2 weeks ahead	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
16 17 18 19	is one to two weeks ahead of the LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is the wrong page, Mr Orr. Page 279 seems to be halfway through the document. MR ORR: I am sorry, I am on the previous page, my Lord, {C/2/278}. Thank you, my Lord, so {C/2/278}, point 7: "The data suggest that London is 1 to 2 weeks ahead of the rest of the UK on the epidemic curve. Case	14 15 16 17 18 19
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	is one to two weeks ahead of the LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is the wrong page, Mr Orr. Page 279 seems to be halfway through the document. MR ORR: I am sorry, I am on the previous page, my Lord, $\{C/2/278\}$. Thank you, my Lord, so $\{C/2/278\}$, point 7: "The data suggest that London is 1 to 2 weeks ahead of the rest of the UK on the epidemic curve. Case numbers in London could exceed NHS capacity within the next 10 days on the current trajectory ."	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
16 17 18 19 20 21 22	 is one to two weeks ahead of the LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is the wrong page, Mr Orr. Page 279 seems to be halfway through the document. MR ORR: I am sorry, I am on the previous page, my Lord, {C/2/278}. Thank you, my Lord, so {C/2/278}, point 7: "The data suggest that London is 1 to 2 weeks ahead of the rest of the UK on the epidemic curve. Case numbers in London could exceed NHS capacity within the 	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

of the virus in hospitals ."	
So again we see they're still trying to understand	
the rate of infection .	
Point 18:	
"There is significant uncertainly concerning the	
impact of interventions brought in thus"	
And of some relevance to the debates that we have	
already had, point 20:	
"SAGE noted that social distancing behaviours have	
been adopted by many but there is uncertainty whether	
they are being observed at the level required to bring	
the epidemic within NHS capacity."	
This, of course, is after 21 March but before the	
26 March regulations, so one sees the motivation for	
those regulations .	
Then finally , on page $\{C/2/281\}$ it's the same	
minutes, towards the top of the page, "List of actions":	
"PHE [and among others] to review how the true	
infection rate in the community can be ascertained as a	
basis to measure the effects of interventions"	
So again, they didn't even at that stage know the	
true rate of infection .	
Our point is that, in these circumstances, the FCA's	
portrayal of the reasons for the introduction of the	

government's nationwide measures is inaccurate and

1	unrealistic . In particular , contrary to what the FCA
2	submitted, there was no national picture of all local
3	outbreaks to which the government was responding.
4	Second, the FCA is wrong to say that if all areas
5	have not been affected to a great or lesser extent,
6	there would not have been a national lockdown. As
7	I have said already, the government imposed a national
8	lockdown to save the national health system from being
9	overwhelmed, and not because it had a comprehensive
10	picture of the incidence of the disease in each and
11	every area of the country.
12	In his submissions Mr Edelman referred repeatedly to
13	the notion of the government having a spreadsheet on
14	which the incidence or danger of COVID-19 in each policy
15	area appeared as a line entry. He referred to that for
16	example on $\{Day2/130{:}1\}$, page 134, page 147 and on
17	$\{Day3/140:1\}$. But the obvious point my Lords, and for
18	the avoidance of doubt, is that there is no evidence
19	that the government had a spreadsheet or anything
20	resembling a spreadsheet. Mr Edelman's spreadsheet is
21	purely fictional ; it was lifted out of a hypothetical
22	example used by Amlin in its skeleton argument.
23	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: You say it was an entirely notional
24	spreadsheet .
25	$MR\ ORR$: An entirely notional spreadsheet, my Lord. There
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1	is no evidence of any real spreadsheet.
2	Bringing that altogether, we submit in conclusion,
3	on this point, that there was no meaningful causal
4	connection between any danger in the vicinity of an
5	individual insured's premises and the national and
6	nationwide government action on which the FCA relies.
7	The UK Government would have acted in precisely the
8	same way and implemented the same national measures, at
9	the time it did, irrespective of any such incidents or
10	danger of COVID-19 as might have existed in the vicinity
11	of any insured's premises. So it follows that none of
12	the possible causal tests that might be mooted, whether
13	proximate causation, substantial or significant cause,
14	"but for ", or even something less are satisfied . There
15	is just no evidence before the court that the government
16	was responding to the incidence or danger of disease in
17	individual insureds' localities .
18	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That point is made good by the Scilly
19	lsles point, isn't it?
20	MR ORR: It is, my Lord. That is
21	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The Scilly Isles is an example of
22	somewhere where it has remained COVID-19 free but it was
23	subject to exactly the same restrictions .
24	MR ORR: Exactly so.
25	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.
	21
	21
1	MR ORR: My Lords, I was then going to turn to prevention of
2	access to premises.
3	On this point two issues arise . First , what does

3	On this point two issues arise. First, what does
4	prevention of access to premises mean in the context of
5	the extension? Second, did the government measures upon
6	which the FCA relies prevent access to premises within
7	the meaning of the extension?
8	Your Lordship will recall the very similar wording
9	to the Zurich wording of Amlin's MSA1 wording, which
10	Mr Kealey dealt with yesterday . That is also
11	a prevention of access clause, not a hindrance or
12	prevention of use clause.
13	Zurich, like Amlin, has a customer base that is
14	predominantly made up of category 5 businesses that were
15	not required to close. And we do adopt what Mr Kealey
16	said about the meaning and effect of the phrase
17	"prevention of access". The reference to his
18	submissions is ${Day6/97:1}$ to page 107.
19	We address the detail of this point in our skeleton
20	at paragraphs 95 to 126. In the time available
21	I propose only to make the following brief points.
22	First, as to the meaning of prevention of access, we
23	submit that the relevant words of the extension are
24	straightforward and narrow. The clause requires access
25	to the premises to be prevented, there are no

- to the premises to be prevented; there are no
 - 22

1 qualifications or glosses. "Access" means something 2 different to "use", and "prevention" means something 3 different to "hindrance or restrictions ". It is common ground that "access to premises" means 4 5the approach or entry to premises, and access is $\mathbf{6}$ therefore a physical concept. What must be prevented is $\overline{7}$ the physical means of approaching or entering the 8 premises. That, of course, accords with the paradigm 9 case contemplated by the clause that your Lordships have 10 well in mind. So the classic vanilla situation is that 11 the police cordon off the approach or entry to the 12premises and they prevent everyone, except of course for 13the emergency services, from entering the premises. 14As Mr Turner explained on ${Day4/148:1}$ the 15imposition of the cordon by the police represents both a physical and legal barrier to entry. The FCA is wrong 16 17to suggest the contrarv. 18In addition to the police's common law powers and 19powers under the Terrorism Act, to which Mr Turner 20referred , one should also note section 89(2) of the 21 Police Act 1996, which is in the authorities bundle at 22 $\{{\sf K}/10.1/1\}.$ We don't necessarily need to look at it, 23but for your Lordship's note it makes it an offence to 24 resist or willfully obstruct a constable in the

execution of his duty or to wilfully obstruct a person

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assisting a constable in the execution of his duty. Zurich's case, in short, is the same as Amlin's, namely that prevention of access to the premises requires that such access is physically obstructed or otherwise rendered impossible. Like Amlin, we say that the action must be mandatory and have the force of law for the reasons given by Mr Kealey on $\{\text{Day6}/102{:}1\}$ to page 104. So far as authority is concerned, there does not

appear to be any English authority on the meaning of the phrase "prevention of access" in the context of a clause of this kind. However, Zurich's construction is supported by two relevant lines of authority.

First, the line of authority concerning the meaning of "prevention" and "hindrance" in the context of force majeure. Your Lordships have already been referred to that line of authority. We submit that those cases are relevant and of assistance . They affirm that

"prevention" and "hindrance" have different distinct meanings, and they represent judicial determination, albeit in a different context, that "prevention" means

rendering something impossible rather than merely difficult

The second line of authority that Zurich relies on is the US case law concerning denial or prohibition of

Day 7

1	access clauses in business interruption policies . Now,	1	actually prevent access. At most, they restricted the
2	the effect of those authorities is summarised in our	1 2	use of premises.
3	skeleton at paragraphs 103 to 105, which is bundle	3	Now, I intend to focus on category 5 which, as your
4	$\{1/19/47\}.$	4	Lordships know, represents the vast majority of holders
5	We have there summarised the effect of these	5	of the Zurich1 and Zurich2 policies . We have addressed
6	authorities . They are dealing with denial or	6	all categories in our skeleton argument.
7	prohibition of access clauses. Those clauses typically	7	So far as category 5 is concerned, that includes
8	provide cover where access to an insured's premises is	8	manufacturers and service businesses, such as
9	denied or prevented by action of a civil or other	9	accountancy and law firms. The regulations didn't
10	authority. They are therefore similar clauses to the	10	impose any particular requirements on this category of
11	kind of extensions that we have been looking at and	10	business, nor was any of the advice or guidance issued
12	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It's a quirk, is it, that the American	12	after 16 March directed at this category of business.
13	policies use the words "prohibited " and "denied" whereas	13	The FCA's case in relation to category 5 is premised
14	ours use "prevented" or "hindered", as it were?	14	entirely on regulation $6(1)$ of the 26 March regulations
15	MR ORR: Exactly so, my Lord. It is a quirk of language,	15	and the government guidance on social distancing.
16	but the substance is the same.	16	Taking those in turn. The restrictions in
17	What these cases show, they are all very short, but	17	regulation $6(1)$ did not prevent access to category 5
18	they are clear and straightforward in their approach,	18	businesses . That ground has been traversed by
19	and what they all say consistently is that these clauses	19	Mr Gaisman on behalf of Hiscox, and Mr Kealey on behalf
20	apply only where access to the insured's premises is	20	of Amlin. Mr Gaisman's submissions were at {Day5/134:1}
21	totally and completely prevented, is made impossible.	20 21	to 142 and Mr Kealey dealt with this yesterday,
22	There is no suggestion in any of these decisions that	22	Day6/101:1. We adopt their submissions.
23	denial of access or prohibition of access means	23	As to government guidance on social distancing
24	a partial denial or prohibition , or denial or	24	measures, the FCA asserts that even in respect of
25	prohibition for some people but not others, or denial or	25	businesses which were permitted to remain open, or
	25		27
1	prohibition for certain purposes but not others. The	1	partially open, such guidance in the light of employers'
2	words simply mean what they say, without any further	2	duties or occupiers' duties made it impracticable for
3	gloss .	3	some businesses to function.
4	So, my Lords, we do invite your Lordships' attention	4	Now, as to that, we say that at most such guidance
5	to that line of authority, which we say does assist .	5	might, in combination with the business' pre-existing
6	The FCA's case, by contrast, fails to give proper	6	duties, amount to a restriction on use of the premises;
7	meaning and effect to the requirement for access to be	7	for example, if a law firm had to put certain distances
8	prevented, as opposed to access being merely hindered,	8	between desks in a particular room, or whether
9	or use rather than access of premises being restricted	9	a manufacturer had to position employees a certain
10	or hindered.	10	distance away from each other on a manufacturing line .
11	The next question is whether the government measures	11	But that did not prevent access to the premises.
12	relied upon by the FCA amounted to prevention of access.	12	To the extent that category 5 businesses chose to
13	If Zurich is correct in its interpretation , none of the	13	close their doors, that was their choice. They were not
14	government measures prevented access to any particular	14	prevented by government action from accessing the
15	premises and therefore cover has not been triggered.	15	premises from which they functioned . And even when they
16	Before looking further at the categories of	16	were closed, no employees were prevented from accessing
17	business, two headline points there can be made.	17	their premises for the purposes of work, where it was
18	First , the focus here must clearly be on the 21 and	18	not reasonably possible for those employees to work from
19	26 March regulations. Although the FCA relies on	19	home.
20	government guidance as action triggering the clause from	20	There are very few Zurich policyholders which fall
21	16 March, in Zurich's submission only the regulations	21	within the other categories . Zurich's case on those is
22	are capable of so doing.	22	set out in our skeleton at paragraphs 120 to 125.
23	Second, the aim of the regulations was not to	23	In the time available to me, can I then turn briefly
24	prevent access to particular premises, and that is	24	to causation of loss and trends clauses.
25	important when one is considering whether they did	25	In relation to this, in general terms Zurich adopts

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Day 7

1 the joint submissions made by Mr Kealey on causation of 2 loss and trends clauses, being the submissions that he 3 made collectively on behalf of all insurers . 4 It follows from those submissions that Zurich 5invites the court to reject the FCA's pleaded case on 6 causation and trends clause as set out in its 7 particulars of claim. 8 My Lords, I don't think anyone has taken your g Lordships to the particulars of claim or the 10 declarations that the FCA actually seeks in relation to 11 causation of loss and trends clauses. Can I ask your 12 Lordships to look at that briefly . We can start in 13bundle $\{A/2/45\}$. 14The reason I do this is because of the discussion 15that has arisen about exactly what the court can do in 16 relation to causation of loss and trends clauses 17 My Lords, in our respectful submission, what the 18 court should be doing is seeking to elucidate so far as 19possible general principle, but also, importantly from 20our perspective, rejecting the declarations that the FCA

seeks. I will explain why. 22 If we look at the FCA's pleaded case, it is 23 contained essentially in paragraphs 76 to 78 of the 24 particulars of claim, which begins on $\{A/2/45\}$ of that 25bundle.

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1 Your Lordships will see in paragraph 76 the argument $\mathbf{2}$ that the trends clauses only contemplate something 3 extraneous which can fairly be described as an ordinary 4 vicissitude of commercial life .

Then in paragraph 77 they set out their pleaded case as to the proper counterfactual, which involves taking out or reversing out the entire COVID-19 pandemic. Then in paragraph 78, on page $\{A/2/46\}$, they say

8 9 that the valuation of loss does not fall to be reduced 10 on the basis that but for the business closure or 11 particular government measures all or the majority of 12 the losses would have been suffered anyway as a result 13 of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK, the lockdown. 14 self - isolation . social distancing and so on.

15So that is the absolutist nature of the case that we 16are meeting, and that absolutist case is then reflected 17in the declarations that the FCA seeks, which are set 18 out in of paragraphs 15, 16 and 18 of the prayer, which 19 begin at page 53 of this bundle. $\{A/2/53\}$

20Declaration 15 is the FCA's case as to proximate 21 cause.

22Declaration 16, it's not entirely clear, but we 23understand that to be essentially seeking a declaration 24 as to the counterfactual that the FCA advances. In 25

other words, the counterfactual that one must assess

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1 loss on the basis that there would have been no COVID-19 2 pandemic. 3 Then over the page, page $\{A/2/54\}$ of the bundle, 4 declaration 18, they seek a declaration that: 5"Losses do not fall to be reduced under the trends $\mathbf{6}$ clauses or otherwise by reason that but for the business $\overline{7}$ closure or particular government measures all or the 8 majority of the losses would have been suffered anyway 9 as a result of the broader COVID-19 pandemic, the 10 lockdown, self - isolation , social distancing ..." and so 11 on. 12So what these declarations are seeking is to shut 13insurers out from arguments that are and should be 14 available to them on the facts of individual cases. In 15our respectful submission, that is not appropriate and 16 so we invite the court not to make those declarations . 17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: On the FCA's case, if the FCA is right 18about what is the counterfactual, then it would also be 19right, wouldn't it, that that would apply as it were 20across the board? Because you would simply take out 21 COVID and all the restrictions and all the public -- or 22 rather you wouldn't take out any of the government 23 restrictions , you would take out COVID and the public 24 response to COVID, et cetera, et cetera. But if the FCA 25is wrong about that, or at least wrong about it in

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1	relation to particular wordings, then it would not be
2	appropriate to make a blanket declaration of that kind.
3	They're issues of causation, which will depend upon
4	particular facts, as you rightly say.
5	MR ORR: Exactly so, my Lord. That is the essence of our
6	point, that the court is not in a position to make such
7	a declaration on the basis of the agreed facts.
8	My Lords, there are two specific points that arise
9	on the FCA's arguments on causation of loss and trends
10	clauses against Zurich. If I can deal very briefly with
11	those. First of all, an issue concerning the wording of
12	the quantification machinery in the Zurich policies and,
13	secondly, the appropriateness of the counterfactuals
14	advanced by Zurich.
15	So far as the wording of the quantification
16	machinery is concerned, this is a slightly pedantic
17	point but I need to cover it because it has been raised
18	by the FCA. What it comes to is that the FCA is seeking
19	to exploit a minor difference in the wording between the
20	Zurich1 and Zurich2 policies .
21	If I can do this by taking first the Zurich2 policy,
22	which is at $\{B/22/34\}.$ On page 34, towards the top of
23	the page, your Lordship will see there under the heading
24	"Additional cover extensions applicable to section B"
25	the stem wording for the business interruption

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Day	7

1	extensions :
2	"Any loss as insured under this section resulting
3	from interruption of or interference with the business
4	in consequence of:
5	"(a) damage at any situation or to any property
6	shown below; or
7	"(b) any of the undernoted contingencies."
8	It is the words in (b) that matter. Any of the
9	undernoted contingencies :
10	" will be deemed to be an incident ."
11	Obviously what that wording is doing is engaging the
12	contingency in each extension as an incident for the
13	purposes of the quantification machinery. That, indeed,
14	is what the FCA accepted in paragraph 634 of its
15	skeleton argument. I don't ask your Lordships to see
16	it, let's just focus on the wording.
17	Can I then turn, though, to the Zurich1 wording, and
18	that you will see in $\{B/21/50\}.$ Your Lordship sees
19	there, halfway down, again the stem wording for the
20	business interruption extensions in the ${\sf Zurich1}$ policy,
21	and that says:
22	"Any loss as insured by this section resulting from
23	interruption of or interference with the business in
24	consequence of accidental loss destruction or damage at
25	the under-noted situations or to property as under-noted
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1	shall be deemed to be an incident"
2	What those introductory words omit are the words "or
2	any of the under noted contingencies"

3	any of the under-noted contingencies ".
4	In our submission, it is clear that the intended
5	meaning of the provision is the same, namely that it is
6	the contingency identified in each extension which is
7	deemed to be an incident. We submit that the omission
8	of the words "or any of the under-noted contingencies"
9	is an obvious drafting error which falls to be corrected
10	on a proper interpretation of the provision . One can
11	probably get there anyway on the express words of the
12	provision .
13	It is nonsensical to suggest that that slight
14	difference in wording was intended to have a difference ,
15	intended to create a difference between that wording and
16	the equivalent wording in Zurich2.
17	However, in its skeleton argument at
18	paragraphs 700-702, the FCA do seek to take advantage of
19	this obvious drafting infelicity . If I can just show

20your Lordships that briefly , that is at $\{I/1/233\}.$ 21In paragraph 700, about a halfway down, having 22quoted the words from the Zurich1 policy, they say: 23"That definition is rather circular ... and drafted 24at least in part with property damage in mind $\ldots "$

25Then they go on in 701 to say:

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1 "The 'incident ' according to this definition is the $\mathbf{2}$ loss or else the interruption or interference." 3 Our short point is that that is wrong. The incident 4 is the contingency in the AOCA extension. That is the clear intent of the wording. It is the same as the 5 $\mathbf{6}$ wording in Zurich2. That, in any event, is the insured 7peril . It follows, therefore, that the quantification 8 machinery in both policies operates in precisely the 9 same way. 10 My Lords, my final point is just to touch upon the 11 counterfactual advanced by Zurich. 12On this there has been debate about the 13applicability of the "but for" test, but in our 14submission that debate is irrelevant to the Zurich 15policies . In the trends clauses in the Zurich policies 16 the parties have agreed that the sum payable shall 17represent as nearly as may be reasonably practicable the 18results which but for the incident would have been 19obtained. 20Zurich submits that this would require the court to 21 reverse such government measures as the court might find 22 prevented access to the insured's premises. But 23everything else must be assumed to remain the same. The

> danger or incidence of COVID, whether within or outside 35

court is therefore not required also to reverse the

1	the vicinity of the insured's premises.
2	We adopt on this point the arguments of Amlin on
3	MSA1, as well as the arguments to the same effect made
4	by Hiscox on its public authority clause.
5	So on our analysis, if the court were to find that
6	the government measure, for example preventing access,
7	was regulation 4 of the 26 March regulations, that
8	regulation would fall to be reversed out for the
9	purposes of the counterfactual.
10	Now, the FCA suggests that by reversing out the
11	particular regulation by which access was prevented
12	Zurich is accepting that a narrow insured peril approach
13	does not apply and is therefore being inconsistent ,
14	because what we are doing is reversing out the entirety
15	of the regulation on a national basis and not just
16	something that was in the vicinity .
17	In our submission, there is nothing inconsistent or
18	illogical in our approach. Our position follows from
19	the fact that this is a case where the relevant civil
20	authority action that might be found to have prevented
21	access was a regulation imposed on a national basis . In
22	such a case, it is that particular regulation that falls
23	to be reversed.
24	The position would obviously be different if civil
25	authority action was taken, which was limited to the

1	insured's premises or limited to the vicinity of the	1	disease in the first half of this year; see, we don't
2	insured's premises. Zurich's approach does not involve	2	need to turn it up, the particulars of claim at
3	acceptance of anything more than that.	3	paragraph 3 $\{A/2/3\}$.
4	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I may have misunderstood. This is	4	Now, my Lords, the occurrence of a notifiable
5	essentially an alternative case so far as you are	5	disease, wherever it occurs, can potentially interfere
6	concerned, isn't it? You have lost here, at this point,	6	with an insured's business in numerous different ways.
7	haven't you, on your basic point as to what is	7	For instance, staff or customers may fall ill or are in
8	a relevant action of	8	contact with the disease and so unable to work or to
9	MR ORR: Yes. Yes, my Lord, we are assuming at this stage	9	visit the insured, whether as a result of being ill or
10	of the argument that the court has found that there has	10	quarantined .
11	been prevention of access, so contrary to all of our	11	Secondly, suppliers , wherever they may be, may be
12	arguments on prevention of access and	12	affected in a number of ways and unable to supply.
13	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: So, as it were, a national response has	13	Thirdly, there could be public perception of risk or
14	been found to trigger your clause.	14	fear of the disease causing some downturn in trade.
15	MR ORR: Indeed so, my Lord, yes. Apologies, I should have	15	Fourthly, there can be local or national or foreign
16	made that clear. But that is always the case when we	16	government action responding to the disease . Such
17	talk about causation of loss, we are assuming against	17	action can be measures anything from hygiene advice, to
18	ourselves that the court has found, contrary to our	18	travel restrictions , or lockdown, with different
19	case, that cover has been triggered under the extension.	19	propensities to have an effect on an insured's business.
20	My Lord, I hope that clarifies the position .	20	And it is important, I would respectfully suggest,
21	If we are right about that, the short point is that	21	not to lose sight of the fact that the occurrence of
22	we say it would follow that policyholders would or are	22	a notifiable disease, wherever it may occur, can
23	likely to have suffered the same or substantially the	23	potentially affect insured's businesses in a myriad
24	same loss, given the wider ramifications of the COVID-19	24	number of ways.
25	pandemic, all of which would still be assumed to remain.	25	Now, of course, in this case the FCA's arguments are
	37		39
1	That, though, of course, is a question of fact that can	1	focused, because of what has happened, on the specifics
2	only be determined on the facts of an individual case.	2	of recent events. But when considering construction of
3	My Lords, that was all I was going to say, unless	3	these policies , one has to adopt a construction which is
4	your Lordships have any further questions for me.	4	suited to all the different circumstances that may
5	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I don't. Thank you very much.	5	arise, and not simply to the particular circumstance
6	MR ORR: Thank you, my Lords.	6	that has arisen, particularly where it is acknowledged,
7	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Thank you very much, Mr Orr.	7	as it must be, that the disease clauses were not, even
8	Who is next, Mr Salzedo?	8	on the FCA's case, specifically for the purposes of
9	MR HOWARD: No, it is me, my Lord, for QBE.	9	a pandemic. Essentially what is said by the FCA is that
10	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I was misled by the fact that I had	10	the clauses are wide enough to cover a disease of
11	Mr Salzedo pinned to my gallery.	11	pandemic proportion and so cover the effects of such
12	MR HOWARD: Well, I'm sorry that I am interrupting what you	12	a pandemic, even if that is not what they were primarily
13	were expecting but it was meant to be me.	13	directed at.

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LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It's a pleasure to see you Mr Howard. 14 15(11.03 am) 16Submissions by MR HOWARD

17MR HOWARD: I'm grateful for that. 18 My Lords, as your Lordships know, QBE is sued, and 19 only sued, in respect of cover provided pursuant to the 20so-called disease clauses. The real issue so far as 21concerns QBE, as your Lordships have remarked, is one of

- 22construction, and that is so for the following reasons. 23Firstly , the test case is concerned with whether the
- 24 QBE wordings, amongst others, respond to the events of
- 25COVID-19 and the UK Government action responding to the

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public authority intervention which did prevent and 40

instructions and legislation , was a single body of

"The government response, in the form of advice,

But taking the FCA's case as it is, being concerned with the UK Government's response to COVID-19, they say

events of COVID-19 was a single body of public authority

activities at insureds' business premises. That is the

particulars of claim, paragraph 4.1 {A/2/3}. It might

that the government response to what they call the

intervention which interrupted or interfered with

be worth just putting that up on the screen.

Do your Lordships see paragraph 4.1:

1	hinder access to and use of business premises" and	1	fear/risk/danger/emergency/prevalence anywhere, it would
2	so on.	2	not have acted. But had there been such fear etc in the
3	Here we are talking about a single body of public	3	entire country other than one 25-mile radius it
4	authority intervention across the whole of the UK, and	4	probably still would have acted."
5	certainly for present purposes England and Wales. The	5	So one sees there that they are recognising that any
6	test case, therefore, is concerned with whether that	6	particular insureds ' premises, or they take the 25-mile
7	single body of public authority action across the whole	7	radius but equally the 1 mile radius, does not actually
8	of the UK which interrupted or interfered with	8	affect what would have happened.
9	activities at QBE's various insureds ' business premises	9	Now, it is fair to point out that the caveat that is
10	was an insured peril under the QBE disease wordings.	10	expressed at footnote 236, where it is said :
11	My Lords, there are a number of points that could be	11	"Although whether it would have acted nationally, or
12	made about the FCA's formulation in paragraph 4.1 of the	12	would have excluded the strangely immune from the
13	particulars , but for present purposes it is sufficient	13	government action on the basis that it was not needed
14	to note and emphasise the word "single". It is not said	14	there and it was better to keep that economy going, is
15	that the government response was a response to the	15	a further question."
16	disease occurring anywhere in particular .	16	I will come back to that separately , but that is
17	Indeed, that becomes clear from two further	17	a caveat which plainly only arises if the FCA is wrong
18	paragraphs of the particulars of claim. If we could go	18	on its construction arguments.
19	to $\{A/2/28\}$ and paragraph 42, your Lordships see there	19	What you see from both the paragraphs in the
20	that:	20	pleadings to which I have referred and paragraph 241 in
21	"All of the advice and actions referred to above in	21	the main text is that the drivers for the government's
22	paragraph 18 were imposed upon all locations in	22	action were what are described as fear, risk, and so on.
23	England and Wales at the same time because of the	23	Of course, where that is the concern, as fear of spread
24	anticipation and occurrence of a nationwide pandemic.	24	of COVID-19 and so on, it's not surprising that it is
25	They were not limited to particular areas where COVID-19	25	conceded that the government's decision would have been
	, ,		5
	44		10
	41		43
1		1	
$\frac{1}{2}$	was present or feared [and they refer to an alternative		precisely the same irrespective of the position in any
$\frac{1}{2}$		1 2 3	precisely the same irrespective of the position in any insureds' 1 mile or 25-mile policy area. The presence
2 3	was present or feared [and they refer to an alternative approach] because all of the UK was considered to be at risk ."	$\frac{2}{3}$	precisely the same irrespective of the position in any insureds' 1 mile or 25-mile policy area. The presence or absence of the disease in such an area would not
2 3 4	was present or feared [and they refer to an alternative approach] because all of the UK was considered to be at risk ." Then in the next paragraph they explain that:	$2 \\ 3 \\ 4$	precisely the same irrespective of the position in any insureds' 1 mile or 25-mile policy area. The presence or absence of the disease in such an area would not affect the fear and risk of contagion over the whole of
$2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5$	was present or feared [and they refer to an alternative approach] because all of the UK was considered to be at risk ." Then in the next paragraph they explain that: "The pandemic was a nationwide emergency arising out	$2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5$	precisely the same irrespective of the position in any insureds' 1 mile or 25-mile policy area. The presence or absence of the disease in such an area would not affect the fear and risk of contagion over the whole of the UK that was faced.
$2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6$	was present or feared [and they refer to an alternative approach] because all of the UK was considered to be at risk ." Then in the next paragraph they explain that : "The pandemic was a nationwide emergency arising out of a highly contagious disease with an actual and	$2 \\ 3 \\ 4$	precisely the same irrespective of the position in any insureds' 1 mile or 25-mile policy area. The presence or absence of the disease in such an area would not affect the fear and risk of contagion over the whole of the UK that was faced. So my Lords, the issue of construction, therefore,
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of occurrence of COVID in any one place, therefore 1 2 including, supposedly, one insured's premises or one 3 insured's relevant policy area, formed part of the 4 so-called jigsaw on which the FCA say the government 5relied . 6 It is against this background that one understands $\overline{7}$ why the FCA is desperate to avoid a construction which 8 requires that the occurrence of the disease on the g insured's premises or in the insured's relevant policy 10 area should have a causative effect on the insured's 11 business interruption ; in other words, that it should be 12 a "but for" cause. 13My Lords, against that background, one asks what 14actually is the FCA's case on construction, and I regret 15 to say that the submissions of the FCA are in fact somewhat confused on this The reason for that is that 16 17they actually make two submissions on construction, and 18 one needs to disentangle those two submissions. 19The first submission is what has been called orally 20the "qualifying condition" point but which, insofar as 21 I can understand it, in the pleading was called the 22 "some sort of anchor" point. The latter terminology, 23 "some sort of anchor" has been guietly dropped without 24 fanfare or explanation. The reason why my learned 25friend Mr Edelman has shied away from the "some sort of 45anchor" terminology is perhaps too obvious to require me 1 $\mathbf{2}$ to dwell on.

3 But what is the argument? It comes down to this: 4 As I shall explain in a moment, the plain language 5 of QBE's clauses requires an insured to prove 6 a causative nexus, "but for ", between the occurrence of 7 the disease in their relevant policy area and the 8 business interruption .

9 This argument of the FCA, whatever label, whether 10 qualifying condition or some sort of anchor that the FCA 11 from time to time chooses to employ, is an attempt to 12 subvert the wording of the policies and to avoid the 13 need to prove any causative effect by reason of the 14 occurrence of the disease on the insured's premises or 15 in the relevant policy area.

16So, my Lords, it is important to be clear as to what 17the purpose and consequences of the argument are. It is 18 to say that the BI cover is against the effects of 19 a notifiable disease wherever it occurs and however it 20causes the insured's business interruption, provided 21 there is at least one occurrence of the disease in the 22insured's relevant policy area, whether or not that 23single occurrence has any impact or not. 24 As only a momentary perusal of the terms of the

25 disease clause reveals, this argument drives a coach and

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1 horses through the wording, but it is, as I have already 2 said, manifestly clear why the FCA is driven to run this 3 argument. The simple reason is that it recognises that 4 it, or rather the various insureds of QBE, even if they 5could prove by the statistical analysis favoured by the $\mathbf{6}$ FCA that a case of COVID had actually occurred in their $\overline{7}$ relevant policy area, which of course is assumed for the 8 purposes of the test case, they can't prove the 9 necessary causative effect of such occurrence of a case 10 of COVID. However, it is fair to point out that the 11 suggestion that there is no need to show any causative 12 effect of the occurrence of the disease in the insured's 13relevant policy area is astonishing both in terms of, 14firstly, the breadth and nature of the cover that this 15would confer and, secondly, the bizarre happenstance 16 nature of such cover, the lottery effect. 17As became clear in submissions, the qualifying 18 condition or some sort of anchor is really the FCA's 19main construction argument. Once it is recognised to be 20wrong, I suggest realistically that is the end of the 21 matter 22 My Lords, an interesting observation to make at this 23 point: although they make this qualifying condition

point: although they make this qualifying condition argument, the FCA can never quite bring themselves to state that the consequence of their argument is that

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there is no need to prove any causative element whatsoever attributable to the occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area. Whilst that is the clear effect of the argument, the FCA refrains from explicitly making the point because it is clear , frankly , that it is ridiculous . So they use sleight of hand to blend the point into their second argument, which is concerned with causation , but causation as a matter of construction . My Lords, in order to understand the second argument, one needs to bear in mind what the FCA correctly accepts as to the law in relation to causation generally .

They accept that in order to recover, an insured must normally prove, as indeed is plain law, that but for the operation of the insured peril he would have suffered loss. Accordingly, the FCA argues that you must take away the entire insured peril as part of the "but for" causation analysis. But, as your Lordships will remember, it is at this point that the FCA finds itself riding horses going into different directions. For the purposes of the disease clause case, it realises that this concession or acceptance of the correct legal position would fatally undermine it if the insured peril is the occurrence of the disease in the

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1	insured's relevant policy area, and you take that away	1	MR HOWARD: As I was explaining before the break, my Lords,
2	for the "but for" analysis . That is the end of the	2	there are two arguments on construction; the first is
$\frac{2}{3}$	case. Because, as the FCA acknowledges, reversing the	3	the qualifying condition point, and the second is an
4	assumed presence of COVID in the insured's relevant	4	argument as to causation and as to what the parties
4 5	policy area would not have made a jot of difference to	4 5	intended by way of causation. This was explained at
6		6	{Day1/148:6} which we have here, so Mr Edelman says:
7	the government nationwide response based upon the fear	7	
	and risk that COVID might spread and so on. The		"So we see the answer to this case is to be found in
8	nationwide response, which the FCA relies upon as the	8	the way one approaches causation. For a composite
9	relevant interference to business, would have happened	9	clause one excludes from the counterfactual the
10	anyway. Hence Shop B, in our example, is in no	10	contemplated element."
11	different position to Shop A.	11	Just stopping there, there is obviously a debate as
12	But it is in this context that you come to consider	12	to what is in the composite clause, the insured peril,
13	the FCA's second construction argument.	13	but his case is you exclude the insured peril . But then
14	The FCA, acknowledging as it does that the assumed	14	he says:
15	presence or indeed absence of COVID in the insured's	15	"For a disease clause you proceed on the premise
16	relevant policy area would not make a difference to the	16	that the parties contemplated a disease outbreak which
17	UK Government's response, then say there is a special	17	might be part of a larger outbreak, hence the fact that
18	rule of causation in respect of the disease clause.	18	it was related to notifiable diseases , but it was not
19	This is how Mr Edelman sought to wipe the smile off the	19	the intention of the parties for causation to operate by
20	face of the proverbial Kealey-esque Cheshire Cat. It is	20	treating the outbreak as a whole as part of
21	a rather convoluted argument that appeared in different	21	a counterfactual . And the rationalisation in causation
22	places , but which Mr Edelman summarised on $\{{\sf Day1/148:1}\}$,	22	terms is that the outbreak would be a single and
23	if we could get that transcript up, please.	23	divisible cause or a current interdependent series of
24	You see	24	causes, all contributing to the same picture."
25	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I notice that it is just after 20 past	25	What is important to bear in mind is that this is
	10		- 1
	49		51
1	11. I wonder, because this is obviously going to take	1	being put forward as an argument as to what the parties
2	you a little while to develop	2	intended by the contract, in other words, as an argument
-	,		
3	MR HOWARD: Yes, I am perfectly happy		
$\frac{3}{4}$	MR HOWARD: Yes, I am perfectly happy LORD_IUSTICE FLAUX: it might be sensible to break now	3	on construction .
4	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: it might be sensible to break now	$\frac{3}{4}$	on construction . Now, my Lords, one might ask precisely which words
$\frac{4}{5}$	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: it might be sensible to break now before you go too far into it . Then we can look at the	3 4 5	on construction . Now, my Lords, one might ask precisely which words are said to have this effect or indeed what reading of
$4 \\ 5 \\ 6$	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: it might be sensible to break now before you go too far into it . Then we can look at the way in which this second argument is put.	3 4 5 6	on construction . Now, my Lords, one might ask precisely which words are said to have this effect or indeed what reading of the disease clause achieves this effect . We would
4 5 6 7	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: it might be sensible to break now before you go too far into it . Then we can look at the way in which this second argument is put. MR HOWARD: I'm grateful, my Lord.	3 4 5 6 7	on construction. Now, my Lords, one might ask precisely which words are said to have this effect or indeed what reading of the disease clause achieves this effect. We would suggest that was never made clear. The most that can be
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1	causation stage that the requirement of causation should
2	either be discarded or relegated in the convoluted way
3	suggested. Indeed, to ascribe such an intention to the
4	parties would mean that the insured peril was
5	dramatically enlarged, contrary to the limiting words
6	actually used in the policy itself .
7	No doubt such arguments might find merit in the
8	topsy-turvey world beyond the looking glass, remembering
9	the famous exchange between Humpty Dumpty and Alice, but
10	we would suggest they do not in the real world.
11	My Lords, with that introduction , I am going to
12	consider more fully the construction arguments. I will
13	then deal with causation, although in fact little, if
14	anything, is left once one disposes of the construction
15	arguments.
16	My Lords, before considering the FCA's qualifying
17	condition argument, I want to say something about the
18	approach. In our submission, it is clear that the FCA,
19	in approaching the construction argument, starts with
20	what it wants to achieve, which is the broadest possible
21	cover for the largest number of policyholders, that is
22	to say cover in respect of the effects of the UK
23	government response to COVID-19, including steps taken
24	in fear of a pandemic or the risk of spread of COVID.
25	The FCA works backwards, putting whatever spin on
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1contractual words and applying whatever novel form of2causation test I thinks allows it to achieve the3objective. So it essentially justifies the process by4starting from what it seeks to prove.

5So its starting premise is that the wordings cover 6 a disease of pandemic proportions. Any other view, they 7 say, is absurd. So they seek to make the words fit what 8 they seek to achieve. As we have said in our pleading, 9 at paragraph 54 $\{A/11/15\}$, we don't need to turn it up, 10 the case is back to front. It is a classic case of 11 reverse engineering to achieve the amount of cover that 12 the FCA seeks to get for policyholders .

13 The qualifying condition that is put forward, and 14 I will come back to that, does not reflect the wordings 15themselves, the presumed intention of the parties, or 16indeed commercial common sense. The same is true of the 17secondary argument to causation, and the approach by 18 reference to jigsaws, underlying causes, inextricable 19 links, all of which are said to be relevant by means of 20some presumed intention of the parties or some novel 21 third category of multiple cause cases, supposedly 22established by The Silver Cloud case in the Court of 23Appeal. 24

24The FCA's objective here is plain; it seeks to25persuade you to make findings which water down the

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1 construction of the policy and the effect of the radius 2 provisions in particular, and which either wholly 3 disapply the need for a causative effect of the 4 occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area or 5apply a novel causal test, effectively a non-causal 6 test, since the causal requirement is reduced almost to $\overline{7}$ vanishing point, and, as I say, in order to achieve the 8 maximum amount of coverage, delivering pandemic coverage 9 by the back door. 10 We suggest that the argument doesn't begin to 11 withstand any proper legal analysis . 12 My Lord, let's turn more fully to the qualifying 13condition point. It is worth seeing how Mr Edelman put 14 his case on $\{Day3/48:1\}$. We want to go to line 25. We 15need to show a bit more of the page, please. 16 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Or perhaps the next page. 17 MR HOWARD: Yes, yes. If one goes to, yes, line 25: 18 "What these clauses are all contemplating, as 19Mr Howard seems to accept in paragraph 24, is that the authorities will be doing something about it ." 2021 Stopping there for a moment. That is one way, of 22 course, you get business interruption but, as I have 23 already said, that is not the only way. But that 24 doesn't matter for present purposes. He goes on to say: 25"That is the critical point, because any

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1 interruption or interference will be caused by virtue of $\mathbf{2}$ the response of the authorities to the outbreak, not by 3 the outbreak itself ." 4 As I have said, that is not necessarily right. Then $\mathbf{5}$ he goes on to say: 6 "One can analyse this , and one then asks oneself: if 7 one is talking about these clauses contemplating that 8 actually what will cause the interruption or 9 interference is the reaction of the authorities to the 10disease, what is the function of the 25-mile or 1 mile 11restriction ? Is it imposing a locality limit or is it 12 merely imposing a qualifying condition, saying that if 13 there is authority reaction to an outbreak of a disease, and that authority action impacts on you, you only have 14 15cover if that disease, whether it is elsewhere or not. 16is present within the defined radius from your 17premises?" 18 So Mr Edelman's answer to the question he poses is 19 that the radius provision is actually what he calls 20a qualifying condition. It's a tick box exercise. Do 21 you have one example of a notifiable disease occurrence 22in your relevant policy area? If so then you tick the 23box and you have full cover for the effects of 24a notifiable disease as it occurs, or may occur, 25anywhere and everywhere, and presumably at any time.

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Day 7

1 We will come to the wordings in a moment, but such 2 construction is not supported by the wordings, and we 3 would suggest is contrary to them, and indeed leads to 4 patently absurd conclusions and can't be what the 5 parties intended.

6 Your Lordships will remember, we don't need to turn 7 it up, but we posited the examples of shops A to D in 8 our written opening, and those examples plainly caused 9 some discomfort to the FCA. You will remember 10 Mr Edelman's attempts to deal with them, and I would

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 suggest he had no sensible answer.

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 You will recall that insured Shop A, which has no

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 You will recall that insured Shop A, which has no
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 occurrence of disease within its relevant policy area

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 and it matters not whether we are talking about a 1 mile

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 or a 25-mile radius -- it 's common ground that it has no

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 cover for the business interruption caused by the

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 government response to the disease .

18Shop B, the happenstance of one case of COVID in its19area, Mr Edelman focused on the reference to a care20home. It doesn't really matter what facts you are21assuming. Mr Edelman sought to distract attention by22going off at a tangent and saying: how did the case get23there? It entirely misses the point and was24a distraction. It is the FCA's case that a single case

of COVID-19 occurring in the area is enough.

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1 The point of the example is that a single case, in $\mathbf{2}$ that example, has had no causative effect. But the 3 oddity on the FCA's case is that Shop B is covered for 4 the business interruption caused by the government 5measures, while Shop A, 100 yards or so away, is not; 6 and that is by the pure happenstance of a single case in 7 Shop B's policy area, and despite the fact that the case 8 in Shop B's policy area is wholly and utterly irrelevant 9 in fact to Shop B's business.

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 My Lord, I would respectfully suggest that this

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 makes no sense, and no doubt explains Mr Edelman and the

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 FCA's evident discomfort in addressing these examples.

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 My Lord, let me give you another example, away from

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 the UK response to COVID, just to illustrate how

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 surprising and, to use the FCA's much loved word, absurd

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 the FCA's case is . Let's call it the case of the

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 Chinese supplier .

18 Assume an English insured manufactures goods. It 19 obtains vital parts for those goods from a factory in 20China. Due to the outbreak of a notifiable disease in 21 the supplier's town in China, and let's take SARS, to 22move away from the current crisis , the Chinese 23government orders a lockdown in that town. As a result, 24 the English insured is unable to obtain his supplies and 25is therefore facing an interruption or interference to

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1 its business. 2 Now, we ask, does the English insured have cover for 3 the interruption or interference? 4 QBE says plainly no. But what is the position of 5the FCA? Now, undoubtedly on the plain facts that $\mathbf{6}$ I have just outlined it would also have to say no. Its $\overline{7}$ position would be there is no cover in respect of 8 interruption by this notifiable disease, SARS -- sorry, 9 it's position is that there is cover, sorry, in respect 10 by a notifiable disease, SARS, and that has happened, 11 but sorry, insured, you have no cover because the 12 qualifying condition has not been met. But, the FCA 13would say to the insured, if you can prove that by 14complete chance a person with SARS happened to come 15within 1 mile or 25 miles of your business, depending on which clause they had, you will then have cover. 16 17No doubt this would provoke the insured to put 18 adverts in the papers to find anyone who had visited 19China and who might, whether they knew it or not, be 20infected with SARS and who had infected their 21 policyholder area, inviting them to come forward. 22 Should such a person be found, suddenly cover would be 23 triggered, and the insured would be able to recover all 24 of the loss suffered by reason of events occurring on

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the other side of the world.

My Lords, whilst, frankly, anyone reading the clause can see this is plainly nonsense, what it reveals is the staggering effect of the FCA's argument in revealing both the breadth of the supposed cover it argues for, namely cover for the effects of the occurrence of a disease anywhere in the world, providing that the insured meets a non-causative qualifying condition, and the happenstance of when an insured is able to satisfy that non-causative qualifying condition and get cover against the effects of a disease occurring anywhere, which is what the FCA claims is the purpose of the insurance.

My Lord, just to complete the bizarre effect, the picture of the bizarre effect of the FCA's argument, let's consider a case closer to home, and indeed one that my Lord Lord Justice Flaux adverted to this morning, namely the Scilly Isles. The Scilly Isles are, of course, located more than 25 miles from the English mainland. It is an agreed fact that there is no disease on those islands. As

20fact that there is no disease on those islands . As21such, on the FCA's case, no policyholder on those22islands will currently have cover, whether they have23a 1 mile or 25-mile radius policy . In terms of the shop24examples given in our written opening, they are all25Shop A examples, but of course they will be suffering

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1 interference with their business as a result of the 2 nationwide COVID-19 pandemic and the UK Government's 3 guidance and restrictions put in place as a result . 4 But let's assume, taking the FCA's case, a Cornish 5fishing boat sailed and crossed the 25-mile radius 6 threshold and approaches the island, and on board that 7 fishing boat, it turns out, there is one contagious but asymptomatic and undiagnosed fisherman. What then 8 g happens? Well, on the FCA's case, cover would suddenly 10 start being triggered from business to business as the 11 fishing boat approached, it would be a like a row of 12 lights coming on one by one. The boat need never enter 13port in the islands, and may turn back for the mainland 14 after even a few moments, but those businesses would be, 15 on the FCA's case, converted into businesses with cover 16 and would, as if by magic, suddenly have the benefit of 17full pandemic cover. 18 Of course, the unfortunate businesses located just 19outside the 25-mile range from the point where the 20trawler turned back will not get cover, however, and in 21 Mr Edelman's words that is just bad luck.

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 My Lords, no sensible person would consider that an

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 insurance contract should operate in such

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 a happenstance, and indeed I would suggest perverse and

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 capricious, manner.

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1The FCA's construction of the radius provision as2a qualifying condition or some sort of threshold3requirement or proviso to cover makes no sense, and that4is true whether one looks at it from the insurer's5perspective or the insureds.

6 Taking the insurer's perspective, the FCA's approach 7 offers no meaningful limit on the scope of the insurer's 8 potential liability . Once cover is triggered , as it may 9 be at any time by the happenstance of someone with the 10 disease entering a relevant policy area, the extent of 11 the business interruption disease cover will effectively 12 be limitless , including in geographical and temporal 13 terms

14 Construing the radius provisions as the FCA proposes 15also makes no sense from the insured's perspective. If. 16as the FCA contends, the disease clause is intended to 17protect the insured against the business interruption by 18 notifiable disease occurring anywhere and everywhere, 19 then why is it in the insured's interests to have to 20wait until someone with the disease just happens to be 21 nearby to trigger cover, and to have no cover if 22happenstance does not occur? 23

23In my example of the Chinese supplier , the English24insured business cares not a jot that a person who by25chance visited China and caught SARS, and who by chance

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1 entered the relevant radius, whether it is 1 mile or 2 25 miles, they are not interested in that at all. What 3 they would want, if the FCA's argument as to the 4 purposes of the insurance were correct, is cover for the 5interruption to their business caused by the disruption 6 to the supplier in China by the SARS epidemic. How is $\overline{7}$ the qualifying condition of any assistance or relevance 8 to that policyholder? 9 Of course, my Lords, the true position is far more 10 prosaic. The insured has not purchased insurance 11 against business interruption caused by a notifiable 12 disease anywhere and everywhere. They have purchased 13insurance against the business interruption caused by 14the occurrence of a notifiable disease on their premises 15or in their relevant policy area. 16 As I have made clear, these examples reveal the true 17nature of the FCA's case on construction, which is that 18 BI cover here is for the effects of a notifiable 19disease. wherever it occurs, but where your entitlement 20to an indemnity depends on happenstance. And on the 21 FCA's analysis, the 1 mile or the 25-mile radius 22 provision is effectively a lottery ticket for the 23 insured. If someone with the relevant disease enters 24

the radius, the policyholder wins the lottery and has full cover for all effects of that disease arising

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1 anywhere and everywhere, but not otherwise. And the $\mathbf{2}$ only difference between the 1 mile and the 25-mile 3 radius is that in one case the insured is effectively 4 has effectively bought one lottery ticket and in the $\mathbf{5}$ latter 25 tickets 6 The postcode lottery is the inevitable outcome of 7 the FCA's attempt to rewrite the cover so as to be one 8 for the business interruption effects of disease 9 anywhere in the world, treating the radius provisions as 10qualifying conditions, threshold requirements or 11provisos, rather than a key component part of the 12 insured peril, which is what they really are. 13 Indeed, Mr Edey expressly accepted this on behalf of the HIGA interveners on {Day3/167:1}. If we could get 14 15that up, please. If your Lordships go to line 25 and 16then we will need to go to the next page: 17"My Lords, the second point is the question which 18 seemed to be troubling your Lordships a little on 19 Monday, which was the purpose of the area requirement. 20We say the answer to that is simple: it precludes cover 21 if you don't have cases of the relevant notifiable 22disease in the relevant area. And that is an important 23purpose, albeit one which necessarily gives rise to the 24postcode lottery to which QBE refer on their case as 25much as ours."

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If one is having to accept, as Mr Edey correctly

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business interruption , interruption of or interference

Day 7

2	does, that the FCA's construction necessarily leads to	2	with the business arising from, one can see, and leave
3	cover on the basis of a postcode lottery , that strongly	3	aside the first one for a moment, you have got:
4	suggests that the proposed construction is not the	4	"(b) actual or suspected murder, suicide or sexual
5	correct one. Moreover, there is no respect in which the	5	assault at the premises;
6	correct construction advanced by QBE involves any sort	6	"(c) injury or illness sustained by any person
7	of lottery, as I shall explain in a moment.	7	arising from or traceable to foreign or injurious matter
8	But, my Lord, just to complete this point, put	8	in food or drink provided in the premises;
9	simply, insurance is not a game of lotto. An argument	9	"(d) vermin or pests in the premises;
10	that, on its true construction, the liability of the	10	"(e) the closing of the whole or part of the
11	insurer and the entitlement of the insureds depends on	11	premises by order of a competent public authority"
12	such chance is, to put it at its lowest, surprising. It	12	So what you see is that (b) to (d) are very narrow
13	is even more surprising , frankly , to find such an	13	covers based upon things that happen at or are related
14	argument being articulated by the FCA, which normally	14	to the premises. If we go back to (a):
15	wears a hat as the regulator of insurers, but perhaps,	15	"any human infectious or human contagious
16	my Lords, the less said about that the better.	16	disease an outbreak of which the local authority has
17	I now turn to look at the correct approach to	17	stipulated shall be notified manifested by any
18	construction. My Lord, in contrast to the FCA's back to	18	person whilst in the premises or within a 25-mile radius
19	front methodology, QBE take the conventional approach of	19	of it."
20	starting with the words of the insuring clauses, and	20	One of the things is one mustn't lose sight of the
21	asking how they should be construed objectively and in	21	fact that what it first looks at is an occurrence of the
22	the light of established legal principles .	22	disease, or manifestation of the disease in this one,
23	My Lords, you can call me old-fashioned if you like ,	23	whilst somebody is in the premises or within a 25-mile
24	and I have got broad shoulders, I can live with that,	24	radius of it.
25	the simple point is that the only way of ascertaining	25	Now, my Lord, just looking at this clause in the
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1	the parties' intentions to a contract is by considering	1	context of the policy as a whole, we would suggest it is
2	the words used.	2	somewhat surprising to say that this clause was intended
3	My Lords, you probably have the references to the	3	to provide all - singing all -dancing pandemic cover or
4	relevant policy wordings already, but for convenience	4	cover for the effects of notifiable disease wherever it
5	the lead wording, one of four for QBE1, is at $\{B/13/1\}$;	5	occurs, that one is having to say, that is, from
6	the lead wording, one of 2 for QBE2, is at $\{B/14/1\}$; and	6	somewhat buried away within clause (a), all of which
7	the one and only wording for QBE3 is at $\{B/15/1\}$.	7	seems unlikely .
8	My Lords, let's look, if we may, at the wording in	8	Now, my Lord.
9	QBE1. I take that rather than QBE3 because Mr Edelman	9	Now, my Lord, the structure of the extension and its
10	seems to be averse at looking at the policy with the	10	place within the context of the other extensions does
11	1 mile clause.	11	, not suggest that what was intended here was very broad
12	If we look at QBE1 $\{B/13/31\}$, you have clause 7.3.9,	12	cover.
13	and if one goes back to page $\{B/13/29\}$, to the	13	My Lord, are matters made any more promising for the
14	introduction to clause 7.3, and I am sure your Lordships	14	FCA when one looks at the wording of the radius
15	have very familiar with this now, 7.3 makes it clear	15	provision itself ? We would suggest the answer is
16	that this is an extension :	16	clearly no. There is no language there to suggest that
17	"This section is extended to include the following	17	the need for the disease to be in the premises or within
18	additional coverages"	18	a 25-mile radius is some qualifying condition or
19	Just beneath that:	19	proviso. The clause isn't saying that the insured is
20	"We will indemnify you for"	20	covered in respect of the effects of a notifiable
21	Then if we go back to 7.3.9 on $\{B/13/31\}$ where we	20 21	disease anywhere and everywhere, provided that at least
22	have the disease clause, it is very important not to	22	one person with the disease is present on the premises
23	lose sight of this extension, to see it in its entirety,	23	or within 25 miles of the premises. For the FCA to so

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because of course we are focusing on one part of it .

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But what one actually finds is that it is covering

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My Lord, we would suggest that the meaning of the

contend is to rewrite the clause.

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1	words here is clear. The interruption or interference
2	must arise from, and the other QBE wordings are "caused
3	by" or "in consequence of", notifiable disease
4	occurring, on this one, "in the premises or within
5	25 miles". The words are clear and unambiguous.
6	My Lord, much is made by the FCA of the fact that
7	the 25-mile radius gives rise to a 2,000 square mile
8	area or something of that sort. Now, my Lord, that is
9	true. It is also true that where you have the 25-mile
10	radius, in a very large number of cases that area may
11	extend into the sea. My Lords, it is also true that
12	where you have a 1 mile radius that gives rise to
13	a smaller area, of approximately 3 square miles. It is
14	also true that where you have looking at the premises,
15	that gives rise to a smaller area still , depending on
16	the size of the premises.
17	My Lord, all of those facts are true, but entirely
18	unilluminating . The point is that the parties have
19	chosen an area either of insured's premises or within
20	a radius of 1 mile or 25 miles thereof going in any
21	direction , which they regard , as it were, as an impact
22	zone; in other words, a zone in which there is both
23	a risk that the occurrence of a notifiable disease might
24	impact the business of the insured, and in respect of
25	which risk the insurer is prepared to provide cover.

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 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Mr Howard, in a sense it doesn't matter as a matter of construction, but it is striking that I think all the insurers with whom we are concerned either adopt a 1 mile limit or a 25-mile limit, and that is presumably I mean, these policies have been around for a long time, as Mr Gaisman I think it was told us. Presumably this 25-mile limit has some history to it which, I mean, one would suspect it is related to some outbreaks of disease 30 or 40 or 50 years ago, I don't know. Is there anything that assists on that or not? MR HOWARD: There is nothing that I can point to that assists on that, other than really I don't think there is any magic in it, is really what it comes down to. You choose an area, and all that you are saying is: I am prepared if you look at it from each party's point of view, the insured is saying, "Well, things that happen in this area may affect me", and you can choose, you could choose, for instance, there is nothing to stop you saying it should be 100 miles. A lot depends on the nature of your business. 1 mile, you have just said, well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that, I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say, "I can see if there is an outbreak of that within a mile 	1	Now, my Lords, obviously
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14there is any magic in it, is really what it comes down15to. You choose an area, and all that you are saying is:16I am prepared if you look at it from each party's17point of view, the insured is saying, "Well, things that18happen in this area may affect me", and you can choose,19you could choose, for instance, there is nothing to stop20you saying it should be 100 miles. A lot depends on the21nature of your business. 1 mile, you have just said,22well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that,23I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and24butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say,	12	MR HOWARD: There is nothing that I can point to that
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 I am prepared if you look at it from each party's point of view, the insured is saying, "Well, things that happen in this area may affect me", and you can choose, you could choose, for instance, there is nothing to stop you saying it should be 100 miles. A lot depends on the nature of your business. 1 mile, you have just said, well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that, I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say, 	14	there is any magic in it, is really what it comes down
17point of view, the insured is saying, "Well, things that18happen in this area may affect me", and you can choose,19you could choose, for instance, there is nothing to stop20you saying it should be 100 miles. A lot depends on the21nature of your business. 1 mile, you have just said,22well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that,23I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and24butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say,	15	to. You choose an area, and all that you are saying is:
 happen in this area may affect me", and you can choose, you could choose, for instance, there is nothing to stop you saying it should be 100 miles. A lot depends on the nature of your business. 1 mile, you have just said, well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that, I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say, 	16	I am prepared if you look at it from each party's
 you could choose, for instance, there is nothing to stop you saying it should be 100 miles. A lot depends on the nature of your business. 1 mile, you have just said, well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that, I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say, 	17	point of view, the insured is saying, "Well, things that
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21nature of your business. 1 mile, you have just said,22well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that,23I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and24butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say,	19	you could choose, for instance, there is nothing to stop
22well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that,23I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and24butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say,	20	you saying it should be 100 miles. A lot depends on the
23I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and24butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say,	21	nature of your business . $1 $ mile, you have just said,
24 butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say,	22	well, I think an outbreak of measles, if we take that,
	23	I think your Lordship referred to that as the bread and
25 $$ "I can see if there is an outbreak of that within a mile	24	butter case, measles for some businesses, you might say,
	25	"I can see if there is an outbreak of that within a mile

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 $\mathbf{2}$ might be other businesses where you say? "Actually, an 3 outbreak of measles within 25 miles might cause me a problem". 4 $\mathbf{5}$ I was going to come to it later , but you will 6 remember Mr Edelman, one of his examples that he gave 7was Maidenhead and London. Now, I think he was working 8 on the premise that Maidenhead is 25 miles away from 9 London. I am not sure geographically if that is right 10 or not, but it doesn't really matter, let's assume it 11 is . 12LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think 25 miles from the Royal Courts 13of Justice. 14MR HOWARD: Right. Your Lordship's geography is stronger 15than mine. LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No, I just remember that the radius was 16 17from the RCJ, I think, so we were familiar with what we 18were talking about. 19MR HOWARD: Let's assume that is right and let us assume 20that an insured is a restaurant which is very close to 21the RCJ. An outbreak of measles in Maidenhead, that may 22 or may not have an effect on their business, it just 23rather depends. If you were a business which had staff 24who worked in Maidenhead, for instance, let's say your

of my business that might cause me a problem". There

key waiting staff or your chef all lived in Maidenhead 71

1	and there was a quarantine imposed on them because they
2	had been in contact with measles or some other disease
3	that could have a severe impact on you.
4	Equally, there may be something about your
5	restaurant which particularly attracts people from
6	Maidenhead. That is not a sort of idle point. It could
7	be you are a wedding venue, for instance, and it may be
8	you have got a booking for a wedding and the wedding
9	party all come from Maidenhead and the immediate area
10	around it, so at the last minute they are unable to
11	fulfil the wedding, and cancel.
12	There are all sorts of ways in which you can impact,
13	and all that one can say is that the parties choose
14	a zone of impact because that is what they are choosing
15	to insure . It doesn't mean that you couldn't be
16	impacted by things occurring more broadly; it is simply
17	that you have not sought insurance for something
18	happening more broadly, and the insurers have not agreed
19	to provide you with cover in respect of that.
20	The very simple way of looking at this, the risk of
21	business interruption caused by occurrence of
22	a notifiable disease elsewhere other than in your
23	relevant policy area is a different risk and not an
24	insured risk .
25	What is Mr Edelman's response to that? He says, and

Day 7

1	I referred to this briefly in passing already, he says
2	this is cover for notifiable diseases. You recognise,
3	Mr Insurer, that a disease can spread both within and
4	outside the relevant policy area, and you recognise it
5	can become of epidemic or even pandemic proportions.
6	Because, per Mr Edelman, you know just how nasty
7	a disease can be. So, he says, you would know that
8	being contagious with this ability to spread can give
9	rise to an epidemic or pandemic.

10Therefore, he says, because a disease could spread11and be both within and without the insured's relevant12policy area, he says you must have insured the risks of13business interruption caused by the disease both being14within and without the relevant policy area.

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 Now, my Lords, the leap of logic here is truly

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 breathtaking. Two particular points can be made in

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 response to this.

18 The first, and they are all obvious but the first is 19simply this. The insurance is in respect of the 20occurrence of disease within the defined area, whether 21 that is the premises or within 1 mile or 25 miles of the 22 insured's premises. What is clear is that it is the 23 effect of the disease within the defined area which is 24insured, and there is no basis to say that something 25else, that is to say the occurrence of the disease

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1 elsewhere, is insured.

 $\mathbf{2}$ My Lord, just imagine this . Assume one didn't use 3 a radius, as was used in these policies, but you used 4 a specified , defined geographical location . So let's 5say you took out a policy against business interruption 6 caused by the occurrence of a notifiable disease in 7 Canada. It would be difficult to say with a straight 8 face, because Canada shares an extensive border with the 9 United States, and it would be obvious that a contagious 10 disease could spread across the border to the United 11 States. That meant that the insurer had agreed to 12 provide cover against risk of the disease occurring in the United States or the effects of the disease 13 14 occurring in the United States.

15The second point I would make leads from the first . 16The fact that these diseases are contagious is no doubt 17one of the reasons why the insurer would wish to limit 18 the cover provided for them. Their ability to cause 19 widespread damage, in Mr Edelman's very nasty cases, 20explains or is one of the reasons that explains the 21existence of the limit in the first place. 22Where Mr Edelman goes wrong here, of course, is in

suggesting that because insurers agree to cover risks of
 the effects of a disease occurring in one place, the
 insurers are covering an epidemic or, more importantly,

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1	that they are covering the effects of an epidemic.
2	They may indeed be covering a new, unexpected
3	notifiable disease but, as with any notifiable disease,
4	they are only covering it if and insofar as the business
5	interruption loss is caused by the occurrence of that
6	new disease at the premises or within a certain limited
7	radius, 1 mile or 25. The radius is plainly, on its
8	face, a limit on the cover and not a proviso or
9	threshold requirement.
10	My Lord, it is also
11	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If you are right about that, I mean
12	that in a sense gives the clue, doesn't it, as to ${\sf I}$
13	mean, you said earlier on the causation argument is
14	really answered by the construction argument, and I see
15	the force of that. But the point here is that what
16	insurers this is a limit to cover, you say, a limit
17	to cover which means that the insurers will cover you
18	for the effects of infectious disease, the effects being
19	the interruption or interference with your business,
20	infectious disease occurring within the 25-mile radius
21	limit . So far as disease outside the 25-mile radius
22	limit is concerned, the effects of that are not covered.
23	That is one of the reasons why, when you look at
24	causation, if your business has been affected by

occurrence of the disease outside the 25-mile radius you

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1 haven't got insurance. $\mathbf{2}$ MR HOWARD: Yes, my Lord, it is really as simple as that. 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is like the hurricane in the 4 Orient-Express case. $\mathbf{5}$ MR HOWARD: Yes. 6 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: There wasn't cover under the insurance 7 for what the hurricane did to the rest of New Orleans. 8 MR HOWARD: Yes, that is right. It really is simple. 9 Of course Mr Edelman, as my learned friend Mr Kealey 10pointed out, elided the nature of the insurance in 11Orient-Express and overlooked the critical point, which 12 of course was the basis of the decision both of the 13 learned arbitrators and Mr Justice Hamblen, that the 14 insured peril was damage to the hotel. Of course the 15damaged to be caused by a fortuity, but it is damage to 16the hotel which was the basis of the business 17interruption cover. 18 The other point I was going to make, which is really 19 one by way of background, it's not even the case 20actually that diseases on the notifiable diseases list 21 would normally or necessarily or even regularly be 22expected to have epidemic, still less pandemic, 23consequences. I think Mr Edelman himself accepted that; 24we don't need to turn it up but {Day1/102:1}. 25It might just be worth reminding your Lordship of

1	list of notifiable diseases that we are concerned with.
2	If we go to $\{J/9/79\}.$ This is the pre-COVID list. Of
3	course COVID got added, but you can see the sort of
4	thing that we are dealing with, anthrax, Legionnaires ',
5	which is I think under the notifiable organisms, malaria
6	which is also under those, measles, meningitis, mumps,
7	plague, rabies, tuberculosis. Many of these diseases
8	are not likely to break out into epidemics, and it is
9	certainly not inherent in the type of diseases being
10	covered they will do so. Many of them, if not most of
11	them, are likely to have a fairly local occurrence and
12	effect , particularly given the state of modern medical
13	science. Where they go beyond that, however, as they
14	might rarely do, the insurance applies a radius limit to
15	protect the insurer against what would otherwise be
16	virtually limitless liability .
17	My Lord, can I just give you, because your Lordships
18	have been presented with an argument
19	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I am just conscious that we mustn't
20	trespass , Mr Howard, over a red line which we ourselves
21	created in one of the CMCs, about the exclusion of
22	evidence in relation to these diseases .
23	MR HOWARD: My Lord, all I was saying is that here is a list
24	of diseases , and you can see what type of diseases are
25	being looked at. But I am not seeking to, as it were,
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1	give evidence about the nature of the diseases , ${\sf I}$ am
2	just trying to give some examples about what sort of
3	situation the cover is intended to respond to.
4	The point I particularly wanted to make is that your
5	Lordships remember the FCA boldly asserts that if their
6	argument is not right, that means that the cover is
7	illusory . I just want to explain to you why that is
8	just obvious nonsense by reference to some simple
9	examples.
10	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Looking at this list, I would have said
11	they were a mixed bag.
12	MR HOWARD: Yes, they are a mixed bag. Exactly. There are
13	some things which are more serious and some are less
14	serious . One sees there is tetanus, then one has
15	smallpox. I mean, in fact in the modern world prior to
16	COVID, one can see the things that actually a lot of
17	people might be concerned about are measles, mumps and
18	rubella , because of the problems we have had with
19	anti-vaxxers, or whatever they call themselves, that
20	philosophy having taken hold and a lot of children not
21	getting vaccinated and so on.
22	But let's think of what is quite a typical example,
23	and that is an outbreak of meningitis on a university
24	campus. Again, something which we are all familiar with

41	campus. Again, something which we are an Tamma	witti
25	having happened in recent times. One can see that t	that

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1	could cause interference with businesses in a number of
2	ways. You could get student bars in and immediately
3	around the campus getting affected , but you could also
4	get a music venue which might be 20 miles away,
5	somewhere that students go to gigs, effectively loses
6	its business because the outbreak of meningitis means
7	that the students are worried about going out or not
8	allowed to go out. That is the sort of situation that
9	you can see the policy can respond to.
10	Similarly , the example of the local opera house
11	being shut down due to the outbreak of Legionnaires'
12	disease . Another example where Lady Flaux would miss
13	her opera, but nearby restaurants would suffer a loss
14	because of pre-theatre dinner guests, but
15	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You have frozen.
16	MR HOWARD: That specialises in weekend opera packages.
17	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Mr Howard, you were frozen, I am
18	afraid . You froze then for a while .
19	MR HOWARD: Am I unfrozen now? Can your Lordship hear me
20	now or not?
21	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I can.
22	MR HOWARD: I can't hear your Lordship.
23	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I was muted because you froze. So yes,
24	I can hear you. Yes.
25	MR HOWARD: Did you lose audio as well?
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1	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Yes. We missed a couple of sentences

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2	of yours, Mr Howard.
3	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You were talking about the local opera
4	house and then the quip about my wife missing her opera,
5	and then about the local restaurants closing, so I think
6	we have got the point.
7	MR HOWARD: The point I wanted to add there was the hotel
8	which does weekend opera packages. It might be 10 or 15
9	or even 20 miles away, within the radius limit , but it
10	is showing the zone of influence or the zone of impact,
11	if you like , that you don't necessarily have to be next
12	door to the opera house, you can be some distance away
13	but your business can be affected by what happens at the
14	opera house.
15	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: For example, Glyndebourne.
16	MR HOWARD: Exactly. That is what essentially I was
17	adverting to.
18	At the end of the day, one could posit example
19	after example, and I won't detain you by doing so. The
20	critical point is there is nothing illusory about the
21	cover operating in the way that QBE contends. My Lords,
22	it is in fact real and valuable cover, but it is
23	limited . If insureds wanted unlimited insurance against
24	business interruption caused by notifiable disease
25	occurring anywhere, no doubt they would have sought to

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Day 7

1	purchase it . The simple answer is they did not. And
2	these are insureds, in QBE's case, who operate through
3	brokers. If they were seeking effectiveliy this disease
4	cover against disease occurring anywhere, no doubt they
5	would ask for it. I am not saying insurers would be
6	prepared to provide it . It is just a very different
7	type of insurance to what was actually provided by means
8	of extension to property cover.
9	There has been some discussion about Salisbury in
10	this case, because of the well-known events there, where
11	people have been taking the facts of Salisbury but
12	treating Novichok as if it were a notifiable disease.
13	Mr Edelman referred to paragraph 24 of our skeleton,
14	which perhaps we could get up, which is $\{I/17/14\}$. If
15	we could go to page 14, please. You will see there we
16	said :
17	"In terms of the sort of circumstances that might be
18	covered by the relevant policy area, the range of
19	potential cases are myriad."
20	Then we gave the example of a localised outbreak of
21	a notifiable disease, including COVID-19, might lead to
22	a particular street or square mile being locked down
23	although the rest of the country remains open.
0.4	

24I think my Lord Lord Justice Flaux at that point25said: that can't be right in relation to the 25-mile

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1 provision . And it is obviously correct that the $\mathbf{2}$ intention of the 25-mile radius clause is not only to 3 deal with the street immediately outside being closed or 4 the area around the premises being locked down. But, 5my Lord, the point is a much more general one. To be 6 covered, the business insurance loss has to be caused by 7 the local occurrence, and we are using "local" there to 8 describe the radius limit, whether 1 mile or 25 miles. 9 "Local" is simply shorthand to refer to the relevant 10 radius limit. That is very much the point we make in 11 paragraphs 25 and 26, which follow.

12 Staying with the Salisbury example, which Mr Edelman 13 raised following my Lord's intervention, let's assume 14 that instead of Novichok it was anthrax that the Russian 15agents had used. Stonehenge is about 9 or 10 miles away 16from the centre of Salisbury. Consider that you have 17got at Stonehenge two businesses, one a burger van or 18 something similar with a 1 mile radius policy, and 19 secondly a stall selling tourist guides with a 25-mile 20radius policy . Assuming both lose business as a result 21 of the Salisbury poisoning some 10 miles away, assuming 22that it was a notifiable disease, cover would attach 23under the 25-mile policy but not under the 1 mile 24 policy. That is just because you have got different 25radiuses, different zones of impact.

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Now, my Lord, all of these outcomes that I have been describing make complete commercial sense. By contrast, as I have already submitted, on the FCA's case, where all that is required for cover to attach is a person with the disease being inside the relevant policy area, whether diagnosed or undiagnosed, symptomatic or asymptomatic, and whether or not having any impact at all on the insured, that, in our submission, makes no commercial sense and indeed is not what the clause is saying.

My Lord, unless your Lordships have any further questions for me, that deals with the FCA's primary case, the so-called qualifying condition or some other anchor point, which we say is manifestly misconceived. I am then going to turn to their secondary argument. As I say, once you dispose of the primary argument, that is really the end of it. But their secondary argument, as I made clear earlier today, arises once it is accepted that the FCA is wrong to treat the need for the occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area as a mere qualifying condition. In other words, for this purpose, the FCA accepts, firstly, that the insured peril for the BI cover is the occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area, and secondly, that means that the insured must prove that the occurrence of the

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1 disease in that area caused him business interruption, $\mathbf{2}$ and thirdly , that for the purposes of establishing loss 3 and the application of the "but for" test, the insured 4 peril must be taken away. $\mathbf{5}$ So it is at this point that you have to consider the 6 FCA's case that a special rule of causation is required 7 as a matter of the parties ' intentions . 8 What they then are saying is you don't take away the 9 insured peril; what you take away is the disease 10wherever it occurs. I have already shown you what 11Mr Edelman said on {Day1/148:6} to line 19. 12 This argument suffers from the same defects in 13 analysis as the qualifying condition "some sort of 14 anchor" argument. In fact, if that were possible, it is 15even worse. 16Having recognised that its qualifying condition 17argument is wrong, and so the occurrence of the disease 18 in the relevant policy area does have to have causative 19 effect , the FCA then seeks to argue that somehow the 20parties' intended to reverse that when it comes to 21 causation. In other words, what they seem to be arguing 22is that somehow the parties have intended that when one 23gets to the causation stage the cover is transformed 24from one providing limited cover in respect of the 25effects of a disease, namely the effects of its

that one has to read "damage" here as referring to the

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Day 7

1	occurrence in the relevant policy area, to unlimited	1	add, for the effects of fear of a contagious or
2	cover in respect of the effects of the disease occurring	2	notifiable disease .
3	anywhere.	3	Now, my Lord, the FCA's argument on this is not only
4	My Lords, this only has to be stated to see that	4	hopeless when viewed in the context of the language of
5	it is frankly patent nonsense.	5	the disease clauses, it is also contradicted by the
6	At this stage, I would respectfully suggest it is	6	terms of the trends clauses.
7	important to be clear as to what the supposed	7	Now I need to explain where we have got to, your
8	construction of the policy is, and it is helpful to get	8	Lordships may recall this but I ought to remind you, on
9	up on the screen QBE2 at $\{B/14/29\}$ by way of example.	9	the debate about the trends clauses.
10	Here we have the "Infectious disease, murder or	10	Originally, and until service of the written
11	suicide, food or drink or poisoning" clause. So the	10	opening, the FCA denied that the trends clauses applied
12	relevant part of it, if one reads this as a whole,	12	to the non-damage extensions. It did so because the
13	I mean the preamble says, which you have to read in "We	13	trends clauses refer to "damage". And, of course, the
14	will indemnify you for ", that appears earlier . So we	10	non-damage extensions are predicated on something which
15	will indemnify you for :	15	is not damage. The clue lies in the name, non-damage.
16	"Loss resulting from interruption of or interference	16	The simple and obvious answer to that is that the
10 17		10 17	-
	with the business in consequence of any of the following	17	quantification machinery provided by the trends clause
18 10	events: And here it is:	18 19	is intended to operate across the board and so the word
19 20			"damage" in context has to be read in a non-damage case
20 21	"(c) any occurrence of a notifiable disease within	20	as referring to the insured peril .
21	[a 25-mile radius] of the premises."	21	My Lords, there is no commercial reason why the
22	What is the FCA's case at this stage? What they are	22	trends clauses should apply only to damage-based cover
23	saying is you then have to read into this clause, only	23	or even to certain non-damage extensions and not others.
24	into $3.2.4(c)$, the following this is what you would	24	In any event, the same analysis will be undertaken as
25	have to read in at the end of it "providing that if	25	a matter of common law, as the trends clause provides,
	85		87
1	the said occurrence is related to or forms part of an	1	save that the trends clause provides a machinery for
2	occurrence elsewhere than within the defined radius, we	2	quantification .
3	will treat loss resulting from interruption or	3	But the important point to note is the FCA has now
4	interference with the business in consequence of such	4	come a long way towards accepting our position . For
5	occurrence of the notifiable disease elsewhere, as loss	5	instance, it accepts that the trends clause in $QBE3$
6	resulting from interruption or interference with the	6	applies . If we could have a look at $\{B/15/1\}$ for
7	business in consequence of the occurrence of the	7	a moment. The relevant clauses, first the notifiable
8	notifiable disease within the radius of 25 miles of the	8	disease, murder or suicide clause is at page $\{B/15/22\}$,
9	premises ".	9	so you will see familiar type of clause, and this is the
10	That is what the argument on construction amounts	10	1 mile one, you can see (c) is the occurrence of
11	to.	11	a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile, and the
12	My Lords, you have to spell this out to see how	12	trends clause is on page $\{B/15/177\}$. So you see there
13	hopeless the argument is, and that no doubt explains why	13	it is 25.180, "Trend adjusted":
14	Mr Edelman refrained from spelling it out.	14	"Adjustments made to figures as may be necessary to
15	As I asked earlier today, if one asks how do you get	15	provide for the trend of the business and for variation
16	there, it is all built on the word " notifiable ". My	16	in or circumstances affecting the business either before
17	Lords I have already covered that and won't repeat the	17	or after the damage or which would have affected the
18	point.	18	business had the damage not occurred, so that the
19	But perhaps the most simple answer to this is that	19	figures thus adjusted will represent as nearly as may be
20	it seeks to ascribe an intention to the parties which is	20	reasonably practicable the results which but for the
20 21	the precise opposite of what the words used reveal. As	20 21	damage would have been obtained during the relevant
21	I hope I have made clear, the cover is provided for the	21	period after the damage."
23	effect of a notifiable disease within the relevant	22	Now, the FCA sensibly accepts that this particular
24 24	policy area; it is not provided for the effects of the	20 24	clause does apply to the non-damage interruption, and
	present and the presented for the cheets of the		acco apply to the non dumage interruption, and

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notifiable disease elsewhere; and still less, I would

1 insured peril. 2 Somewhat surprisingly, having made that concession, 3 the FCA seeks to argue that that is not so in all cases, 4 and they do that by reason of a textual argument by 5reference to each policy. 6 My Lords, all of this has been considered in writing $\overline{7}$ and I am not going to detain you with the arguments now, 8 save to say this. The FCA's point is manifestly wrong, g because in all the policies it is clear that it would 10 make no sense whatsoever for the trends clauses not to 11 apply or, to put it another way, for them to apply to 12physical damage but not to non-physical damage business 13interruption 14Leaving aside that, the fact that the result of the 15FCA's -- or the FCA's concessions is anomalous, what you 16 see for present purposes is that the trends clause on 17any view actually stipulates for a "but for" approach to 18causation. They actually use the words "but for ". 19I would respectfully suggest, against that 20background, my Lords, it is impossible to see that 21 nevertheless, in respect of the disease clauses only, 22 the parties are to be taken to have agreed some wholly 23different approach to causation. 24So my Lords, in our submission, the second way in 25which the FCA puts its case on construction is hopeless. 89 1 That is significant when you come to consider the arguments on causation, which are in fact premised on

 $\mathbf{2}$ 3 their argument on construction being correct. I will 4 address, as it were, some freestanding point which they $\mathbf{5}$ seek to extract from The Silver Cloud, although that has 6 largely been covered by my learned friend Mr Kealey, but 7 essentially , as ${\sf I}$ understand the argument that 8 Mr Edelman made and Ms Mulcahy made, you only get to 9 their Silver Cloud argument if they were right on their 10 approach to construction of the policy. Since they are 11 plainly wrong, all of that, in my submission, is 12academic. Before I go to the question of causation I should 13 14 say something about HIGA's arguments of construction. 15Your Lordships will recall that we heard from Mr Edey 16something about that. 17Now, much of what, if not all of what Mr Edey had to 18 say was both wrong and misses the point. His 19 submissions are on Day3, we don't need to turn it up at 20the moment, but what he said was -- perhaps we can turn 21it up at {Dav3/170:1}. 22At line 17, he said :

- 23"The starting point is not proximate cause ..." 24
 - If we then go on to $\{Day3/174:25\}$:
 - "The legal question is what is the test required by

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1	the relevant causal link within the insured peril . In
2	QBE1 that is 'arising from' and in QBE2 'in consequence
3	of '.
4	"We say they do not require satisfaction of the
5	proximate cause test, but something looser than that,
6	akin if you will to what the FCA says 'following '
7	means."
8	Now, as I understand it , what Mr Edey is trying to
9	say is that QBE has identified the wrong insured peril ,
10	because in defining the peril it omitted the
11	interruption or interference part of the extension.
12	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Sorry, I just don't understand that
13	formulation, Mr Howard. Could you explain what you mean
14	by that?
15	MR HOWARD: It is probably best if one has it is
16	a semantic and arid issue , but if we go back to
17	$\{B/15/1\}$ actually , which one did we look at? If we
18	take $\{B/13/1\}$
19	No, sorry , $\{B/15/22\}$, the one we were looking at
20	a moment ago, at page 22. The insured peril , QBE says,
21	rightly , that we are concerned with here, is an
22	occurrence of a notifiable disease at the premises.
23	I'm sorry, (c), an occurrence of a notifiable
24	disease within a radius of 1 mile.
25	Mr Edey says: no, no, no, you have got that wrong,
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1	that is not the insured peril , the insured peril is loss
2	resulting from interruption or interference with the
3	business in consequence of an occurrence of a notifiable
4	disease within a radius of 1 mile.
5	So as I understand it , what he is saying is you have
6	to look at everything, including the loss as part of the
7	insured peril .
8	It is quite difficult to deal with an argument that
9	is so plainly wrong, in that the interruption or
10	interference is just part of the description of the
11	relevant loss . That is the first thing . But in any
12	event, none of this would make any difference; it
13	doesn't matter whether you say the insured peril is
14	the
15	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I can well see the interruption or the
16	interference might be in a different category from loss,
17	in relation to defining the insured peril .
18	MR HOWARD: Yes.
19 20	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I'm not sure what difference that
20 21	actually makes if you say that the interruption or
21 22	interference, in consequence of the following events, is the insured peril.
$\frac{22}{23}$	
$\frac{23}{24}$	MR HOWARD: It doesn't, and that is really the point. I think what it was all designed to do, this argument of
$\frac{24}{25}$	Mr Edey's, is to say that because the insured peril,

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Day 7

I think he says, is interruption or interference with
the business in consequence of an occurrence, his
argument is the proximate cause test only arises at the
link between the loss and the interruption , and it
doesn't arise sorry I think somebody has a microphone
on it doesn't arise at the stage where you are
looking at "in consequence of an occurrence of
a notifiable disease". He says no, that is not
proximate cause, that is something looser.
The answer to that is , firstly , it plainly is
proximate cause, because those are the standard words of
proximate cause. But the second answer is that it
doesn't actually matter, as your Lordships have been
saying to various different counsel. What we are
concerned with here is actually not debates about
proximate cause, we are concerned with the "but for"
stage. The question is whether the occurrence, on this
one of a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile of
the premises, was a cause of the interruption . The
point is it wasn't a cause, and therefore it can't be
a "but for" cause.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It doesn't matter, does it? You might
say, I think my Lord was putting to you, the insured
peril is the interruption of or interference with the
business in consequence of the occurrence of

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1	a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile.
2	But, two things. Firstly , whatever "in consequence
3	of" means, there has to be a causative link between the
4	interruption and the occurrence. Secondly, even if that
5	is the, as it were, composite insured peril, "loss
6	resulting from" are clearly words which are focusing on
7	what is the proximate cause of loss you have suffered .
8	MR HOWARD: Yes.
9	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If your business has been interrupted
10	by the occurrence of a notifiable disease within
11	a radius of 1 mile, you still have to show that you have
12	suffered loss, and you have also got to show, whatever
13	the causative link is, that the interruption or
14	interference you have suffered is in consequence of the
15	occurrence of the disease in the 1 mile limit .
16	MR HOWARD: Exactly.
17	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Unless you abandon all causative links
18	in the argument, as it were, as you said a moment ago it
19	is an arid dispute, isn't it?
20	MR HOWARD: I was going to say it is certainly arid and
21	semantic, and I was going to say it is interesting but
22	irrelevant , but it's not interesting , it's just
23	irrelevant .
24	As I say, with all respect to Mr Edev he appears to

- 24 \qquad As I say, with all respect to Mr Edey, he appears to
- $25\,$ have contributed two things, or three things which I am

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1 going to have to deal with: one is this point, another 2 is a point by reference to London, and then a curiosity , 3 which is the reference to the Dalmine case, which 4 I won't be able to resist saying something about, 5because the reason it is being referred to is because 6 Mr Edey was on the losing side in that case and I was on 7the other side. It is a curiosity , the case being 8 referred to. 9 Those are the arguments on construction, my Lords, 10 and I hope your Lordships will forgive me for saying 11 that the reality is that when you look at what is the 12FCA's case as to what caused the business interruption 13and one looks at the QBE clauses and construes them in 14according to their plain and natural meaning, the answer 15to the case is, I would suggest, fairly obvious. 16 I come on to the question of causation. Now, I can 17

take this relatively briefly, because we have all had the benefit of Mr Kealey's master class last Thursday. I entirely endorse his submissions and adopt them. But, my Lords, we submit that the causation issue is both simple and entirely orthodox.

One starts by properly construing the insured peril . And, as I have already explained, and perhaps beginning to bore you, here it is, the occurrence or manifestation of COVID-19 in the relevant policy area.

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1	One then asks whether the occurrence of that insured
2	peril caused loss in the form of interruption or
3	interference to the insured's business. That, in fact,
4	requires, on orthodox and conventional
5	principles , applying both a factual causation test, the
6	"but for" test, and a legal causation test, which is the
7	proximate cause test, but this case is actually all
8	concerned, at least at this stage for the purposes of
9	the argument, with the factual causation question.
10	Now, my Lords, it is fair to point out that the mere
11	presence of someone with COVID-19 within the relevant
12	policy area will not usually, and certainly not
13	necessarily , cause any loss to an insured as a matter of
14	fact . Whether it does is demonstrated by
15	straightforward application of the "but for" test. You
16	ask: but for the insured peril , that is to say the
17	presence of that person with COVID in the relevant
18	policy area, would the insured have suffered its loss
19	anyway? Or its business interruption loss, I should
20	say. In our case it would have, in almost all cases,
21	whether as a result of the national apprehension or the
22	fear or the government guidance or indeed the national
23	lockdown.
24	My Lords, if the insured cannot pass, as it can't
25	and indeed is I think effectively admitted, the "but

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Day 7

1	for "test, then that is the end of it; you never get on
2	to legal causation.
3	Forensically one might legitimately question why it

Forensically one might legitimately question why it was that the FCA, through my learned friend Ms Mulcahy, chose to start with the second stage of causation analysis, namely proximate cause, rather than the first.

6 $\overline{7}$ But be that as it may, the conventional and orthodox 8 approach, the first question is the "but for" causation, g then you would consider proximate cause, and the final 10 stage is to consider quantification of any indemnity 11 which might be due to the insured. And this is 12something where you apply the trends clause, although if 13there isn't a trends clause you get to the same position 14as a matter of common law, although you don't have the 15 benefit of the calculation machinery which is provided 16 by the trends clause.

17 My Lords, in his submissions, turning more fully to 18the "but for" causation, Mr Edelman made it clear that 19the FCA was not asking you to disapply, rule on or 20modify the rules of proximate cause or "but for" 21 causation as they apply. What he said is you were being 22 asked to rule on their application within the confines 23of specific policies . That was on $\{Day1/92:1\}$. 24Again, let's just stand back for a moment. If

25 $$\rm Mr\ Edelman\ is\ correct\ in\ treating\ the\ occurrence\ of\ the}$

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1 disease, the notifiable disease, in the relevant policy $\mathbf{2}$ area as a mere qualifying condition, his argument would 3 be correct. But that is because, on his argument, the 4 cover is against the effects of a disease anywhere, 5subject to this mere qualifying condition. But as 6 I have explained, that is mainly misconceived. Equally, 7 his argument would be correct if , on the true 8 construction of the QBE clauses, they contain, as the 9 FCA says, a special rule as to proof of loss; which is 10 really dressing up the qualifying condition point in 11 different clothing. Because both are designed to say 12that the cover is intended to be cover for the effects 13 of a disease wherever it occurs and notwithstanding that 14 those effects are not attributable to the occurrence of 15the disease in the relevant policy area.

16So if the FCA is correct on either of these points17of construction, and they are not, but if they were, the18issues of causation do not arise. But if they are not19correct, what is odd is that they do still appear to try20to say that they are not defeated by orthodox rules of21causation.

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 Now, despite his protestations to the contrary,

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 Mr Edelman's approach does therefore, when you get to

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 this stage of the analysis, require the disapplication

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 of the "but for" test. Because on a straightforward

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1	application of the "but for" test, and on the assumed
2	facts , there can surely be no doubt that but for the
3	insured peril in the so-called disease clauses, that is
4	to say occurrence or manifestation of COVID at the
5	premises or within 1 mile or 25 miles, the
6	policyholder's business would have suffered exactly the
7	same BI loss. And in the Cheshire Cat reference which
8	I gave you, Mr Edelman appeared to recognise that. That
9	is why he was so keen to wipe the smile off Mr Kealey's
10	face .
11	The same point follows from paragraph 241 of the
12	skeleton which I showed you, or written argument.
13	Now, before we look at this any further, can I just
14	make a couple of further submissions to amplify what has
15	already been said.
16	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Your basic point is that if Mr Edelman
17	is right about the insured peril , causation doesn't
18	arise ; and if you are right about the insured peril ,
19	causation doesn't arise, really.
20	MR HOWARD: Exactly so. But I have to address it because
21	the FCA, frankly their submissions have muddled up
22	different concepts, so one has to infer that the FCA is
23	running what I call The Silver Cloud point as some
24	freestanding point of law.
25	But having said that, both Ms Mulcahy and Mr Edelman
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1	on Day 1, when they were talking about this, were very
2	keen to say it is all a matter of intention . So if they
3	are wrong that you can't deduce this intention, the
4	secondary argument, from the contract, then I would
5	respectfully say their arguments on causation don't
6	arise. But for the sake of completeness, as it were,
$\overline{7}$	one ought to just knock them on the head. That is
8	obviously what I am here to do in any event.
9	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Your argument on construction is if you
10	are right that the insured peril is the occurrence of
11	a notifiable disease within the relevant area, and that
12	is what has to have caused the interruption to the
13	business and the loss which is suffered , then on one
14	view you don't even get to issues about counterfactuals
15	and so forth, because you just pose the question on the
16	agreed facts would the insured have suffered the same
17	loss anyway.
18	MR HOWARD: Yes.
19	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: To which the answer is yes.
20	So you don't start stripping things out; you just
21	ask the question.
22	MR HOWARD: My Lord, I don't shrink from saying that is the
23	simplicity of this case. But is we have got to
24	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The trends clause just makes the point
25	even clearer . But that would be the position you would

1	say at common law anyway.	1	Your Lordships can read on the rest of the passage,
2	MR HOWARD: Yes.	2	but it is simply another illustration of a commercial
3	You will remember in Orient-Express the trends	3	judge recognising that the "but for" test is
4	clause was in similar terms. It had the "but for"	4	a prerequisite there in a contract of indemnity. As
5	point. The only difference between the arbitrators and	5	I say, I would respectfully suggest that it is hornbook
6	Mr Justice Hamblen, I think the arbitrators said the	6	law.
7	trends clause was actually conclusive in showing that	7	I think my Lord Mr Justice Butcher was asking are
8	you had to apply the "but for" test; whereas I think	8	there cases where the point is made. I refer to this
9	Mr Justice Hamblen said it wasn't necessarily conclusive	9	because it is a point where
10	but it was strong evidence, or something like that.	10	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It is curious, isn't, Mr Howard, the
11	I can't remember quite the way he put it . It is	11	Marine Insurance Act talks about proximate cause. There
12	actually pretty difficult to distinguish the two. The	12	doesn't seem to be any insurance cases until recently
13	point is if somebody is saying in this contract the	13	where whether something is a proximate cause has been
14	parties have specifically agreed to disapply the "but	14	tested by whether it is a "but for" cause.
15	for "test, when you see them actually referring to the	15	It may well be that that is partly because no one
16	"but for" test it is, I would say, a pretty difficult	16	would seek to suggest, at least in the ordinary
17	argument to make with a straight face.	17	circumstances, that something which wasn't a "but for"
18	But having said that, Mr Edelman did keep a straight	18	cause was the dominant cause of the loss .
19	face and I think Mr Schaff managed to do the same in	19	MR HOWARD: Yes. The simple answer is that you don't get to
20	Orient-Express. I think it was Mr Schaff.	20	the proximate cause analysis until you have crossed over
21	My Lord, can I just make one or two other	21	the hurdle of "but for".
22	observations on "but for", and its application .	22	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: That has never been done, certainly
23	Now as Mr Kealey said we essentially submit that	23	until recently. People have gone straight to the issue
24	this is really what I think I once heard Lord Steyn	24	of whether it is the proximate cause of the loss .
25	refer to as hornbook law, which I think may have been	25	MR HOWARD: Yes. But in most cases it will be obvious that
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$\frac{1}{2}$	a sort of South African reference to what is basic law.	$\frac{1}{2}$	something is a "but for" cause which is a lower
2	a sort of South African reference to what is basic law. But the application of the "but for" test is in our		something is a "but for" cause which is a lower threshold than proximate cause. In other words, the
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$\frac{2}{3}$	a sort of South African reference to what is basic law. But the application of the "but for" test is in our submission of that ilk. There is one other authority that I would like to	2 3	something is a "but for" cause which is a lower threshold than proximate cause. In other words, the "but for" eliminates things that are not causes at all. But then you have to come on to decide, once you have
$2 \\ 3 \\ 4$	a sort of South African reference to what is basic law. But the application of the "but for" test is in our submission of that ilk. There is one other authority that I would like to show you which basically also makes that point. It is	2 3 4	something is a "but for" cause which is a lower threshold than proximate cause. In other words, the "but for" eliminates things that are not causes at all. But then you have to come on to decide, once you have got things that are causes, are they proximate causes.
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$ \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ 18 \\ 19 \\ 20 \\ 21 \\ 22 \end{array} $	a sort of South African reference to what is basic law. But the application of the "but for" test is in our submission of that ilk. There is one other authority that I would like to show you which basically also makes that point. It is a case called The Kamilla which is at {K/128/1}. It is a judgment of Mr Justice Morison's. This case wasn't an insurance case but it was a case concerned with a contract for indemnity. So effectively the same thing. It concerned an appeal against an arbitral award determining that damage to a cargo of lentils was caused for the purposes of the indemnity clause by unseaworthiness of the vessel. The owners had argued that concepts of foreseeability should be read into the clause, while the charterers relied on a more straightforward "but for" causation test. The details don't matter, but if we could go to page 5, paragraph 15 {K/128/5}. At paragraph 15 you see in the second sentence: "The test for causation is whether the act or default complained of is a proximate cause of the alleged damage. The "but for" test is appropriate to	$\begin{array}{c} 2\\ 3\\ 4\\ 5\\ 6\\ 7\\ 8\\ 9\\ 10\\ 11\\ 12\\ 13\\ 14\\ 15\\ 16\\ 17\\ 18\\ 19\\ 20\\ 21\\ 22\\ \end{array}$	 something is a "but for" cause which is a lower threshold than proximate cause. In other words, the "but for" eliminates things that are not causes at all. But then you have to come on to decide, once you have got things that are causes, are they proximate causes. But, as it were, within any proximate cause analysis, except for the Fairchild Enclave, and all the difficulties that has given rise to, a necessary as it were predicate is what you are talking about is a "but for" cause; if it is not a "but for" cause it can never be a proximate cause. MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I am not absolutely sure of that. For example, if a ship was taken by pirates, which is let's say an insured peril, but the insurers could show that she would in fact have been torpedoed by enemy action, which is not an insured peril, I am not sure, speaking for myself, that you actually do do that investigation at that point, but the taking by pirates would be the proximate cause. MR HOWARD: In your Lordship's example the pirates have seized the vessel, and that is the insured peril. One is talking about a different concept there, where what
$ \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ 18 \\ 19 \\ 20 \\ 21 \\ \end{array} $	a sort of South African reference to what is basic law. But the application of the "but for" test is in our submission of that ilk. There is one other authority that I would like to show you which basically also makes that point. It is a case called The Kamilla which is at {K/128/1}. It is a judgment of Mr Justice Morison's. This case wasn't an insurance case but it was a case concerned with a contract for indemnity. So effectively the same thing. It concerned an appeal against an arbitral award determining that damage to a cargo of lentils was caused for the purposes of the indemnity clause by unseaworthiness of the vessel. The owners had argued that concepts of foreseeability should be read into the clause, while the charterers relied on a more straightforward "but for" causation test. The details don't matter, but if we could go to page 5, paragraph 15 {K/128/5}. At paragraph 15 you see in the second sentence: "The test for causation is whether the act or default complained of is a proximate cause of the	$\begin{array}{c} 2\\ 3\\ 4\\ 5\\ 6\\ 7\\ 8\\ 9\\ 10\\ 11\\ 12\\ 13\\ 14\\ 15\\ 16\\ 17\\ 18\\ 19\\ 20\\ 21\\ \end{array}$	 something is a "but for" cause which is a lower threshold than proximate cause. In other words, the "but for" eliminates things that are not causes at all. But then you have to come on to decide, once you have got things that are causes, are they proximate causes. But, as it were, within any proximate cause analysis, except for the Fairchild Enclave, and all the difficulties that has given rise to, a necessary as it were predicate is what you are talking about is a "but for" cause; if it is not a "but for" cause it can never be a proximate cause. MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I am not absolutely sure of that. For example, if a ship was taken by pirates, which is let's say an insured peril, but the insurers could show that she would in fact have been torpedoed by enemy action, which is not an insured peril, I am not sure, speaking for myself, that you actually do do that investigation at that point, but the taking by pirates would be the proximate cause. MR HOWARD: In your Lordship's example the pirates have seized the vessel, and that is the insured peril. One

would be saying: although the insured peril has actually 25operated the vessel was seized by the pirates . As it

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but not sufficient test."

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Day 7

1	happens there was a submarine, an enemy submarine,
2	nearby which was just about to shoot a torpedo. It did
3	in fact shoot the torpedo but it missed because the
4	pirates had caused the vessel to alter course. It was
5	heading into whatever the port was but they decided to
6	take it off to wherever their lair was, so you miss the
7	course. So in that argument what you are then saying is
8	in fact if this insured peril had not happened something
9	else would have happened which would have caused the
10	damage. That is not our type of situation .
11	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: My example may not be very important
12	for the purposes of this case. But I just say that
13	I still have some residual reservations as to why
14	proximate cause is always tested by "but for".
15	MR HOWARD: I would say
16	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think my Lord gave the example in
17	relation to Mr Kealey's argument of the train, the
18	landslip case, where it turns out there is also
19	a signalling problem further up the line .
20	MR HOWARD: Yes.
21	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Whether there is cover or not in that
22	case.
23	MR HOWARD: In my submission, there is a danger in confusing
24	what appears to be the position with what is actually

the position. So in my Lord's example of the landslip

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1 the train, as everybody understood it at the time, could $\mathbf{2}$ not leave the station because they understood there was 3 a landslip which had blocked the line. But if in fact 4 it turned out that it could never leave the station 5anyway then the landslip has not actually been the cause 6 of the loss at all . It appeared to be, but it wasn't. 7 So similarly , going back to your example about the

8 pirates, that is slightly different because the pirates 9 have actually seized the ship. But if the situation was 10 that the torpedo was heading for the ship and it is just 11 because the pirates got on it at that moment that they 12 changed course, the same sort of point might arise where 13 you say: actually the ship was going to founder anyway 14 for some other reason.

But the landslip example is actually clearer.

16I would suggest, in that as a matter of fact actually 17the landslip wasn't what caused the loss. It is what 18 people believed was the cause of the loss . But actually 19 further investigation shows it wasn't, because actually 20the traffic signals were all not operational and it 21 couldn't go anvwav.

- 22Take an example, take a sort of more graphic
- 23example. Let's assume that the locomotive engine is 24 actually completely defunct but nobody knows that, and
- 25if it had tried to leave it wouldn't have been able to

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- 1 because the engine wouldn't have worked. That is the
- 2 same as your Lordship's example; it is just easier to 3
- comprehend. One would say the landslide was interesting 4
- but actually it didn't cause this train not to leave 5because the locomotive was shot and there was no
- 6 replacement for it.
- 7
- My Lord, I see the time.
- LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes, is that a convenient moment? 8 9
- MR HOWARD: Yes, my Lord. 10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We will say 2 o'clock then.
- 11 (1.05 pm)
 - (The short adjournment)
- 13(2.00 pm)

12

- 14LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: When you're ready, Mr Howard.
- 15MR HOWARD: My Lord, I think Mr Orr wanted to just say
- 16 something, to correct something he had said this
- 17morning, a reference, I think.
- 18 MR ORR: My Lords, could I just correct some references that
- I gave your Lordships. You will recall that I referred 19
- 20to Mr Edelman's notional spreadsheet showing incidence
- 21 or danger of COVID-19 in each policy area, and
- 22 I referred your Lordships to references in Days 2 and 3
- 23 of the transcript . I should have referred you to Days 1
- 24 and 2. So the references I gave you should be 25{Day1/130:1}, page 134 and 147 and {Day2/140:1}.

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1 Apologies for that, my Lords. $\mathbf{2}$ LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No need to apologise. Thank you very 3 much. Mr Howard. 4 $\mathbf{5}$ MR HOWARD: Yes. Thank you, my Lord. 6 Just reverting to the discussion we were having 7 before the adjournment, I would respectfully say we need 8 to be careful not to confuse different things. 9 If we take, firstly, the landslip example. The 10landslip appears to be what prevents the train from 11leaving, but in fact it wasn't as a matter of fact what 12 prevented the train from leaving, because the signals 13 were down or the locomotive was dead. So there is 14 a danger there that what one is confusing is what may 15have appeared to be the position but wasn't in fact the 16correct position. 17As Mr Kealey explained on ${Day4/42:1}$ to page 44 18 when this was discussed, on my Lord's example the 19 landslip did not in fact cause, and here we are looking 20at business interruption , it didn't cause the business 21 interruption , because the business interruption was 22already, as it were, in train, it is just that people 23hadn't realised it. 24Of course, one of the things that is also important 25when discussing these things is to remember here that we

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Day 7

1	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It is merely because you are asserting
2	that proximate cause always means at least "but for"
3	cause, Mr Howard. But I don't necessarily want to take
4	up too much more time on this. You would say, ${\sf I}$ think ,
5	in this case, that on any view it wasn't the dominant
6	cause. Just stick to that.
7	MR HOWARD: My Lord, I would say on our facts you don't ever
8	actually get to "but for" at all .
9	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: No, of course, and you made all of
10	those submissions this morning.
11	MR HOWARD: On your Lordship's example, the piracy example,
12	what I was saying is that you I don't think there is
13	anything in that which actually undermines what I am
14	saying, because your Lordships' example is one where you
15	are saying, well you can establish a "but for ". There
16	still would be a question as to whether that actually is
17	the proximate cause of the loss . But we do say ${\sf I}$
18	mean, at the end of the day there is a danger we are
19	then having an academic discussion , which is interesting
20	but divorced from the facts of this case. I find it
21	difficult to see in fact how you can ever get to
22	proximate cause if you haven't got over the "but for"
23	argument.
24	But there it is . As your Lordship says, I don't
25	think it actually really arises in this case.
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2this. In a way it arises out of the question that you3posed to my learned friend Ms Mulcahy, which is that you4asked her whether there were any cases in which5something that is said to be the proximate cause when it6wasn't the "but for" cause, and her answer was by7reference to and only by reference to Silver Cloud.8As you know, insurers say that the case doesn't9stand for that principle at all. The thing that is10slightly odd about the FCA's submissions is there is11a line of authority, of course, where the courts have12not applied the "but for" test, and in insurance, and it13is of course the cases in the Fairchild Enclave.14Without going into it, because I think everybody is15familiar with it, one has started off with Fairchild,
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15 familiar with it, one has started off with Fairchild,
$16 \qquad {\rm where \ the \ courts}, \ {\rm for \ policy \ reasons \ in \ mesothelioma}$
17 claims, adopted an approach to "but for" causation or to
$18 \qquad \qquad$ disapply "but for" causation where you have an employee
$19 \qquad \qquad {\rm employed} \ {\rm by} \ {\rm a} \ {\rm number} \ {\rm of} \ {\rm employers} \ {\rm and} \ {\rm you} \ {\rm couldn't} \ {\rm say}$
20 $$ at what stage the disease was contracted . That was
$21 \qquad$ obviously a view of trying to reach justice .
$22 \qquad \qquad$ It then followed in the insurance cases that had to
$23\qquad$ apply that, that a similar , as it were more generous
$24 \qquad$ approach had to be applied to the employers' insurance
25 coverage otherwise they would be left high and dry, the

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5interruption is claimed but for the peril . 6 Now, on our case one has to remember, on the facts $\overline{7}$ it is actually clear and I think it is not really in 8 dispute, that the occurrence of the disease in the g insured's relevant policy area has not in fact made any 10 difference, because what has caused the interruption is 11 the government response and that would have happened 12anvwav. 13Just turning to my Lord's example of loss of 14a vessel . That, you have got to remember, and this is 15why one has to be careful not to confuse different 16 concepts, there you are talking about physical loss of 17the ship. So the ship is insured against loss through 18piracy, and piracy takes place, the pirates, off the 19coast of Somalia or wherever it is, seize your vessel. 20So the insured peril has in fact operated, and the 21 insured prima facie has a right to an indemnity because

are talking about in this case business interruption, so

what you are looking at is interruption over an extended

period. So you need to consider what would have

happened over the period over which the business

22 he has lost his vessel through the operation of the 23insured peril. 24

I think what your Lordship was then contemplating, 25whether it is open to the insurers in that situation to

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1 say: ah well, although you lost the vessel through the $\mathbf{2}$ operation of the insured peril , something else would 3 have happened which would have deprived you of the 4 vessel

 $\mathbf{5}$ Now, that obviously, whether that is an argument 6 that is open on a marine insurance contract against loss 7 of a vessel , will actually depend upon the terms of the 8 policy and obviously the terms on which the indemnity 9 arises . Because if the indemnity arises , for instance , 10 at the moment that you have lost your vessel, it is no 11 good for the insurers to say, "Well, you might have lost 12it a week later or two weeks later ", because their 13 contract is to pay up in respect of the loss of the 14 vessel there and then.

15But if what is being said is the moment that the 16pirates seized the vessel actually she was doomed and 17you were going to lose her then, a similar analysis 18 arises . It is probably actually going to be as 19 a proximate cause level , because you wouldn't be able to 20say, in all probability , that the insured event hadn't 21operated at all to cause the loss, because 22self - evidently the pirates had seized the vessel . 23There is a danger in, as it were, trying to try 24different cases on a different insurance contract, which

25obviously one has then to speculate as to its terms.

1	courts having made this policy decision .	1
2	That quite clearly comes out of the cases. But	2
3	I remind you, I don't think we need to turn it up, that	3
4	in the Sienkiewicz case, which is at $\{K/144/66\}$ at	4
5	paragraph 186, Lord Brown made the salutary point,	5
6	having reflected on the problems that Fairchild had	6
7	given rise to, that the law tampers with the "but for"	7
8	test of causation at its peril . I would suggest that	8
9	those are salutary words, that it really does require	9
10	a very exceptional circumstance like the Fairchild type	10
11	of situation . And I will come on to explain why we are	11
12	nowhere near the Fairchild situation in a moment.	12
13	Can I then move on to the FCA's case, just analysing	13
14	that and how it stands. The FCA's case in its pleading,	14
15	at the particulars of claim, paragraph 53.1 if we	15
16	could get that up, it is $\{A/2/35\}$. Your Lordships by	16
17	now will be very familiar with this . At paragraph 53.1	17
18	their case is that there is only one proximate	18
19	effective , operative or dominant cause of the losses ,	19
20	namely the COVID-19 disease, including its local	20
21	presence or manifestation and the restriction due to	21
22	emergency, danger or threat of life , et cetera , caused	22
23	by the disease.	23
24	Now, that being the FCA's case, once you have set	24
25	aside their argument on construction and the so-called	25
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1	qualifying condition argument, this way of putting the	1
2	case seems to run into obvious difficulties , in that the	2
3	formulation of the sole proximate cause bears absolutely	3
4	no resemblance to the insured peril in the QBE disease	4
5	clauses .	5
6	So when one looks at that and you compare it with	6

- 6 So when one looks at that and you compare it with 7 the disease clauses, the case doesn't look very 8 promising.
- 9 You then have to look at their alternative case, 10 which is then set out at paragraph 57 in the pleadings, 11 which is on $\{A/2/39\}$, and what you see here is that they 12 essentially hedged their bets:
- 13 "If and insofar as there is more than one concurrent
 14 cause, they are interdependent causes or alternatively
 15 are inextricably linked, alternatively a set of causes,
 16 none of the elements of which are sufficient on their
 17 own and which should be considered together.
 18 Alternatively, even if there are independent causes,
 19 they do not prevent cover."
- 20
 So one sees there they run the whole gamut.

 21
 Although as the matter was developed in argument through

 22
 Mr Edelman on {Day3/50:12} of the transcripts -- sorry,

 23
 I think I must have given the wrong reference. Sorry,

 24
 I have given you the wrong reference. Could your

 25
 Lordships just excuse me for a moment. (Pause)

1	Yes, it is page 52, I apologise . {Day3/52:1},
2	I apologise . So we see Mr Edelman says:
3	"We say, as we have said before and I say this in
4	a sentence"
5	So that is the case that the FCA is running:
6	" the government was responding to one
7	indivisible occurrence or multiple occurrences which are
8	aggregated as part of a national occurrence to become
9	one combined cause. In reality , if all areas had not
10	been affected to a greater or lesser extent, one can
11	imagine there wouldn't have been a national lockdown.
12	It was the national pictures of all these local
13	outbreaks which caused the lockdown. And when the court
14	considers what caused the application of the
15	government's lockdown measures in any particular
16	locality , the causal effect of local prevalence of the
17	disease is part of that overall indivisible cause or
18	viewed individually by virtue of its contribution to the
19	overall picture, and is an effective cause of the
20	government action."
21	So what one sees there is again this is
22	a recognition that the individual area doesn't actually
23	of itself make any difference , and it is simply saying ,
24	well, it is part of an overall jigsaw.
25	Now when considering this as I have made clear

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one needs to clear out of the way the argument on construction . At this stage of the analysis the FCA has lost on the meaning of the policy in both ways argued. So we have got conventional insurance, conventional peril and conventional application , we would say, of the 6 "but for" test. $\overline{7}$ Now, before one tests this, what one needs to just 8 reflect on are the submissions that were made on 9 multiple interdependent causes and independent causes, 10none of which I think, as the cases developed, are 11actually relied on by the FCA. So they were I think 12being shown to your Lordships, as it were, as part of 13 the background in order to get to their Silver Cloud 14 submission. 15So the multiple interdependent causes, by reference 16to cases such as The Miss Jay Jay, it was submitted, and 17it is right, that where you are looking at multiple 18 interdependent causes, they need to be equal or nearly 19 equal in efficiency . And that is what was said in The 20Miss Jay Jay. 21Now, on our facts, a particular local occurrence of 22the disease, and here we are talking about potentially 23a single person in the relevant policy area having 24COVID-19, is a very long way from being of equal or near

equal efficiency with all the facts which went to cause 116

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Day 7

1 the government to order the nationwide lockdown. 2 As I understand it, that is effectively conceded. 3 It is not seriously suggested by the FCA that this is 4 a case of multiple interdependent causes. 5You then have got the next point they took you to, 6 which were the multiple independent causes. It was 7 somewhat obscure in reality why those are being referred 8 to. As Mr Kealey made clear, the difficulty faced by g the FCA here is that the examples they refer to, the two 10 hunters, or the decisions of Mr Justice Coulson in the 11 Greenwich Millennium Village case, are all cases of true 12 multiple wrongdoing situations, where the "but for" test 13is disapplied, so that one wrongdoer cannot use another 14wrongdoer's actions or indeed its own wrongdoing to 15 escape liability , leaving the victim uncompensated. 16 So all of the cases relied upon by the FCA in this 17area are cases where the "but for" test was disapplied

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 because they involved multiple wrongdoers or, in the

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 insurance context, multiple insurers or sections of

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 insurance policies potentially covering the same loss.

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 Now the critical, albeit obvious, distinction

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 between those cases and the present case is that this is

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 not a multiple wrongdoer or insurer situation. The

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 FCA's both written and oral submissions continuously try

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 to suggest otherwise. So the FCA has set up the case as

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if it is brought against multiple insurers, all of whom
 rely on events happening in another insurer's policy
 area to avoid cover.

4 That is not the true situation at all . It is just 5convenience and happenstance that these policies are 6 being tested, or the claims of different insureds are 7 being tested in one test action. In reality -- and one 8 mustn't lose sight of this -- each case here that 9 underlies this involves one policyholder and one 10 insurer, and it is simply a question of what risks that 11 insurer agreed to insure, assume on behalf of that 12 policyholder

So once you bear that in mind, the answer is in fact
simple. Here, QBE agreed to accept the risk of business
interruption loss caused by the occurrence of
a notifiable disease at the particular insured's
premises or within the radius 1 mile or 25 miles of
those premises.

19 The fact that QBE may be entitled to deny liability 20 to an insured in the south-east and an insured in the 21 north-east is, frankly, nothing to the point. The 22 coverage dispute is between QBE and each of the parties 23 to each of their relevant contracts. 24

 24
 Indeed, you have to test the argument that the FCA

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 is making here by assuming that there was only one

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1 insured suing on one policy, and there are no other 2 insurers who have issued policies , or QBE had issued no 3 policies to anybody else. That doesn't make any 4 difference, but that simply illustrates that one is 5simply concerned with the position between the two 6 parties . $\overline{7}$ My Lords, that leads me to the third category, which is really where the FCA's argument rests, which is the 8 9 inextricably linked causes. Now, this argument, one has 10 to recognise, arises because the FCA, at this stage of 11 the analysis, accepts it cannot establish that the 12 occurrence of the disease within the insured's relevant 13policy area was a "but for" cause of the business 14interruption . And it also arises on the basis that they 15have lost on their arguments of construction. 16 As I showed you earlier today in the extract from 17Mr Edelman's oral submissions, this inexplicably linked 18 point was all -- the foundation for it, is an argument 19of construction or, as he put it, contractual intention 20 or construction . As I said earlier , if the FCA are 21 wrong about that, as they are, one wonders whether they

say there is this third novel type of causation. In any event, assuming that they do, we have now

seen that all the other ways of causation put forward don't work, and so you then have to consider whether The

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Silver Cloud is in fact authority for this new way of putting the case.

3 Now, as I say, Mr Kealey addressed that decision. 4 We would suggest it is not authority for the sort of $\mathbf{5}$ novel causal analysis attempted by the FCA. If it were, 6 it would be surprising , to say the least , that it has 7 been so overlooked. The reality is that it involved 8 a factual finding that certain matters were rolled up 9 into one proximate cause, and a legal finding that the 10policy insured against the consequences of that 11proximate cause. The FCA is a very long way from that 12 sort of orthodox position . 13 But the bizarre thing is this, my Lords. The 14 principle sought to be extracted from Silver Cloud 15actually turns the insurance on its head. We have 16already seen that the FCA seeks by way of construction 17to contend that the policies do provide cover for 18 pandemics. Having lost that argument, it then seeks to 19 use a decision in The Silver Cloud to invoke a principle 20of construction whose effect is somehow to create cover 21 wider in scope than that provided by the express terms 22of the policy. As I say, that only has to be stated to 23see its obvious flaw.

It is important to be clear about precisely what the FCA requires by way of its so-called local piece of the

1 jigsaw . 2 On the FCA's case, all that is required is the 3 presence of one occurrence of COVID within the relevant 4 policy area. It can be brought into the area by 5a single person who has no symptoms and is never 6 diagnosed. But on their case that is sufficient , on 7 this inextricably linked argument, to trigger cover for 8 all losses in connection with the disease, whether from g the nationwide lockdown or general public apprehension 10 or otherwise

11Using the shop examples that we set out at the start12of our written argument, so beloved or perhaps detested13by Mr Edelman and Mr Edey, all that is required to turn14Shop A into Shop B is the one undiagnosed case.

15So ultimately The Silver Cloud apparently is giving16rise to essentially the same result as the qualifying17condition or some sort of anchor point, or the special18rule of causation by agreement, but which is now said to19be arising through some undeclared and novel rule of law20to be extracted from The Silver Cloud case. One really21wonders what this rule of law is .

22 On our case, according to the FCA, as long as there 23 is an anchor person, whether diagnosed or undiagnosed, 24 symptomatic or asymptomatic, in the policy area, the 25 insured effectively has, as a result of this supposed

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1 rule of law, full cover for the effects of the disease 2 wherever it occurs, and that is notwithstanding that the 3 insurance is in respect of the effect of the occurrence 4 of the disease in the relevant policy area.

5So the Silver Cloud decision apparently supports 6 what actually ultimately is this game of lotto. In my 7 submission, it is no authority for anything of the sort. 8 So, my Lords, we say and submit to your Lordships 9 that operating the policies in this case is in fact 10 a simple exercise. As I said, you start with the proper 11 construction, and I don't think I need to repeat that. 12 One then asks whether the loss in question was caused by 13 the peril . If the answer is yes, you may have to ask 14 the proximate cause question and then you move on to the 15quantification and the application of the trends clause. 16Now, your Lordships have probably had more than

enough of looking at different examples, but I think
I ought to deal with Mr Edelman's reference to the Isle
of Wight, because he referred to that, as it were, as
demonstrating that my submissions must be wrong.
You will remember with great fanfare on {Dav1/144:1}

be referred to it, and he referred to it because he
said, well, the Isle of Wight is only 20 miles long and
it goes into lockdown, and how do our arguments work.
Your Lordships will look at the reference, but he sought

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1 to say somehow this demonstrates that we can't be right. 2 Now, when one actually properly looks at the Isle of 3 Wight, there is nothing actually at all surprising in 4 the result when you apply our argument. 5So assume the Isle of Wight and assume you have two 6 businesses, two hotels in Cowes, one has a 1 mile radius $\overline{7}$ clause and the other has a 25-mile radius clause. 8 The reason it is important to bear in mind the two 9 differences , the 25-mile radius clause would stretch 10 across the Solent to Southampton, whereas the 1 mile 11 clause would not. 12Now, let's assume a situation where the island is 13disease - free . When the general public apprehension, 14government guidance and ultimately the lockdown 15occurred, it causes trade to slow in the island just as 16 much as in the mainland UK 17Now, on both the FCA's case and QBE's case, the 18 1 mile policyholder has no claim, because it is a Shop A 19in our example 20But on the FCA's case, provided there had been at 21 least one case in Southampton, the 25-mile policyholder 22 gets cover, possibly following a retrospective 23 statistical analysis showing there must have been a case

the FCA's case, and by happenstance, the 25-mile clause

of COVID in the 25-mile area. So by good fortune, on

responds.

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 $\mathbf{2}$ Now, on our case, perfectly orthodox, both the 3 25-mile policyholder and the 1 mile policyholder are in 4 the same position. They have both suffered BI loss for $\mathbf{5}$ the same reason and are unaffected by the actual or 6 potential case of COVID in Southampton. 7 Now, if you change the assumed facts scenario to 8 assume that the Isle of Wight is the only place hit by 9 a notifiable disease and a form of island -wide lockdown 10is imposed, so no one in or out of the island and all 11shops to close and so on. Our two hotels are then 12 suffering loss which they wouldn't have suffered but for 13 the local lockdown. So are they covered? 14 Well, the 25-mile policyholder, who has paid for the 15larger radius, plainly is. Because the cases in the 16Isle of Wight within his 25-mile radius led to the 17lockdown 18 Now, the 1 mile policyholder , the answer may or may 19 not be the same, it depends upon where he is and where 20the cases are. If the position is that the cases within 21 his 1 mile radius have not made any difference at all. 22and that the island was going to go into lockdown 23because of the cases outside his area, then the argument 24or the position is exactly the same as the one we are 25considering , which is the occurrence in his area hasn't

1	made any difference .
2	Now, there are all sorts of other examples you can
3	give. I think that is probably sufficient . But the
4	simple answer is the one that I made previously: the
5	purpose and effect of the 1 mile or 25-mile radius
6	provision, properly construed, is to limit the insurer's
7	scope of cover, and it is not this threshold or proviso
8	or lottery ticket as the FCA would say.
9	The next point I want to deal with is London. The
10	reason I need to deal with that is because of the
11	submissions of Mr Edey on ${Day3/179:1}$, where
12	essentially what Mr Edey sought to say is , well , it is
13	obvious that London was the proximate cause of the
14	national lockdown, and therefore somehow that has to
15	feed into the equation.
16	Now, my Lords, the first thing I would say about
17	this is that the premise of the first thing to note
18	is that the premise of Mr Edey's assertions at this
19	point is that we are correct on our argument as to the
20	construction of the policies and the approach to
21	causation .
22	But there are then two important points to make in
23	response to these submissions, which appear to be an
24	attempt to obtain, in this test case, a factual finding
25	from the court that London was in fact a "but for" cause
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1	of the national lockdown. The two points are these.
2	First, we would suggest it is simply not open to the

2	First, we would suggest it is simply not open to the
3	HIGA, if that is what one is to call them, interveners
4	to advance such an argument. This is not a pleading
5	point, my Lords, but a point of substance. It is
6	contrary to the FCA's pleaded case, which I have shown
7	you. Their pleaded case is that there is no 25-mile
8	radius area which would make any difference. That would
9	apply equally to London as it would anywhere else.
10	It is also contrary to what I showed you in their
11	skeleton argument, the FCA's skeleton argument at
12	paragraph 241. In other words, the whole premise of
13	this test case is that it is not possible to take any
14	25-mile radius area, and say that without that area the
15	outcome would have been different . Now, it is true that
16	the FCA, at footnote 241, which I showed you, caveated
17	the position, but it recognised, rightly, that it is not
18	possible in the test case to investigate such facts.
19	Secondly, in any event, it is plainly wrong as
20	a matter of fact that London was the "but for" cause of
21	the nationwide lockdown or similar . The government
22	based its
23	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Are you inviting, us, Mr Howard, to not
24	get into this, or to get into it and decide it in your
25	favour? It matters to this extent, that if we accept

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1 your first point, then it would presumably still be open 2 for people to say London was indeed the cause. MR HOWARD: Well, the way in which the matter has come 3 4 before you on the basis of the FCA's -- I mean both the 5assumed facts and the agreed facts , and then one has got 6 the FCA's assertions . The FCA has not sought to say in 7respect of any particular relevant policy area: well, 8 the disease in that area is actually the driver, as it 9 were, for the government's action; and the government's 10 action, if we assume no disease in that area, would 11 either have still been the same or they would have not 12imposed any restrictions in that area. 13So the danger in a case like this is in trying to 14decide facts when really the purpose of the test case is 15to decide questions of principle . So I am only really 16 responding to this and setting out at least why, on the 17 facts that are before your Lordships, the position is 18 actually that London couldn't be the driver. No factual 19determination. I mean, if your Lordships accepts that, 20that is not going to actually preclude an insured 21 saying: well, I am not bound by that, because all I am bound by are questions of legal principle that are 22 23determined in the FCA test case. So it has been left 24open for all true questions of fact ultimately to be 25determined between an insured and the relevant insurer .

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1	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Does this point go back to those
2	passages in the SAGE minutes we were being shown this
3	morning?
4	MR HOWARD: No.
5	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Because, I mean, they would suggest
6	that at least at the time when the lockdown was put in
7	place, the reasons or the motivations for doing it were
8	not because of London.
9	MR HOWARD: Well, my Lord, yes, those are relevant to what
10	I am saying. I thought your Lordship was asking me
11	a slightly different question .
12	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: What my Lord is putting to you, we are
13	at risk of straying into areas of factual investigation
14	which (a) we shouldn't be doing it and (b) we really
15	haven't got the evidence to be doing it .
16	MR HOWARD: No, I entirely endorse that. I am not seeking
17	to invite your Lordships to trespass into territory you
18	shouldn't go into.
19	I think what your Lordships can properly do, though,
20	is to recite what the case is before you that the FCA is
21	making. The point I was really just going to make is
22	that the FCA's case, the material they have put before
23	you, shows that London is not, as it were, in some
24	special category, because their case is that the
25	government exercised a nationwide lockdown, and

Day 7

1	essentially what it comes down to, and this comes out of
2	those minutes that Mr Orr was showing you amongst other
3	things, but essentially , if you ask yourself really what
4	was happening, is the government took the measures it
5	took in the middle and towards the end of March because
6	of the increasing concern that fed through to them from
7	SAGE as a result of the views that were being taken of
8	COVID as a result of what had happened in Italy and
9	elsewhere, that the so-called R rate, we all remember
10	that, was something like 3, which meant that the rate of
11	growth of the disease is that it doubled or something
12	like that every couple of days, and that is why there
13	was this massive concern about the NHS being overrun.
14	So saying, well, what about London, actually no
15	particular place makes any difference ; it is that the
16	government was concerned that you had a disease which
17	was in danger of spreading, which caused severe illness,
18	and which they thought was going to overrun the NHS in
19	terms of its capacity to put people on ventilators and
20	things like that. That is why they built things like
21	the Nightingale Hospitals extremely quickly.
22	As it happens, hindsight is a wonderful thing, we
23	now know the Nightingale Hospitals weren't really
24	required and have hardly been used, but the perception
25	at the time was that the NHS was going to be overrun and
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1	that is what they were concerned about.
2	But all I am saying for present purposes is it is
3	the FCA's case that the lockdown was a country-wide
4	approach, not a reaction to cases in any particular
5	locality , and it is their case it was because the shape
6	of the curve of infection rates was similar across the
7	whole country.
8	So it was Mr Edey who has essentially tried to open
9	this up and to look for or to try and obtain different
10	factual findings , and we say the whole basis on which
11	the case is being fought is that what he is putting
12	forward isn't the case. If he and his clients want to
13	contend otherwise, that is something which would have to
14	be fought out in a separate piece of litigation , is what
15	it amounts to.
16	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is all for another day.
17	MR HOWARD: Exactly.
18	I can then move on, seamlessly, I hope, to
19	a slightly different topic , and I will deal with it very
20	briefly , and that is the burden of proof point which
21	came in in the reply, and was a point addressed by
22	Mr Edey based upon the Dalmine case. It is fairly clear
23	that the point that was raised has, as I said earlier
24	come, from Mr Edey.

25Now, the starting point is that the insured bears

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1 the burden of proving that loss was caused by an insured 2 peril , including on a "but for" basis . The Dalmine 3 case -- I have to say this is I think the first time 4 I have been aware of it being referred to. I might be 5wrong, it may be referred to elsewhere, but I haven't 6 come across it . But I would suggest that it provides no 7assistance to the policyholders in this case. 8 You will remember that that was a case where what 9 had happened was that $\mathsf{Mr}\ \mathsf{Edey's}\ \mathsf{clients}\ ,\ \mathsf{Dalmine}\ \mathsf{had}$ 10 fraudulently certified that some pipes that were going 11 to go into the construction of a pipeline in the 12North Sea were on spec when they knew full well they 13were not on spec. 14The trial was a very, very hard fought affair , as 15these things go, and what Dalmine, as luck would have it 16 for them, they thought, the people who had welded the 17 pipes together, according to Dalmine, had done so 18 negligently . So the question at the trial was what was 19the cause of the cracking in the pipes; was it the fact 20that the pipes were not of the correct certain 21 specification or was it the negligent welding? 22 Mr Justice Cresswell, after hearing some pretty 23complicated scientific evidence, this was really 24state-of-the-art stuff on metallurgy, held that the 25

incorporation of the non-compliant pipes had caused the 131

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1	pipeline to fail . In other words, he rejected Dalmine's
2	argument that the cause of the failure was the negligent
3	welding, and so the fraudsters were held liable .
4	Nothing wrong with that, you might think.
5	As I say, at trial the fraudsters had tried to prove
6	that the pipes failed , despite inclusion of the
7	fraudulently certified pipes, due to negligent welding.
8	Now, it was only in those circumstances that this
9	question of burden of proof arose. So the claimant had
10	discharged its burden of proof, and the burden of proof
11	that the claimant had discharged was that the
12	fraudulently certified pipes had failed , and they had
13	failed because they were not the right pipes.
14	The defendant then had sought to prove its own
15	averment, namely that even if compliant pipes had been
16	used, the pipeline would have failed anyway. Now, they
17	didn't actually prove that. So what they were then
18	saying: a ha, even though I haven't proved what I set
19	out to prove, you the claimant have got to prove
20	a negative, you have got to prove that something else
21	would not have caused failure of the pipes.
22	So, for instance, taking the Dalmine case, they
23	could have just as easily have said: aha, BHP (who were
24	the owners of the pipeline) it is perfectly true that
25	I supplied fraudulently certified pipes, and it is

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Day 7

1	perfectly true that those pipes failed because they were
2	the wrong spec, but you know what, a lot of submarines
2	
-	go around in this part of the North Sea and, BHP, you
4	haven't proved that a submarine wouldn't have come along
5	at some point and collided with the pipeline . It is
6	that sort of level of argument, that you haven't proved
7	all sorts of things . It is almost like saying you
8	haven't proved that pigs can't fly .
9	But if you turn to the judgment, at $\{J/89/12\}$
10	paragraph 36, it really sums it all up:
11	"So in this case we think that causation is proved
12	once BHP has shown the reason why the pipeline failed
13	when it did was because of the failure of non-compliant
14	pipe which but for Dalmine's deceit would have been
15	rejected . BHP has shown that the pipeline failed only
16	where one or both of the pipes was non-compliant and at
17	no other welded joint . In such circumstances, if
18	Dalmine wishes to show that a hypothetical pipeline made
19	up only of compliant pipe, given more time and the
20	operation of the pipeline at the ultimate working
21	pressure of 128 bar, would have failed in any event,
22	then it bears the burden of proving that on the balance
23	of probabilities . For these purposes, the mere
24	possibility of such failure would not be enough.
25	However, Dalmine concedes that it cannot sustain that

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1	burden."
2	That is just saying something, in my submission,
3	which is obvious as a matter of ordinary application of
4	the burden of proof and, indeed, as a matter of common
5	sense. The argument that Dalmine was seeking to run in
6	the Court of Appeal, that somehow BHP fails because they
$\overline{7}$	haven't demonstrated a negative, when they had in fact
8	demonstrated the pipeline failed because of the failure
9	of the non-compliant pipes, it seems to me, I would
10	suggest, it's just an utterly obvious finding. There is
11	nothing you can extract from this decision which assists
12	you here.
13	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is like going back to the forms of
14	action, clanking their chains before the Common Law
15	Procedure Act 1854, isn't it?
16	MR HOWARD: Your Lordship there has the better of me, I'm
17	afraid .
18	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It's the forms of pleading, before the
19	amendments were made in Victorian England, required
20	a plaintiff to prove all sorts of negatives along the
21	way. That was all abandoned and the law was changed by
22	the 1854 Act.
23	I remember when I first looked at this point,
24	I thought that sounds to me like an attempt to revive
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25that concept, because in the modern law, he who alleges

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1 has to prove. So if Dalmine wanted to allege that the 2 real cause of the loss was something else, it was for 3 them to prove it . 4 MR HOWARD: Yes. exactly 5LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is not rocket science, is it? $\mathbf{6}$ MR HOWARD: It is not rocket science. The case is really $\overline{7}$ not of much interest to anybody, that is why I was 8 surprised to see it . And when I got a message from 9 Mr Kealey saying I ought to explain what the answer to 10 it was, my first reaction was, I have not been in this 11 case, why are you asking me? That may say something 12about my memory. 13But, more importantly, when I did refresh my memory 14and you read the case, what you actually see happened is 15 that the case collapsed in the Court of Appeal, where the Dalmine side -- what happened was Lord Justice Rix 16 17said: well, we are about to have a -- I can't remember 18how long the appeal was, and he said, "I don't really 19understand your case on burden of proof, explain it to 20me". It was then explained, I think I had to make some 21 brief submissions, and then Lord Justice Rix said, 22 "Well, I can't see any of this works", and that is when 23Dalmine gave up. But they had come along seeking to 24 prove that actually compliant pipe would have failed , 25but they recognised that they couldn't do that.

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Anyway, as I say, it is a curiosity . Rather like the arguments based on Silver Cloud, it is trying to extract from a case some general proposition and I am afraid it simply does not bear what is sought to be extracted. Really, both are examples of improper use of authorities

Before leaving burden of proof, one final point to make is that in the course of exchanges with the Bar at different stages, your Lordships have expressed concern about difficulties of the insured in different circumstances proving their case.

Now, the first point is one that Mr Kealey made, which is right and obvious. Difficulties of proof do not, and cannot, affect the correct legal analysis. The fact, for instance, that insureds to these policies may in some cases be relatively small concerns who may not have the wherewithal to embark on expensive litigation cannot make any difference to what is the right view as to what the policies mean and how they operate. 20But it is actually the case, as again I think your Lordships have been told and will know, that business interruption insurance is in fact a notoriously difficult area anyway to calculate and determine the appropriate indemnity. That is one of the reasons that

> one has the trends causes. The trends clauses are 136
| 1 | intended to be a fairly rough and ready machinery which |
|----|--|
| 2 | operate to assist the parties in trying to determine |
| 3 | what is in fact the effect of the insured peril . |
| 4 | I don't think I need to address you in any detail on |
| 5 | that, but there is one point that I do want to say |
| 6 | something about, which was a submission that Mr Edelman |
| 7 | made, which I think it is important to address simply |
| 8 | because it is something of more general interest . You |
| 9 | may remember, it was a point that he made by reference |
| 10 | to the facts of Orient-Express, where the argument he |
| 11 | made was that assume you had a downturn in bookings as |
| 12 | the hurricane approached, and then the hurricane hits |
| 13 | the hotel, and let's assume you don't have the |
| 14 | difficulties with the damage to New Orleans. As |
| 15 | I understood it , Mr Edelman was suggesting, well , what |
| 16 | you can't do when you come to do the quantification of |
| 17 | loss is to distinguish between the losses caused, for |
| 18 | the purposes of applying a trends clause, through the |
| 19 | apprehension of the hurricane and the losses caused by |
| 20 | the hurricane itself . |
| 21 | There are a number of things that are wrong with |
| 22 | that. The first is that the insured peril in the |
| 23 | Orient-Express is business insurance caused through |
| 24 | physical damage to the hotel. Business interruption |
| 25 | caused by fear of a hurricane is not an insured peril . |

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But Mr Edelman sought to use this to suggest that the 1 2 emergence of COVID-19 is like an approaching hurricane. 3 He said that on $\{Day3/55:1\}$.

 $\mathbf{4}$ That simply repeats the fundamental error as to the $\mathbf{5}$ nature of the insurance and, just as in Orient-Express, 6 the insured peril was not fear of the hurricane, or even 7 the hurricane itself , but physical damage to the hotel. 8 So here, the worldwide, nationwide COVID-19 health 9 crisis , nor fear of the same, are not the insured 10perils ; the insured peril is the occurrence within the 11relevant policy area. 12I think your Lordships asked what Riley had to say

13 on this, and Mr Edelman said he didn't think Riley dealt with it. That is actually not right. Riley does deal 14 15with the point by way of a commentary on the New World 16Harbourview Hotel case, which you probably remember the 17SARS outbreak in Hong Kong. The relevant extract from 18 Riley is at $\{J/154/88\}.$ If we go to page 88, this is 19 part of a discussion about the New World Harbourview 20case. You see that at the top of the page. If you look 21at the top of the page where he refers to New World 22Harbourview, he says:

23"The business interruption was part of a composite 24mercantile policy, written on a UK gross revenue

business ..." and so on.

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1	At the end of the paragraph:
2	" the court had to consider the application
3	of the other circumstances clause."
4	Then they set out the clause, and it is the next
5	part that is relevant :
6	"The court had determined that the trigger date for
7	the cover under the second part of the clause was
8	27 March, 2003, when the government made SARS
9	a notifiable disease. Following earlier reports in the
10	press, the insured had argued that the disease had
11	become notifiable either on 13 February 2003 when the
12	hospital authority requested hospitals to report cases
13	of severe community acquired pneumonia, or on
14	21 February 2003 when a mainland visitor , who
15	subsequently died and was confirmed as having SARS, was
16	admitted to hospital .
17	"When it came to the application of the other
18	circumstances clause, the insured argued that any impact
19	of the SARS outbreak should be ignored in calculating
20	standard revenue. The court rejected this argument.
21	The publicity surrounding the potential outbreak had
22	clearly affected the standard revenue of the business
23	prior to the trigger date and this was to be taken
24	into account even if the relevant circumstances

25subsequently crystallised into an insured peril .

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1	"The New World Harbourview Hotel case confirms not
2	only that the other circumstances clause should be
3	applied in a case of wide area damage, it also
4	illustrates that the applicable trend may well be
5	capable of measurement, in this case by virtue of the
6	downturn trend that was already evident.
7	"Whilst the New World Harbourview Hotel was already.
8	suffering a downturn before the trigger date, the
9	reverse could also occur. For example, a hotel might
10	suffer damage as a result of storms which cause its
11	closure. It is not difficult to envisage circumstances
12	why the accumulated effect of those storms is widespread
13	flooding, some days later which causes a downturn in
14	visitors to the region as a whole. Applying the
15	approach in New World Harbourview Hotel, the loss in the
16	first few days would not be subject to adjustment to
17	reflect the impact of wide area damage, but once the
18	flooding had occurred, an adjustment would be merited
19	and could be measured."
20	Now, that directly contradicts, I think,
21	Mr Edelman's submission, both as to how he was saying
22	the trends clause operates and also how in fact business
23	interruption operates in relation to our type of
24	situation . I thought that was worth showing to
25	your Lordships.

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1 My Lords, that essentially brings me to my 2 conclusion. My conclusion is, as your Lordships 3 probably are fully aware by this stage, that we submit 4 that in truth, from QBE's perspective, the case is quite 5 simple. 6 Firstly, the disease clauses provide insureds with 7 business interruption cover for business interruption 8 caused by the occurrence or manifestation of COVID in 9 their relevant policy area. That requires an insured to 10 prove, firstly, that there was such an occurrence or 11 manifestation in the relevant policy area, and secondly,	
 probably are fully aware by this stage, that we submit that in truth, from QBE's perspective, the case is quite simple. Firstly, the disease clauses provide insureds with business interruption cover for business interruption caused by the occurrence or manifestation of COVID in their relevant policy area. That requires an insured to prove, firstly, that there was such an occurrence or 	
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8 caused by the occurrence or manifestation of COVID in 9 their relevant policy area. That requires an insured to 10 prove, firstly, that there was such an occurrence or	
9 their relevant policy area. That requires an insured to 10 prove, firstly, that there was such an occurrence or	
10 prove, firstly , that there was such an occurrence or	
11 manifestation in the relevant policy area and secondly	
indimestation in the relevant policy area, and secondly,	
12 that such occurrence or manifestation caused them	
13 business interruption , and absent proof of these points	
14 there is no cover. So there will be no cover for	
15 business interruption loss that would have been suffered	
16 in any event.	
17 And on the FCA's case, the government's actions in	
18 response to COVID-19 were, as they say, a single body of	
19 public authority intervention which would have occurred	
20 in any event, and irrespective whether a case or cases	
of COVID occurred on any particular insured's premises	
22 or within 1 mile or 25 miles thereof. Accordingly, the	
23 cover provided by QBE disease wordings does not respond	
24 to any insured's business loss caused by the	
25 government's actions. Nor do they provide an indemnity	

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1	in respect of any loss that would have been suffered in
2	any event by reason of what the FCA calls the COVID-19
3	events, rather than business loss attributable to the
4	occurrence of COVID-19 in their relevant policy area.
5	My Lords, those are my submissions, unless I can
6	assist you on anything further .
7	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No, thank you very much, Mr Howard.
8	So now it is Mr Salzedo.
9	(2.59 pm)
10	Submissions by MR SALZEDO
11	MR SALZEDO: My Lord, yes, thank you.
12	May it please you, my Lords, we have reached the
13	graveyard slot . Despite that, I know your Lordships do
14	not need any reminder that the matter is just as
15	important to Argenta and to its policyholders who are
16	owners of holiday homes and guest houses, called
17	category 6 in this case, as it is to everybody else with
18	an interest in this case.
19	As Ms Mulcahy told your Lordships on {Day3/155:16}
20	to line 18, only one Argenta clause in is in issue in
21	these proceedings and it is, quoting Ms Mulcahy, "a very
22	simple clause"; it is interruption as a result of
23	occurrence of a notifiable disease within 25 miles.
24	The main point in this case in which we have an
25	interest is the jigsaw point and how it works or does

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1 not work in the case of a very simple clause, as 2 Ms Mulcahy called it , like Argenta's. I adopt what has 3 been said by Mr Kealey, Mr Howard, and the other 4insurers about that. $\mathbf{5}$ I will try not to repeat, but I do want to say 6 a little more about proximate cause as it applies 7specifically to Argenta's simple clause, followed by 8 some very short submissions on each of exclusions and 9 counterfactuals , and then a brief submission on the 10 declaration we seek relating to pre- notifiability 11 losses, which Mr Edelman specifically attacked. 12So, my Lords, my submissions on proximate cause. 13Before I go to Argenta's clauses themselves I would like 14to remind my Lords of six items of common ground as 15between the FCA and Argenta. 16 The first is at $\{A/15/18\},$ which is the list of 17issues that was agreed between the parties . At the top 18 of page 18 you see paragraph 39: 19"It is common ground, as a matter of law, that the 20policyholder must establish that its losses are 21 proximately caused by an insured peril ." 22 The second piece of common ground is contained in 23the FCA's skeleton argument at $\{I/1/300\},$ where at 24paragraph 949 the FCA accepts that in Argenta1 a defined 25insured peril is an occurrence of disease within

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1	25 miles of the premises.
2	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Which paragraph?
3	MR SALZEDO: 949, the very last line of the page.
4	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I see, yes.
5	MR SALZEDO: The obvious consequence of those first two
6	points of common ground was also accepted, and this is
7	my third point of common ground, by Ms Mulcahy in her
8	oral submissions against Argenta at ${Day3/163:23}$
9	through to ${Day3/164:1}$, where she said:
10	"The FCA accepts that the interruption must be
11	directly caused by the occurrence within 25 miles
12	because the term resulting from imports a proximate
13	cause test as Argenta also says in its skeleton."
14	My Lords, the fourth piece of common ground that
15	I wish to remind you of is at $\{A/2/3\}$. It is the
16	particulars of claim. It is paragraph 1, the very
17	simple point. There is a pandemic. That is paragraph 1
18	of the particulars of claim. And the losses with which
19	this action is concerned arise from the pandemic.
20	The fifth point of common ground is moving on to the
21	reply at $\{A/14/27\}$. At paragraph 52, as Mr Orr reminded
22	my Lords this morning, the FCA say that they do not
23	allege that the advice given or restrictions imposed by
24	the UK Government were caused by any particular local
25	occurrence of COVID-19.

Day 7

1	Finally , my Lords, still in the reply , if we go to	1	the premises. The only one here that goes beyond the
2	page 29, at paragraph 58.1, $\{A/1/29\}$ at lines 5 to 7.	2	premises is (d), the crucial one:
3	This is one of the places where the jigsaw argument is	3	"Any occurrence of a notifiable human disease within
4	set out. But at lines 5 to 7 my learned friends say:	4	a radius of 25 miles of the premises."
5	"This is especially true where one of the things,	5	So that the insurance that is due for Argenta is
6	COVID-19, in the UK, is the underlying cause of the	6	simply such interruption as a result of any occurrence
7	other, such as the presence of the disease within the	7	of human notifiable disease within a radius of 25 miles
8	relevant policy area", which is the FCA's term for each	8	of the premises.
9	25-mile radius around the premises of an Argenta	9	Still on page 59, my Lords, your Lordships may want
10	policyholder .	10	to note the next peril, number 5, pollution or oil
11	So what is accepted and is common ground is that the	11	spillage , because it is also a 25-mile radius one:
12	chain of causation runs from the pandemic to the	12	"Pollution or oil spillage on a beach, river or
13	occurrences in each particular 25-mile radius area and	13	waterway within a 25-mile radius of the premises."
14	does not run the other way, as we saw at paragraph 52.	14	The FCA's Chesil Beach pollution example was
15	They are not saying it runs the other way as well. So	15	dismantled by Mr Kealey. But let me suggest a different
16	it only runs one way.	16	pollution example based on Argenta's clause. Imagine an
17	Now, my Lords, in any ordinary case your Lordships	17	insured with a guest house or holiday home in Dover and
18	may think that the first three points of common ground	18	a single oil spill on the beaches of Northern France
19	combined with the second three points of common ground	19	that closes the ferry ports in Calais and Boulogne.
20	would be sufficient to demonstrate that any particular	20	The beach at Calais I understand from the internet
21	Argenta policyholder facing business interruption	21	is about 21 miles from Dover, whereas Boulogne is over
22	arising from the government advice or restrictions	22	30 miles away.
23	relating to COVID will not have cover under Argenta1,	23	So ferries from Calais are cancelled because of the
24	because those matters are not proximately caused by the	24	spill and that causes interruption to the business. The
25	occurrences in their particular 25-mile radius circle .	25	policy on the face of it responds. But if ferries from
	145		147
1	The only basis for a different result appears to be	1	Boulogne are cancelled with the same result the policy
2	the jigsaw argument.	2	does not respond. That is because proximate cause is
3	Now, my Lords, with that introduction your Lordships	3	a question of causation rather than jigsaws.
4	can return to the Argenta clauses at $\{B/3/57\}$. At	4	It will not help the policyholder who wants to claim
5	page 57 your Lordships see the main business	5	Boulogne ferry losses to say that the oil that affected
6	interruption insurance section . Similarly to the	6	ferries from Boulogne was inextricably linked with the
7	position in the Orient-Express, as Mr Kealey explained	7	oil that affected ferries from Calais, nor that the oil
8	last week, the peril here is big "D" Damage under the	8	spill affecting both beaches is one indivisible fact.
9	business or contents section , and the small "d" damage	9	My Lords, if we turn to page 60 we have the basis of
10	in this section is the business interruption as a result	10	settlement clause which defines the indemnity in terms
11	of the premises being made uninhabitable by that peril .	11	of the gross income falling short of the standard gross
12	If we then turn to page 58, $\{B/3/58\}$ your Lordships	12	income.
13	can see the extensions in the business interruption	13	Your Lordships don't need, I don't think, to read
14	section . This sets out a number of other perils which	14	that in detail . I am just tracing through where it
15	may cause business interruption . The box at the top	15	works. You have the references . But then if we go back
16	left, are the important words, because they are relevant	16	to page 56 in the bundle there are a number of important
17	on the next page as well:	17	definitions, including in particular standard gross
18	"The company will also indemnify the insured as	18	income, which is the trend clause in very similar form
19	provided in the insurance of this section for such	19	to that which your Lordships have seen in other policies
20	interruption as a result of"	20	and indeed in the authorities .
21	If we then go to page 59 $\{B/3/59\}$ your Lordships see	21	My Lords, would this be a good time to take a short
22	that the fourth set of extensions are (a) to (e). Your	22	afternoon break, or would your Lordships prefer to go on

23

24

25

or in (b) attributable to food and drink supplied from 146

Lordships see, if you look through those, that (a), (b),

(c) and (e) are all perils that operate at the premises,

you have shown us the policy wording -- where you are 148

a bit longer? I am very much in your Lordships' hands.

LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If you have reached a point -- because

23

24

1	now moving on to something else
2	MR SALZEDO: Yes, I am moving on to more substantive
3	submissions perhaps.
4	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Let's break now in that case, and say
5	20 past.
6	MR SALZEDO: Thank you, my Lord.
7	(3.10 pm)
8	(Short break)
9	(3.20 pm)
10	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Okay, Mr Salzedo, when you are ready.
11	MR SALZEDO: Thank you, my Lord.
12	If we can bring back on to the screen the relevant
13	clause at $\{B/3/59\}$, your Lordships may recall that as
14	Mr Kealey pointed out Mr Edelman's argument appeared to
15	involve amending the wording in a particular way and
16	adapting the way Mr Kealey put it for the Argenta
17	wording. I don't know whether there is more microphones
18	on than need be but I am getting an echo at the moment,
19	but adapting Mr Kealey's wording to Argenta his point
20	was that Mr Edelman's argument would read the clause
21	something like :
22	"Such interruption as a result of a notifiable human
23	disease provided that there has been an occurrence
24	within a radius of 25 miles of the premises."
25	Now that amendment to the clause is only really
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1 a first approximation to the clause which Mr Edelman's $\mathbf{2}$ submissions seemed to be addressing, because on its face 3 that amendment would cover a situation where the local 4 occurrences were many years earlier , for example. They $\mathbf{5}$ would still satisfy the trigger , using one of 6 Mr Edelman's phrases. 7 As I understood the FCA's case, it was accepted that 8 to give any meaning at all to the 25-mile limit you did 9 need to include some causal connection between the local 10 occurrence and the interruption to the policyholder's 11 business. In case references are needed to justify that 12understanding I refer to the description of the argument 13 at the FCA's skeleton at paragraph 241, which is 14 $\{1/1/97\}$, and to Mr Edelman's submissions on 15 $\{Day1/98{:}17\}$ to page $\{Day1/99{:}5\}$ and $\{Day1/104{:}3\}$ to 16line 8. 17The question then arises , what is the causal 18 connection for which Mr Edelman contends as an add-on or 19 as he would presumably say implicit in our clause at 20 $\{B/3/59\}.$ (Pause) 21(3.22 pm) 22MR SALZEDO: Thank you. The question that then arises is 23what exactly is the causal connection? 24

MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Mr Salzedo, I am not sure whether 25my Lord is there.

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1 Yes, he is. 2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That's entirely attributable to 3 technical incompetence on my part. 4 MR SALZEDO: I broke the whole system. 5LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Mr Salzedo, we have lost slightly over $\mathbf{6}$ five minutes, so we will sit five minutes longer. 7MR SALZEDO: Thank you. 8 So the question that arises next is what is the 9 causal section that Mr Edelman is contending for as, we 10 would say an add-on to the clause, as he would 11 presumably say implicitly written into our clause at 12{B/3/59}. 13Mr Howard pointed out that Mr Edelman had not 14answered that question, and he suggested an answer to 15this same question by reference to QBE2 in the course of 16 his submissions just before lunch. 17Before hearing Mr Howard I drafted my own idea of 18what Mr Edelman's submissions appear to amount to in 19relation to Argenta1 and it is quite different , which 20perhaps confirms how unclear the FCA's argument is. 21 Unless it just confirms that I have not been listening 22 carefully enough. 23In the hopes of assisting the court to identify the 24argument, I will put mine forward in competition for 25consideration, in competition with Mr Howard. Doing the 151

1	best I can on the basis of my understanding of what
2	Mr Edelman has been saying, it seems to me he wants to
3	adjust our clause so that it reads "such interruption as
4	a result of a notifiable human disease, provided that
5	there has been some occurrence within a radius of
6	25 miles of the premises and provided that such
7	occurrence is part of the same outbreak of such
8	notifiable human disease as the outbreak which has
9	caused the interruption ".
10	Now, that revised wording brings to the front and
11	centre the concept of an outbreak which reflects the
12	role of an outbreak throughout the FCA's written and
13	oral argument on this topic, even though it doesn't have
14	that role in the contract. I accept the point that
15	my Lord Mr Justice Butcher made to one of my
16	predecessors in this seat, that the word is used
17	obliquely in the definition , but it not front and centre
18	in the way that it is in the causation argument of
19	Mr Edelman.
20	So my suggestion is that the words I have drafted
21	provide for a causal link which seem to fit with the
22	jigsaw argument and also with Ms Mulcahy's legal
23	submissions about interdependent or inextricably linked
24	causes.
25	In the case of a brand new disease like COVID-19,

1 which manifests itself by a worldwide pandemic or 2 a nationwide epidemic, that causal link that I have 3 suggested, being part of the same outbreak, is trivial 4 to establish. We all happen to know that every case of 5COVID-19 is part of the current pandemic outbreak. 6 That unspoken premise is one reason why Mr Edelman $\overline{7}$ has been able to make this argument without identifying 8 all its components. But in the other cases the FCA's g clause would be much harder to apply. If there was, 10 say, a national measles outbreak and it becomes serious 11 in October and then consequences follow, but there had 12 been cases in Dover the previous March, were those cases 13part of the same outbreak? As Mr Kealey submitted on Day 4, page 110, $\{Day4/110{:}1\}$ the FCA has propounded no 1415 principle by which that question would be answered. 16 And as others have submitted before me the ECA's

10And as others have submitted before me, the FCA's17revision of the clause, whether it is the revision as18understood by Mr Kealey or Mr Howard or myself or some19version that Mr Edelman may produce in reply, whatever20that revision is it demotes the 25-mile requirement into21an ill -defined and arbitrary trigger or condition with22results that would be capricious, especially in23non-pandemic cases.

 24
 Returning to what the parties actually agreed in

 25
 Argental on page B359, the words are "such interruption

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1as a result of any occurrence of a notifiable disease2within a radius of 25 miles of the premises" and that3specifies a causal link between the local occurrence and4the business interruption , namely that the latter is the5result of the former. Or, in legal terminology,6proximate cause.

7 That causal link is straightforward, well understood 8 in insurance law and in contract law more generally. It 9 also makes much better commercial sense as a way of 10 delimiting what is and is not covered. Now, we have 11 made clear in our skeleton argument, at $\{I/11/25\}$ if 12 this could be brought up, at paragraph 56, that Argenta 13 accepts that this clause may respond to some COVID-19 14 claims, and we have set out at paragraph 56 three types 15of claim which could give rise to indemnified loss. 16including the Leicester example, as my Lord 17Lord Justice Flaux put to Mr Kealey on Thursday. 18 As my Lord Lord Justice Flaux put to Mr Gaisman 19 yesterday morning, causation issues involve facts as 20well as law. I think the same point arose with 21 Mr Howard today. We hope that this paragraph is helpful 22in indicating how we say the insured peril in our simple 23clause does work in relation to a range of potential 24 facts concerning COVID-19. And this is the basis on 25which Argenta is dealing with its policyholders .

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1 As you can see from what we say about Leicester at 2 paragraph 56(3), Ms Mulcahy was completely wrong in her 3 submission against Argenta at {Day3/159:6} to line 13, 4 when she suggested that it is Argenta's position that if 5coverage is otherwise established then coverage is, in $\mathbf{6}$ her words, prevented by a public authority response. $\overline{7}$ That is not the position that Argenta has taken to 8 its policyholders , nor the position that Argenta puts g forward in this litigation . 10 Ms Mulcahy raised the question how Argenta's 11 approach would apply to a regional shutdown; so if, for 12 example, cases in central Leicester provoked the 13government to lock down the entire East Midlands. The 14answer is, if the policyholder's premises is in 15Leicester, then the policy responds, because the 16 lockdown regulations have been made in consequence of 17occurrences within 25 miles. On the other hand, if the 18 premises is more than 25 miles from Leicester, that will 19not be the case and the policy will not respond. 20 Now, of course there may be intermediate facts where 21 the circle around the premises includes some, but not 22 all, of the cases that triggered the regional lockdown. 23 That could give rise to a factual question as to whether 24 the occurrence within the circle were sufficiently 25significant to the decision to lockdown that they amount

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1	to an effective cause of the interruption that has been
2	caused by the regulations .
3	A similar point arose in exchanges between my Lord
4	and Mr Kealey on Day 4 at pages 85 to 86, {Day4/85:1} My
5	Lords, I adopt his answer in relation to Argenta and
6	Leicester . Putting it much less elegantly than
7	Mr Kealey did, ultimately this is a question of fact and
8	it falls to be answered by reference to the established
9	legal concept of proximate cause.
10	The nub of the argument that is put forward
11	specifically against Argenta to try to satisfy the
12	requirement for proximate cause can be found in the
13	FCA's skeleton argument at $\{I/1/299\}$ at paragraphs 940
14	to 942. In the first sentence of paragraph 940 my Lords
15	see that the FCA relies on points that it makes against
16	QBE, and in relation to those I adopt what Mr Howard has
17	said in writing and orally against those points, in
18	addition to everything in my own skeleton argument that
19	goes to the same points.
20	Then your Lordship sees that the FCA quote from our
21	skeleton , and they accept that we throw the causal issue
22	into relief by making clear the way we say causation
23	works in this case. And we do; we don't shy away from
24	the proposition that actually this is really quite
25	clear , it is not as complex as the arguments put forward

Day 7

1	against us make it seem.	1	world to alter their behaviour, and that includes in
2	There is a global pandemic of COVID-19. The	2	particular the customers and potential customers of each
3	pandemic has had many consequences, mostly unpleasant	3	Argenta policyholder .
4	and damaging ones. The consequences that are relevant	4	Now, in identifying those six effects of the
5	to each particular individual Argenta policyholder under	5	pandemic, I have deliberately referred to overseas
6	their policies are, I would venture to suggest, the	6	governments and persons as well as UK ones, even though
7	following six .	7	the FCA avoids ever mentioning them. That is because
8	First, in the case of many such policies the	8	the customers of Argenta's policyholders will include
9	pandemic has caused there to be occurrence of the	9	foreign tourists , and some of their lost business will
10	disease within 25 miles of the premises insured under	10	have been caused by actions in response to COVID taken
11	that particular policy. I have shown your Lordships	11	overseas .
12	that that is common ground on the pleadings.	12	Of those six consequences of the pandemic, the first
13	Now, your Lordships may think, looking at	13	is an insured peril under Argenta1; the others are not.
14	paragraph 941 of the FCA's skeleton, that they dispute	14	Under an orthodox application of the legal concept
15	that proposition in the skeleton argument. But	15	of causation, this is a straightforward situation to
16	nevertheless , as I have shown you by reference to the	16	analyse. You have an event, the pandemic, which causes
17	reply, paragraphs 52 and 58.1, it is actually common	17	six identified conditions to eventuate. Five of them,
18	ground that causation runs in the direction we say it	18	conditions numbers 2 to 6 on my list , may well have
19	runs, and that the pandemic is the cause of the	19	caused loss to many Argenta policyholders, but those
20	occurrences in particular premises.	20	five conditions are not insured perils and nor is the
21	What may be going on here, if I have correctly	21	originating event, and it follows that the loss is not
22	understood those paragraphs of the reply and	22	insured .
23	paragraph 941, is a distinction being drawn by my	23	Adding in the first condition, which is an insured
24	learned friends on behalf of the FCA between (1)	24	peril but which does not cause loss , does not change the
25	occurrences generally in any and all 25-mile circles ,	25	analysis on any orthodox version .
	157		159
1	which they say are the facts that comprise the pandemic,	1	It is different, of course, if the first condition
2	and (2) occurrences in any particular 25-mile circle	2	does cause loss, which it might do, in the ways we have
3	which they accept are caused by the pandemic.		does cause loss, which it hight do, in the ways we have
4	which they accept are caused by the pandemic.	- Y	identified at paragraph 56 of our skeleton argument. We
- T	Now what matters for present purposes is that from	3	identified at paragraph 56 of our skeleton argument. We
5	Now, what matters for present purposes is that from	4	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of
5 6	the perspective of any one individual policy and	$\frac{4}{5}$	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first
6	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder , the pandemic has caused the occurrences in	$\begin{array}{c} 4\\ 5\\ 6\end{array}$	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain
6 7	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder, the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius, and not vice versa, and	4 5 6 7	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim.
6 7 8	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder, the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius, and not vice versa, and that, as I have shown you, is common ground.	4 5 6 7 8	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast
6 7 8 9	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder, the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius, and not vice versa, and that, as I have shown you, is common ground. That was the first consequence. The others are	4 5 6 7 8 9	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast majority of claims under Argenta1 will fail to establish
6 7 8 9 10	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder, the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius, and not vice versa, and that, as I have shown you, is common ground. That was the first consequence. The others are shorter to state.	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast majority of claims under Argenta1 will fail to establish causation because the loss was not caused by an
6 7 8 9 10 11	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder, the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius, and not vice versa, and that, as I have shown you, is common ground. That was the first consequence. The others are shorter to state. The second consequence of the pandemic is that it	$4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11$	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast majority of claims under Argenta1 will fail to establish causation because the loss was not caused by an occurrence of the disease within 25 miles. And in many
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder, the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius, and not vice versa, and that, as I have shown you, is common ground. That was the first consequence. The others are shorter to state. The second consequence of the pandemic is that it has caused occurrences of the disease in numerous other	4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast majority of claims under Argenta1 will fail to establish causation because the loss was not caused by an occurrence of the disease within 25 miles. And in many ways that is just a longer way of stating the common
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$egin{array}{c} 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \end{array}$	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder, the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius, and not vice versa, and that, as I have shown you, is common ground. That was the first consequence. The others are shorter to state. The second consequence of the pandemic is that it has caused occurrences of the disease in numerous other places, both within the UK and elsewhere in the world. Thirdly, it has caused parliament to impose restrictions on the whole country, and the government to give guidance asking people to alter their behaviour. Fourthly, it has caused parliament to impose	$ \begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ \end{array} $	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast majority of claims under Argental will fail to establish causation because the loss was not caused by an occurrence of the disease within 25 miles. And in many ways that is just a longer way of stating the common ground that I set out in six propositions at the outset. Of course, as your Lordships know, the FCA does not accept that the orthodox causal analysis to that issue is applicable to these facts. It says that the remote causal event, the pandemic, and all its consequences
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$egin{array}{c} 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ 18 \\ 19 \end{array}$	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder , the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius , and not vice versa , and that , as I have shown you, is common ground. That was the first consequence. The others are shorter to state . The second consequence of the pandemic is that it has caused occurrences of the disease in numerous other places , both within the UK and elsewhere in the world. Thirdly, it has caused parliament to impose restrictions on the whole country, and the government to give guidance asking people to alter their behaviour. Fourthly, it has caused parliament to impose restrictions on some localities , so far most notably in Leicester , though there seems to have been one or two	$ \begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ 18 \\ 19 \\ \end{array} $	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast majority of claims under Argental will fail to establish causation because the loss was not caused by an occurrence of the disease within 25 miles. And in many ways that is just a longer way of stating the common ground that I set out in six propositions at the outset. Of course, as your Lordships know, the FCA does not accept that the orthodox causal analysis to that issue is applicable to these facts. It says that the remote causal event, the pandemic, and all its consequences form a single indivisible event or cause or factor. Then they say that the policy contemplates that the
	the perspective of any one individual policy and policyholder , the pandemic has caused the occurrences in the relevant 25-mile radius , and not vice versa , and that , as I have shown you, is common ground. That was the first consequence. The others are shorter to state . The second consequence of the pandemic is that it has caused occurrences of the disease in numerous other places , both within the UK and elsewhere in the world. Thirdly, it has caused parliament to impose restrictions on the whole country, and the government to give guidance asking people to alter their behaviour. Fourthly, it has caused parliament to impose restrictions on some localities , so far most notably in	$ \begin{array}{r} 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 9 \\ 10 \\ 11 \\ 12 \\ 13 \\ 14 \\ 15 \\ 16 \\ 17 \\ 18 \\ \end{array} $	are not saying there is absolutely no possibility of that happening. But even in that case where the first condition does cause loss, the other five remain irrelevant to the policyholder's claim. So on the basis of that orthodox analysis, the vast majority of claims under Argental will fail to establish causation because the loss was not caused by an occurrence of the disease within 25 miles. And in many ways that is just a longer way of stating the common ground that I set out in six propositions at the outset. Of course, as your Lordships know, the FCA does not accept that the orthodox causal analysis to that issue is applicable to these facts. It says that the remote causal event, the pandemic, and all its consequences form a single indivisible event or cause or factor.

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22governments to do the same things. 23

Sixthly, both directly through its impact on people 24and indirectly through the legislation and government 25guidances, the pandemic has caused persons all over the

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consequences also become part of the insured peril .

a pandemic, and then, in a brazen non sequitur, they say

it follows from that that the pandemic and all its other

Putting their point in other words, they say that

1	the insured can trace a claim in the following way.
2	Square 1 is the insured peril that you rely on. From
3	there you climb a ladder up the causal chain from the
4	insured peril to its remote cause, the pandemic. Then
5	you slide down a snake, back down the causal chain by
6	a different route, through the uninsured consequences of
7	the uninsured pandemic, in order to reach the final
8	destination of the loss . So that is how you get from
9	your insured peril to the loss, by going up the causal
10	chain and then down it a different route. That is
11	a rather serpentine process which Mr Edelman invites
12	this court to hold amounts to satisfaction of the
13	requirement, which it is common ground policyholders
14	must satisfy , to show that the loss was proximately
15	caused by the insured peril in Argenta's simple clause.
16	Now, I have referred in that submission to causation
17	operating as a chain, as have other counsel in this
18	case, including Mr Edelman himself and also Ms Mulcahy
19	in her submissions against Argenta, so I do not think
20	that is a controversial approach. But just in case your
21	Lordships might want authority for it , apart from the
22	numerous authorities dealing with breaking the chain of
23	causation, other authorities that refer to the chain of
24	causation generally, that are in our bundles, include
25	The Kos, at $\{J/115/29\},$ at paragraph 75, and ARC Capital
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1	v Brit at $\{K/162/8\}$.
2	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: There are quite a few authorities that
3	say causation is not a chain but a web.
4	MR SALZEDO: Causation more generally may be a web, my Lord,
5	but in terms of working out how one thing causes another
6	as a matter of "but for" factual causation, in my
7	submission a chain is the way to understand it if that
8	is the way the causes are.
9	It can become more complicated, in the sense that
10	you can have more than one link at any given level of
11	the chain. You may need three or four identified events
12	to cause the next one, or it may be that you have more
13	than one individual event, each of which would suffice
14	to cause the next one. In that sense you can say it is
15	all more complicated so I am going to call it a web.
16	But nevertheless , it is my submission that where you can
17	identify that one or more things caused the next thing,
18	it makes perfect sense, as do many of the authorities ,
19	to talk about it as a chain.
20	That is what we have here. There is no real dispute
21	about the way in which different facts have caused the
22	next fact . That is why I say in my submission it is
23	appropriate . This is not a case where one doesn't call
24	it a chain; it is . And what the FCA's submissions are

24 ·	IL a C	nam, n	. 15.	And w	mat t	ine FC	A S SUDI	missions a
25	trying	to do	is to	create	this	very	strange	process

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1	where you go up the chain and down it by a different
2	route in order to reach the end. I am sure Mr Edelman
3	would agree that, well, one could call it all a web
4	because that almost matches his idea of saying it's
5	a jigsaw.
6	But as far as I am aware, you can't quite say a web
7	will do, because it won't do for him. It has to be
8	a jigsaw, where you get all of the other consequences of
9	the top cause are suddenly brought into the insured
10	peril, which is a sort of sister consequence, if you
11	like , through what he calls a jigsaw .
12	My Lords, while there is a lot of authority for
13	a chain approach to causation, where that is applicable
14	as it normally will be, as far as I'm aware my Lords
15	will not find any authority for the serpentine or jigsaw
16	approach in these bundles, or indeed anywhere else.
17	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: The likelihood is that the proper
18	characterisation of this question is going to depend on
19	the terms of the policy, isn't it?
20	MR SALZEDO: Yes. Absolutely, my Lord, I entirely agree.
21	${\sf I}$ am endeavouring not to repeat more than ${\sf I}$ have to, but
22	I absolutely adopt what Mr Howard has recently had to
23	say on that subject. Yes, it does of course turn on the
24	terms of the policy , and I have made my submission that
25	the simple Argenta clause is simply a statement of

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1	proximate cause, which is a well understood concept, and
2	indeed it is common ground that proximate cause is what
3	is required .
4	There is nothing
5	MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: What I meant was whether we are looking
6	towards a chain or towards a web or whatever, is likely
7	to be guided by the terms of the policy.
8	MR SALZEDO: My Lord, yes. And in those terms I think the
9	submission I am making is that there is nothing special
10	in the simple Argenta clause that could possibly direct
11	one to an unusual approach to causation . It 's the usual
12	approach.
13	I wondered if I might try your Lordship's patience
14	with sorry.
15	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Your primary position is the one you
16	set out at the beginning of your submissions, that if we
17	look at the wording of your policy it is clearly using
18	words of proximate cause, and it is saying the
19	interruption has to have been proximately caused by any
20	occurrence of a notifiable human disease within the
21	policy area, within the 25 miles; and if it has not
22	been, that is the end of the enquiry, whether it is
23	a web of causation or a chain of causation. And you say
24	the FCA's argument, in terms of policy construction, has
25	to involve writing words into the policy.

- 1 MR SALZEDO: Yes.
- 2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: And you are right about that, it is
- 3 a point that Mr Howard in a sense made earlier today, if
- 4 you are right about that then these fine arguments about 5 causation don't actually get anywhere, because they just
- 6 lose on construction . 7 MR SALZEDO: Yes, that is exactly right, my Lord. I think 8 as so often an advocate finds himself in the position g where if his first argument is accepted, then the rest 10 is a waste of time. And it is indeed my submission that 11 your Lordships could just take the first five minutes of 12 my submissions and discard the rest. But of course 13I have to guard against the risk that I could prove 14wrong on that. But your Lordship absolutely has 15 understood correctly what I have been trying to submit 16 so far 17I was going to just suggest another example, I know 18 there has been a lot of examples, just to illustrate 19what I mean about the going up and down the chain and 20why it is so inappropriate . It is a very short one. 21 Imagine domestic house insurance against property 22 damage caused by fire. The assured peril is fire 23 causing property damage. Let's say there is a massive 24 electrical storm, which causes lightning, which causes
- 25 a small fire in the garden of the property but no

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- 1 financial loss. The storm also floods the house, $\mathbf{2}$ causing very serious damage and loss. On the FCA's 3 approach, they would say: look at this fire insurance, 4 the parties must have realised and contemplated that one 5possible source of a fire would be an electrical storm, 6 it's a perfectly obvious possible source of a fire, and 7 the parties must know that a storm might cause loss 8 through flooding as well. The lightning and the rain 9 are just component parts of the storm and it would 10 follow that by insuring against fire, the insurer has 11 equally given insurance against a storm and against the 12 flood damage caused by the storm. In my submission, 13 that is the logic of the FCA's approach to our policy 14 and the other policies , and it is plainly wrong. 15In some cases, of course, a proper and orthodox 16analysis of the facts might be that the remote cause is 17so potent that it is the only proximate cause of any 18 loss, and in that sense you could have everything being 19 causally indivisible ; but that orthodox approach would 20not assist the FCA in relation to Argenta1, because the 21 pandemic is not an insured peril .
- The FCA's alternative to the jigsaw, about which I think your Lordships have heard perhaps a bit less so far, is that each local occurrence of COVID is itself a concurrent effective cause. That, in my submission,

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- 1 is wrong for at least three reasons, which I will give 2 very shortly. 3 First, it is obviously wrong as a matter of common 4 sense, which is the way in which effective causation is 5ultimately assessed in English law. Despite some $\mathbf{6}$ reservations having been expressed, that is nevertheless $\overline{7}$ where we are. And on any common sense view, no one 8 single occurrence of COVID is a substantial or effective 9 cause of the national lockdown and all that followed 10 from the national lockdown. 11 The second reason is that the FCA's position on this 12is self - contradictory. As I have already shown you in 13the reply at paragraphs 52 and 58.1, the FCA say that 14the pandemic is the cause of local occurrences and that 15no particular local occurrence is the cause of any 16 government action. 17Now, I must be missing something, because it does 18seem to me, and I submit, that that is directly 19contradicting Mr Edelman's alternative way of looking at 20causation as a set of millions of concurrent effective 21 causes. Because there would have to be millions, 22
- because on his case a single person with COVID would
 have to be enough to be an effective cause, because his
 case depends on saying: if you can prove one case within
 25 miles, you have proved what you need.

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1	The third reason why it is wrong, my Lords, I adopt
2	a submission that was made perhaps we can bring it
3	up on $\{Day2/25:4\}$ where at lines 4 to 13 Ms Mulcahy
4	aptly pointed out that the legal concept of an effective
5	or proximate cause sometimes encompasses two substantial
6	causes of the same event, and perhaps, perhaps in cases
7	that haven't yet come to trial , one can imagine it
8	encompassing three or four. But as she points out,
9	there is nothing in the authorities that gives any
10	encouragement at all to the idea that you might have
11	millions of effective proximate causes of the same
12	event. It is just not the same concept. So we say that
13	alternative way of putting it is just as wrong.
14	My Lords
15	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: At the moment I am having trouble
16	finding
17	MR SALZEDO: Sorry, my Lord, it is $\{Day2/25:4\}$ to 13. She
18	says :
19	"What is interesting when one looks at authorities
20	on proximate causes is that they only identify two
21	concurrent proximate causes. It is clearly conceptually
22	possible for there to be more than two, but the court
23	should perhaps bear that in mind when considering the
24	sheer number of concurrent causes that are being put
25	forward by the insurers , are they really all being said

1	to be concurrent proximate causes of equal or nearly
2	equal efficiency ."
3	My Lord, I submit, because obviously my clause is
4	simple enough, I don't have to worry about what other
5	insurers may be submitting, I submit that Ms Mulcahy may
6	or may not be right in terms of four or five causes,
7	perhaps not, but she certainly is right in terms of
8	millions . That is a completely different idea .
9	My Lords, that is what I wanted to say about
10	proximate cause. I then have three shorter headings,
11	the first of which is exclusions .
12	Just to bring back the Argenta wording at $\{B/3/59\}$,
13	there are three exclusions on the right-hand side. We
14	understand that the FCA accepts that all three apply in
15	principle ; we gave the references for that in our
16	skeleton at paragraph 18, footnote 33, which is
17	$\{I/11/10\},$ no need to go to that. But as we say at
18	paragraph 63 of our skeleton , which is $\{1/11/28\}$ $1{}^{\prime}m$
19	sorry, I have skipped a couple of lines in my notes, my
20	Lords.
21	We understand the FCA accepts they all apply. The
22	FCA accepts that the third exclusion means that
23	a policyholder cannot claim for a loss of business at
24	premises A as a result of an occurrence of infectious
25	disease at premises B. They say that in the reply at
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1	paragraph 54. But as we say at paragraph 63 of our
2	skeleton , at $\{I/11/28\}$, this is in substance the very
3	type of claim that their main argument seeks to justify .
4	So we say the exclusion does confirm, and Ms Mulcahy
5	made some play with that word, but we say it does
6	confirm that our main argument is right and that this
7	clause does not cover that kind of thing.
8	My Lords, the next heading in my notes is "but for"
9	and the Orient-Express. Now, I have shown you that at
10	$\{B/3/56\}$ Argenta has a trend clause which is in similar
11	form to other insurers . As we set out in our skeleton
12	at paragraph 70, and as my learned friend Mr Turner has
13	already shown you in his submissions, in the FCA's
14	skeleton , at $\{I/1/300\}$ paragraph 947, it is common
15	ground in Argenta's case you may recall Mr Turner
16	pointing this out because he couldn't understand why it
17	wasn't common ground in his that the defined term
18	"Damage" in Argenta's trend clause, and in the "Basis of
19	Settlement" definition , is to be read as referring to
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20the relevant peril in that small number of instances21where the peril is not damage with a capital D., which22of course includes the instances we are dealing with.23So my Lord, I wanted to just make it clear that that24is common ground for us, so you know how to read our25trends clause.

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1 Now, my Lords, apart from making that point, I had $\mathbf{2}$ not planned to add to the submissions that others have 3 made about counterfactuals and the operation of the trends clause. I have been slightly tempted by 4 Mr Justice Butcher's interesting thought experiments 56 concerning trains and pirates, despite my natural 7humility as the Tail End Charlie. But that said, I am 8 conscious that I think my Lord did say that possibly 9 these examples are not really critical to the case, so 10 unless your Lordships encourage me I am going to move on 11 rather than delving into them. But I did have one or 12two thoughts about them. 13Can I give one thought, without encouragement, which 14is simply that it may be relevant, in looking at those 15thought experiments, to analyse what is the damage and 16 what is the loss , as well as what is the insured peril . 17That may make a difference to exactly how one analyses 18them, in that the damage in a business interruption 19policy may be quite different , for example, to the 20damage in a property-type insurance. 21 My Lords, I take your Lordships' silence as an 22 invitation to move on, which I do. 23LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The answer to the ship, to the example 24of the pirates , may very well be the one that Mr Howard

 $25\,$ gave, which is because the insured peril is loss or

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1	damage to the ship as a consequence of whatever it
2	happens to be, pirates in this instance, the owner has
3	suffered the relevant insured loss at the moment when
4	the pirates board the ship. That might be the answer.
5	MR SALZEDO: It might be, my Lord. Whether there is a loss
6	when they board or at some later date, and also whether
7	in that instance one would start arguing about whether
8	The Golden Victory and the Bwllfa approach apply or not,
9	are all issues that I am sure your Lordships are
10	probably not going to want to try to decide in this
11	case.
12	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We are not in that territory.
13	MR SALZEDO: No. Exactly so.
14	The final
15	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You will appreciate that my Lord and
16	${\sf I}$ have discussed these various issues together, but it
17	seems to me that one answer to the train example is that
18	we are not in the territory where there is, as it were,
19	another cause up the line that is the true cause of the
20	loss . Because these are all things that are going on
21	at, as it were, at the same time.
22	Your primary point is if you were asking the
23	question, what is the proximate cause of the loss that
24	is suffered, other than in your exceptional cases, the
25	short answer is it's the pandemic and the government
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1	restrictions that have been imposed. It is not the
2	local occurrence.
-3	MR SALZEDO: Yes. Exactly so. My Lord is exactly right ,
4	and that's right. So these issues are very much down
5	the line, to maintain the train analogy, so far as I am
6	concerned. I do have an interest in them because, as
7	I say, we accept that there may be some claims that
8	respond, in which case we would look to apply the trends
9	clause. So we have an interest in "but for" causation
10	in that context.
11	It may be that one of the points on the train
12	example is that "but for" causation comes in at two
13	different stages. One is what is the cause, is it the
14	insured peril; and the other is what is the loss under
15	the trends clause. And the loss and the cause are not
16	necessarily answered by exactly the same analysis . But
17	it may be that that is enough on trains and ships.
18	My Lords, the other point that I need to cover,
19	takes us right back to the beginning of the trial .
20	It is the declarations . Your Lordships may or may not
21	still remember, on ${Day1/3:24}$ through to page 4,
22	line 7, if that could be brought up, in case anybody has
23	already forgotten what happened two weeks ago. About
24	five minutes into this trial Mr Edelman picked on
25	Argenta for a special attack for seeking a declaration
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1 in relation to the question whether claims could be $\mathbf{2}$ brought for losses prior to the date when COVID became 3 notifiable . And he did so in guite strong terms which 4 were calculated to, and did, attract adverse public 5attention. As you can see from the way he put the point 6 at lines 5 to 7 on page 4, $\{Day1/4{:}5\}$ the objection is 7 not to insurers seeking declarations in general. And 8 that is also clear, we don't need to go to them, from 9 paragraph 11 of the FCA's skeleton and paragraph 68 of 10 their reply at $\{A/14/35\}$. The one objection that is made is to the second sentence of the declaration , that 11 12we reformulated in our skeleton argument; that is 13 $\{I/11/35\}$, paragraph 82(a). 14 Obviously, my Lords, if there is any issues about

the wording of declarations, they fall to be addressed
later, in the light of whatever has fallen from your
Lordships in the judgment. But the question of
principle is the one I need to address after Mr Edelman
attacked us on.
It. We dealt with the issue of why we were adding

21this second sentence at 82.1, in our skeleton on22pages 16 to 17 of {I/11/16}, paragraphs 36 to 37. As23your Lordships will see when paragraph 36 pops up on24your screen, it seemed to us that, at least for a simple25disease clause like ours, it was inconsistent for the

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1 FCA on the one hand to concede what they called 2 a trigger for cover and that it included notifiability , 3 whilst on the other arguing that pre- notifiability 4 losses could be claimed. We don't need to go to these, 5but the dates of notifiability were expressly pleaded in $\mathbf{6}$ the particulars of claim at paragraph 37 and they were $\overline{7}$ admitted in Argenta's defence at paragraph 54. 8 So it follows that if it is useful to refer to 9 triggers at all, which as I understand them are 10 components of the insured peril, then in relation to COVID-19, which is all that this case concerns, the 11 12trigger of notifiability was satisfied on certain agreed 13dates. That cannot sensibly be disputed, neither here 14nor in what Mr Edelman has called other fora 15There is also no doubt that the question when the 16 trigger applies is within the scope of these 17proceedings. I have just referred to the fact that the 18dates were pleaded: but the fact that that question is 19within the scope of the proceedings was stated in the 20questions for determination, which was annexed to the 21 FCA's particulars of claim at $\{A/5/1\}$ and published on 22 the FCA's website. As your Lordships see, when that 23comes up, there is a preamble, and the penultimate line 24 of the preamble, the last sentence says: 25"The purpose of this document is to identify the

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1	scope of the litigation"
2	If we then go on to page $\{A/5/3\}$ at box 7, the first
3	paragraph, last line I'm waiting for it to come up.
4	First box 7, first paragraph, last line, we can see that
5	the scope of the litigation includes :
6	"When does the trigger apply?"
7	Now, as I say, it is clear on the pleadings when the
8	trigger was satisfied . Mr Edelman pursued, both in his
9	skeleton and then again orally , an argument that
10	pre- notifiability losses could be recovered, on the
11	basis of his jigsaw argument when you apply it to the
12	counterfactual . There is no need to go there now, but
13	I am referring to his skeleton at paragraph 313 and to
14	the oral argument on $\{Day2/121:1\}$ through to page 126.
15	With all respect to Mr Edelman, the argument is
16	plainly wrong for all the reasons that other insurers '
17	counsel have developed in relation to the
18	counterfactuals . But your Lordships have heard it and,
19	as far as I understand it , the FCA is inviting your
20	Lordships to determine it .
21	What, then, is the issue when the FCA wishes to
22	reserve for other fora and which we are to be criticised
23	for trying to shut down? If your Lordships uphold the
24	FCA's arguments on proximate cause, then you will not
25	being any of the declarations that we seek, so no issue

- $1 \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm can} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm arise} \hspace{1.5cm} . \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm On} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm the} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm other} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm hand,} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm if} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm your} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm Lordships} \hspace{1.5cm} {\rm prefer}$
- $2 \qquad \qquad {\rm Argenta's \ arguments \ on \ the \ main \ point, \ then \ most}$
- 3 COVID-19 business interruption claims under Argenta1
- 4 will fail because the losses were not proximately caused
- $5\,$ $\,$ by an insured peril . That will be nothing to do with
- $6 \qquad \qquad$ the date of notifiability , and the position of those
- $7 \qquad \qquad \mbox{policyholders} \mbox{ would not be altered one iota by arguing}$
- $8 \qquad \mbox{ for an earlier date of notifiability}$. It would make no $9 \qquad \mbox{ difference}$.
- 10 However, as I've shown you by reference to 11 paragraph 56 of our skeleton, we accept that they may 12 still be valid claims, even assuming our analysis is 13completely correct. In relation to those claims, loss 14can only be claimed from the date of notifiability , for 15 the reasons given in our skeleton at paragraphs 36 and 16 37, including our reference to the authority of the 17Court of Final Appeal in New Harbourview. That is the 18 point that Mr Edelman has argued against, both in 19writing and orally.
- 20So, my Lords, Argenta does not invite your Lordships21to, using his phrase, shut out anybody from any arguable22points that are not properly part of this test case.23But the question whether there can be any claim under24Argental for losses that arose before COVID became
- $25\,$ notifiable is within the scope of this test case, and it

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- 1 has been argued by Mr Edelman in his skeleton and $\mathbf{2}$ orally; and on what basis, we ask rhetorically, should 3 Argenta be shut out from arguing to the contrary? We 4don't know that any has been suggested. 5If there is some other point that Mr Edelman is 6 concerned about, then I have certainly no intention of 7 trying to shut it out, there is no sneaky trick here, 8 but I quite genuinely do not understand what it is. We 9 therefore do ask your Lordships to make findings which 10 correspond to the declarations that we have referred to 11 in our skeleton argument, on that as on the other points that they concern. 1213 My Lords, unless I am able to assist your Lordships 14 any further , those are my submissions on behalf of 15Argenta LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I don't have anything. I don't know if 1617my Lord has anything. 18 MR SALZEDO: If your Lordships allow me the five minutes, 19 then I think the result of that is that insurers have 20not taken their extra half an hour that Mr Edelman was 21complaining about vesterday. 22LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No. Right. 23MR EDELMAN: I don't know if it is helpful, if I could just
- $24 \qquad \qquad$ for one minute deal with that last point from
- 25 Mr Salzedo.

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- LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Hang on a moment. What are you 1 2 proposing that we should do now. 3 MR EDELMAN: My Lords, I am in your hands. I am ready to 4 start now, but if you would prefer to start tomorrow 5morning I am ready to do that as well. I just thought $\mathbf{6}$ it might be convenient, regardless of which that was, $\overline{7}$ for me to say one or two sentences to deal with that 8 last point. 9 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Why don't you start by dealing with 10 that point and we will see how we go. 11 (4.07 pm) 12Reply submissions by MR EDELMAN 13MR EDELMAN: I think Mr Salzedo has misunderstood what was 14only the emerging peril point, which is not asserting 15a right to pre- notification losses, it is simply saying 16 that when you have post- notification losses which the 17FCA proceeds on the basis of as being recoverable, that 18 in the adjustment process you don't take into account 19the downturn in turnover caused prior to notifiability , 20at a stage when the disease was not notifiable but was 21 nonetheless emerging. But it is not claiming 22
 - pre- notification losses .
- 23If other insured policyholders want to challenge the24New World Harbourview decision on that point, that is25their prerogative. The FCA doesn't seek to do so in

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1	this litigation , and does not assert a positive case
2	that losses prior to notifiability should be recoverable
3	under any policy which specifies notifiability as
4	a qualifying condition.
5	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Speaking for myself, Mr Edelman, it
6	seems to me if the argument you are trying to run is
7	wrong, and I 'm not saying whether it is right or wrong,
8	but if it is wrong then it would seem to follow that any
9	attempt to claim directly , as it were, as opposed to
10	indirectly , pre- notification losses or pre- notifiability
11	losses would be doomed to failure, and I can't for the
12	life of me see what the point is in leaving the matter
13	open.
14	I mean, Mr Salzedo invites us to deal with it . His
15	policy responds to notifiable human disease. If you
16	have got a disease which hasn't yet been notified , how
17	can you claim losses pre- notification ? I just don't
18	understand the point, ${\sf I}$ 'm afraid. ${\sf I}$ don't understand
19	what it is you are trying to reserve on behalf of, as it
20	were, notional Argenta policyholders for the future.
21	MR EDELMAN: It is not obviously just Argenta policyholders ,
22	it 's
23	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No, I understand that point.
24	MR EDELMAN: It's a whole raft
25	LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But it's rather specific.

- $1 \qquad {\sf MR} \ {\sf EDELMAN}: \ {\sf My} \ {\sf Lord}, \ {\sf one} \ {\sf cannot} \ {\sf overlook} \ {\sf the} \ {\sf nature} \ {\sf of} \ {\sf this}$
- 2 case as a test case of issues that the FCA has chosen to
- 3 argue on behalf of policyholders . And for the court to
- 4 start ruling on issues where the policyholders have not
- 5 had a chance to argue it, however good or bad my Lord 6 may now think the argument to be, it was certainly
- 6 may now think the argument to be, it was certainly
- 7 argued vigorously in the New World Harbourview case, 8 albeit unsuccessfully, at both first instance and on
- 10
 My Lord, I am not going to argue the point because

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 it's not an issue that we have taken. But it would be

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 inappropriate, in my submission, for the court to give

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 induction are propriate with the second table.
- 13 declarations on something which has avowedly not been
- 16 might think of it .
- 17 My Lord, I think you are on mute.
- LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Sorry. I was saying we have more than
 enough issues to deal with, so we will bear in mind the
 point. I think I understand the point you are making.
 And if it is not within the list of issues, it is not
 within the list of issues. We haven't actually looked
 at the list of issues lately. Obviously when it comes
 to writing our judgment we are going to have to look at
- 25 the list of issues and answer the issues we have been

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1 asked to answer, and not issues we haven't been asked to $\mathbf{2}$ answer. So to that extent you are right. 3 I think it would be sensible if we broke for now. 4 It has been quite a long day. So unless you 5particularly want to go on for another 20 minutes, 6 I would have thought the best thing is for you to 7 start -- the interveners are coming on at the end, are 8 they? 9 MR EDELMAN: They are, my Lord. They have asked for some 10extra time if we get some extra time, but I am in 11 my Lord's hands as to whether we start at 10.00 am or 1210.30 tomorrow. It is entirely a matter for my Lord. 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Subject to what Mr Justice Butcher 14 thinks, I think we should start at 10.00 am. Yes, he is 15nodding, so I think we will start at 10.00 am. As 16I said, I don't think I can sit beyond 4.30 tomorrow. I 17mean, I suppose in extremis I could probably sit 18 slightly later , but I am not encouraging anybody to go 19 on longer than the time they have been allotted . 20MR EDELMAN: My Lord I hope we will keep to the timing as we 21kept to in opening. 22LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I hope you didn't think I was being 23intemperate yesterday. 24 MR EDELMAN: My Lord, yesterday --25LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We were all rather hot and tired.

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- 1 MR EDELMAN: On Day 3 we finished bang on 4.00 pm to allow
- 2 the interveners their half an hour that day and the half
- 3 an hour the next, so I hope we will keep to that timing 4 again.

5 $\,$ LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Okay. We will break now until 10.00 am $\,$

- 6 tomorrow morning, Mr Edelman. Thank you very much.
- 7 (4.13 pm)

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- (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on
 - Thursday, 30 July 2020)
- 11 12
- $\begin{array}{c} 13 \\ 14 \end{array}$

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