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

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

It is in this context that we rely upon the principle of construction that words may take their meaning from their associates, ie noscitur a sociis This is addressed in our skeleton at paragraphs 35 and 130. That principle, we say, does not apply only where one has a list of words, it is of more general application and reflects the broader principle that any term in a contract must be construed in its context, which means in the context of the clause in which the term appears, as well as the context of the instrument as a whole. We adopt Mr Gaisman's submissions to similar effect on $\{$ Day $5 / 113: 1\}$ to 114.

Turning to a danger or disturbance, this is a short point, in our submission, but our position is that in the context of this extension the phrase does not encompass a national infectious disease pandemic.

We set that argument out at paragraphs 127 to 136 of our skeleton. The main point we make is that the local
focus of the clause makes clear that it is not intended to cover a national infectious disease pandemic.

We rely in particular on three matters. First, the reference in the clause to "a danger" or disturbance, and not danger in a general sense. That connotes a transient incident posing a risk of danger, such as the bomb threat or fire, rather than a country-wide pandemic.

Second, the words "or disturbance" give further colour to what is meant by a danger in the extension Those words reinforce the notion that the clause contemplates an incident specific to the locality of the premises rather than a continuing and country-wide state of affairs.

Third, the fact that the danger or disturbance must be in the vicinity of the premises reaffirms that it is a localised danger or disturbance that is contemplated, rather than a national public health risk. It is fair to say, though, that the " vicinity " requirement and "following ", are at the heart of Zurich's case on construction, 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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a disturbance occurring locally .
I will come to the meaning of "following ", but at this stage I note that the term clearly requires a causal connection between the danger or disturbance occurring in the locality of the premises, and the civil authority action which prevents access.

In considering whether that causal connection is satisfied in any particular case, one must focus on the local danger or disturbance and its connection to the relevant civil authority action. The focus is not on the connection between the civil authority action and any danger or disturbance outside the vicinity.

The intended meaning of the phrase "in the vicinity " is best encapsulated, we say, by "in the immediate locality ".

The FCA argues that " vicinity " cannot mean immediate locality, because the term "immediate vicinity" is used in the context of a special condition precedent in the public and product liability cover in the Zurich policies. We can see that in Zurich2 in $\{B / 22 / 75\}$. If we could have that up on the screen, please.

We have dealt with this point in our skeleton at paragraphs 142 and 143 . The point, in our submission, is a bad one. The special condition, as your Lordships will see, it's condition 2 , the use of heat condition;
it is concerned with the use of welding and other heat generating equipment, and the need to keep the immediate vicinity of any work using such equipment clear of all loose combustible material. The immediate vicinity of such work will necessarily be a smaller area than the building or premises where the work is being carried out, and so clearly the same meaning is not to be --
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: You are saying that means the worktop, effectively .
MR ORR: Effectively, my Lord. Indeed. It is a very different context and it doesn't assist.

The FCA further argues that " vicinity " in the context of the extension is an open-ended term that applies not only to the local area around the insured's premises, but extends to any such area as might affect the insured's business in relation to a particular danger or disturbance. And the FCA went so far as to say that the vicinity could extend to the entire country; that is \{Day3/109:1\}. That, in our submission, is absurd. The FCA's interpretation renders the term " vicinity " otiose and disregards the important limitation placed on insurer's risk by that word. We echo Mr Kealey's submissions to the same effect.

Finally on " vicinity ", the FCA is also wrong to argue on an alternative basis that the term will always

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encompass at least the same city, town or village in which a danger or disturbance occurs. That, we submit, is simply incorrect. There is no basis for ascribing such a fixed meaning to the term.

I turn then to "following ". It is common ground, as your Lordships know, that this term imports both a temporal and causative requirement. Zurich submits that the term "following " requires that the relevant civil authority action (a) must come later in time to a danger or disturbance in the vicinity of the premises, and (b) must have a resulted from that danger or disturbance. In other words, the action must be in response to the danger or the disturbance. That aptly encapsulates what is meant by "following" in the extension.

Our interpretation accords with the --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Can you please repeat that point,
Mr Orr? I didn't quite pick it up. After you said "must have resulted from", what was the ...
MR ORR: In other words, my Lords, the action must be in response to the danger or disturbance.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Thank you.
MR ORR: And we submit that "in response to" aptly encapsulates what is meant by "following" in the extension.

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LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Once it is common ground that
    "following " has a causative element to it, in one sense
    it doesn't matter, does it? Because what it undoubtedly
    connotes is there must be some connection. Not only
    must the action be later than the danger in terms of
    time, but there must be something that connects them.
    So the action must in some way be connected to the
    danger. If there were a danger in the locality, and the
    local authority then shut down everybody's premises for
    a completely different reason, then this clause wouldn't
    operate. But quite how close the connection is and
    whether, for example, it is a "but for" or proximate or
    whatever, I don't think matters, really. Because once
    you accept there has to be a connection -- I mean, it
    may be you are right in saying that "in response to" is
    as good as it gets.
MR ORR: Yes, my Lord. We do not disagree with anything
    that your Lordship has said. We take the analysis in
    three stages. We are simply try to elucidate as
    a matter of language the meaning. But I entirely accept
    that the real questions here are the strength of causal
    connection required and, whatever the strength is,
    whether that test is satisfied on the facts, on the
    agreed facts. Because it is the FCA's case that they
    make good a factual case on that causal connection on
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    the agreed facts.
    Can I turn to those two points, and it is our case that whatever the strength of the causal connection required, it's not satisfied on the agreed facts, and that is absolutely fundamental. So I entirely agree with your Lordship. But in our submission it is useful, and probably helpful, to spend a little time considering what might be the required degree of strength of a causal connection. That is why the parties have adopted by analogy concepts of proximate causation.

Perhaps if $I$ can put it this way. Our primary case on the strength of the connection is that it is something akin to proximate causation, and we say that that is the standard default causation test in indemnity insurance. Though we absolutely take the point that that test ordinarily applies in relation to the causal connection between the insured peril and the loss, and not an intra-insuring clause causal connection as we are dealing with here.

To that extent we adopt Mr Kealey's submissions on proximate causation, but we also make this point on 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

[^0]why we say it is akin to proximate causation. 1
Indeed --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: When your example is the fire, I mean that is the obvious example.
MR ORR: Yes, my Lord, yes.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: There is a fire and the fire brigade or
whoever it is, the relevant civil authority, evacuates all the premises within three streets or whatever.
MR ORR: Yes, my Lord.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That would satisfy the clause and you wouldn't even be asking the question, because it is perfectly clear that's the reason why they've done it. So whatever "following " means, it must be satisfied.
MR ORR: Yes. When one is asking, perhaps on a slightly philosophical basis, what is the strength of the test required, that is why we say it is something akin to proximate cause. But one can draw on other analogies.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Perhaps your formulation "in response to" is the better one, because one doesn't need to get into the question of proximate causation. What you are saying is that if the local authority or the police react to a particular situation, it is going to be obvious that that is following, and you don't get into questions of whether it is the dominant cause or the "but for" cause or anything like that.

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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 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 causal connection might be or how you can describe it.

But we do absolutely agree with what your Lordships have both put to me, and ultimately the minimum requirement must be a "but for" causal requirement.

There is no indication in the extension or elsewhere in the Zurich policies that the parties can be said to have intended cover to be triggered under the AOCA extension even though the danger or the disturbance in the vicinity of the premises was not even a factual cause in the "but for" sense of the relevant civil authority action, or even though the civil authority action would have been imposed regardless of any such danger or disturbance as might have occurred in the vicinity of the premises.

If you were to construe the causal requirement as 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. The burden of proof on that lies on the FCA standing in the shoes of policyholders. It is for them to establish that the causal connection is satisfied.

In our submission, the FCA has not discharged that burden. On the agreed facts, the FCA has not demonstrated, and is unable to demonstrate, any meaningful causal connection between the measures taken by the national UK Government, on a national basis, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the occurrence of any such danger as might be said to be present in the vicinity of any particular insured's premises.

On this issue, the starting point is the FCA's admission that it does not allege that the advice given and restrictions imposed by the UK Government were caused by any particular local occurrence of COVID-19. That is the FCA's reply, paragraph 52 \{A/14/27\}, and it
may be useful if we could have that up on the screen. Paragraph 52:
"It is not alleged that the advice given and/or restrictions imposed by the UK Government were caused by any particular local occurrence of COVID-19."

Then they go on to make the jigsaw argument.
Now, it is implicit in that admission that the FCA also does not allege that the government advice and restrictions were caused by the danger of COVID-19 in any particular locality. So the only way the FCA makes good their point on "following" is on the basis of their jigsaw argument, so I turn to that.

Now, the FCA has sought to portray the government as having adopted from as early as the beginning of March what they described as an " indivisible and interlinked strategy that was not piecemeal". That is \{Day $1 / 53: 11\}$ to 12 .

My Lords, we all lived through this and we know that is simply not correct. This mythical indivisible strategy is not established by the agreed facts. It is a creation of the FCA's to force the national government measures responding to the pandemic into the AOCA extension.

In Zurich's submission, the agreed facts as set out in the chronology at $\{\mathrm{C} / 1 / 1\}$ and the supporting

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documents at C 2 establish the following seven points.
First, that the government was responding to a new and emerging infectious disease about which it knew very little in terms of, among other things, the disease's precise mode of transmission, its symptoms and its fatality risk.

Second, in the early stages of the epidemic the government was responding to international and not national developments.

Third, during February and March only limited information was available to the government about the number and geographical spread of cases of COVID-19 in the UK.

Fourth, there was no coherent co-ordinated strategy, the government and its advisers reacted in a piecemeal manner to developing information about the incidence of the disease and estimates of its likely growth.

Fifth, between 16 March and 26 March the government was driven to take increasingly severe measures, primarily out of a concern to avoid the NHS being overwhelmed.

Sixth, there is no evidence that the government had any considered assessment, let alone reliable information, showing the incidence or risk of infection in each and every area of the country at the time it
took action in March.
At that time, and this is the seventh point, the government acted on a national basis in order to protect the national health system, and not because it took account of and aggregated the incidence or risk of infection in each and every area of the country.

Now in the time available, I would like to take your Lordships to three documents to illustrate those points.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: In a sense, Mr Orr, that point you just made is made good by the contrast between what happened in March and what has been happening in the last couple of weeks, in terms of the lockdown in Leicester and we now learn a lockdown in Oldham and potential lockdowns elsewhere, all of which are a reaction or action, or however you describe it, to specific instances.

Whether it would satisfy your policy wording is a different question. One can see the argument that in those cases there is a danger in the vicinity of somebody's insured premises, to which the government is reacting or the action is in response to it.

But non constat when what was going on, as you rightly say, was a national response to what was effectively a miasma. I mean, nobody knew how bad it was. Certainly when I left London there were concerns people were going to be dropping dead in the street,

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because nobody knew what was going to happen.
MR ORR: Indeed so, my Lord, and what your Lordship has just said is entirely borne out by the SAGE minutes, and I was going to take the court to three of those minutes.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I would be obliged if you did that, because I haven't looked at those.
MR ORR: Let's do that. These are in bundle C2. I was going to start with $\{\mathrm{C} / 2 / 125\}$. This is the SAGE minute of 16 March.

The points I draw your Lordships' attention to -- we seem to have ... (Pause)

The points I would draw your Lordships' attention to are in particular points 6,10 and 11 on that minute. So, first of all the reference to:
"London has the greatest proportion of the UK outbreak."

Point 10, and this is the key point on motivation:
"The objective is to avoid critical cases exceeding NHS intensive care and other respiratory support bed capacity. The figures for capacity are now clear but intensive care bed capacity will increase by $20 \%$ or more."

## And 11:

" It is vital to understand numbers of cases regionally relative to NHS capacity, to know where local
more stringent interventions might need to be introduced."

But as you read these minutes through, there is continuing reference to the lack of up-to-date or reliable information and clearly the government didn't have it at that stage.

That is not a criticism, it is just a reflection of the novel and unprecedented and emerging situation that the authorities were having to deal with.

The second SAGE minute that I draw to your attention is at page 205 of this bundle $\{C / 2 / 205\}$. That is the SAGE minute of 18 March.

The four critical points here are points 1, 4, 9, and 13. Point 1:
"Based on limited available evidence, SAGE considers that the UK is 2 to 4 weeks behind Italy ..."

But it is the reference there to "limited available evidence".

Point 4:
" Reliable data on the health impacts of existing interventions will only be available in 2 to 3 weeks. This would not be in time to inform judgment on additional interventions to limit NHS pressures, which are likely to be significant within 2 to 3 weeks. It may be possible to collect intermediate data, and this 17
should be a priority."
Again, did your Lordships see there the concerns about the lack of and the limited availability of important data?

Point 9 there is a reference to 1,950 cases in the UK and the number of intensive care cases.

Point 13, and this again is the key point:
"Modelling suggests that without mitigation, London could reach COVID-19-related intensive care capacity by early April."

But then if we go to the third document, which is in the same bundle at page 279, the SAGE minutes of
23 March. There are a number of points here.
First of all point 7, the data suggests that London 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, $\{\mathrm{C} / 2 / 278\}$. Thank you, my Lord, so $\{\mathrm{C} / 2 / 278\}$, 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."

## Point 11:

"PHE are seeking to understand environment dispersal
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

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unrealistic. In particular, contrary to what the FCA submitted, there was no national picture of all local outbreaks to which the government was responding.

Second, the FCA is wrong to say that if all areas have not been affected to a great or lesser extent, there would not have been a national lockdown. As I have said already, the government imposed a national lockdown to save the national health system from being overwhelmed, and not because it had a comprehensive picture of the incidence of the disease in each and every area of the country.

In his submissions Mr Edelman referred repeatedly to the notion of the government having a spreadsheet on which the incidence or danger of COVID-19 in each policy area appeared as a line entry. He referred to that for example on $\{$ Day2/130:1\}, page 134, page 147 and on \{Day3/140:1\}. But the obvious point my Lords, and for the avoidance of doubt, is that there is no evidence that the government had a spreadsheet or anything resembling a spreadsheet. Mr Edelman's spreadsheet is purely fictional ; it was lifted out of a hypothetical example used by Amlin in its skeleton argument.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: You say it was an entirely notional spreadsheet.
MR ORR: An entirely notional spreadsheet, my Lord. There
is no evidence of any real spreadsheet.
Bringing that altogether, we submit in conclusion, on this point, that there was no meaningful causal connection between any danger in the vicinity of an individual insured's premises and the national and nationwide government action on which the FCA relies.
The UK Government would have acted in precisely the same way and implemented the same national measures, at the time it did, irrespective of any such incidents or danger of COVID-19 as might have existed in the vicinity of any insured's premises. So it follows that none of the possible causal tests that might be mooted, whether proximate causation, substantial or significant cause, "but for", or even something less are satisfied. There is just no evidence before the court that the government was responding to the incidence or danger of disease in individual insureds' localities
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That point is made good by the Scilly Isles point, isn't it?
MR ORR: It is, my Lord. That is --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The Scilly Isles is an example of somewhere where it has remained COVID-19 free but it was subject to exactly the same restrictions.
MR ORR: Exactly so.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.
MR ORR: My Lords, I was then going to turn to prevention of access to premises.
On this point two issues arise. First, what does prevention of access to premises mean in the context of the extension? Second, did the government measures upon which the FCA relies prevent access to premises within the meaning of the extension?
Your Lordship will recall the very similar wording to the Zurich wording of Amlin's MSA1 wording, which Mr Kealey dealt with yesterday. That is also a prevention of access clause, not a hindrance or prevention of use clause.
Zurich, like Amlin, has a customer base that is predominantly made up of category 5 businesses that were not required to close. And we do adopt what Mr Kealey said about the meaning and effect of the phrase "prevention of access". The reference to his submissions is \{Day6/97:1\} to page 107.
We address the detail of this point in our skeleton at paragraphs 95 to 126 . In the time available I propose only to make the following brief points.
First, as to the meaning of prevention of access, we submit that the relevant words of the extension are straightforward and narrow. The clause requires access to the premises to be prevented; there are no
qualifications or glosses. "Access" means something different to "use", and "prevention" means something different to "hindrance or restrictions ".

It is common ground that "access to premises" means the approach or entry to premises, and access is therefore a physical concept. What must be prevented is the physical means of approaching or entering the premises. That, of course, accords with the paradigm case contemplated by the clause that your Lordships have well in mind. So the classic vanilla situation is that the police cordon off the approach or entry to the premises and they prevent everyone, except of course for the emergency services, from entering the premises.

As Mr Turner explained on \{Day4/148:1\} the imposition of the cordon by the police represents both a physical and legal barrier to entry. The FCA is wrong to suggest the contrary.

In addition to the police's common law powers and powers under the Terrorism Act, to which Mr Turner referred, one should also note section 89(2) of the Police Act 1996, which is in the authorities bundle at $\{\mathrm{K} / 10.1 / 1\}$. We don't necessarily need to look at it, but for your Lordship's note it makes it an offence to 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 \{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

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    access clauses in business interruption policies. Now,
    the effect of those authorities is summarised in our
    skeleton at paragraphs 103 to 105, which is bundle
        {I/19/47}.
            We have there summarised the effect of these
        authorities. They are dealing with denial or
        prohibition of access clauses. Those clauses typically
        provide cover where access to an insured's premises is
        denied or prevented by action of a civil or other
        authority. They are therefore similar clauses to the
        kind of extensions that we have been looking at and --
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It's a quirk, is it, that the American
        policies use the words "prohibited " and "denied" whereas
        ours use "prevented" or "hindered", as it were?
MR ORR: Exactly so, my Lord. It is a quirk of language,
    but the substance is the same.
    What these cases show, they are all very short, but
        they are clear and straightforward in their approach,
        and what they all say consistently is that these clauses
        apply only where access to the insured's premises is
        totally and completely prevented, ie made impossible.
        There is no suggestion in any of these decisions that
        denial of access or prohibition of access means
        a partial denial or prohibition, or denial or
        prohibition for some people but not others, or denial or
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        prohibition for certain purposes but not others. The
        words simply mean what they say, without any further
        gloss.
            So, my Lords, we do invite your Lordships' attention
        to that line of authority, which we say does assist .
            The FCA's case, by contrast, fails to give proper
        meaning and effect to the requirement for access to be
        prevented, as opposed to access being merely hindered,
        or use rather than access of premises being restricted
        or hindered.
            The next question is whether the government measures
        relied upon by the FCA amounted to prevention of access.
        If Zurich is correct in its interpretation, none of the
        government measures prevented access to any particular
        premises and therefore cover has not been triggered.
            Before looking further at the categories of
        business, two headline points there can be made.
            First, the focus here must clearly be on the 21 and
                26 March regulations. Although the FCA relies on
                government guidance as action triggering the clause from
                16 March, in Zurich's submission only the regulations
                are capable of so doing
            Second, the aim of the regulations was not to
                prevent access to particular premises, and that is
                important when one is considering whether they did
    actually prevent access. At most, they restricted the use of premises.

Now, I intend to focus on category 5 which, as your Lordships know, represents the vast majority of holders of the Zurich1 and Zurich2 policies. We have addressed all categories in our skeleton argument.

So far as category 5 is concerned, that includes manufacturers and service businesses, such as accountancy and law firms. The regulations didn't impose any particular requirements on this category of business, nor was any of the advice or guidance issued after 16 March directed at this category of business.

The FCA's case in relation to category 5 is premised entirely on regulation 6(1) of the 26 March regulations and the government guidance on social distancing.

Taking those in turn. The restrictions in regulation $6(1)$ did not prevent access to category 5 businesses. That ground has been traversed by Mr Gaisman on behalf of Hiscox, and Mr Kealey on behalf of Amlin. Mr Gaisman's submissions were at \{Day5/134:1\} to 142 and Mr Kealey dealt with this yesterday, \{Day6/101:1\}. We adopt their submissions.

As to government guidance on social distancing measures, the FCA asserts that even in respect of businesses which were permitted to remain open, or

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partially open, such guidance in the light of employers' duties or occupiers' duties made it impracticable for some businesses to function.

Now, as to that, we say that at most such guidance might, in combination with the business' pre- existing duties, amount to a restriction on use of the premises; for example, if a law firm had to put certain distances between desks in a particular room, or whether a manufacturer had to position employees a certain distance away from each other on a manufacturing line. But that did not prevent access to the premises.

To the extent that category 5 businesses chose to close their doors, that was their choice. They were not prevented by government action from accessing the premises from which they functioned. And even when they were closed, no employees were prevented from accessing their premises for the purposes of work, where it was not reasonably possible for those employees to work from home.

There are very few Zurich policyholders which fall within the other categories. Zurich's case on those is set out in our skeleton at paragraphs 120 to 125 .

In the time available to me, can I then turn briefly to causation of loss and trends clauses.

In relation to this, in general terms Zurich adopts
the joint submissions made by Mr Kealey on causation of loss and trends clauses, being the submissions that he made collectively on behalf of all insurers.

It follows from those submissions that Zurich invites the court to reject the FCA's pleaded case on causation and trends clause as set out in its particulars of claim.

My Lords, I don't think anyone has taken your Lordships to the particulars of claim or the declarations that the FCA actually seeks in relation to causation of loss and trends clauses. Can I ask your Lordships to look at that briefly. We can start in bundle $\{\mathrm{A} / 2 / 45\}$.

The reason I do this is because of the discussion that has arisen about exactly what the court can do in relation to causation of loss and trends clauses.

My Lords, in our respectful submission, what the court should be doing is seeking to elucidate so far as possible general principle, but also, importantly from our perspective, rejecting the declarations that the FCA seeks. I will explain why.

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

Your Lordships will see in paragraph 76 the argument that the trends clauses only contemplate something extraneous which can fairly be described as an ordinary 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 that the valuation of loss does not fall to be reduced on the basis that but for the business closure or particular government measures all or the majority of the losses would have been suffered anyway as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK, the lockdown, self-isolation, social distancing and so on.

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

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

Declaration 16, it's not entirely clear, but we understand that to be essentially seeking a declaration as to the counterfactual that the FCA advances. In other words, the counterfactual that one must assess
loss on the basis that there would have been no COVID-19 pandemic.

Then over the page, page $\{A / 2 / 54\}$ of the bundle, declaration 18, they seek a declaration that:
"Losses do not fall to be reduced under the trends clauses or otherwise by reason that but for the business closure or particular government measures all or the majority of the losses would have been suffered anyway as a result of the broader COVID-19 pandemic, the lockdown, self-isolation, social distancing ..." and so on.

So what these declarations are seeking is to shut insurers out from arguments that are and should be available to them on the facts of individual cases. In our respectful submission, that is not appropriate and so we invite the court not to make those declarations. LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: On the FCA's case, if the FCA is right about what is the counterfactual, then it would also be right, wouldn't it, that that would apply as it were across the board? Because you would simply take out COVID and all the restrictions and all the public -- or rather you wouldn't take out any of the government restrictions, you would take out COVID and the public response to COVID, et cetera, et cetera. But if the FCA is wrong about that, or at least wrong about it in

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relation to particular wordings, then it would not be appropriate to make a blanket declaration of that kind. They're issues of causation, which will depend upon particular facts, as you rightly say.
MR ORR: Exactly so, my Lord. That is the essence of our point, that the court is not in a position to make such a declaration on the basis of the agreed facts.

My Lords, there are two specific points that arise on the FCA's arguments on causation of loss and trends clauses against Zurich. If I can deal very briefly with those. First of all, an issue concerning the wording of the quantification machinery in the Zurich policies and, secondly, the appropriateness of the counterfactuals advanced by Zurich.

So far as the wording of the quantification machinery is concerned, this is a slightly pedantic point but I need to cover it because it has been raised by the FCA. What it comes to is that the FCA is seeking to exploit a minor difference in the wording between the Zurich1 and Zurich2 policies.

If I can do this by taking first the Zurich2 policy, which is at $\{B / 22 / 34\}$. On page 34 , towards the top of the page, your Lordship will see there under the heading "Additional cover extensions applicable to section B" the stem wording for the business interruption
extensions:
"Any loss as insured under this section resulting from interruption of or interference with the business in consequence of:
"(a) damage at any situation or to any property shown below; or
"(b) any of the undernoted contingencies."
It is the words in (b) that matter. Any of the undernoted contingencies:
" will be deemed to be an incident."
Obviously what that wording is doing is engaging the contingency in each extension as an incident for the purposes of the quantification machinery. That, indeed, is what the FCA accepted in paragraph 634 of its skeleton argument. I don't ask your Lordships to see it, let's just focus on the wording.

Can I then turn, though, to the Zurich1 wording, and that you will see in $\{B / 21 / 50\}$. Your Lordship sees there, halfway down, again the stem wording for the business interruption extensions in the Zurich1 policy, and that says:
"Any loss as insured by this section resulting from interruption of or interference with the business in consequence of accidental loss destruction or damage at the under-noted situations or to property as under-noted 33
shall be deemed to be an incident ..."
What those introductory words omit are the words "or any of the under-noted contingencies ".

In our submission, it is clear that the intended meaning of the provision is the same, namely that it is the contingency identified in each extension which is deemed to be an incident. We submit that the omission of the words "or any of the under-noted contingencies" is an obvious drafting error which falls to be corrected on a proper interpretation of the provision. One can probably get there anyway on the express words of the provision.

It is nonsensical to suggest that that slight difference in wording was intended to have a difference, intended to create a difference between that wording and the equivalent wording in Zurich2.

However, in its skeleton argument at paragraphs 700-702, the FCA do seek to take advantage of this obvious drafting infelicity. If I can just show your Lordships that briefly, that is at $\{\mathrm{I} / 1 / 233\}$.

In paragraph 700, about a halfway down, having quoted the words from the Zurich1 policy, they say:
"That definition is rather circular ... and drafted at least in part with property damage in mind ..."

Then they go on in 701 to say:
"The 'incident' according to this definition is the loss or else the interruption or interference ."

Our short point is that that is wrong. The incident is the contingency in the AOCA extension. That is the clear intent of the wording. It is the same as the wording in Zurich2. That, in any event, is the insured peril. It follows, therefore, that the quantification machinery in both policies operates in precisely the same way.

My Lords, my final point is just to touch upon the counterfactual advanced by Zurich.

On this there has been debate about the applicability of the "but for" test, but in our submission that debate is irrelevant to the Zurich policies. In the trends clauses in the Zurich policies the parties have agreed that the sum payable shall represent as nearly as may be reasonably practicable the results which but for the incident would have been obtained.

Zurich submits that this would require the court to reverse such government measures as the court might find prevented access to the insured's premises. But everything else must be assumed to remain the same. The court is therefore not required also to reverse the danger or incidence of COVID, whether within or outside

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the vicinity of the insured's premises.
We adopt on this point the arguments of Amlin on MSA1, as well as the arguments to the same effect made by Hiscox on its public authority clause.

So on our analysis, if the court were to find that the government measure, for example preventing access, was regulation 4 of the 26 March regulations, that regulation would fall to be reversed out for the purposes of the counterfactual.

Now, the FCA suggests that by reversing out the particular regulation by which access was prevented Zurich is accepting that a narrow insured peril approach does not apply and is therefore being inconsistent, because what we are doing is reversing out the entirety of the regulation on a national basis and not just something that was in the vicinity.

In our submission, there is nothing inconsistent or illogical in our approach. Our position follows from the fact that this is a case where the relevant civil authority action that might be found to have prevented access was a regulation imposed on a national basis. In such a case, it is that particular regulation that falls to be reversed.

The position would obviously be different if civil authority action was taken, which was limited to the

MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I may have misunderstood. This is essentially an alternative case so far as you are concerned, isn't it? You have lost here, at this point, haven't you, on your basic point as to what is a relevant action of ...
MR ORR: Yes. Yes, my Lord, we are assuming at this stage of the argument that the court has found that there has been prevention of access, so contrary to all of our arguments on prevention of access and ...
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: So, as it were, a national response has been found to trigger your clause.
MR ORR: Indeed so, my Lord, yes. Apologies, I should have made that clear. But that is always the case when we talk about causation of loss, we are assuming against ourselves that the court has found, contrary to our case, that cover has been triggered under the extension.

My Lord, I hope that clarifies the position.
If we are right about that, the short point is that we say it would follow that policyholders would or are likely to have suffered the same or substantially the same loss, given the wider ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which would still be assumed to remain.

That, though, of course, is a question of fact that can only be determined on the facts of an individual case.

My Lords, that was all I was going to say, unless your Lordships have any further questions for me. LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I don't. Thank you very much. MR ORR: Thank you, my Lords.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Thank you very much, Mr Orr. Who is next, Mr Salzedo?
MR HOWARD: No, it is me, my Lord, for QBE.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I was misled by the fact that I had Mr Salzedo pinned to my gallery.
MR HOWARD: Well, I'm sorry that I am interrupting what you were expecting but it was meant to be me.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It's a pleasure to see you Mr Howard. (11.03 am)

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

Firstly, the test case is concerned with whether the QBE wordings, amongst others, respond to the events of COVID-19 and the UK Government action responding to the
disease in the first half of this year; see, we don't need to turn it up, the particulars of claim at paragraph 3 \{A/2/3\}.

Now, my Lords, the occurrence of a notifiable disease, wherever it occurs, can potentially interfere with an insured's business in numerous different ways. For instance, staff or customers may fall ill or are in contact with the disease and so unable to work or to visit the insured, whether as a result of being ill or quarantined.

Secondly, suppliers, wherever they may be, may be affected in a number of ways and unable to supply.

Thirdly, there could be public perception of risk or fear of the disease causing some downturn in trade.

Fourthly, there can be local or national or foreign government action responding to the disease. Such action can be measures anything from hygiene advice, to travel restrictions, or lockdown, with different propensities to have an effect on an insured's business.

And it is important, I would respectfully suggest, not to lose sight of the fact that the occurrence of a notifiable disease, wherever it may occur, can potentially affect insured's businesses in a myriad number of ways.

Now, of course, in this case the FCA's arguments are
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focused, because of what has happened, on the specifics of recent events. But when considering construction of these policies, one has to adopt a construction which is suited to all the different circumstances that may arise, and not simply to the particular circumstance that has arisen, particularly where it is acknowledged, as it must be, that the disease clauses were not, even on the FCA's case, specifically for the purposes of a pandemic. Essentially what is said by the FCA is that the clauses are wide enough to cover a disease of pandemic proportion and so cover the effects of such a pandemic, even if that is not what they were primarily directed at.

But taking the FCA's case as it is, being concerned with the UK Government's response to COVID-19, they say that the government response to what they call the events of COVID-19 was a single body of public authority intervention which interrupted or interfered with activities at insureds' business premises. That is the particulars of claim, paragraph $4.1\{\mathrm{~A} / 2 / 3\}$. It might be worth just putting that up on the screen.

Do your Lordships see paragraph 4.1:
"The government response, in the form of advice, instructions and legislation, was a single body of public authority intervention which did prevent and
hinder access to and use of business premises ..." and so on.

Here we are talking about a single body of public authority intervention across the whole of the UK, and certainly for present purposes England and Wales. The test case, therefore, is concerned with whether that single body of public authority action across the whole of the UK which interrupted or interfered with activities at QBE's various insureds' business premises was an insured peril under the QBE disease wordings.

My Lords, there are a number of points that could be made about the FCA's formulation in paragraph 4.1 of the particulars, but for present purposes it is sufficient to note and emphasise the word "single ". It is not said that the government response was a response to the disease occurring anywhere in particular.

Indeed, that becomes clear from two further paragraphs of the particulars of claim. If we could go to $\{A / 2 / 28\}$ and paragraph 42 , your Lordships see there that:
"All of the advice and actions referred to above in paragraph 18 were imposed upon all locations in England and Wales at the same time because of the anticipation and occurrence of a nationwide pandemic. They were not limited to particular areas where COVID-19 41
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 believed substantial risk of fatality ..."

So it is clear that the government action was not in response to the presence of disease on any particular insureds' premises or within 1 mile or 25 miles of those premises. Mr Orr also took you to the reply at paragraph 52, which we don't need to turn up.

The final reference at this point to go to is $\{I / 1 / 97\}$, the FCA's -- I was going to say skeleton, I think that would be a misuse of language, it is written argument, at paragraph 241 . You will see there in the second sentence, this is introducing the jigsaw, but it is important to note what their case is:
"The government responded to the ...
And one sees this portmanteau way of referring to things:
"... fear / risk/danger/emergency/prevalence [so you can't distinguish any of them, on the FCA's case] of COVID-19 all around the country and the incidence of the disease. Had there been no such
fear/risk/danger/emergency/prevalence anywhere, it would not have acted. But had there been such fear etc in the entire country other than one 25 -mile radius $\ldots$ it probably still would have acted."

So one sees there that they are recognising that any particular insureds' premises, or they take the 25 -mile radius but equally the 1 mile radius, does not actually affect what would have happened.

Now, it is fair to point out that the caveat that is expressed at footnote 236, where it is said:
"Although whether it would have acted nationally, or would have excluded the strangely immune from the government action on the basis that it was not needed there and it was better to keep that economy going, is a further question."

I will come back to that separately, but that is a caveat which plainly only arises if the FCA is wrong on its construction arguments.

What you see from both the paragraphs in the pleadings to which I have referred and paragraph 241 in the main text is that the drivers for the government's action were what are described as fear, risk, and so on. Of course, where that is the concern, as fear of spread of COVID-19 and so on, it's not surprising that it is conceded that the government's decision would have been

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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, arises where, firstly, the FCA's case is that the cause of the interruption or interference to any particular insured was the nationwide UK response, such response being based on fear, risk, danger, emergency, prevalence generally, and not occurrence of the disease in any particular 1 mile or 25 -mile radius area, and secondly, such response would have occurred in any event, whether or not there was an occurrence of COVID-19 in a particular insureds' premises or within the insured's relevant policy area.

Thus, the highest that the FCA can put its case is in this what I have described as portmanteau way, that there was fear, risk, et cetera, of COVID everywhere and not based upon the disease having occurred in any particular location, but on the fact that it may or may not have occurred in a number of places and fear that, if unchecked, it would spread widely.

So the furthest that the FCA goes using its portmanteau approach is to contend that the fear or risk
of occurrence of COVID in any one place, therefore including, supposedly, one insured's premises or one insured's relevant policy area, formed part of the so- called jigsaw on which the FCA say the government relied.

It is against this background that one understands why the FCA is desperate to avoid a construction which requires that the occurrence of the disease on the insured's premises or in the insured's relevant policy area should have a causative effect on the insured's business interruption; in other words, that it should be a "but for" cause.

My Lords, against that background, one asks what actually is the FCA's case on construction, and I regret to say that the submissions of the FCA are in fact somewhat confused on this. The reason for that is that they actually make two submissions on construction, and one needs to disentangle those two submissions.

The first submission is what has been called orally the "qualifying condition" point but which, insofar as I can understand it, in the pleading was called the "some sort of anchor" point. The latter terminology, "some sort of anchor" has been quietly dropped without fanfare or explanation. The reason why my learned friend Mr Edelman has shied away from the "some sort of
anchor" terminology is perhaps too obvious to require me to dwell on.

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

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

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

As only a momentary perusal of the terms of the disease clause reveals, this argument drives a coach and
horses through the wording, but it is, as I have already said, manifestly clear why the FCA is driven to run this argument. The simple reason is that it recognises that it, or rather the various insureds of QBE, even if they could prove by the statistical analysis favoured by the FCA that a case of COVID had actually occurred in their relevant policy area, which of course is assumed for the purposes of the test case, they can't prove the necessary causative effect of such occurrence of a case of COVID. However, it is fair to point out that the suggestion that there is no need to show any causative effect of the occurrence of the disease in the insured's relevant policy area is astonishing both in terms of, firstly, the breadth and nature of the cover that this would confer and, secondly, the bizarre happenstance nature of such cover, the lottery effect .

As became clear in submissions, the qualifying condition or some sort of anchor is really the FCA's main construction argument. Once it is recognised to be wrong, I suggest realistically that is the end of the matter.

My Lords, an interesting observation to make at this 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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insured's relevant policy area, and you take that away for the "but for" analysis. That is the end of the case. Because, as the FCA acknowledges, reversing the assumed presence of COVID in the insured's relevant policy area would not have made a jot of difference to the government nationwide response based upon the fear and risk that COVID might spread and so on. The nationwide response, which the FCA relies upon as the relevant interference to business, would have happened anyway. Hence Shop B, in our example, is in no different position to Shop A.

But it is in this context that you come to consider the FCA's second construction argument.

The FCA, acknowledging as it does that the assumed presence or indeed absence of COVID in the insured's relevant policy area would not make a difference to the UK Government's response, then say there is a special rule of causation in respect of the disease clause.
This is how Mr Edelman sought to wipe the smile off the face of the proverbial Kealey-esque Cheshire Cat. It is a rather convoluted argument that appeared in different places, but which Mr Edelman summarised on \{Day1/148:1\},
if we could get that transcript up, please.
You see --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I notice that it is just after 20 past
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11. I wonder, because this is obviously going to take you a little while to develop --
MR HOWARD: Yes, I am perfectly happy --
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.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: This is obviously an important part of
your case and, speaking for myself, I would welcome
a short break. My clock says 11.22 , so we'll say just after 11.30 .
MR HOWARD: Perfect. Thank you.
(11.22 am)
(Short break)
(11.32 am)

LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Whenever you are ready, Mr Howard.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: That seemed to have the reverse of the intended effect.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It did. Mr Howard, you have disappeared.

We can see you but you are still muted.
MR HOWARD: Is that better?
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes, that is better. We can hear you.
The quality was very good before the break, so I am sure you will be all right.

> MR HOWARD: As I was explaining before the break, my Lords, there are two arguments on construction; the first is the qualifying condition point, and the second is an argument as to causation and as to what the parties intended by way of causation. This was explained at \{Day $1 / 148: 6\}$ which we have here, so Mr Edelman says:
> "So we see the answer to this case is to be found in the way one approaches causation. For a composite clause one excludes from the counterfactual the contemplated element."

> Just stopping there, there is obviously a debate as to what is in the composite clause, the insured peril, but his case is you exclude the insured peril. But then he says:
> "For a disease clause you proceed on the premise that the parties contemplated a disease outbreak which might be part of a larger outbreak, hence the fact that it was related to notifiable diseases, but it was not the intention of the parties for causation to operate by treating the outbreak as a whole as part of a counterfactual. And the rationalisation in causation terms is that the outbreak would be a single and divisible cause or a current interdependent series of causes, all contributing to the same picture."

> What is important to bear in mind is that this is

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being put forward as an argument as to what the parties intended by the contract, in other words, as an argument 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 discerned is that this arises from the fact that a disease, to be relevant, must be notifiable, and that as such a notifiable disease is contagious and may spread and may be the subject of government response or actions that affect a business.

Now, one is sorely tempted to respond to this by saying: so what?

Properly understood, this argument is actually really another way of stating the qualifying condition or some sort of anchor argument; that is to say, denying that the occurrence of the disease in the insured's relevant area has to cause the business interruption.

But if that argument, the qualifying condition argument, is wrong and the insured peril is the occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area, which must cause the business interruption, it is difficult to see how it can sensibly be suggested that the parties have nevertheless agreed sub silentio at the
causation stage that the requirement of causation should either be discarded or relegated in the convoluted way suggested. Indeed, to ascribe such an intention to the parties would mean that the insured peril was dramatically enlarged, contrary to the limiting words actually used in the policy itself.

No doubt such arguments might find merit in the topsy-turvey world beyond the looking glass, remembering the famous exchange between Humpty Dumpty and Alice, but we would suggest they do not in the real world.

My Lords, with that introduction, I am going to consider more fully the construction arguments. I will then deal with causation, although in fact little, if anything, is left once one disposes of the construction arguments.

My Lords, before considering the FCA's qualifying condition argument, I want to say something about the approach. In our submission, it is clear that the FCA, in approaching the construction argument, starts with what it wants to achieve, which is the broadest possible cover for the largest number of policyholders, that is to say cover in respect of the effects of the UK government response to COVID-19, including steps taken in fear of a pandemic or the risk of spread of COVID. The FCA works backwards, putting whatever spin on 53
contractual words and applying whatever novel form of causation test I thinks allows it to achieve the objective. So it essentially justifies the process by starting from what it seeks to prove.

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

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

The FCA's objective here is plain; it seeks to persuade you to make findings which water down the
construction of the policy and the effect of the radius provisions in particular, and which either wholly disapply the need for a causative effect of the occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area or apply a novel causal test, effectively a non-causal test, since the causal requirement is reduced almost to vanishing point, and, as I say, in order to achieve the maximum amount of coverage, delivering pandemic coverage by the back door.

We suggest that the argument doesn't begin to withstand any proper legal analysis.

My Lord, let's turn more fully to the qualifying condition point. It is worth seeing how Mr Edelman put his case on $\{\operatorname{Day} 3 / 48: 1\}$. We want to go to line 25 . We need to show a bit more of the page, please.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Or perhaps the next page.
MR HOWARD: Yes, yes. If one goes to, yes, line 25:
"What these clauses are all contemplating, as Mr Howard seems to accept in paragraph 24, is that the authorities will be doing something about it."

Stopping there for a moment. That is one way, of course, you get business interruption but, as I have already said, that is not the only way. But that doesn't matter for present purposes. He goes on to say:
"That is the critical point, because any

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interruption or interference will be caused by virtue of the response of the authorities to the outbreak, not by the outbreak itself."

As I have said, that is not necessarily right. Then he goes on to say:
"One can analyse this, and one then asks oneself: if one is talking about these clauses contemplating that actually what will cause the interruption or interference is the reaction of the authorities to the disease, what is the function of the 25 -mile or 1 mile restriction? Is it imposing a locality limit or is it merely imposing a qualifying condition, saying that if there is authority reaction to an outbreak of a disease, and that authority action impacts on you, you only have cover if that disease, whether it is elsewhere or not, is present within the defined radius from your premises?"

So Mr Edelman's answer to the question he poses is that the radius provision is actually what he calls a qualifying condition. It's a tick box exercise. Do you have one example of a notifiable disease occurrence in your relevant policy area? If so then you tick the box and you have full cover for the effects of a notifiable disease as it occurs, or may occur, anywhere and everywhere, and presumably at any time.

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

Your Lordships will remember, we don't need to turn it up, but we posited the examples of shops $A$ to $D$ in our written opening, and those examples plainly caused some discomfort to the FCA. You will remember Mr Edelman's attempts to deal with them, and I would suggest he had no sensible answer.

You will recall that insured Shop A, which has no occurrence of disease within its relevant policy area -and it matters not whether we are talking about a 1 mile or a 25 -mile radius -- it 's common ground that it has no cover for the business interruption caused by the government response to the disease.

Shop B, the happenstance of one case of COVID in its area, Mr Edelman focused on the reference to a care home. It doesn't really matter what facts you are assuming. Mr Edelman sought to distract attention by going off at a tangent and saying: how did the case get there? It entirely misses the point and was a distraction. It is the FCA's case that a single case of COVID-19 occurring in the area is enough.

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The point of the example is that a single case, in that example, has had no causative effect. But the oddity on the FCA's case is that Shop B is covered for the business interruption caused by the government measures, while Shop A, 100 yards or so away, is not; and that is by the pure happenstance of a single case in Shop B's policy area, and despite the fact that the case in Shop B's policy area is wholly and utterly irrelevant in fact to Shop B's business.

My Lord, I would respectfully suggest that this makes no sense, and no doubt explains Mr Edelman and the FCA's evident discomfort in addressing these examples.

My Lord, let me give you another example, away from the UK response to COVID, just to illustrate how surprising and, to use the FCA's much loved word, absurd the FCA's case is. Let's call it the case of the Chinese supplier.

Assume an English insured manufactures goods. It obtains vital parts for those goods from a factory in China. Due to the outbreak of a notifiable disease in the supplier 's town in China, and let's take SARS, to move away from the current crisis, the Chinese government orders a lockdown in that town. As a result, the English insured is unable to obtain his supplies and is therefore facing an interruption or interference to
its business.
Now, we ask, does the English insured have cover for the interruption or interference?

QBE says plainly no. But what is the position of the FCA? Now, undoubtedly on the plain facts that I have just outlined it would also have to say no. Its position would be there is no cover in respect of interruption by this notifiable disease, SARS -- sorry, it's position is that there is cover, sorry, in respect by a notifiable disease, SARS, and that has happened, but sorry, insured, you have no cover because the qualifying condition has not been met. But, the FCA would say to the insured, if you can prove that by complete chance a person with SARS happened to come within 1 mile or 25 miles of your business, depending on which clause they had, you will then have cover.

No doubt this would provoke the insured to put adverts in the papers to find anyone who had visited China and who might, whether they knew it or not, be infected with SARS and who had infected their policyholder area, inviting them to come forward. Should such a person be found, suddenly cover would be triggered, and the insured would be able to recover all of the loss suffered by reason of events occurring on the other side of the world.

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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 such, on the FCA's case, no policyholder on those islands will currently have cover, whether they have a 1 mile or 25 -mile radius policy. In terms of the shop examples given in our written opening, they are all Shop A examples, but of course they will be suffering
interference with their business as a result of the nationwide COVID-19 pandemic and the UK Government's guidance and restrictions put in place as a result.

But let's assume, taking the FCA's case, a Cornish fishing boat sailed and crossed the 25 -mile radius threshold and approaches the island, and on board that fishing boat, it turns out, there is one contagious but asymptomatic and undiagnosed fisherman. What then happens? Well, on the FCA's case, cover would suddenly start being triggered from business to business as the fishing boat approached, it would be a like a row of lights coming on one by one. The boat need never enter port in the islands, and may turn back for the mainland after even a few moments, but those businesses would be, on the FCA's case, converted into businesses with cover and would, as if by magic, suddenly have the benefit of full pandemic cover.

Of course, the unfortunate businesses located just outside the 25 -mile range from the point where the trawler turned back will not get cover, however, and in Mr Edelman's words that is just bad luck.

My Lords, no sensible person would consider that an insurance contract should operate in such a happenstance, and indeed I would suggest perverse and capricious, manner.

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The FCA's construction of the radius provision as a qualifying condition or some sort of threshold requirement or proviso to cover makes no sense, and that is true whether one looks at it from the insurer's perspective or the insureds.

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

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

In my example of the Chinese supplier, the English insured business cares not a jot that a person who by chance visited China and caught SARS, and who by chance
entered the relevant radius, whether it is 1 mile or 25 miles, they are not interested in that at all. What they would want, if the FCA's argument as to the purposes of the insurance were correct, is cover for the interruption to their business caused by the disruption to the supplier in China by the SARS epidemic. How is the qualifying condition of any assistance or relevance to that policyholder?

Of course, my Lords, the true position is far more prosaic. The insured has not purchased insurance against business interruption caused by a notifiable disease anywhere and everywhere. They have purchased insurance against the business interruption caused by the occurrence of a notifiable disease on their premises or in their relevant policy area.

As I have made clear, these examples reveal the true nature of the FCA's case on construction, which is that BI cover here is for the effects of a notifiable disease, wherever it occurs, but where your entitlement to an indemnity depends on happenstance. And on the FCA's analysis, the 1 mile or the 25 -mile radius provision is effectively a lottery ticket for the insured. If someone with the relevant disease enters the radius, the policyholder wins the lottery and has full cover for all effects of that disease arising

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anywhere and everywhere, but not otherwise. And the only difference between the 1 mile and the 25 -mile radius is that in one case the insured is effectively has effectively bought one lottery ticket and in the latter 25 tickets.

The postcode lottery is the inevitable outcome of the FCA's attempt to rewrite the cover so as to be one for the business interruption effects of disease anywhere in the world, treating the radius provisions as qualifying conditions, threshold requirements or provisos, rather than a key component part of the insured peril, which is what they really are.

Indeed, Mr Edey expressly accepted this on behalf of the HIGA interveners on \{Day3/167:1\}. If we could get that up, please. If your Lordships go to line 25 and then we will need to go to the next page:
"My Lords, the second point is the question which seemed to be troubling your Lordships a little on Monday, which was the purpose of the area requirement. We say the answer to that is simple: it precludes cover if you don't have cases of the relevant notifiable disease in the relevant area. And that is an important purpose, albeit one which necessarily gives rise to the postcode lottery to which QBE refer on their case as much as ours."

If one is having to accept, as Mr Edey correctly
does, that the FCA's construction necessarily leads to cover on the basis of a postcode lottery, that strongly suggests that the proposed construction is not the correct one. Moreover, there is no respect in which the correct construction advanced by QBE involves any sort of lottery, as I shall explain in a moment.

But, my Lord, just to complete this point, put simply, insurance is not a game of lotto. An argument that, on its true construction, the liability of the insurer and the entitlement of the insureds depends on such chance is, to put it at its lowest, surprising . It is even more surprising, frankly, to find such an argument being articulated by the FCA, which normally wears a hat as the regulator of insurers, but perhaps, my Lords, the less said about that the better.

I now turn to look at the correct approach to construction. My Lord, in contrast to the FCA's back to front methodology, QBE take the conventional approach of starting with the words of the insuring clauses, and asking how they should be construed objectively and in the light of established legal principles.

My Lords, you can call me old-fashioned if you like, and I have got broad shoulders, I can live with that, the simple point is that the only way of ascertaining
the parties' intentions to a contract is by considering the words used.

My Lords, you probably have the references to the relevant policy wordings already, but for convenience the lead wording, one of four for QBE1, is at $\{\mathrm{B} / 13 / 1\}$; the lead wording, one of 2 for $Q B E 2$, is at $\{B / 14 / 1\}$; and the one and only wording for QBE3 is at $\{\mathrm{B} / 15 / 1\}$.

My Lords, let's look, if we may, at the wording in QBE1. I take that rather than QBE3 because Mr Edelman seems to be averse at looking at the policy with the 1 mile clause.

If we look at QBE1 $\{B / 13 / 31\}$, you have clause 7.3.9, and if one goes back to page $\{B / 13 / 29\}$, to the introduction to clause 7.3 , and I am sure your Lordships have very familiar with this now, 7.3 makes it clear that this is an extension:
"This section is extended to include the following additional coverages ..."

Just beneath that:
"We will indemnify you for ..."
Then if we go back to 7.3 .9 on $\{B / 13 / 31\}$ where we have the disease clause, it is very important not to lose sight of this extension, to see it in its entirety, because of course we are focusing on one part of it. But what one actually finds is that it is covering
business interruption, interruption of or interference with the business arising from, one can see, and leave aside the first one for a moment, you have got:
"(b) actual or suspected murder, suicide or sexual assault at the premises;
"(c) injury or illness sustained by any person arising from or traceable to foreign or injurious matter in food or drink provided in the premises;
"(d) vermin or pests in the premises;
"(e) the closing of the whole or part of the premises by order of a competent public authority ..."

So what you see is that (b) to (d) are very narrow covers based upon things that happen at or are related to the premises. If we go back to (a):
"any human infectious or human contagious disease ... an outbreak of which the local authority has stipulated shall be notified ... manifested by any person whilst in the premises or within a 25 -mile radius of it."

One of the things is one mustn't lose sight of the fact that what it first looks at is an occurrence of the disease, or manifestation of the disease in this one, whilst somebody is in the premises or within a 25 -mile radius of it.

Now, my Lord, just looking at this clause in the

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context of the policy as a whole, we would suggest it is somewhat surprising to say that this clause was intended to provide all-singing all-dancing pandemic cover or cover for the effects of notifiable disease wherever it occurs, that one is having to say, that is, from somewhat buried away within clause (a), all of which seems unlikely.

Now, my Lord.
Now, my Lord, the structure of the extension and its place within the context of the other extensions does not suggest that what was intended here was very broad cover.

My Lord, are matters made any more promising for the FCA when one looks at the wording of the radius provision itself ? We would suggest the answer is clearly no. There is no language there to suggest that the need for the disease to be in the premises or within a 25 -mile radius is some qualifying condition or proviso. The clause isn't saying that the insured is covered in respect of the effects of a notifiable disease anywhere and everywhere, provided that at least one person with the disease is present on the premises or within 25 miles of the premises. For the FCA to so contend is to rewrite the clause.

My Lord, we would suggest that the meaning of the
words here is clear. The interruption or interference must arise from, and the other QBE wordings are "caused by" or "in consequence of", notifiable disease occurring, on this one, "in the premises or within 25 miles ". The words are clear and unambiguous.

My Lord, much is made by the FCA of the fact that the 25 -mile radius gives rise to a 2,000 square mile area or something of that sort. Now, my Lord, that is true. It is also true that where you have the 25 -mile radius, in a very large number of cases that area may extend into the sea. My Lords, it is also true that where you have a 1 mile radius that gives rise to a smaller area, of approximately 3 square miles. It is also true that where you have looking at the premises, that gives rise to a smaller area still, depending on the size of the premises.

My Lord, all of those facts are true, but entirely unilluminating. The point is that the parties have chosen an area either of insured's premises or within a radius of 1 mile or 25 miles thereof going in any direction, which they regard, as it were, as an impact zone; in other words, a zone in which there is both a risk that the occurrence of a notifiable disease might impact the business of the insured, and in respect of which risk the insurer is prepared to provide cover.

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            Now, my Lords, obviously --
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\mathrm{ 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
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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, 1 don't 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 are 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 "I can see if there is an outbreak of that within a mile
of my business that might cause me a problem". There might be other businesses where you say? "Actually, an outbreak of measles within 25 miles might cause me a problem".

I was going to come to it later, but you will remember Mr Edelman, one of his examples that he gave was Maidenhead and London. Now, I think he was working on the premise that Maidenhead is 25 miles away from London. I am not sure geographically if that is right or not, but it doesn't really matter, let's assume it is.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think 25 miles from the Royal Courts of Justice.
MR HOWARD: Right. Your Lordship's geography is stronger than mine.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No, I just remember that the radius was from the RCJ, I think, so we were familiar with what we were talking about.
MR HOWARD: Let's assume that is right and let us assume that an insured is a restaurant which is very close to the RCJ. An outbreak of measles in Maidenhead, that may or may not have an effect on their business, it just rather depends. If you were a business which had staff who worked in Maidenhead, for instance, let 's say your key waiting staff or your chef all lived in Maidenhead

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and there was a quarantine imposed on them because they had been in contact with measles or some other disease that could have a severe impact on you.

Equally, there may be something about your restaurant which particularly attracts people from Maidenhead. That is not a sort of idle point. It could be you are a wedding venue, for instance, and it may be you have got a booking for a wedding and the wedding party all come from Maidenhead and the immediate area around it, so at the last minute they are unable to fulfil the wedding, and cancel.

There are all sorts of ways in which you can impact, and all that one can say is that the parties choose a zone of impact because that is what they are choosing to insure. It doesn't mean that you couldn't be impacted by things occurring more broadly; it is simply that you have not sought insurance for something happening more broadly, and the insurers have not agreed to provide you with cover in respect of that.

The very simple way of looking at this, the risk of business interruption caused by occurrence of a notifiable disease elsewhere other than in your relevant policy area is a different risk and not an insured risk.

What is Mr Edelman's response to that? He says, and

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

Therefore, he says, because a disease could spread and be both within and without the insured's relevant policy area, he says you must have insured the risks of business interruption caused by the disease both being within and without the relevant policy area.

Now, my Lords, the leap of logic here is truly breathtaking. Two particular points can be made in response to this.

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

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elsewhere, is insured.
My Lord, just imagine this. Assume one didn't use a radius, as was used in these policies, but you used a specified, defined geographical location. So let's say you took out a policy against business interruption caused by the occurrence of a notifiable disease in Canada. It would be difficult to say with a straight face, because Canada shares an extensive border with the United States, and it would be obvious that a contagious disease could spread across the border to the United States. That meant that the insurer had agreed to provide cover against risk of the disease occurring in the United States or the effects of the disease occurring in the United States.

The second point I would make leads from the first. The fact that these diseases are contagious is no doubt one of the reasons why the insurer would wish to limit the cover provided for them. Their ability to cause widespread damage, in Mr Edelman's very nasty cases, explains or is one of the reasons that explains the existence of the limit in the first place.

Where 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,
that they are covering the effects of an epidemic.
They may indeed be covering a new, unexpected notifiable disease but, as with any notifiable disease, they are only covering it if and insofar as the business interruption loss is caused by the occurrence of that new disease at the premises or within a certain limited radius, 1 mile or 25 . The radius is plainly, on its face, a limit on the cover and not a proviso or threshold requirement.

## My Lord, it is also --

LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If you are right about that, I mean that in a sense gives the clue, doesn't it, as to -- I mean, you said earlier on the causation argument is really answered by the construction argument, and I see the force of that. But the point here is that what insurers -- this is a limit to cover, you say, a limit to cover which means that the insurers will cover you for the effects of infectious disease, the effects being the interruption or interference with your business, infectious disease occurring within the 25 -mile radius limit. So far as disease outside the 25 -mile radius limit is concerned, the effects of that are not covered. That is one of the reasons why, when you look at causation, if your business has been affected by occurrence of the disease outside the 25 -mile radius you

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haven't got insurance.
MR HOWARD: Yes, my Lord, it is really as simple as that.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is like the hurricane in the
Orient-Express case.
MR HOWARD: Yes.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: There wasn't cover under the insurance
for what the hurricane did to the rest of New Orleans. MR HOWARD: Yes, that is right. It really is simple.

Of course Mr Edelman, as my learned friend Mr Kealey pointed out, elided the nature of the insurance in Orient-Express and overlooked the critical point, which of course was the basis of the decision both of the learned arbitrators and Mr Justice Hamblen, that the insured peril was damage to the hotel. Of course the damaged to be caused by a fortuity, but it is damage to the hotel which was the basis of the business interruption cover.

The other point I was going to make, which is really one by way of background, it 's not even the case actually that diseases on the notifiable diseases list would normally or necessarily or even regularly be expected to have epidemic, still less pandemic, consequences. I think Mr Edelman himself accepted that; we don't need to turn it up but \{Day1/102:1 $\}$.

It might just be worth reminding your Lordship of

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list of notifiable diseases that we are concerned with.
If we go to \(\{\mathrm{J} / 9 / 79\}\). This is the pre-COVID list. Of course COVID got added, but you can see the sort of thing that we are dealing with, anthrax, Legionnaires ', which is I think under the notifiable organisms, malaria which is also under those, measles, meningitis, mumps, plague, rabies, tuberculosis. Many of these diseases are not likely to break out into epidemics, and it is certainly not inherent in the type of diseases being covered they will do so. Many of them, if not most of them, are likely to have a fairly local occurrence and effect, particularly given the state of modern medical science. Where they go beyond that, however, as they might rarely do, the insurance applies a radius limit to protect the insurer against what would otherwise be virtually limitless liability.
My Lord, can I just give you, because your Lordships have been presented with an argument --
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I am just conscious that we mustn't trespass, Mr Howard, over a red line which we ourselves created in one of the CMCs, about the exclusion of evidence in relation to these diseases.
MR HOWARD: My Lord, all I was saying is that here is a list of diseases, and you can see what type of diseases are being looked at. But I am not seeking to, as it were,
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give evidence about the nature of the diseases, I am just trying to give some examples about what sort of situation the cover is intended to respond to.

The point I particularly wanted to make is that your Lordships remember the FCA boldly asserts that if their argument is not right, that means that the cover is illusory. I just want to explain to you why that is just obvious nonsense by reference to some simple examples.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Looking at this list, I would have said they were a mixed bag.
MR HOWARD: Yes, they are a mixed bag. Exactly. There are some things which are more serious and some are less serious. One sees there is tetanus, then one has smallpox. I mean, in fact in the modern world prior to COVID, one can see the things that actually a lot of people might be concerned about are measles, mumps and rubella, because of the problems we have had with anti-vaxxers, or whatever they call themselves, that philosophy having taken hold and a lot of children not getting vaccinated and so on.

But let's think of what is quite a typical example, and that is an outbreak of meningitis on a university campus. Again, something which we are all familiar with having happened in recent times. One can see that that

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MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Yes. We missed a couple of sentences of yours, Mr Howard.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You were talking about the local opera house and then the quip about my wife missing her opera, and then about the local restaurants closing, so I think we have got the point.
MR HOWARD: The point I wanted to add there was the hotel which does weekend opera packages. It might be 10 or 15 or even 20 miles away, within the radius limit, but it is showing the zone of influence or the zone of impact, if you like, that you don't necessarily have to be next door to the opera house, you can be some distance away but your business can be affected by what happens at the opera house.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: For example, Glyndebourne.
MR HOWARD: Exactly. That is what essentially I was adverting to.

At the end of the day, one could posit example after example, and I won't detain you by doing so. The critical point is there is nothing illusory about the cover operating in the way that QBE contends. My Lords, it is in fact real and valuable cover, but it is limited. If insureds wanted unlimited insurance against business interruption caused by notifiable disease occurring anywhere, no doubt they would have sought to

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
purchase it. The simple answer is they did not. And
these are insureds, in QBE's case, who operate through brokers. If they were seeking effectiveliy this disease cover against disease occurring anywhere, no doubt they would ask for it. I am not saying insurers would be prepared to provide it. It is just a very different type of insurance to what was actually provided by means of extension to property cover.

There has been some discussion about Salisbury in this case, because of the well-known events there, where people have been taking the facts of Salisbury but treating Novichok as if it were a notifiable disease. Mr Edelman referred to paragraph 24 of our skeleton, which perhaps we could get up, which is $\{1 / 17 / 14\}$. If we could go to page 14, please. You will see there we said:
"In terms of the sort of circumstances that might be covered by the relevant policy area, the range of potential cases are myriad."

Then we gave the example of a localised outbreak of a notifiable disease, including COVID-19, might lead to a particular street or square mile being locked down although the rest of the country remains open.

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

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

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

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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disease in that area caused him business interruption, and thirdly, that for the purposes of establishing loss and the application of the "but for" test, the insured peril must be taken away.

So it is at this point that you have to consider the FCA's case that a special rule of causation is required as a matter of the parties ' intentions.

What they then are saying is you don't take away the insured peril ; what you take away is the disease wherever it occurs. I have already shown you what Mr Edelman said on \{Day1/148:6\} to line 19.

This argument suffers from the same defects in analysis as the qualifying condition "some sort of anchor" argument. In fact, if that were possible, it is even worse.

Having recognised that its qualifying condition argument is wrong, and so the occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area does have to have causative effect, the FCA then seeks to argue that somehow the parties' intended to reverse that when it comes to causation. In other words, what they seem to be arguing is that somehow the parties have intended that when one gets to the causation stage the cover is transformed from one providing limited cover in respect of the effects of a disease, namely the effects of its
occurrence in the relevant policy area, to unlimited cover in respect of the effects of the disease occurring anywhere.

My Lords, this only has to be stated to see that it is frankly patent nonsense.

At this stage, I would respectfully suggest it is important to be clear as to what the supposed construction of the policy is, and it is helpful to get up on the screen QBE2 at $\{B / 14 / 29\}$ by way of example.

Here we have the " Infectious disease, murder or suicide, food or drink or poisoning" clause. So the relevant part of it, if one reads this as a whole, I mean the preamble says, which you have to read in "We will indemnify you for ", that appears earlier. So we will indemnify you for:
"Loss resulting from interruption of or interference with the business in consequence of any of the following events:

And here it is:
"(c) any occurrence of a notifiable disease within [a 25 -mile radius] of the premises."

What is the FCA's case at this stage? What they are saying is you then have to read into this clause, only into 3.2.4(c), the following -- this is what you would have to read in at the end of it -- "providing that if
the said occurrence is related to or forms part of an occurrence elsewhere than within the defined radius, we will treat loss resulting from interruption or interference with the business in consequence of such occurrence of the notifiable disease elsewhere, as loss resulting from interruption or interference with the business in consequence of the occurrence of the notifiable disease within the radius of 25 miles of the premises".

That is what the argument on construction amounts to.

My Lords, you have to spell this out to see how hopeless the argument is, and that no doubt explains why Mr Edelman refrained from spelling it out.

As I asked earlier today, if one asks how do you get there, it is all built on the word " notifiable ". My Lords I have already covered that and won't repeat the point.

But perhaps the most simple answer to this is that it seeks to ascribe an intention to the parties which is the precise opposite of what the words used reveal. As I hope I have made clear, the cover is provided for the effect of a notifiable disease within the relevant policy area; it is not provided for the effects of the notifiable disease elsewhere; and still less, I would
add, for the effects of fear of a contagious or notifiable disease.

Now, my Lord, the FCA's argument on this is not only hopeless when viewed in the context of the language of the disease clauses, it is also contradicted by the terms of the trends clauses.

Now I need to explain where we have got to, your Lordships may recall this but I ought to remind you, on the debate about the trends clauses.

Originally, and until service of the written opening, the FCA denied that the trends clauses applied to the non-damage extensions. It did so because the trends clauses refer to "damage". And, of course, the non-damage extensions are predicated on something which is not damage. The clue lies in the name, non-damage.

The simple and obvious answer to that is that the quantification machinery provided by the trends clause is intended to operate across the board and so the word "damage" in context has to be read in a non-damage case as referring to the insured peril.

My Lords, there is no commercial reason why the trends clauses should apply only to damage-based cover or even to certain non-damage extensions and not others. In any event, the same analysis will be undertaken as a matter of common law, as the trends clause provides,

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save that the trends clause provides a machinery for quantification.

But the important point to note is the FCA has now come a long way towards accepting our position. For instance, it accepts that the trends clause in QBE3 applies. If we could have a look at $\{B / 15 / 1\}$ for a moment. The relevant clauses, first the notifiable disease, murder or suicide clause is at page $\{B / 15 / 22\}$, so you will see familiar type of clause, and this is the 1 mile one, you can see (c) is the occurrence of a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile, and the trends clause is on page $\{B / 15 / 177\}$. So you see there it is 25.180, "Trend adjusted":
"Adjustments made to figures as may be necessary to provide for the trend of the business and for variation in or circumstances affecting the business either before or after the damage or which would have affected the business had the damage not occurred, so that the figures thus adjusted will represent as nearly as may be reasonably practicable the results which but for the damage would have been obtained during the relevant period after the damage."

Now, the FCA sensibly accepts that this particular clause does apply to the non-damage interruption, and that one has to read "damage" here as referring to the
insured peril.
Somewhat surprisingly, having made that concession, the FCA seeks to argue that that is not so in all cases, and they do that by reason of a textual argument by reference to each policy.

My Lords, all of this has been considered in writing and I am not going to detain you with the arguments now, save to say this. The FCA's point is manifestly wrong, because in all the policies it is clear that it would make no sense whatsoever for the trends clauses not to apply or, to put it another way, for them to apply to physical damage but not to non- physical damage business interruption.

Leaving aside that, the fact that the result of the FCA's -- or the FCA's concessions is anomalous, what you see for present purposes is that the trends clause on any view actually stipulates for a "but for" approach to causation. They actually use the words "but for ".

I would respectfully suggest, against that background, my Lords, it is impossible to see that nevertheless, in respect of the disease clauses only, the parties are to be taken to have agreed some wholly different approach to causation.

So my Lords, in our submission, the second way in which the FCA puts its case on construction is hopeless.

That is significant when you come to consider the arguments on causation, which are in fact premised on their argument on construction being correct. I will address, as it were, some freestanding point which they seek to extract from The Silver Cloud, although that has largely been covered by my learned friend Mr Kealey, but essentially, as I understand the argument that Mr Edelman made and Ms Mulcahy made, you only get to their Silver Cloud argument if they were right on their approach to construction of the policy. Since they are plainly wrong, all of that, in my submission, is academic.

Before I go to the question of causation I should say something about HIGA's arguments of construction. Your Lordships will recall that we heard from Mr Edey something about that.

Now, much of what, if not all of what Mr Edey had to say was both wrong and misses the point. His submissions are on Day3, we don't need to turn it up at the moment, but what he said was -- perhaps we can turn it up at $\{$ Day $3 / 170: 1\}$.

At line 17, he said:
"The starting point is not proximate cause ..."
If we then go on to $\{$ Day $3 / 174: 25\}$ :
"The legal question is what is the test required by
the relevant causal link within the insured peril. In QBE1 that is ' arising from' and in QBE2 'in consequence of ${ }^{\prime}$.
"We say they do not require satisfaction of the proximate cause test, but something looser than that, akin if you will to what the FCA says 'following ' means."

Now, as I understand it, what Mr Edey is trying to say is that QBE has identified the wrong insured peril, because in defining the peril it omitted the interruption or interference part of the extension.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Sorry, I just don't understand that formulation, Mr Howard. Could you explain what you mean by that?
MR HOWARD: It is probably best if one has -- it is a semantic and arid issue, but if we go back to $\{B / 15 / 1\}--$ actually, which one did we look at? If we take $\{B / 13 / 1\}$--

No, sorry, $\{B / 15 / 22\}$, the one we were looking at a moment ago, at page 22. The insured peril, QBE says, rightly, that we are concerned with here, is an occurrence of a notifiable disease at the premises.

I'm sorry, (c), an occurrence of a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile.

Mr Edey says: no, no, no, you have got that wrong,

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that is not the insured peril, the insured peril is loss resulting from interruption or interference with the business in consequence of an occurrence of a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile.

So as I understand it, what he is saying is you have to look at everything, including the loss as part of the insured peril.

It is quite difficult to deal with an argument that is so plainly wrong, in that the interruption or interference is just part of the description of the relevant loss. That is the first thing. But in any event, none of this would make any difference; it doesn't matter whether you say the insured peril is the --
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I can well see the interruption or the interference might be in a different category from loss, in relation to defining the insured peril.
MR HOWARD: Yes.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I'm not sure what difference that actually makes if you say that the interruption or interference, in consequence of the following events, is the insured peril.
MR HOWARD: It doesn't, and that is really the point. I think what it was all designed to do, this argument of Mr Edey's, is to say that because the insured peril,

## 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 of93
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.

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    a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile.
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    a notifiable disease within a radius of 1 mile.
    But, two things. Firstly, whatever "in consequence
    But, two things. Firstly, whatever "in consequence
    of" means, there has to be a causative link between the
    of" means, there has to be a causative link between the
    interruption and the occurrence. Secondly, even if that
    interruption and the occurrence. Secondly, even if that
    is the, as it were, composite insured peril, "loss
    is the, as it were, composite insured peril, "loss
    resulting from" are clearly words which are focusing on
    resulting from" are clearly words which are focusing on
    what is the proximate cause of loss you have suffered.
    what is the proximate cause of loss you have suffered.
    MR HOWARD: Yes.
MR HOWARD: Yes.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If your business has been interrupted
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If your business has been interrupted
by the occurrence of a notifiable disease within
by the occurrence of a notifiable disease within
a radius of 1 mile, you still have to show that you have
a radius of 1 mile, you still have to show that you have
suffered loss, and you have also got to show, whatever
suffered loss, and you have also got to show, whatever
the causative link is, that the interruption or
the causative link is, that the interruption or
interference you have suffered is in consequence of the
interference you have suffered is in consequence of the
occurrence of the disease in the 1 mile limit.
occurrence of the disease in the 1 mile limit.
MR HOWARD: Exactly.
MR HOWARD: Exactly.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Unless you abandon all causative links
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Unless you abandon all causative links
in the argument, as it were, as you said a moment ago it
in the argument, as it were, as you said a moment ago it
is an arid dispute, isn't it?
is an arid dispute, isn't it?
MR HOWARD: I was going to say it is certainly arid and
MR HOWARD: I was going to say it is certainly arid and
semantic, and I was going to say it is interesting but
semantic, and I was going to say it is interesting but
irrelevant, but it's not interesting, it's just
irrelevant, but it's not interesting, it's just
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irrelevant
As I say, with all respect to Mr Edey, he appears to
As I say, with all respect to Mr Edey, he appears to
have contributed two things, or three things which I am

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        have contributed two things, or three things which I am
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    going to have to deal with: one is this point, another is a point by reference to London, and then a curiosity, which is the reference to the Dalmine case, which I won't be able to resist saying something about, because the reason it is being referred to is because Mr Edey was on the losing side in that case and I was on the other side. It is a curiosity, the case being referred to.

Those are the arguments on construction, my Lords, and I hope your Lordships will forgive me for saying that the reality is that when you look at what is the FCA's case as to what caused the business interruption and one looks at the QBE clauses and construes them in according to their plain and natural meaning, the answer to the case is, I would suggest, fairly obvious.

I come on to the question of causation. Now, I can 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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One then asks whether the occurrence of that insured peril caused loss in the form of interruption or interference to the insured's business. That, in fact, requires, on orthodox and conventional principles, applying both a factual causation test, the "but for" test, and a legal causation test, which is the proximate cause test, but this case is actually all concerned, at least at this stage for the purposes of the argument, with the factual causation question.

Now, my Lords, it is fair to point out that the mere presence of someone with COVID-19 within the relevant policy area will not usually, and certainly not necessarily, cause any loss to an insured as a matter of fact. Whether it does is demonstrated by straightforward application of the "but for" test. You ask: but for the insured peril, that is to say the presence of that person with COVID in the relevant policy area, would the insured have suffered its loss anyway? Or its business interruption loss, I should say. In our case it would have, in almost all cases, whether as a result of the national apprehension or the fear or the government guidance or indeed the national lockdown.

My Lords, if the insured cannot pass, as it can't and indeed is I think effectively admitted, the "but
for" test, then that is the end of it; you never get on to legal causation.

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.

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

My Lords, in his submissions, turning more fully to the "but for" causation, Mr Edelman made it clear that the FCA was not asking you to disapply, rule on or modify the rules of proximate cause or "but for" causation as they apply. What he said is you were being asked to rule on their application within the confines of specific policies. That was on \{Day1/92:1\}.

Again, let's just stand back for a moment. If Mr Edelman is correct in treating the occurrence of the

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disease, the notifiable disease, in the relevant policy area as a mere qualifying condition, his argument would be correct. But that is because, on his argument, the cover is against the effects of a disease anywhere, subject to this mere qualifying condition. But as I have explained, that is mainly misconceived. Equally, his argument would be correct if, on the true construction of the QBE clauses, they contain, as the FCA says, a special rule as to proof of loss; which is really dressing up the qualifying condition point in different clothing. Because both are designed to say that the cover is intended to be cover for the effects of a disease wherever it occurs and notwithstanding that those effects are not attributable to the occurrence of the disease in the relevant policy area.

So if the FCA is correct on either of these points of construction, and they are not, but if they were, the issues of causation do not arise. But if they are not correct, what is odd is that they do still appear to try to say that they are not defeated by orthodox rules of causation.

Now, despite his protestations to the contrary, Mr Edelman's approach does therefore, when you get to this stage of the analysis, require the disapplication of the "but for" test. Because on a straightforward
application of the "but for" test, and on the assumed facts, there can surely be no doubt that but for the insured peril in the so-called disease clauses, that is to say occurrence or manifestation of COVID at the premises or within 1 mile or 25 miles, the policyholder's business would have suffered exactly the same BI loss. And in the Cheshire Cat reference which I gave you, Mr Edelman appeared to recognise that. That is why he was so keen to wipe the smile off Mr Kealey's face.

The same point follows from paragraph 241 of the skeleton which I showed you, or written argument.

Now, before we look at this any further, can I just make a couple of further submissions to amplify what has already been said.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Your basic point is that if Mr Edelman is right about the insured peril, causation doesn't arise ; and if you are right about the insured peril, causation doesn't arise, really.
MR HOWARD: Exactly so. But I have to address it because the FCA, frankly their submissions have muddled up different concepts, so one has to infer that the FCA is running what I call The Silver Cloud point as some freestanding point of law.

But having said that, both Ms Mulcahy and Mr Edelman

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on Day 1, when they were talking about this, were very keen to say it is all a matter of intention. So if they are wrong that you can't deduce this intention, the secondary argument, from the contract, then I would respectfully say their arguments on causation don't arise. But for the sake of completeness, as it were, one ought to just knock them on the head. That is obviously what I am here to do in any event.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Your argument on construction is if you are right that the insured peril is the occurrence of a notifiable disease within the relevant area, and that is what has to have caused the interruption to the business and the loss which is suffered, then on one view you don't even get to issues about counterfactuals and so forth, because you just pose the question on the agreed facts would the insured have suffered the same loss anyway.
MR HOWARD: Yes.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: To which the answer is yes.
So you don't start stripping things out; you just ask the question.
MR HOWARD: My Lord, I don't shrink from saying that is the simplicity of this case. But is we have got to --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The trends clause just makes the point even clearer. But that would be the position you would

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        say at common law anyway.
MR HOWARD: Yes.
    You will remember in Orient-Express the trends
clause was in similar terms. It had the "but for"
point. The only difference between the arbitrators and
Mr Justice Hamblen, I think the arbitrators said the
trends clause was actually conclusive in showing that
you had to apply the "but for" test; whereas I think
Mr Justice Hamblen said it wasn't necessarily conclusive
but it was strong evidence, or something like that
I can't remember quite the way he put it. It is
actually pretty difficult to distinguish the two. The
point is if somebody is saying in this contract the
parties have specifically agreed to disapply the "but
for" test, when you see them actually referring to the
"but for" test it is, I would say, a pretty difficult
argument to make with a straight face.
But having said that, Mr Edelman did keep a straight face and I think Mr Schaff managed to do the same in Orient-Express. I think it was Mr Schaff.
My Lord, can I just make one or two other observations on "but for", and its application.
Now as Mr Kealey said we essentially submit that this is really what I think I once heard Lord Steyn
``` refer to as hornbook law, which I think may have been

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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 \(15\{\mathrm{~K} / 128 / 5\}\). 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 establish whether there is a causal link between the act or default and the alleged damage. It is a necessary but not sufficient test."

Your Lordships can read on the rest of the passage,
but it is simply another illustration of a commercial judge recognising that the "but for" test is
a prerequisite there in a contract of indemnity. As
I say, I would respectfully suggest that it is hornbook law.

I think my Lord Mr Justice Butcher was asking are there cases where the point is made. I refer to this because it is a point where --
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It is curious, isn't, Mr Howard, the Marine Insurance Act talks about proximate cause. There doesn't seem to be any insurance cases until recently where whether something is a proximate cause has been tested by whether it is a "but for" cause.

It may well be that that is partly because no one would seek to suggest, at least in the ordinary circumstances, that something which wasn't a "but for" cause was the dominant cause of the loss.
MR HOWARD: Yes. The simple answer is that you don't get to the proximate cause analysis until you have crossed over the hurdle of "but for".
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: That has never been done, certainly until recently. People have gone straight to the issue of whether it is the proximate cause of the loss.
MR HOWARD: Yes. But in most cases it will be obvious that

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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 the insured is then saying, well, or the insurer then would be saying: although the insured peril has actually operated the vessel was seized by the pirates. As it

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happens there was a submarine, an enemy submarine,
nearby which was just about to shoot a torpedo. It did in fact shoot the torpedo but it missed because the pirates had caused the vessel to alter course. It was heading into whatever the port was but they decided to take it off to wherever their lair was, so you miss the course. So in that argument what you are then saying is in fact if this insured peril had not happened something else would have happened which would have caused the damage. That is not our type of situation.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: My example may not be very important for the purposes of this case. But I just say that I still have some residual reservations as to why proximate cause is always tested by "but for".
MR HOWARD: I would say --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think my Lord gave the example in relation to Mr Kealey's argument of the train, the landslip case, where it turns out there is also a signalling problem further up the line.
MR HOWARD: Yes.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Whether there is cover or not in that case.
MR HOWARD: In my submission, there is a danger in confusing what appears to be the position with what is actually the position. So in my Lord's example of the landslip 105
the train, as everybody understood it at the time, could not leave the station because they understood there was
a landslip which had blocked the line. But if in fact
it turned out that it could never leave the station anyway then the landslip has not actually been the cause of the loss at all. It appeared to be, but it wasn't.

So similarly, going back to your example about the pirates, that is slightly different because the pirates have actually seized the ship. But if the situation was that the torpedo was heading for the ship and it is just because the pirates got on it at that moment that they changed course, the same sort of point might arise where you say: actually the ship was going to founder anyway for some other reason.

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

Take an example, take a sort of more graphic example. Let's assume that the locomotive engine is actually completely defunct but nobody knows that, and if it had tried to leave it wouldn't have been able to
because the engine wouldn't have worked. That is the same as your Lordship's example; it is just easier to comprehend. One would say the landslide was interesting but actually it didn't cause this train not to leave because the locomotive was shot and there was no replacement for it.

My Lord, I see the time.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes, is that a convenient moment? MR HOWARD: Yes, my Lord.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We will say 2 o'clock then.
(1.05 pm)
(The short adjournment)
( 2.00 pm )
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: When you're ready, Mr Howard.
MR HOWARD: My Lord, I think Mr Orr wanted to just say something, to correct something he had said this morning, a reference, I think.
MR ORR: My Lords, could I just correct some references that I gave your Lordships. You will recall that I referred to Mr Edelman's notional spreadsheet showing incidence
or danger of COVID-19 in each policy area, and
I referred your Lordships to references in Days 2 and 3
of the transcript. I should have referred you to Days 1
and 2. So the references I gave you should be
\(\{\) Day1/130:1\}, page 134 and 147 and \{Day2/140:1\}.
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Apologies for that, my Lords.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No need to apologise. Thank you very much.

Mr Howard.
MR HOWARD: Yes. Thank you, my Lord.
Just reverting to the discussion we were having before the adjournment, I would respectfully say we need to be careful not to confuse different things.

If we take, firstly, the landslip example. The landslip appears to be what prevents the train from leaving, but in fact it wasn't as a matter of fact what prevented the train from leaving, because the signals were down or the locomotive was dead. So there is a danger there that what one is confusing is what may have appeared to be the position but wasn't in fact the correct position.

As Mr Kealey explained on \{Day4/42:1\} to page 44 when this was discussed, on my Lord's example the landslip did not in fact cause, and here we are looking at business interruption, it didn't cause the business interruption, because the business interruption was already, as it were, in train, it is just that people hadn't realised it.

Of course, one of the things that is also important when discussing these things is to remember here that we
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 interruption is claimed but for the peril.

Now, on our case one has to remember, on the facts it is actually clear and I think it is not really in dispute, that the occurrence of the disease in the insured's relevant policy area has not in fact made any difference, because what has caused the interruption is the government response and that would have happened anyway.

Just turning to my Lord's example of loss of a vessel. That, you have got to remember, and this is why one has to be careful not to confuse different concepts, there you are talking about physical loss of the ship. So the ship is insured against loss through piracy, and piracy takes place, the pirates, off the coast of Somalia or wherever it is, seize your vessel. So the insured peril has in fact operated, and the insured prima facie has a right to an indemnity because he has lost his vessel through the operation of the insured peril.

I think what your Lordship was then contemplating, whether it is open to the insurers in that situation to
say: ah well, although you lost the vessel through the operation of the insured peril, something else would have happened which would have deprived you of the vessel.

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

But if what is being said is the moment that the pirates seized the vessel actually she was doomed and you were going to lose her then, a similar analysis arises. It is probably actually going to be as a proximate cause level, because you wouldn't be able to say, in all probability, that the insured event hadn't operated at all to cause the loss, because self-evidently the pirates had seized the vessel.

There is a danger in, as it were, trying to try different cases on a different insurance contract, which obviously one has then to speculate as to its terms.

MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It is merely because you are asserting that proximate cause always means at least "but for" cause, Mr Howard. But I don't necessarily want to take up too much more time on this. You would say, I think, in this case, that on any view it wasn't the dominant cause. Just stick to that.
MR HOWARD: My Lord, I would say on our facts you don't ever actually get to "but for" at all.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: No, of course, and you made all of those submissions this morning.
MR HOWARD: On your Lordship's example, the piracy example, what I was saying is that you -- I don't think there is anything in that which actually undermines what I am saying, because your Lordships' example is one where you are saying, well you can establish a "but for". There still would be a question as to whether that actually is the proximate cause of the loss. But we do say -- I mean, at the end of the day there is a danger we are then having an academic discussion, which is interesting but divorced from the facts of this case. I find it difficult to see in fact how you can ever get to proximate cause if you haven't got over the "but for" argument.

But there it is. As your Lordship says, I don't think it actually really arises in this case.

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The other point I wanted to make about "but for" is this. In a way it arises out of the question that you posed to my learned friend Ms Mulcahy, which is that you asked her whether there were any cases in which something that is said to be the proximate cause when it wasn't the "but for" cause, and her answer was by reference to and only by reference to Silver Cloud.

As you know, insurers say that the case doesn't stand for that principle at all. The thing that is slightly odd about the FCA's submissions is there is a line of authority, of course, where the courts have not applied the "but for" test, and in insurance, and it is of course the cases in the Fairchild Enclave.

Without going into it, because I think everybody is familiar with it, one has started off with Fairchild, where the courts, for policy reasons in mesothelioma claims, adopted an approach to "but for" causation or to disapply "but for" causation where you have an employee employed by a number of employers and you couldn't say at what stage the disease was contracted. That was obviously a view of trying to reach justice.

It then followed in the insurance cases that had to apply that, that a similar, as it were more generous approach had to be applied to the employers' insurance coverage otherwise they would be left high and dry, the

\section*{courts having made this policy decision.}

That quite clearly comes out of the cases. But I remind you, I don't think we need to turn it up, that in the Sienkiewicz case, which is at \(\{K / 144 / 66\}\) at paragraph 186, Lord Brown made the salutary point, having reflected on the problems that Fairchild had given rise to, that the law tampers with the "but for" test of causation at its peril. I would suggest that those are salutary words, that it really does require a very exceptional circumstance like the Fairchild type of situation. And I will come on to explain why we are nowhere near the Fairchild situation in a moment.

Can I then move on to the FCA's case, just analysing that and how it stands. The FCA's case in its pleading, at the particulars of claim, paragraph 53.1 -- if we could get that up, it is \(\{A / 2 / 35\}\). Your Lordships by now will be very familiar with this. At paragraph 53.1 their case is that there is only one proximate effective, operative or dominant cause of the losses, namely the COVID-19 disease, including its local presence or manifestation and the restriction due to emergency, danger or threat of life, et cetera, caused by the disease.

Now, that being the FCA's case, once you have set aside their argument on construction and the so-called
qualifying condition argument, this way of putting the case seems to run into obvious difficulties, in that the formulation of the sole proximate cause bears absolutely no resemblance to the insured peril in the QBE disease clauses.

So when one looks at that and you compare it with the disease clauses, the case doesn't look very promising.

You then have to look at their alternative case, which is then set out at paragraph 57 in the pleadings, which is on \(\{A / 2 / 39\}\), and what you see here is that they essentially hedged their bets:
"If and insofar as there is more than one concurrent cause, they are interdependent causes or alternatively are inextricably linked, alternatively a set of causes, none of the elements of which are sufficient on their own and which should be considered together.
Alternatively, even if there are independent causes, they do not prevent cover."

So one sees there they run the whole gamut. Although as the matter was developed in argument through Mr Edelman on \{Day3/50:12\} of the transcripts -- sorry , I think I must have given the wrong reference. Sorry, I have given you the wrong reference. Could your Lordships just excuse me for a moment. (Pause)

Yes, it is page 52, I apologise. \{Day3/52:1\}, I apologise. So we see Mr Edelman says:
"We say, as we have said before and I say this in a sentence ..."

So that is the case that the FCA is running:
"... the government was responding to one indivisible occurrence or multiple occurrences which are aggregated as part of a national occurrence to become one combined cause. In reality, if all areas had not been affected to a greater or lesser extent, one can imagine there wouldn't have been a national lockdown. It was the national pictures of all these local outbreaks which caused the lockdown. And when the court considers what caused the application of the government's lockdown measures in any particular locality, the causal effect of local prevalence of the disease is part of that overall indivisible cause or viewed individually by virtue of its contribution to the overall picture, and is an effective cause of the government action."

So what one sees there is again this is a recognition that the individual area doesn't actually of itself make any difference, and it is simply saying, well, it is part of an overall jigsaw.

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 "but for" test.

Now, before one tests this, what one needs to just reflect on are the submissions that were made on multiple interdependent causes and independent causes, none of which I think, as the cases developed, are actually relied on by the FCA. So they were I think being shown to your Lordships, as it were, as part of the background in order to get to their Silver Cloud submission.

So the multiple interdependent causes, by reference to cases such as The Miss Jay Jay, it was submitted, and it is right, that where you are looking at multiple interdependent causes, they need to be equal or nearly equal in efficiency. And that is what was said in The Miss Jay Jay.

Now, on our facts, a particular local occurrence of the disease, and here we are talking about potentially a single person in the relevant policy area having COVID-19, is a very long way from being of equal or near equal efficiency with all the facts which went to cause
the government to order the nationwide lockdown.
As I understand it, that is effectively conceded. It is not seriously suggested by the FCA that this is a case of multiple interdependent causes.

You then have got the next point they took you to, which were the multiple independent causes. It was somewhat obscure in reality why those are being referred to. As Mr Kealey made clear, the difficulty faced by the FCA here is that the examples they refer to, the two hunters, or the decisions of Mr Justice Coulson in the Greenwich Millennium Village case, are all cases of true multiple wrongdoing situations, where the "but for" test is disapplied, so that one wrongdoer cannot use another wrongdoer's actions or indeed its own wrongdoing to escape liability, leaving the victim uncompensated.

So all of the cases relied upon by the FCA in this area are cases where the "but for" test was disapplied because they involved multiple wrongdoers or, in the insurance context, multiple insurers or sections of insurance policies potentially covering the same loss.

Now the critical, albeit obvious, distinction between those cases and the present case is that this is not a multiple wrongdoer or insurer situation. The FCA's both written and oral submissions continuously try to suggest otherwise. So the FCA has set up the case as
if it is brought against multiple insurers, all of whom rely on events happening in another insurer's policy area to avoid cover.

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

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

Indeed, you have to test the argument that the FCA is making here by assuming that there was only one
insured suing on one policy, and there are no other insurers who have issued policies, or QBE had issued no policies to anybody else. That doesn't make any difference, but that simply illustrates that one is simply concerned with the position between the two parties.

My Lords, that leads me to the third category, which is really where the FCA's argument rests, which is the inextricably linked causes. Now, this argument, one has to recognise, arises because the FCA, at this stage of the analysis, accepts it cannot establish that the occurrence of the disease within the insured's relevant policy area was a "but for" cause of the business interruption. And it also arises on the basis that they have lost on their arguments of construction.

As I showed you earlier today in the extract from Mr Edelman's oral submissions, this inexplicably linked point was all -- the foundation for it, is an argument of construction or, as he put it, contractual intention or construction. As I said earlier, if the FCA are 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.

Now, as I say, Mr Kealey addressed that decision. We would suggest it is not authority for the sort of novel causal analysis attempted by the FCA. If it were, it would be surprising, to say the least, that it has been so overlooked. The reality is that it involved a factual finding that certain matters were rolled up into one proximate cause, and a legal finding that the policy insured against the consequences of that proximate cause. The FCA is a very long way from that sort of orthodox position.

But the bizarre thing is this, my Lords. The principle sought to be extracted from Silver Cloud actually turns the insurance on its head. We have already seen that the FCA seeks by way of construction to contend that the policies do provide cover for pandemics. Having lost that argument, it then seeks to use a decision in The Silver Cloud to invoke a principle of construction whose effect is somehow to create cover wider in scope than that provided by the express terms of the policy. As I say, that only has to be stated to see 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

\section*{jigsaw.}

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

Using the shop examples that we set out at the start of our written argument, so beloved or perhaps detested by Mr Edelman and Mr Edey, all that is required to turn Shop A into Shop B is the one undiagnosed case.

So ultimately The Silver Cloud apparently is giving rise to essentially the same result as the qualifying condition or some sort of anchor point, or the special rule of causation by agreement, but which is now said to be arising through some undeclared and novel rule of law to be extracted from The Silver Cloud case. One really wonders what this rule of law is.

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

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

So the Silver Cloud decision apparently supports what actually ultimately is this game of lotto. In my submission, it is no authority for anything of the sort.

So, my Lords, we say and submit to your Lordships that operating the policies in this case is in fact a simple exercise. As I said, you start with the proper construction, and I don't think I need to repeat that. One then asks whether the loss in question was caused by the peril. If the answer is yes, you may have to ask the proximate cause question and then you move on to the quantification and the application of the trends clause.

Now, 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 \{Day1/144:1\} he 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
to say somehow this demonstrates that we can't be right.
Now, when one actually properly looks at the Isle of Wight, there is nothing actually at all surprising in the result when you apply our argument.

So assume the Isle of Wight and assume you have two businesses, two hotels in Cowes, one has a 1 mile radius clause and the other has a 25 -mile radius clause.

The reason it is important to bear in mind the two differences, the 25 -mile radius clause would stretch across the Solent to Southampton, whereas the 1 mile clause would not.

Now, let's assume a situation where the island is disease-free. When the general public apprehension, government guidance and ultimately the lockdown occurred, it causes trade to slow in the island just as much as in the mainland UK.

Now, on both the FCA's case and QBE's case, the 1 mile policyholder has no claim, because it is a Shop A in our example.

But on the FCA's case, provided there had been at least one case in Southampton, the 25 -mile policyholder gets cover, possibly following a retrospective statistical analysis showing there must have been a case of COVID in the 25 -mile area. So by good fortune, on the FCA's case, and by happenstance, the 25 -mile clause

\section*{responds.}

Now, on our case, perfectly orthodox, both the 25 -mile policyholder and the 1 mile policyholder are in the same position. They have both suffered BI loss for the same reason and are unaffected by the actual or potential case of COVID in Southampton.

Now, if you change the assumed facts scenario to assume that the Isle of Wight is the only place hit by a notifiable disease and a form of island-wide lockdown is imposed, so no one in or out of the island and all shops to close and so on. Our two hotels are then suffering loss which they wouldn't have suffered but for the local lockdown. So are they covered?

Well, the 25 -mile policyholder, who has paid for the larger radius, plainly is. Because the cases in the Isle of Wight within his 25 -mile radius led to the lockdown.

Now, the 1 mile policyholder, the answer may or may not be the same, it depends upon where he is and where the cases are. If the position is that the cases within his 1 mile radius have not made any difference at all, and that the island was going to go into lockdown because of the cases outside his area, then the argument or the position is exactly the same as the one we are considering, which is the occurrence in his area hasn't

\section*{made any difference.}

Now, there are all sorts of other examples you can give. I think that is probably sufficient. But the simple answer is the one that I made previously: the purpose and effect of the 1 mile or 25 -mile radius provision, properly construed, is to limit the insurer's scope of cover, and it is not this threshold or proviso or lottery ticket as the FCA would say.

The next point I want to deal with is London. The reason I need to deal with that is because of the submissions of Mr Edey on \{Day3/179:1\}, where essentially what Mr Edey sought to say is, well, it is obvious that London was the proximate cause of the national lockdown, and therefore somehow that has to feed into the equation.

Now, my Lords, the first thing I would say about this is that the premise of -- the first thing to note is that the premise of Mr Edey's assertions at this point is that we are correct on our argument as to the construction of the policies and the approach to causation.

But there are then two important points to make in response to these submissions, which appear to be an attempt to obtain, in this test case, a factual finding from the court that London was in fact a "but for" cause

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of the national lockdown. The two points are these.
First, we would suggest it is simply not open to the HIGA, if that is what one is to call them, interveners to advance such an argument. This is not a pleading point, my Lords, but a point of substance. It is contrary to the FCA's pleaded case, which I have shown you. Their pleaded case is that there is no 25 -mile radius area which would make any difference. That would apply equally to London as it would anywhere else. It is also contrary to what I showed you in their skeleton argument, the FCA's skeleton argument at paragraph 241. In other words, the whole premise of this test case is that it is not possible to take any 25 -mile radius area, and say that without that area the outcome would have been different. Now, it is true that the FCA, at footnote 241, which I showed you, caveated the position, but it recognised, rightly, that it is not possible in the test case to investigate such facts.

Secondly, in any event, it is plainly wrong as a matter of fact that London was the "but for" cause of the nationwide lockdown or similar. The government based its --
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Are you inviting, us, Mr Howard, to not get into this, or to get into it and decide it in your favour? It matters to this extent, that if we accept
your first point, then it would presumably still be open for people to say London was indeed the cause.
MR HOWARD: Well, the way in which the matter has come before you on the basis of the FCA's -- I mean both the assumed facts and the agreed facts, and then one has got the FCA's assertions. The FCA has not sought to say in respect of any particular relevant policy area: well, the disease in that area is actually the driver, as it were, for the government's action; and the government's action, if we assume no disease in that area, would either have still been the same or they would have not imposed any restrictions in that area.

So the danger in a case like this is in trying to decide facts when really the purpose of the test case is to decide questions of principle. So I am only really responding to this and setting out at least why, on the facts that are before your Lordships, the position is actually that London couldn't be the driver. No factual determination. I mean, if your Lordships accepts that, that is not going to actually preclude an insured saying: well, I am not bound by that, because all I am bound by are questions of legal principle that are determined in the FCA test case. So it has been left open for all true questions of fact ultimately to be determined between an insured and the relevant insurer.

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

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essentially what it comes down to, and this comes out of those minutes that Mr Orr was showing you amongst other things, but essentially, if you ask yourself really what was happening, is the government took the measures it took in the middle and towards the end of March because of the increasing concern that fed through to them from SAGE as a result of the views that were being taken of COVID as a result of what had happened in Italy and elsewhere, that the so-called \(R\) rate, we all remember that, was something like 3 , which meant that the rate of growth of the disease is that it doubled or something like that every couple of days, and that is why there was this massive concern about the NHS being overrun.

So saying, well, what about London, actually no particular place makes any difference; it is that the government was concerned that you had a disease which was in danger of spreading, which caused severe illness, and which they thought was going to overrun the NHS in terms of its capacity to put people on ventilators and things like that. That is why they built things like the Nightingale Hospitals extremely quickly.

As it happens, hindsight is a wonderful thing, we now know the Nightingale Hospitals weren't really required and have hardly been used, but the perception at the time was that the NHS was going to be overrun and
that is what they were concerned about.
But all I am saying for present purposes is it is the FCA's case that the lockdown was a country-wide approach, not a reaction to cases in any particular locality, and it is their case it was because the shape of the curve of infection rates was similar across the whole country.

So it was Mr Edey who has essentially tried to open this up and to look for or to try and obtain different factual findings, and we say the whole basis on which the case is being fought is that what he is putting forward isn't the case. If he and his clients want to contend otherwise, that is something which would have to be fought out in a separate piece of litigation, is what it amounts to.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is all for another day. MR HOWARD: Exactly.

I can then move on, seamlessly, I hope, to a slightly different topic, and I will deal with it very briefly, and that is the burden of proof point which came in in the reply, and was a point addressed by Mr Edey based upon the Dalmine case. It is fairly clear that the point that was raised has, as I said earlier come, from Mr Edey.

Now, the starting point is that the insured bears
the burden of proving that loss was caused by an insured peril, including on a "but for" basis. The Dalmine case -- I have to say this is I think the first time I have been aware of it being referred to. I might be wrong, it may be referred to elsewhere, but I haven't come across it. But I would suggest that it provides no assistance to the policyholders in this case.

You will remember that that was a case where what had happened was that Mr Edey's clients, Dalmine, had fraudulently certified that some pipes that were going to go into the construction of a pipeline in the North Sea were on spec when they knew full well they were not on spec.

The trial was a very, very hard fought affair, as these things go, and what Dalmine, as luck would have it for them, they thought, the people who had welded the pipes together, according to Dalmine, had done so negligently. So the question at the trial was what was the cause of the cracking in the pipes; was it the fact that the pipes were not of the correct certain specification or was it the negligent welding?

Mr Justice Cresswell, after hearing some pretty complicated scientific evidence, this was really state-of-the-art stuff on metallurgy, held that the incorporation of the non-compliant pipes had caused the

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pipeline to fail. In other words, he rejected Dalmine's argument that the cause of the failure was the negligent welding, and so the fraudsters were held liable. Nothing wrong with that, you might think.

As I say, at trial the fraudsters had tried to prove that the pipes failed, despite inclusion of the fraudulently certified pipes, due to negligent welding. Now, it was only in those circumstances that this question of burden of proof arose. So the claimant had discharged its burden of proof, and the burden of proof that the claimant had discharged was that the fraudulently certified pipes had failed, and they had failed because they were not the right pipes.

The defendant then had sought to prove its own averment, namely that even if compliant pipes had been used, the pipeline would have failed anyway. Now, they didn't actually prove that. So what they were then saying: a ha, even though I haven't proved what I set out to prove, you the claimant have got to prove a negative, you have got to prove that something else would not have caused failure of the pipes.

So, for instance, taking the Dalmine case, they could have just as easily have said: aha, BHP (who were the owners of the pipeline) it is perfectly true that I supplied fraudulently certified pipes, and it is
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    burden."
            That is just saying something, in my submission,
        which is obvious as a matter of ordinary application of
        the burden of proof and, indeed, as a matter of common
        sense. The argument that Dalmine was seeking to run in
        the Court of Appeal, that somehow BHP fails because they
        haven't demonstrated a negative, when they had in fact
        demonstrated the pipeline failed because of the failure
        of the non-compliant pipes, it seems to me, I would
        suggest, it's just an utterly obvious finding. There is
        nothing you can extract from this decision which assists
        you here.
    LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is like going back to the forms of
action, clanking their chains before the Common Law
Procedure Act 1854, isn 't it ?
MR HOWARD: Your Lordship there has the better of me, I'm
afraid.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It's the forms of pleading, before the
amendments were made in Victorian England, required
a plaintiff to prove all sorts of negatives along the
way. That was all abandoned and the law was changed by
the 1854 Act.
I remember when I first looked at this point,
I thought that sounds to me like an attempt to revive
that concept, because in the modern law, he who alleges
burden."
That is just saying something, in my submission, which is obvious as a matter of ordinary application of the burden of proof and, indeed, as a matter of common the Court of Appeal, that somehow BHP fails because they haven't demonstrated a negative, when they had in fact of the non-compliant pipes, it seems to me, I would suggest, it's just an utterly obvious finding. There is nothing you can extract from this decision which assists you here.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is like going back to the forms of action, clanking their chains before the Common Law Procedure Act 1854, isn 't it ?
MR HOWARD: Your Lordship there has the better of me, I'm afraid.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It's the forms of pleading, before the amendments were made in Victorian England, required a plaintiff to prove all sorts of negatives along the way. That was all abandoned and the law was changed by the 1854 Act.
I remember when I first looked at this point, that concept, because in the modern law, he who alleges

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perfectly true that those pipes failed because they were the wrong spec, but you know what, a lot of submarines go around in this part of the North Sea and, BHP, you haven't proved that a submarine wouldn't have come along at some point and collided with the pipeline. It is that sort of level of argument, that you haven't proved all sorts of things. It is almost like saying you haven't proved that pigs can't fly.

But if you turn to the judgment, at \(\{\mathrm{J} / 89 / 12\}\) paragraph 36 , it really sums it all up:
"So in this case we think that causation is proved once BHP has shown the reason why the pipeline failed when it did was because of the failure of non-compliant pipe which but for Dalmine's deceit would have been rejected. BHP has shown that the pipeline failed only where one or both of the pipes was non-compliant and at no other welded joint. In such circumstances, if Dalmine wishes to show that a hypothetical pipeline made up only of compliant pipe, given more time and the operation of the pipeline at the ultimate working pressure of 128 bar, would have failed in any event, then it bears the burden of proving that on the balance of probabilities. For these purposes, the mere possibility of such failure would not be enough. However, Dalmine concedes that it cannot sustain that
has to prove. So if Dalmine wanted to allege that the real cause of the loss was something else, it was for them to prove it .
MR HOWARD: Yes, exactly.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is not rocket science, is it?
MR HOWARD: It is not rocket science. The case is really not of much interest to anybody, that is why I was surprised to see it. And when I got a message from Mr Kealey saying I ought to explain what the answer to it was, my first reaction was, I have not been in this case, why are you asking me? That may say something about my memory.

But, more importantly, when I did refresh my memory and you read the case, what you actually see happened is that the case collapsed in the Court of Appeal, where the Dalmine side -- what happened was Lord Justice Rix said: well, we are about to have a -- I can't remember how long the appeal was, and he said, "I don't really understand your case on burden of proof, explain it to me". It was then explained, I think I had to make some brief submissions, and then Lord Justice Rix said, "Well, I can't see any of this works", and that is when Dalmine gave up. But they had come along seeking to prove that actually compliant pipe would have failed, but 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.

But 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
intended to be a fairly rough and ready machinery which
operate to assist the parties in trying to determine what is in fact the effect of the insured peril.

I don't think I need to address you in any detail on that, but there is one point that I do want to say something about, which was a submission that Mr Edelman made, which I think it is important to address simply because it is something of more general interest. You may remember, it was a point that he made by reference to the facts of Orient-Express, where the argument he made was that assume you had a downturn in bookings as the hurricane approached, and then the hurricane hits the hotel, and let's assume you don't have the difficulties with the damage to New Orleans. As I understood it, Mr Edelman was suggesting, well, what you can't do when you come to do the quantification of loss is to distinguish between the losses caused, for the purposes of applying a trends clause, through the apprehension of the hurricane and the losses caused by the hurricane itself.

There are a number of things that are wrong with that. The first is that the insured peril in the Orient-Express is business insurance caused through physical damage to the hotel. Business interruption 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 emergence of COVID-19 is like an approaching hurricane. He said that on \{Day3/55:1\}.

That simply repeats the fundamental error as to the nature of the insurance and, just as in Orient-Express, the insured peril was not fear of the hurricane, or even the hurricane itself, but physical damage to the hotel. So here, the worldwide, nationwide COVID-19 health crisis, nor fear of the same, are not the insured perils; the insured peril is the occurrence within the relevant policy area.

I think your Lordships asked what Riley had to say on this, and Mr Edelman said he didn't think Riley dealt with it. That is actually not right. Riley does deal with the point by way of a commentary on the New World Harbourview Hotel case, which you probably remember the SARS outbreak in Hong Kong. The relevant extract from Riley is at \(\{J / 154 / 88\}\). If we go to page 88 , this is part of a discussion about the New World Harbourview case. You see that at the top of the page. If you look at the top of the page where he refers to New World Harbourview, he says:
"The business interruption was part of a composite mercantile policy, written on a UK gross revenue business ..." and so on.

At the end of the paragraph:
"... the court had to consider ... the application of the other circumstances clause."

Then they set out the clause, and it is the next part that is relevant:
"The court had determined that the trigger date for the cover under the second part of the clause was 27 March, 2003, when the ... government made SARS a notifiable disease. Following earlier reports in the press, the insured had argued that the disease had become notifiable either on 13 February 2003 when the hospital authority requested hospitals to report cases of severe community acquired pneumonia, or on 21 February 2003 when a mainland visitor, who subsequently died and was confirmed as having SARS, was admitted to hospital.
"When it came to the application of the other circumstances clause, the insured argued that any impact of the SARS outbreak should be ignored in calculating standard revenue. The court rejected this argument. The publicity surrounding the potential outbreak had clearly affected the standard revenue of the business prior to the trigger date ... and this was to be taken into account even if the relevant circumstances subsequently crystallised into an insured peril.

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"The New World Harbourview Hotel case confirms not only that the other circumstances clause should be applied in a case of wide area damage, it also illustrates that the applicable trend may well be capable of measurement, in this case by virtue of the downturn trend that was already evident.
"Whilst the New World Harbourview Hotel was already. suffering a downturn before the trigger date, the reverse could also occur. For example, a hotel might suffer damage as a result of storms which cause its closure. It is not difficult to envisage circumstances why the accumulated effect of those storms is widespread flooding, some days later which causes a downturn in visitors to the region as a whole. Applying the approach in New World Harbourview Hotel, the loss in the first few days would not be subject to adjustment to reflect the impact of wide area damage, but once the flooding had occurred, an adjustment would be merited and could be measured."

Now, that directly contradicts, I think, Mr Edelman's submission, both as to how he was saying the trends clause operates and also how in fact business interruption operates in relation to our type of situation. I thought that was worth showing to your Lordships.

\section*{MR SALZEDO: My Lord, yes, thank you.}

May it please you, my Lords, we have reached the graveyard slot. Despite that, I know your Lordships do not need any reminder that the matter is just as important to Argenta and to its policyholders who are owners of holiday homes and guest houses, called category 6 in this case, as it is to everybody else with an interest in this case.

As Ms Mulcahy told your Lordships on \{Day3/155:16\} to line 18 , only one Argenta clause in is in issue in these proceedings and it is, quoting Ms Mulcahy, "a very simple clause "; it is interruption as a result of occurrence of a notifiable disease within 25 miles.

The main point in this case in which we have an interest is the jigsaw point and how it works or does

My Lords, that essentially brings me to my 1 conclusion. My conclusion is, as your Lordships 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 manifestation in the relevant policy area, and secondly, that such occurrence or manifestation caused them business interruption, and absent proof of these points there is no cover. So there will be no cover for business interruption loss that would have been suffered in any event.

And on the FCA's case, the government's actions in response to COVID-19 were, as they say, a single body of public authority intervention which would have occurred in any event, and irrespective whether a case or cases of COVID occurred on any particular insured's premises or within 1 mile or 25 miles thereof. Accordingly, the cover provided by QBE disease wordings does not respond to any insured's business loss caused by the government's actions. Nor do they provide an indemnity
in respect of any loss that would have been suffered in any event by reason of what the FCA calls the COVID-19 events, rather than business loss attributable to the occurrence of COVID-19 in their relevant policy area.

My Lords, those are my submissions, unless I can assist you on anything further.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No, thank you very much, Mr Howard.
So now it is Mr Salzedo.
not work in the case of a very simple clause, as Ms Mulcahy called it, like Argenta's. I adopt what has been said by Mr Kealey, Mr Howard, and the other insurers about that.

I will try not to repeat, but I do want to say a little more about proximate cause as it applies specifically to Argenta's simple clause, followed by some very short submissions on each of exclusions and counterfactuals, and then a brief submission on the declaration we seek relating to pre- notifiability losses, which Mr Edelman specifically attacked.

So, my Lords, my submissions on proximate cause. Before I go to Argenta's clauses themselves I would like to remind my Lords of six items of common ground as between the FCA and Argenta.

The first is at \(\{A / 15 / 18\}\), which is the list of issues that was agreed between the parties. At the top of page 18 you see paragraph 39 :
" It is common ground, as a matter of law, that the policyholder must establish that its losses are proximately caused by an insured peril ."

The second piece of common ground is contained in the FCA's skeleton argument at \(\{1 / 1 / 300\}\), where at paragraph 949 the FCA accepts that in Argenta1 a defined insured peril is an occurrence of disease within

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25 miles of the premises.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Which paragraph?
MR SALZEDO: 949, the very last line of the page.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I see, yes.
MR SALZEDO: The obvious consequence of those first two points of common ground was also accepted, and this is my third point of common ground, by Ms Mulcahy in her oral submissions against Argenta at \{Day3/163:23\} through to \(\{\) Day3/164:1\}, where she said:
"The FCA accepts that the interruption must be directly caused by the occurrence within 25 miles because the term resulting from imports a proximate cause test as Argenta also says in its skeleton."

My Lords, the fourth piece of common ground that I wish to remind you of is at \(\{A / 2 / 3\}\). It is the particulars of claim. It is paragraph 1 , the very simple point. There is a pandemic. That is paragraph 1 of the particulars of claim. And the losses with which this action is concerned arise from the pandemic.

The fifth point of common ground is moving on to the reply at \(\{A / 14 / 27\}\). At paragraph 52, as Mr Orr reminded my Lords this morning, the FCA say that they do not allege that the advice given or restrictions imposed by the UK Government were caused by any particular local occurrence of COVID-19.

Finally, my Lords, still in the reply, if we go to page 29, at paragraph \(58.1,\{\mathrm{~A} / 1 / 29\}\) at lines 5 to 7 . This is one of the places where the jigsaw argument is set out. But at lines 5 to 7 my learned friends say:
"This is especially true where one of the things, COVID-19, in the UK, is the underlying cause of the other, such as the presence of the disease within the relevant policy area", which is the FCA's term for each 25 -mile radius around the premises of an Argenta policyholder

So what is accepted and is common ground is that the chain of causation runs from the pandemic to the occurrences in each particular 25 -mile radius area and does not run the other way, as we saw at paragraph 52 . They are not saying it runs the other way as well. So it only runs one way.

Now, my Lords, in any ordinary case your Lordships may think that the first three points of common ground combined with the second three points of common ground would be sufficient to demonstrate that any particular Argenta policyholder facing business interruption arising from the government advice or restrictions relating to COVID will not have cover under Argenta1, because those matters are not proximately caused by the occurrences in their particular 25 -mile radius circle.

The only basis for a different result appears to be the jigsaw argument.

Now, my Lords, with that introduction your Lordships can return to the Argenta clauses at \(\{B / 3 / 57\}\). At page 57 your Lordships see the main business interruption insurance section. Similarly to the position in the Orient-Express, as Mr Kealey explained last week, the peril here is big "D" Damage under the business or contents section, and the small "d" damage in this section is the business interruption as a result of the premises being made uninhabitable by that peril.

If we then turn to page \(58,\{B / 3 / 58\}\) your Lordships can see the extensions in the business interruption section. This sets out a number of other perils which may cause business interruption. The box at the top left, are the important words, because they are relevant on the next page as well:
"The company will also indemnify the insured as provided in the insurance of this section for such interruption as a result of ..."

If we then go to page \(59\{B / 3 / 59\}\) your Lordships see that the fourth set of extensions are (a) to (e). Your Lordships see, if you look through those, that (a), (b), (c) and (e) are all perils that operate at the premises, or in (b) attributable to food and drink supplied from
the premises. The only one here that goes beyond the premises is (d), the crucial one:
"Any occurrence of a notifiable human disease within a radius of 25 miles of the premises."

So that the insurance that is due for Argenta is simply such interruption as a result of any occurrence of human notifiable disease within a radius of 25 miles of the premises.

Still on page 59, my Lords, your Lordships may want to note the next peril, number 5, pollution or oil spillage, because it is also a 25 -mile radius one:
"Pollution or oil spillage on a beach, river or waterway within a 25 -mile radius of the premises."

The FCA's Chesil Beach pollution example was dismantled by Mr Kealey. But let me suggest a different pollution example based on Argenta's clause. Imagine an insured with a guest house or holiday home in Dover and a single oil spill on the beaches of Northern France that closes the ferry ports in Calais and Boulogne.

The beach at Calais I understand from the internet is about 21 miles from Dover, whereas Boulogne is over 30 miles away.

So ferries from Calais are cancelled because of the spill and that causes interruption to the business. The policy on the face of it responds. But if ferries from

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Boulogne are cancelled with the same result the policy does not respond. That is because proximate cause is a question of causation rather than jigsaws.

It will not help the policyholder who wants to claim Boulogne ferry losses to say that the oil that affected ferries from Boulogne was inextricably linked with the oil that affected ferries from Calais, nor that the oil spill affecting both beaches is one indivisible fact.

My Lords, if we turn to page 60 we have the basis of settlement clause which defines the indemnity in terms of the gross income falling short of the standard gross income.

Your Lordships don't need, I don't think, to read that in detail. I am just tracing through where it works. You have the references. But then if we go back to page 56 in the bundle there are a number of important definitions, including in particular standard gross income, which is the trend clause in very similar form to that which your Lordships have seen in other policies and indeed in the authorities.

My Lords, would this be a good time to take a short afternoon break, or would your Lordships prefer to go on a bit longer? I am very much in your Lordships' hands.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If you have reached a point -- because you have shown us the policy wording -- where you are
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Okay, Mr Salzedo, when you are ready.
MR SALZEDO: Thank you, my Lord.

If we can bring back on to the screen the relevant clause at \(\{B / 3 / 59\}\), your Lordships may recall that as Mr Kealey pointed out Mr Edelman's argument appeared to involve amending the wording in a particular way and adapting the way Mr Kealey put it for the Argenta wording. I don't know whether there is more microphones on than need be but I am getting an echo at the moment, but adapting Mr Kealey's wording to Argenta his point was that Mr Edelman's argument would read the clause something like:
"Such interruption as a result of a notifiable human disease provided that there has been an occurrence within a radius of 25 miles of the premises."

Now that amendment to the clause is only really
a first approximation to the clause which Mr Edelman's submissions seemed to be addressing, because on its face that amendment would cover a situation where the local occurrences were many years earlier, for example. They would still satisfy the trigger, using one of Mr Edelman's phrases.

As I understood the FCA's case, it was accepted that to give any meaning at all to the 25 -mile limit you did need to include some causal connection between the local occurrence and the interruption to the policyholder's business. In case references are needed to justify that understanding I refer to the description of the argument at the FCA's skeleton at paragraph 241, which is \(\{1 / 1 / 97\}\), and to Mr Edelman's submissions on \{Day1/98:17\} to page \{Day1/99:5\} and \{Day1/104:3\} to line 8.

The question then arises, what is the causal connection for which Mr Edelman contends as an add-on or as he would presumably say implicit in our clause at \{B/3/59\}. (Pause)
(3.22 pm)

MR SALZEDO: Thank you. The question that then arises is what exactly is the causal connection?
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Mr Salzedo, I am not sure whether my Lord is there.

Yes, he is.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That's entirely attributable to technical incompetence on my part.
MR SALZEDO: I broke the whole system.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Mr Salzedo, we have lost slightly over five minutes, so we will sit five minutes longer. MR SALZEDO: Thank you.

So the question that arises next is what is the causal section that Mr Edelman is contending for as, we would say an add-on to the clause, as he would presumably say implicitly written into our clause at \(\{B / 3 / 59\}\).

Mr Howard pointed out that Mr Edelman had not answered that question, and he suggested an answer to this same question by reference to QBE2 in the course of his submissions just before lunch.

Before hearing Mr Howard I drafted my own idea of what Mr Edelman's submissions appear to amount to in relation to Argenta1 and it is quite different, which perhaps confirms how unclear the FCA's argument is. Unless it just confirms that I have not been listening carefully enough.

In the hopes of assisting the court to identify the argument, I will put mine forward in competition for consideration, in competition with Mr Howard. Doing the

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best I can on the basis of my understanding of what Mr Edelman has been saying, it seems to me he wants to adjust our clause so that it reads "such interruption as a result of a notifiable human disease, provided that there has been some occurrence within a radius of 25 miles of the premises and provided that such occurrence is part of the same outbreak of such notifiable human disease as the outbreak which has caused the interruption ".

Now, that revised wording brings to the front and centre the concept of an outbreak which reflects the role of an outbreak throughout the FCA's written and oral argument on this topic, even though it doesn't have that role in the contract. I accept the point that my Lord Mr Justice Butcher made to one of my predecessors in this seat, that the word is used obliquely in the definition, but it not front and centre in the way that it is in the causation argument of Mr Edelman.

So my suggestion is that the words I have drafted provide for a causal link which seem to fit with the jigsaw argument and also with Ms Mulcahy's legal submissions about interdependent or inextricably linked causes.

In the case of a brand new disease like COVID-19,
which manifests itself by a worldwide pandemic or
a nationwide epidemic, that causal link that I have suggested, being part of the same outbreak, is trivial to establish. We all happen to know that every case of COVID-19 is part of the current pandemic outbreak.

That unspoken premise is one reason why Mr Edelman has been able to make this argument without identifying all its components. But in the other cases the FCA's clause would be much harder to apply. If there was, say, a national measles outbreak and it becomes serious in October and then consequences follow, but there had been cases in Dover the previous March, were those cases part of the same outbreak? As Mr Kealey submitted on Day 4, page 110, \{Day4/110:1\} the FCA has propounded no principle by which that question would be answered.

And as others have submitted before me, the FCA's revision of the clause, whether it is the revision as understood by Mr Kealey or Mr Howard or myself or some version that Mr Edelman may produce in reply, whatever that revision is it demotes the 25 -mile requirement into an ill-defined and arbitrary trigger or condition with results that would be capricious, especially in non-pandemic cases.

Returning to what the parties actually agreed in Argenta1 on page B359, the words are "such interruption 153
as a result of any occurrence of a notifiable disease within a radius of 25 miles of the premises" and that specifies a causal link between the local occurrence and the business interruption, namely that the latter is the result of the former. Or, in legal terminology, proximate cause.

That causal link is straightforward, well understood in insurance law and in contract law more generally. It also makes much better commercial sense as a way of delimiting what is and is not covered. Now, we have made clear in our skeleton argument, at \(\{1 / 11 / 25\}\) if this could be brought up, at paragraph 56, that Argenta accepts that this clause may respond to some COVID-19 claims, and we have set out at paragraph 56 three types of claim which could give rise to indemnified loss, including the Leicester example, as my Lord Lord Justice Flaux put to Mr Kealey on Thursday.

As my Lord Lord Justice Flaux put to Mr Gaisman yesterday morning, causation issues involve facts as well as law. I think the same point arose with Mr Howard today. We hope that this paragraph is helpful in indicating how we say the insured peril in our simple clause does work in relation to a range of potential facts concerning COVID-19. And this is the basis on which Argenta is dealing with its policyholders.

As you can see from what we say about Leicester at paragraph 56(3), Ms Mulcahy was completely wrong in her submission against Argenta at \(\{\) Day \(3 / 159: 6\}\) to line 13, when she suggested that it is Argenta's position that if coverage is otherwise established then coverage is, in her words, prevented by a public authority response.

That is not the position that Argenta has taken to its policyholders, nor the position that Argenta puts forward in this litigation.

Ms Mulcahy raised the question how Argenta's approach would apply to a regional shutdown; so if, for example, cases in central Leicester provoked the government to lock down the entire East Midlands. The answer is, if the policyholder's premises is in Leicester, then the policy responds, because the lockdown regulations have been made in consequence of occurrences within 25 miles. On the other hand, if the premises is more than 25 miles from Leicester, that will not be the case and the policy will not respond.

Now, of course there may be intermediate facts where the circle around the premises includes some, but not all, of the cases that triggered the regional lockdown. That could give rise to a factual question as to whether the occurrence within the circle were sufficiently significant to the decision to lockdown that they amount

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to an effective cause of the interruption that has been caused by the regulations.

A similar point arose in exchanges between my Lord and Mr Kealey on Day 4 at pages 85 to 86, \{Day4/85:1\} My Lords, I adopt his answer in relation to Argenta and Leicester. Putting it much less elegantly than Mr Kealey did, ultimately this is a question of fact and it falls to be answered by reference to the established legal concept of proximate cause.

The nub of the argument that is put forward specifically against Argenta to try to satisfy the requirement for proximate cause can be found in the FCA's skeleton argument at \(\{1 / 1 / 299\}\) at paragraphs 940 to 942 . In the first sentence of paragraph 940 my Lords see that the FCA relies on points that it makes against QBE, and in relation to those I adopt what Mr Howard has said in writing and orally against those points, in addition to everything in my own skeleton argument that goes to the same points.

Then your Lordship sees that the FCA quote from our skeleton, and they accept that we throw the causal issue into relief by making clear the way we say causation works in this case. And we do; we don't shy away from the proposition that actually this is really quite clear, it is not as complex as the arguments put forward
against us make it seem.
There is a global pandemic of COVID-19. The pandemic has had many consequences, mostly unpleasant and damaging ones. The consequences that are relevant to each particular individual Argenta policyholder under their policies are, I would venture to suggest, the following six.

First, in the case of many such policies the pandemic has caused there to be occurrence of the disease within 25 miles of the premises insured under that particular policy. I have shown your Lordships that that is common ground on the pleadings.

Now, your Lordships may think, looking at paragraph 941 of the FCA's skeleton, that they dispute that proposition in the skeleton argument. But nevertheless, as I have shown you by reference to the reply, paragraphs 52 and 58.1, it is actually common ground that causation runs in the direction we say it runs, and that the pandemic is the cause of the occurrences in particular premises.

What may be going on here, if I have correctly understood those paragraphs of the reply and paragraph 941, is a distinction being drawn by my learned friends on behalf of the FCA between (1) occurrences generally in any and all 25 -mile circles,
which they say are the facts that comprise the pandemic, and (2) occurrences in any particular 25 -mile circle which they accept are caused by the pandemic.

Now, what matters for present purposes is that from 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 others very recently.

Fifthly, it has caused foreign legislatures and governments to do the same things.

Sixthly, both directly through its impact on people and indirectly through the legislation and government guidances, the pandemic has caused persons all over the
world to alter their behaviour, and that includes in particular the customers and potential customers of each Argenta policyholder.

Now, in identifying those six effects of the pandemic, I have deliberately referred to overseas governments and persons as well as UK ones, even though the FCA avoids ever mentioning them. That is because the customers of Argenta's policyholders will include foreign tourists, and some of their lost business will have been caused by actions in response to COVID taken overseas.

Of those six consequences of the pandemic, the first is an insured peril under Argenta1; the others are not.

Under an orthodox application of the legal concept of causation, this is a straightforward situation to analyse. You have an event, the pandemic, which causes six identified conditions to eventuate. Five of them, conditions numbers 2 to 6 on my list, may well have caused loss to many Argenta policyholders, but those five conditions are not insured perils and nor is the originating event, and it follows that the loss is not insured.

Adding in the first condition, which is an insured peril but which does not cause loss, does not change the analysis on any orthodox version.

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It is different, of course, if the first condition does cause loss, which it might do, in the ways we have identified at paragraph 56 of our skeleton argument. We 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 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 insured peril might arise from a pandemic and might arise from national restrictions consequent upon a pandemic, and then, in a brazen non sequitur, they say it follows from that that the pandemic and all its other consequences also become part of the insured peril.

Putting their point in other words, they say that
the insured can trace a claim in the following way. Square 1 is the insured peril that you rely on. From there you climb a ladder up the causal chain from the insured peril to its remote cause, the pandemic. Then you slide down a snake, back down the causal chain by a different route, through the uninsured consequences of the uninsured pandemic, in order to reach the final destination of the loss. So that is how you get from your insured peril to the loss, by going up the causal chain and then down it a different route. That is a rather serpentine process which Mr Edelman invites this court to hold amounts to satisfaction of the requirement, which it is common ground policyholders must satisfy, to show that the loss was proximately caused by the insured peril in Argenta's simple clause.

Now, I have referred in that submission to causation operating as a chain, as have other counsel in this case, including Mr Edelman himself and also Ms Mulcahy in her submissions against Argenta, so I do not think that is a controversial approach. But just in case your Lordships might want authority for it, apart from the numerous authorities dealing with breaking the chain of causation, other authorities that refer to the chain of causation generally, that are in our bundles, include The Kos, at \(\{\mathrm{J} / 115 / 29\}\), at paragraph 75 , and ARC Capital

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\(v\) Brit at \(\{K / 162 / 8\}\).
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: There are quite a few authorities that say causation is not a chain but a web.
MR SALZEDO: Causation more generally may be a web, my Lord, but in terms of working out how one thing causes another as a matter of "but for" factual causation, in my submission a chain is the way to understand it if that is the way the causes are.

It can become more complicated, in the sense that you can have more than one link at any given level of the chain. You may need three or four identified events to cause the next one, or it may be that you have more than one individual event, each of which would suffice to cause the next one. In that sense you can say it is all more complicated so I am going to call it a web. But nevertheless, it is my submission that where you can identify that one or more things caused the next thing, it makes perfect sense, as do many of the authorities, to talk about it as a chain.

That is what we have here. There is no real dispute about the way in which different facts have caused the next fact. That is why \(I\) say in my submission it is appropriate. This is not a case where one doesn't call it a chain; it is. And what the FCA's submissions are trying to do is to create this very strange process
where you go up the chain and down it by a different route in order to reach the end. I am sure Mr Edelman would agree that, well, one could call it all a web because that almost matches his idea of saying it 's a jigsaw.

But as far as I am aware, you can't quite say a web will do, because it won't do for him. It has to be a jigsaw, where you get all of the other consequences of the top cause are suddenly brought into the insured peril, which is a sort of sister consequence, if you like, through what he calls a jigsaw.

My Lords, while there is a lot of authority for a chain approach to causation, where that is applicable as it normally will be, as far as I'm aware my Lords will not find any authority for the serpentine or jigsaw approach in these bundles, or indeed anywhere else.
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: The likelihood is that the proper characterisation of this question is going to depend on the terms of the policy, isn't it?
MR SALZEDO: Yes. Absolutely, my Lord, I entirely agree. I am endeavouring not to repeat more than I have to, but I absolutely adopt what Mr Howard has recently had to say on that subject. Yes, it does of course turn on the terms of the policy, and I have made my submission that the simple Argenta clause is simply a statement of

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proximate cause, which is a well understood concept, and indeed it is common ground that proximate cause is what is required.

There is nothing --
MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: What I meant was whether we are looking towards a chain or towards a web or whatever, is likely to be guided by the terms of the policy.
MR SALZEDO: My Lord, yes. And in those terms I think the submission I am making is that there is nothing special in the simple Argenta clause that could possibly direct one to an unusual approach to causation. It's the usual approach.

I wondered if I might try your Lordship's patience with -- sorry.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Your primary position is the one you set out at the beginning of your submissions, that if we look at the wording of your policy it is clearly using words of proximate cause, and it is saying the interruption has to have been proximately caused by any occurrence of a notifiable human disease within the policy area, within the 25 miles; and if it has not been, that is the end of the enquiry, whether it is a web of causation or a chain of causation. And you say the FCA's argument, in terms of policy construction, has to involve writing words into the policy.
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MR SALZEDO: Yes.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: And you are right about that, it is
a point that Mr Howard in a sense made earlier today, if
you are right about that then these fine arguments about
causation don't actually get anywhere, because they just
lose on construction.
MR SALZEDO: Yes, that is exactly right, my Lord. I think
as so often an advocate finds himself in the position
where if his first argument is accepted, then the rest
is a waste of time. And it is indeed my submission that
your Lordships could just take the first five minutes of
my submissions and discard the rest. But of course
I have to guard against the risk that I could prove
wrong on that. But your Lordship absolutely has
understood correctly what I have been trying to submit
so far.
I was going to just suggest another example, I know
there has been a lot of examples, just to illustrate
what I mean about the going up and down the chain and
why it is so inappropriate. It is a very short one.
Imagine domestic house insurance against property
damage caused by fire. The assured peril is fire
causing property damage. Let's say there is a massive
electrical storm, which causes lightning, which causes
a small fire in the garden of the property but no

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financial loss. The storm also floods the house, causing very serious damage and loss. On the FCA's approach, they would say: look at this fire insurance, the parties must have realised and contemplated that one possible source of a fire would be an electrical storm, it's a perfectly obvious possible source of a fire, and the parties must know that a storm might cause loss through flooding as well. The lightning and the rain are just component parts of the storm and it would follow that by insuring against fire, the insurer has equally given insurance against a storm and against the flood damage caused by the storm. In my submission, that is the logic of the FCA's approach to our policy and the other policies, and it is plainly wrong.

In some cases, of course, a proper and orthodox analysis of the facts might be that the remote cause is so potent that it is the only proximate cause of any loss, and in that sense you could have everything being causally indivisible ; but that orthodox approach would not assist the FCA in relation to Argenta1, because the 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,
is wrong for at least three reasons, which I will give very shortly.

First, it is obviously wrong as a matter of common sense, which is the way in which effective causation is ultimately assessed in English law. Despite some reservations having been expressed, that is nevertheless where we are. And on any common sense view, no one single occurrence of COVID is a substantial or effective cause of the national lockdown and all that followed from the national lockdown.

The second reason is that the FCA's position on this is self-contradictory. As I have already shown you in the reply at paragraphs 52 and 58.1, the FCA say that the pandemic is the cause of local occurrences and that no particular local occurrence is the cause of any government action.

Now, I must be missing something, because it does seem to me, and I submit, that that is directly contradicting Mr Edelman's alternative way of looking at causation as a set of millions of concurrent effective causes. Because there would have to be millions, 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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The third reason why it is wrong, my Lords, I adopt a submission that was made -- perhaps we can bring it up -- on \{Day2/25:4\} where at lines 4 to 13 Ms Mulcahy aptly pointed out that the legal concept of an effective or proximate cause sometimes encompasses two substantial causes of the same event, and perhaps, perhaps in cases that haven't yet come to trial, one can imagine it encompassing three or four. But as she points out, there is nothing in the authorities that gives any encouragement at all to the idea that you might have millions of effective proximate causes of the same event. It is just not the same concept. So we say that alternative way of putting it is just as wrong.

My Lords --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: At the moment I am having trouble finding --
MR SALZEDO: Sorry, my Lord, it is \{Day2/25:4\} to 13 . She says:
"What is interesting when one looks at authorities on proximate causes is that they only identify two concurrent proximate causes. It is clearly conceptually possible for there to be more than two, but the court should perhaps bear that in mind when considering the sheer number of concurrent causes that are being put forward by the insurers, are they really all being said2

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to be concurrent proximate causes of equal or nearly equal efficiency ."

My Lord, I submit, because obviously my clause is simple enough, I don't have to worry about what other insurers may be submitting, I submit that Ms Mulcahy may or may not be right in terms of four or five causes, perhaps not, but she certainly is right in terms of millions. That is a completely different idea.

My Lords, that is what I wanted to say about proximate cause. I then have three shorter headings, the first of which is exclusions.

Just to bring back the Argenta wording at \(\{B / 3 / 59\}\), there are three exclusions on the right-hand side. We understand that the FCA accepts that all three apply in principle; we gave the references for that in our skeleton at paragraph 18 , footnote 33 , which is \(\{1 / 11 / 10\}\), no need to go to that. But as we say at paragraph 63 of our skeleton, which is \(\{1 / 11 / 28\}\)-- I'm sorry, I have skipped a couple of lines in my notes, my Lords.

We understand the FCA accepts they all apply. The FCA accepts that the third exclusion means that a policyholder cannot claim for a loss of business at premises \(A\) as a result of an occurrence of infectious
\end{abstract} disease at premises B. They say that in the reply at

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paragraph 54. But as we say at paragraph 63 of our skeleton, at \(\{1 / 11 / 28\}\), this is in substance the very type of claim that their main argument seeks to justify . So we say the exclusion does confirm, and Ms Mulcahy made some play with that word, but we say it does confirm that our main argument is right and that this clause does not cover that kind of thing.
My Lords, the next heading in my notes is "but for" and the Orient-Express. Now, I have shown you that at \(\{B / 3 / 56\}\) Argenta has a trend clause which is in similar form to other insurers. As we set out in our skeleton at paragraph 70, and as my learned friend Mr Turner has already shown you in his submissions, in the FCA's skeleton, at \(\{1 / 1 / 300\}\) paragraph 947 , it is common ground in Argenta's case -- you may recall Mr Turner pointing this out because he couldn' \(t\) understand why it wasn't common ground in his -- that the defined term "Damage" in Argenta's trend clause, and in the "Basis of Settlement" definition, is to be read as referring to the relevant peril in that small number of instances where the peril is not damage with a capital D., which of course includes the instances we are dealing with.
So my Lord, I wanted to just make it clear that that is common ground for us, so you know how to read our trends clause.

Now, my Lords, apart from making that point, I had not planned to add to the submissions that others have made about counterfactuals and the operation of the trends clause. I have been slightly tempted by Mr Justice Butcher's interesting thought experiments concerning trains and pirates, despite my natural humility as the Tail End Charlie. But that said, I am conscious that I think my Lord did say that possibly these examples are not really critical to the case, so unless your Lordships encourage me I am going to move on rather than delving into them. But I did have one or two thoughts about them.

Can I give one thought, without encouragement, which is simply that it may be relevant, in looking at those thought experiments, to analyse what is the damage and what is the loss, as well as what is the insured peril. That may make a difference to exactly how one analyses them, in that the damage in a business interruption policy may be quite different, for example, to the damage in a property-type insurance.

My Lords, I take your Lordships' silence as an invitation to move on, which I do.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The answer to the ship, to the example of the pirates, may very well be the one that Mr Howard gave, which is because the insured peril is loss or

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damage to the ship as a consequence of whatever it happens to be, pirates in this instance, the owner has suffered the relevant insured loss at the moment when the pirates board the ship. That might be the answer. MR SALZEDO: It might be, my Lord. Whether there is a loss when they board or at some later date, and also whether in that instance one would start arguing about whether The Golden Victory and the Bwllfa approach apply or not, are all issues that I am sure your Lordships are probably not going to want to try to decide in this case.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We are not in that territory.
MR SALZEDO: No. Exactly so.
The final --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You will appreciate that my Lord and I have discussed these various issues together, but it seems to me that one answer to the train example is that we are not in the territory where there is, as it were, another cause up the line that is the true cause of the loss. Because these are all things that are going on at, as it were, at the same time.

Your primary point is if you were asking the question, what is the proximate cause of the loss that is suffered, other than in your exceptional cases, the short answer is it 's the pandemic and the government
restrictions that have been imposed. It is not the local occurrence.
MR SALZEDO: Yes. Exactly so. My Lord is exactly right, and that's right. So these issues are very much down the line, to maintain the train analogy, so far as I am concerned. I do have an interest in them because, as I say, we accept that there may be some claims that respond, in which case we would look to apply the trends clause. So we have an interest in "but for" causation in that context.

It may be that one of the points on the train example is that "but for" causation comes in at two different stages. One is what is the cause, is it the insured peril; and the other is what is the loss under the trends clause. And the loss and the cause are not necessarily answered by exactly the same analysis. But it may be that that is enough on trains and ships.

My Lords, the other point that I need to cover, takes us right back to the beginning of the trial. It is the declarations. Your Lordships may or may not still remember, on \(\{\) Day \(1 / 3: 24\}\) through to page 4 , line 7, if that could be brought up, in case anybody has already forgotten what happened two weeks ago. About five minutes into this trial Mr Edelman picked on Argenta for a special attack for seeking a declaration

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in relation to the question whether claims could be brought for losses prior to the date when COVID became notifiable. And he did so in quite strong terms which were calculated to, and did, attract adverse public attention. As you can see from the way he put the point at lines 5 to 7 on page 4 , \{Day \(1 / 4: 5\}\) the objection is not to insurers seeking declarations in general. And that is also clear, we don't need to go to them, from paragraph 11 of the FCA's skeleton and paragraph 68 of their reply at \(\{A / 14 / 35\}\). The one objection that is made is to the second sentence of the declaration, that we reformulated in our skeleton argument; that is \(\{1 / 11 / 35\}\), paragraph 82(a).

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 this second sentence at 82.1, in our skeleton on pages 16 to 17 of \(\{I / 11 / 16\}\), paragraphs 36 to 37 . As your Lordships will see when paragraph 36 pops up on your screen, it seemed to us that, at least for a simple disease clause like ours, it was inconsistent for the

FCA on the one hand to concede what they called
a trigger for cover and that it included notifiability , whilst on the other arguing that pre- notifiability losses could be claimed. We don't need to go to these, but the dates of notifiability were expressly pleaded in the particulars of claim at paragraph 37 and they were admitted in Argenta's defence at paragraph 54.

So it follows that if it is useful to refer to triggers at all, which as I understand them are components of the insured peril, then in relation to COVID-19, which is all that this case concerns, the trigger of notifiability was satisfied on certain agreed dates. That cannot sensibly be disputed, neither here nor in what Mr Edelman has called other fora.

There is also no doubt that the question when the trigger applies is within the scope of these proceedings. I have just referred to the fact that the dates were pleaded; but the fact that that question is within the scope of the proceedings was stated in the questions for determination, which was annexed to the FCA's particulars of claim at \(\{\mathrm{A} / 5 / 1\}\) and published on the FCA's website. As your Lordships see, when that comes up, there is a preamble, and the penultimate line of the preamble, the last sentence says:
"The purpose of this document is to identify the

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scope of the litigation ..."
If we then go on to page \(\{A / 5 / 3\}\) at box 7 , the first paragraph, last line -- l'm waiting for it to come up. First box 7, first paragraph, last line, we can see that the scope of the litigation includes:
"When does the trigger apply?"
Now, as I say, it is clear on the pleadings when the trigger was satisfied. Mr Edelman pursued, both in his skeleton and then again orally, an argument that pre- notifiability losses could be recovered, on the basis of his jigsaw argument when you apply it to the counterfactual. There is no need to go there now, but I am referring to his skeleton at paragraph 313 and to the oral argument on \{Day2/121:1\} through to page 126.

With all respect to Mr Edelman, the argument is plainly wrong for all the reasons that other insurers ' counsel have developed in relation to the counterfactuals. But your Lordships have heard it and, as far as I understand it, the FCA is inviting your Lordships to determine it .

What, then, is the issue when the FCA wishes to reserve for other fora and which we are to be criticised for trying to shut down? If your Lordships uphold the FCA's arguments on proximate cause, then you will not being any of the declarations that we seek, so no issue
can arise. On the other hand, if your Lordships prefer Argenta's arguments on the main point, then most COVID-19 business interruption claims under Argenta1 will fail because the losses were not proximately caused by an insured peril. That will be nothing to do with the date of notifiability, and the position of those policyholders would not be altered one iota by arguing for an earlier date of notifiability . It would make no difference.

However, as I've shown you by reference to paragraph 56 of our skeleton, we accept that they may still be valid claims, even assuming our analysis is completely correct. In relation to those claims, loss can only be claimed from the date of notifiability, for the reasons given in our skeleton at paragraphs 36 and 37 , including our reference to the authority of the Court of Final Appeal in New Harbourview. That is the point that Mr Edelman has argued against, both in writing and orally.

So, my Lords, Argenta does not invite your Lordships to, using his phrase, shut out anybody from any arguable points that are not properly part of this test case. But the question whether there can be any claim under Argenta1 for losses that arose before COVID became notifiable is within the scope of this test case, and it

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has been argued by Mr Edelman in his skeleton and orally ; and on what basis, we ask rhetorically, should Argenta be shut out from arguing to the contrary? We don't know that any has been suggested.

If there is some other point that Mr Edelman is concerned about, then I have certainly no intention of trying to shut it out, there is no sneaky trick here, but I quite genuinely do not understand what it is. We therefore do ask your Lordships to make findings which correspond to the declarations that we have referred to in our skeleton argument, on that as on the other points that they concern.

My Lords, unless I am able to assist your Lordships any further, those are my submissions on behalf of Argenta.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I don't have anything. I don't know if my Lord has anything.
MR SALZEDO: If your Lordships allow me the five minutes, then I think the result of that is that insurers have not taken their extra half an hour that Mr Edelman was complaining about yesterday.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No. Right.
MR EDELMAN: I don't know if it is helpful, if I could just for one minute deal with that last point from Mr Salzedo.
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LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Hang on a moment. What are you
proposing that we should do now.
MR EDELMAN: My Lords, I am in your hands. I am ready to
start now, but if you would prefer to start tomorrow
morning I am ready to do that as well. I just thought
it might be convenient, regardless of which that was,
for me to say one or two sentences to deal with that
last point.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Why don't you start by dealing with
that point and we will see how we go.
(4.07 pm)

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\section*{Reply submissions by MR EDELMAN}
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MR EDELMAN: I think Mr Salzedo has misunderstood what was only the emerging peril point, which is not asserting a right to pre- notification losses, it is simply saying that when you have post- notification losses which the FCA proceeds on the basis of as being recoverable, that in the adjustment process you don't take into account the downturn in turnover caused prior to notifiability , at a stage when the disease was not notifiable but was nonetheless emerging. But it is not claiming pre- notification losses.
If other insured policyholders want to challenge the New World Harbourview decision on that point, that is their prerogative. The FCA doesn't seek to do so in

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

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MR EDELMAN: My Lord, one cannot overlook the nature of this
case as a test case of issues that the FCA has chosen to
argue on behalf of policyholders. And for the court to
start ruling on issues where the policyholders have not
had a chance to argue it, however good or bad my Lord
may now think the argument to be, it was certainly
argued vigorously in the New World Harbourview case,
albeit unsuccessfully, at both first instance and on
appeal.
My Lord, I am not going to argue the point because
it's not an issue that we have taken. But it would be
inappropriate, in my submission, for the court to give
declarations on something which has avowedly not been
argued by the FCA, and which is at least something that
policyholders might want to argue, whatever my Lord
might think of it.
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
the list of issues and answer the issues we have been
1 8 1
asked to answer, and not issues we haven't been asked to
answer. So to that extent you are right.
I think it would be sensible if we broke for now.
It has been quite a long day. So unless you
particularly want to go on for another 20 minutes,
I would have thought the best thing is for you to
start -- the interveners are coming on at the end, are
they?
MR EDELMAN: They are, my Lord. They have asked for some
extra time if we get some extra time, but I am in
my Lord's hands as to whether we start at 10.00 am or
10.30 tomorrow. It is entirely a matter for my Lord.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Subject to what Mr Justice Butcher
thinks, I think we should start at }10.00\textrm{am}.\mathrm{ Yes, he is
nodding, so I think we will start at 10.00 am. As
I said, I don't think I can sit beyond 4.30 tomorrow. I
mean, I suppose in extremis I could probably sit
slightly later, but I am not encouraging anybody to go
on longer than the time they have been allotted.
MR EDELMAN: My Lord I hope we will keep to the timing as we
kept to in opening.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I hope you didn't think I was being
intemperate yesterday.
MR EDELMAN: My Lord, yesterday --
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We were all rather hot and tired.

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MR EDELMAN: On Day 3 we finished bang on 4.00 pm to allow the interveners their half an hour that day and the half an hour the next, so I hope we will keep to that timing again.
LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Okay. We will break now until 10.00 am tomorrow morning, Mr Edelman. Thank you very much. (4.13 pm)
(The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on
Thursday, 30 July 2020)
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[^0]:    MR ORR: Quite so, my Lord. Quite so.
    My Lords, I will take --
    LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Only to the extent that if it isn't there, then you don't have cover. I mean, in that sense it is a "but for" element, if you like, of the insured peril, and if all you have got is action of the local authority closing down the streets without a danger, then there is no cover. That was a point that Mr Kealey made yesterday.
    MR ORR: Exactly so, my Lord.
    In a sense this point only arises because we are dealing with, as we have put it, the FCA trying to hammer a square peg into a round hole, because they are struggling to find a basis for saying that there is a causal connection between government measures taken on a national basis and any danger or disturbance that might be said to have occurred or been present in an insured's vicinity.

    My Lords, in the light of your Lordships' comments I will take our other points on the strength of the causal connection very shortly, but one could draw on other analogies; for example, the causal test that applies in ordinary breach of contract cases, which is whether or not the breach of contract was a sufficiently substantial cause of the loss. That is obviously
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    authority closing down the streets without a danger,
    then there is no cover. That was a point that Mr Kealey
    made yesterday.
    MR ORR: Exactly so, my Lord.
    In a sense this point only arises because we are
    dealing with, as we have put it, the FCA trying to
    hammer a square peg into a round hole, because they are
    struggling to find a basis for saying that there is
    a causal connection between government measures taken on
    a national basis and any danger or disturbance that
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    insured's vicinity.
    My Lords, in the light of your Lordships' comments
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    other analogies; for example, the causal test that
    applies in ordinary breach of contract cases, which is
    whether or not the breach of contract was a sufficiently
    substantial cause of the loss. That is obviously

