

# OPUS2

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

Day 4

July 23, 2020

Opus 2 - Official Court Reporters

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1 Thursday, 23 July 2020  
 2 (9.59 am)  
 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Good morning.  
 4 Are we hearing from Mr Lynch now?  
 5 MR LYNCH: My Lord yes.  
 6 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Good morning, Mr Lynch.  
 7 Submissions by MR LYNCH  
 8 MR LYNCH: Good morning. My Lord, I'm grateful to your  
 9 Lordships for sitting early again.  
 10 I will be addressing the public authority clause in  
 11 the Hiscox policies ; please see Hiscox 1, at {B/6/42} at  
 12 clause 13. If that can be pulled up, please .  
 13 In my 30 minutes I would like to develop three  
 14 points: first , how to go about construing the public  
 15 authority clause ; second, the argument that the word  
 16 "occurrence" must mean localized to the insured  
 17 premises; and third , a hypothetical worked example.  
 18 Turning to my first point , with respect your  
 19 Lordships will know this all very well , however, the  
 20 tidal wave of objection and being told that the proper  
 21 construction is extremely narrow is on its way and the  
 22 following may be of assistance .  
 23 Looking at {B/6/41}, and the stem, so if we could  
 24 see that document, there is the stem wording. We have  
 25 just seen clause 13 on {B/6/42}. Properly construed,

1

1 the words used are flexible and capable of multiple  
 2 meanings. Whether they capture a given set of facts is  
 3 an acutely fact- sensitive exercise and an exercise of  
 4 judgment, not one of reformulation of the clause or  
 5 replacing the words with synonymous or single dictionary  
 6 definition for each. They are words that can carry both  
 7 narrower and broader applications , and that is their  
 8 proper construction . For example, in clause 13 the  
 9 words " restrictions imposed by a public authority " could  
 10 mean direct closure orders having the force of law; but  
 11 something less strict and specific , such as " directions  
 12 of those of a public authority , including the statements  
 13 of the Prime Minister on 16 and 23 March commencing  
 14 lockdown and closing shops".  
 15 A good example of Hiscox's contrary approach appears  
 16 in paragraph 204 of its skeleton ; please see {1/13/66}.  
 17 Your Lordship will see the first four lines of  
 18 paragraph 204:  
 19 "Secondly, on the FCA's approach the definition of  
 20 'imposed' and ' restrictions ' is so elastic that it would  
 21 be impossible to know what was within the clause and  
 22 what was not. The confinement of the clause to  
 23 mandatory restrictions avoids this uncertainty and is  
 24 clearly what the clause was objectively intended to  
 25 apply to."

2

1 That approach is wrong, for reasons I will come on  
 2 to consider .  
 3 As another example, if we please see {B/6/41} and  
 4 the stem wording, "What is covered". Hiscox argues that  
 5 the word " interruption " means something very narrow and  
 6 restrictive , such as a complete stop and a later  
 7 restart . However, that is very unlikely in light of  
 8 points your Lordships already have. For example, your  
 9 Lordships already have the points clause 5 and clause 9.  
 10 By way of brief recap, your Lordships will remember that  
 11 under clause 5 there is the " shortfall " point and under  
 12 clause 9 there is the " unless the business only had one  
 13 supplier point ", but even then note the word "any".  
 14 There is also on {B/6/40} cover for increased cost  
 15 of working or additional increased costs of working, as  
 16 per the introduction .  
 17 More likely , therefore , the word " interruption " is  
 18 capable of covering something wider than just a complete  
 19 stop and restart . So whilst interruption is capable of  
 20 a very narrow construction , it is also capable of  
 21 a wider meaning.  
 22 Your Lordships of course already have the points ,  
 23 but the words used in the policy are capable of a range  
 24 of meanings covering both broad and narrow application ,  
 25 and that is the proper construction . The key point is

3

1 not to think , as Hiscox would submit: well , these words  
 2 are broad and flexible and so it is necessary to give  
 3 them one narrow construction or else they don't make  
 4 sense or are too uncertain . Instead, the key is to  
 5 accept the proper construction of the words is that they  
 6 are words capable of covering a variety of  
 7 circumstances, and that of course fits with their  
 8 obvious objective commercial purpose of covering a very  
 9 wide range of circumstances. (Pause)  
 10 Sorry. Thank you. So clauses 1 to 16 make it  
 11 clear , and even within the subclauses of clause 13  
 12 itself , the objective commercial purpose is covering not  
 13 only --  
 14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We're on the wrong page, Mr Lynch. We  
 15 are on page 40 for some reason, don't ask me why.  
 16 MR LYNCH: Sorry. Page {B/6/41}. Your Lordships will see  
 17 the wide range of circumstances there. Then  
 18 page {B/6/42}, your Lordships will see another wide  
 19 range of circumstances, including clause 13 itself .  
 20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We've already drawn attention to the  
 21 specified customer, specified supplier provisions , which  
 22 unless the relevant insured only had one supplier and  
 23 one customer, the interruption is unlikely to be  
 24 a complete one.  
 25 MR LYNCH: Exactly. Your Lordship has absolutely already

4

1 got the point. I really only used that point to draw  
2 out the generalised approach that I would submit is the  
3 correct approach, which is to say that it is possible  
4 for the word "interruption" to have a very narrow  
5 meaning, but here it doesn't; here it is a word that is  
6 capable of covering a range, and it will depend on the  
7 facts, whatever falls within that meaning. But that  
8 doesn't mean it has got multiple meanings; it means it  
9 has one meaning, which is that "interruption" is to be  
10 given its natural meaning.

11 So if I could draw an analogy, and it is only an  
12 analogy, but if I could ask, please, to go to {M/1/1}.  
13 Here we see the AIG case in the Supreme Court, which  
14 your Lordships will no doubt be familiar with this  
15 authority. If we could go to paragraph 22 on {M/1/8},  
16 please. This is the Supreme Court's decision on the  
17 solicitors' minimum terms, and conditions, in particular  
18 the aggregation clause wording; and the relevant  
19 wording, which no doubt your Lordships will be familiar  
20 with, is the "similar acts or omissions in a series of  
21 related matters or transactions" point.

22 The fundamental question was: well, what does  
23 "related" mean? We see at paragraph 22 at the top, just  
24 reading down, if I ask your Lordships just to read from  
25 A down to C. (Pause)

5

1 Your Lordships will see it is an analogy, but it is  
2 the same point.

3 In the AIG case, the SRA said: look, the word  
4 "related" is far too broad, it has to be given a very  
5 narrow meaning, it must mean something intrinsic,  
6 a relationship only between the matters or transactions,  
7 and not with some third matter, because otherwise it is  
8 too broad.

9 The Supreme Court held, following my Lord  
10 Lord Justice Rix in *Scott v Copenhagen Re*, that it is  
11 not the right approach. The right approach is to look  
12 at the word "related" and say, well, given its natural  
13 meaning it is capable of multiple applications because  
14 that is its natural meaning, that's its right meaning.  
15 And it is not a question of reformulating the clause, it  
16 is an exercise of judgment, not a reformulation of the  
17 clause to be construed and applied.

18 Obviously that is an analogy only, but it is  
19 applicable here.

20 If I could then go, please, to {M/2/7} just to make  
21 it good. Obviously this isn't a point that applies only  
22 to aggregation clauses, it is a point that applies  
23 across the board, and your Lordships will see there, if  
24 your Lordships could please read the Tophams extract.  
25 (Pause)

6

1 Then down towards the bottom you will see a passage  
2 taken from the judgment of Mr Justice Slade in the *Earl*  
3 *of Lonsdale*:

4 "Of many, perhaps the majority, of the words used  
5 by English speaking people there can be little doubt as  
6 to the ordinary meaning, or 'literal' or 'primary'  
7 meaning, as it is often called. To take an example at  
8 random, the court would not, I conceive find much  
9 difficulty in attaching a literal or primary meaning to  
10 the word 'elephant', if it found it in a written  
11 instrument. In contrast, however, some English words  
12 and phrases fall into a second, quite different  
13 category. They are words and phrases which are readily  
14 capable of bearing two or more alternative meanings and  
15 to which the court is not willing to ascribe a *prima*  
16 *facie* meaning, so as to impose upon any party the onus  
17 of displacing it. In any such case the court finds  
18 itself obliged to construe the word in its particular  
19 context, having regard to the admissible evidence,  
20 without any predisposition to give it one meaning in  
21 preference to another."

22 This is not actually hugely different from the point  
23 that Hiscox itself makes in its own skeleton at  
24 paragraph 264 at {1/13/88}. We see there the reference  
25 to my Lord Lord Justice Bridge in the *Shell* case saying:

7

1 "... it is no novelty in the common law to find that  
2 a criterion on which some important question of  
3 liability is to depend can only be defined in imprecise  
4 terms which leave a difficult question for decision as  
5 to how the criterion applied to the facts of a  
6 particular case. A clear and distinct line of  
7 demarcation may be impossible to draw in abstract terms,  
8 yet the court does not shrink from the task deciding on  
9 the facts any case before it, on which side of the line  
10 the case falls."

11 Here, if we go back to {B/6/42} please, we have  
12 subclauses (a) to (e) covering a wide variety of factual  
13 circumstances which are not capable of prediction or  
14 foresight without absolutely precision. The subclauses  
15 are deliberately broad and nonspecific, with the linking  
16 word between the events and the subclauses and  
17 restrictions imposed with the very general word  
18 "following".

19 Now, that does leave the application of the clause  
20 to an exercise of judgment on the particular facts, and  
21 it is therefore inappropriate to read words into the  
22 clause in an attempt to create greater certainty in its  
23 scope. Hiscox falls into error in doing so. Whilst the  
24 clause is certainly capable of applying the way Hiscox  
25 argues, that is only one application of the clause.

8

1 However, it is not the only set of circumstances which  
 2 fall within the ambit of the clause, because its proper  
 3 construction recognises the breadth of the wording used.  
 4 Hiscox is well capable of using narrower language.  
 5 If we see {B/6/41}, please, and the non-denial of access  
 6 clause at clause 3, there they specify, at the end of  
 7 that clause, "for more than 24 consecutive hours". Now,  
 8 that is a very specific wording used and it is well able  
 9 to do that, but it also is well able to use more  
 10 flexible language.  
 11 Now, what we would obviously seek from the court is  
 12 guidance in terms of the proper construction being the  
 13 broader construction, and whilst the court cannot of  
 14 course apply the clause to all the facts of the various  
 15 cases, there are some agreed facts where that can be  
 16 done, for example the 16 and 23 March statements made by  
 17 the Prime Minister. Otherwise, the parties will be able  
 18 to apply the properly construed clause to the facts  
 19 themselves.  
 20 That was my first point about how to go about the  
 21 proper construction of the clause, which again obviously  
 22 your Lordships will be very familiar with, but your  
 23 Lordships will now have Hiscox saying that in fact the  
 24 right approach is a very narrow construction, and  
 25 hopefully those introductory points would help.

9

1 On to my second point, which is the occurrence or  
 2 localisation. So the second point I would like to  
 3 address is the argument the word "occurrence" must mean  
 4 localised insured premises. Mr Edelman has already  
 5 addressed you on this point and so I will only deal  
 6 briefly with a couple of additional points.  
 7 If we go to {A/10/16} please, that should be  
 8 paragraph 14.3 of the Hiscox defence. I am afraid  
 9 I must have an incorrect reference, but I can just tell  
 10 you what the defence says. It's paragraph 14.3 -- thank  
 11 you. Sorry, it is {A/10/6}:  
 12 "An occurrence must be local and specific to the  
 13 insured, its business or business activities or the  
 14 premises."  
 15 Now, we deal with this point in paragraphs 132 to  
 16 143 of our skeleton, and I won't repeat those points,  
 17 but what that means is reading in the words "local and  
 18 specific to the insured, its business or business  
 19 premises" at the end of the public authority clause.  
 20 Now, the first and most obvious point to make is the  
 21 clause simply doesn't say that, and it is a point of  
 22 such obviousness that it could be missed; but the task  
 23 at hand is obviously to construe the words which are  
 24 there, which words say what they say. That is  
 25 particularly the case in a policy of this kind where, if

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1 we please look at {B/6/15}, we see the introduction to  
 2 the Hiscox wordings say:  
 3 "Thank you for choosing Hiscox to protect your  
 4 business. We hope the language and layout of this  
 5 policy wording are clear because we want you to  
 6 understand the insurance we provide, as well as the  
 7 responsibilities we have to each other."  
 8 If we return, please, to {B/6/42} and 13(b),  
 9 obviously it doesn't include the words that Hiscox says  
 10 it should include, but nor does it have to mean what  
 11 Hiscox says it means for any other reason. For example  
 12 if the clause didn't work, there was some problem with  
 13 it or it didn't make sense, but there is a perfectly  
 14 reasonable and legitimate construction, indeed obviously  
 15 the right construction, which is to read the words as  
 16 they appear in the clause; Hiscox say in response: well,  
 17 the occurrence of disease could be in Manchester and the  
 18 insured premises are in Truro. Well, there is  
 19 Mr Edelman's very good answer to that, which is that the  
 20 occurrence is not the entire insured peril. The  
 21 occurrence has to lead to restrictions imposed by  
 22 a public authority, which have to lead to the inability  
 23 to use the insured premises. That is a sufficient  
 24 restriction on the clause. In the most common case, an  
 25 occurrence of disease in Manchester may well not affect

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1 an insured premises in Truro, but that will simply  
 2 depend on the facts. Trying to reword the clause to  
 3 deal with this kind of factual example is plainly wrong.  
 4 Hiscox make a lot of the noscitur principle, but  
 5 Mr Edelman has, with respect, dismantled that point.  
 6 For your reference, without going to them now. We have  
 7 included various authorities on the point in bundle M,  
 8 at M2 to M8. I don't need to go to those authorities  
 9 because the problem isn't with the authorities, the  
 10 problem is with the substance of the point.  
 11 The difficulty is for Hiscox that there are various  
 12 of the other underlying events within this wording that  
 13 are not localised to the premises. So we see, for  
 14 example, on page {B/6/41} at clause 7, that's insured  
 15 damage arising at the premises of a specified customer.  
 16 Now, where Hiscox did want to include a geographical  
 17 restriction, they did. So if we see on this same page,  
 18 if we see at clause 3 there is a 1 mile restriction, and  
 19 we see at clause 2 there is a vicinity restriction.  
 20 Now, if we go back again to the next page, please so  
 21 page {B/6/42}, within the clause itself, within 13  
 22 itself there are also restrictions, so we see at (c) and  
 23 (e) the restriction to insured premises.  
 24 Now, if we can then compare, please, {B/9/36}. We  
 25 see there the public authority clause is at clause 7,

12

1 and your Lordships will see at 7(b):  
 2 "An occurrence of notifiable human disease within  
 3 1 mile of the business premises."  
 4 Now, obviously bearing in mind concerns about  
 5 reading across between the policies, and bearing those  
 6 points in mind, there is an oddity which arises, which  
 7 Hiscox does not appear to address, perhaps because there  
 8 is no good answer.  
 9 The oddity is this: if Hiscox is right that the true  
 10 meaning of 13(b) in Hiscox 1 is that the occurrence  
 11 following which the restriction has been imposed must be  
 12 one that is local and specific to the insured or the  
 13 insured premises, then this would apparently be narrower  
 14 than Hiscox 4's wording that expressly includes the  
 15 1 mile restriction. So applying Hiscox's construction,  
 16 what is obviously a restriction on the wording,  
 17 ie within 1 mile, in fact buys the insured a 1 mile  
 18 radius, which is a large area.  
 19 So if we then look at {1/1/68}, please. There we  
 20 see the helpful maps, the top one being the relevant  
 21 one. There we see what 1 mile buys a company in terms  
 22 of radius; the insured with the restriction on their  
 23 wording gets all of that area. That is given to them by  
 24 a restriction. Whereas an insured with no restriction  
 25 on their wording gets cover localised to their insured

1 premises. That simply can't be right. And that map  
 2 visibly demonstrates how unrealistic and unworkable  
 3 Hiscox's construction is. For example, it is very  
 4 difficult for a restaurant outside the RCJ to say that  
 5 an occurrence is local and specific to their premises if  
 6 the occurrence took place, for example, on the south  
 7 side of Westminster Bridge, but that is the effect of  
 8 Hiscox's construction.  
 9 If I just go on now to my third point, please, which  
 10 is the worked example. Now, the purpose of this worked  
 11 example is to determine what is and what is not covered  
 12 under clause 13 in the normal course, based on Hiscox's  
 13 and the Hiscox interveners' competing instructions.  
 14 To be clear, what I mean by the normal course is not  
 15 the circumstances arising from COVID-19. Instead,  
 16 I simply want to explore how the clause works in normal  
 17 circumstances, because it must, obviously, operate in  
 18 principle the same way in all cases. There is no point  
 19 testing the clause with examples of extremes. A much  
 20 better test is: in really standard circumstances will  
 21 there be any meaningful cover under the clause if Hiscox  
 22 is right?  
 23 Now, one indication of the answer to that is  
 24 Hiscox's construction. They feel confident enough to  
 25 say in their skeleton -- no need to turn these up, but

1 just for the transcript and your note -- see  
 2 paragraphs 323 and 440, at {1/13/104} and {1/13/134},  
 3 they say the wording never responds. Now, as we will  
 4 come on briefly to consider, that seems to apply across  
 5 a lot of, if not all of the public authority clause in  
 6 its entirety, in the vast majority of cases, not just  
 7 the facts of this case.  
 8 So turning to the worked example, if we could please  
 9 have {B/6/42} again, we see at (d):  
 10 "Defects in the drains or other sanitary  
 11 arrangements."  
 12 This example applies mutatis mutandis across all of  
 13 (a) to (e), and I am going to use a real life insured,  
 14 but before anyone disagrees with that approach this is  
 15 a hypothetical example, just using the names of the real  
 16 life insured and that is Mr Duckett, the owner of Lazy  
 17 Claire Patisserie in Belfast. His facts are at  
 18 {1/3/19}, which is paragraph 50 of our skeleton  
 19 argument, and it is helpful just to have those up.  
 20 It is a patisserie, it seats 14 customers within the  
 21 shop, it was doing really well before all of this  
 22 happened.  
 23 Now, let's imagine he comes into work on Monday  
 24 morning, day 1, and he finds there is a serious defect  
 25 with the drains, there is sewage flooding all over the

1 floor. He is faced with an immediate dilemma. He is  
 2 well versed, as it happens, with insurance law and he is  
 3 well advised and he now thinks to himself: hang on  
 4 a second, do I shut, faced with the sewage, knowing  
 5 I will face the insurers' counterfactual argument, or  
 6 should I stay open for fear of that argument, should I  
 7 run to the council and ask them to shut me down  
 8 immediately before anything else gets in the way? What  
 9 does he do?  
 10 Obviously these kinds of rhetorical questions might  
 11 otherwise be amusing were it not all so incredibly  
 12 serious for the insureds who desperately need the  
 13 insurance money. But in reality, returning to the real  
 14 world or the hypothetical, he would obviously have to  
 15 shut, and he wouldn't open, he would call a plumber. He  
 16 would have to do both: for obvious reasons he can't open  
 17 his patisserie when it is covered in sewage; but also,  
 18 he has to under the terms of the policy.  
 19 So if we see {B/6/18} at the bottom, please, there  
 20 is the reasonable precautions clause, and:  
 21 "You must take reasonable steps to prevent accident  
 22 or injury and to protect your property against loss or  
 23 damage. You must keep any property insured under this  
 24 policy in good condition and repair. We will not make  
 25 any payment under this policy in respect of any incident

1 occurring whilst you are not in compliance with this  
 2 condition unless you can demonstrate that such  
 3 non-compliance ..." et cetera .  
 4 We then go on to {B/6/19} at the bottom, and we see  
 5 2(a) "Your obligations " :  
 6 "You must:  
 7 "(a) Make every reasonable effort to minimise any  
 8 loss , damage or liability and take appropriate emergency  
 9 measures ..." et cetera .  
 10 If the plumber said, "look, I'm sorry, this issue is  
 11 serious , perhaps it relates to sewage backing up from  
 12 the public pipes underground", they would have to call  
 13 the council . In the meantime, Mr Duckett would of  
 14 course keep the patisserie closed and no customers could  
 15 attend, ie interruption to the business , but no  
 16 restrictions yet . So it says closed from day 1 to  
 17 day 3. The council is busy, they arrive on day 3 and  
 18 they attend . Obviously there has been a loss from day 1  
 19 to day 3, but there is no claim under the policy because  
 20 there is no authority public restriction yet . So the  
 21 cover is not triggered . However, on day 3 the council  
 22 arrive and inspect and say that they have to close it ,  
 23 and they have to close it until they are satisfied the  
 24 necessary repairs have been done . All the while, the  
 25 patisserie is shut . A week passes and we get to day 10

17

1 and by that time the repairs have been done, that have  
 2 been necessary under the closure order , and on day 10 it  
 3 can open . All that time it has been closed for two  
 4 reasons: first , the serious defects in the drains , and  
 5 then later , that cause is a background cause, but the  
 6 proximate cause, being the closure by the council . If  
 7 the council had not closed the patisserie it would have  
 8 been closed anyway because of the defective drains .  
 9 What if on day 10 the patisserie reopens but can  
 10 only use half the space because restrictions remain in  
 11 place because the temporary drainage had to be put in  
 12 place and the council has fenced off half the  
 13 patisserie ? There we have continued restrictions but  
 14 half open . But again, the entire , all the ingredients  
 15 are there to make a recovery .  
 16 It may be that Hiscox would say there is no  
 17 interruption because the business was already closed ,  
 18 and Mr Gaisman can tell us the answer when he gives his  
 19 submissions . But if not, if Hiscox is right on its "but  
 20 for" approach to causation and the correct  
 21 counterfactual is to ask: if the council had not closed  
 22 the patisserie there would still have been the defects  
 23 in the drain so it would still have closed , the clause  
 24 would simply not respond .  
 25 To argue to the contrary isn't to say that

18

1 Mr Duckett should be provided with cover for defective  
 2 drains alone . As I have said, he doesn't recover  
 3 anything from days 1 to 3 . Mr Duckett then does not  
 4 recover , after day 10 on the first variable ; he only  
 5 recovers during the period when all the ingredients of  
 6 the public authority clause operate .

7 Addressing, albeit very briefly , your Lordships'  
 8 point , raised with Mr Edelman, as to the impact of days  
 9 1 and 2; so there is a closure on days 1 and 2, we  
 10 respectfully adopt Mr Edelman's approach as a matter of  
 11 general principle . More directly , Mr Edelman's  
 12 approach is consistent with the answers on the Hiscox  
 13 terms .

14 To be clear , this is a very important point for  
 15 certain policyholders . It is important in respect to  
 16 the Hiscox Interveners to note many of them did not  
 17 suffer a downturn until the restrictions , so that is  
 18 a distinction . It is also right to point out that the  
 19 Hiscox Interveners are generally on the wording the  
 20 trends clause {B/6/45}, if we could see that , where  
 21 there is the trends clause -- I appear to have the wrong  
 22 reference . The trends clause , I thought, was 45 . Yes,  
 23 sorry it is at the top . It starts on {B/6/44} and goes  
 24 on to {B/6/45} . Do you see at the bottom of 44:

25 "Provided that you advise us ..." et cetera .

19

1 Then on to 45, your Lordships will see at the top:

2 "Your schedule will show if business trends cover  
 3 applies and the additional percentage amount."

4 For most Hiscox Interveners they don't have in their  
 5 schedule that that applies , so they don't have the  
 6 trends clause problem . But for those that do have loss  
 7 prior to restriction and the other kind of trends  
 8 clause, it is a very significant issue . I don't have  
 9 time to go into the issue in detail , all I have time to  
 10 do is briefly to show you the contractual mechanism  
 11 under the Hiscox wording .

12 If we could please go to {B/6/44}, "How much we will  
 13 pay", your Lordships will see:

14 "How much we will pay .

15 "We will pay up to the amount insured [et cetera] ."

16 Then the two primary choices are loss of income or  
 17 loss of gross profit .

18 Briefly to explain , loss of gross profit , please see  
 19 {B/6/41}. Your Lordships will see at the top "Rate of  
 20 gross profits " . This is the essence of the calculation :

21 "The percentage produced by dividing gross profit by  
 22 your income during the financial year immediately before  
 23 any insured damage, insured failure or restriction ."

24 So if there is a downturn in those two days, it will  
 25 make whatever difference it makes as an impact across

20

1 that year.  
 2 Now if we go back, please, to {B/6/44}, loss of  
 3 income:  
 4 "The difference between your actual income during  
 5 the indemnity period and the income it is estimated that  
 6 you will have earned during that period, or if this is  
 7 your first trading year the difference between your  
 8 income [et cetera]."  
 9 Obviously I am going quickly but the point is,  
 10 there, if it is your first year you look at the period  
 11 immediately before the loss. And that can't mean  
 12 immediately before, because if they happen to have  
 13 a good day before the loss then it would distort the  
 14 figures. Instead what it means is reasonably  
 15 immediately, or in the run up to then from having  
 16 started. What the first part means is in the normal  
 17 course it does pose a counterfactual, the difference  
 18 between your actual income during the indemnity period  
 19 and the income it is estimated you would have earned  
 20 during that period. How is that worked out? What it  
 21 obviously means is what you normally would earn, and  
 22 that is clear. What it shows is there is a distinction  
 23 between the normal case and the new business, because of  
 24 the use of the word "or".  
 25 So what is not done, to be clear, is look at days 1

21

1 and 2, you have had terrible days 1 and 2, so you  
 2 continue that into the counterfactual. No. What it is  
 3 right to do is to say: normally you would have earned X  
 4 amount. Because otherwise the "or" would apply to both.  
 5 So for both loss of income and loss of gross profits the  
 6 correct counterfactual is not to look at: well, you have  
 7 had it on days 1 and 2 so that continues through.  
 8 I don't have time to get into Mr Edelman's point and  
 9 my time is up, but I wanted to flag that because it is  
 10 a very important issue for those insureds who have that  
 11 relevant wording.  
 12 As it happens for the Hiscox Interveners, for the  
 13 reasons I have explained, it is not of as direct  
 14 importance.  
 15 Finally, just one last point, if I may, on the  
 16 Hiscox approach to public authority wording. If we go  
 17 back, please, to page 42, so {B/6/42}, what Hiscox does  
 18 is tread an uncommercially and unrealistically narrow  
 19 path. Because here, obviously whatever happens the  
 20 background event must be serious enough to lead to  
 21 public authority restrictions, so it has got to be quite  
 22 serious. But equally, if their counterfactual is right,  
 23 the more serious the event, the less likely it is that  
 24 the insured will recover. So when does it ever apply?  
 25 And that is a real difficulty on their construction.

22

1 That isn't a difficulty on our construction.  
 2 My Lords, my time is up, but unless I can help you  
 3 further ...  
 4 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Just before you stop, just to confirm  
 5 I think what you have already said, which is that your  
 6 clients, in fact most of them were in a position where  
 7 the interruption actually did only bite, you say, with  
 8 the restrictions.  
 9 MR LYNCH: That is my understanding of the facts as far as  
 10 we know them so far. It is the large group, but that is  
 11 the analysis that has been done. And there is a helpful  
 12 graph at the end of our skeleton argument, which I think  
 13 makes that point.  
 14 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: But you say the points about days 1 and  
 15 2 is nevertheless, you say, an important point for at  
 16 least some.  
 17 MR LYNCH: Certainly for some of my group. And then across  
 18 the board, an important point across the board. That  
 19 will have to be explored with the defendants further and  
 20 then dealt with in reply as appropriate, but that is the  
 21 position.  
 22 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Thank you very much, Mr Lynch.  
 23 MR LYNCH: My Lord, thank you.  
 24 (10.32 am)  
 25 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Who's next, is it Mr Kealey?

23

1 (10.32 am)  
 2 Submission by MR KEALEY  
 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes, Mr Kealey.  
 4 MR KEALEY: Thank you, my Lord.  
 5 My Lords, of course I only represent Ecclesiastical  
 6 and Amlin in this matter, but it has been agreed that  
 7 I should deliver the oral submissions for the benefit of  
 8 all insurers on the fundamental principles that apply in  
 9 this case on causation in insurance. So my task is more  
 10 academic, I suspect, although in due course I am going  
 11 to go into the detail of some of the clauses, or at  
 12 least some examples, in order to explain to  
 13 your Lordships what insurers' case is.  
 14 The written argument on causation, the joint  
 15 argument for all insurers, is at bundle {1/6/1}.  
 16 This is a joint document and your Lordships will have  
 17 read it. I re-read it last night and I commend it to  
 18 your Lordships, because I doubt very much that my oral  
 19 delivery is actually going to be very much of an  
 20 improvement on what the parties have written.  
 21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You are too modest, Mr Kealey.  
 22 MR KEALEY: My Lord, I'm known for my modesty.  
 23 The target of my submissions, my Lord, is worth  
 24 stating at the outset, my Lords.  
 25 Firstly, the FCA's case is that there is a single

24

1 proximate cause of everything, everything relevant to  
2 this case. Could I invite your Lordships to look at  
3 paragraph 53.1 of the amended particulars of claim at  
4 {A/2/35}. This is important:

5 "As a matter of the proper construction of the  
6 wordings and/or the law, both for the purposes of  
7 considering whether causation is sufficiently direct,  
8 and for considering the appropriate counterfactual to  
9 any applicable 'but for' test, there is only one  
10 proximate effective, operative or dominant cause of the  
11 assumed losses, namely the (nationwide) COVID-19  
12 disease, including its local presence or manifestation,  
13 and the restrictions due to an emergency, danger or  
14 threat to life due to the harm potentially caused by the  
15 disease."

16 That, my Lord, is the FCA's indivisible case on all  
17 wordings of all insurers, regardless of the specific  
18 words in any particular clause.

19 So there is only one proximate cause of everything,  
20 from which no distinct and independent causes can be  
21 separated out. That is the case that insurers have to  
22 meet.

23 Before continuing, my Lords, I would ask you to  
24 compare 53.1 with the wordings in due course, because  
25 the wordings contain no peril, no insured peril

25

1 resembling that.

2 If your Lordships could turn to the FCA's trial  
3 skeleton, paragraph 225, which is in {1/1/91}  
4 paragraph 225, you will see that the FCA puts it  
5 slightly more widely at page 91. At 225, the third  
6 line:

7 "The single proximate cause is the disease  
8 everywhere and the government and human responses to  
9 it."

10 So human responses, my Lords, are now included.  
11 Again, the observation I make is that nowhere is there  
12 any policy wording that resembles that peril.

13 The second point that I wish to make at the outset,  
14 so you have it well in mind before you start attacking  
15 me, is that the FCA's case as to the correct  
16 counterfactual for the purpose of the causation test  
17 generally is a situation where there was no COVID-19 in  
18 the UK, no government advice, no government orders, no  
19 laws or other measures in relation to COVID-19. In  
20 other words, a disease-free United Kingdom.

21 If you could turn back to the amended particulars of  
22 claim, paragraph 77 at {A/2/45}, you will see that what  
23 I have said I hope is correctly summarised, is a correct  
24 summary of what they say:

25 "The proper counterfactual (for the purposes of the

26

1 causation test generally and ..."

2 This is paragraph 77, my Lord.

3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: 77. Yes, sorry, Mr Kealey.

4 MR KEALEY: "The proper counterfactual (for the purposes of  
5 the causation test generally and to the extent  
6 applicable under trends clauses) for considering what  
7 would have happened but for the insured perils  
8 considered in this claim is the situation in which there  
9 was no COVID-19 in the UK and no government advice,  
10 orders, laws or other measures in relation to COVID-19,  
11 or alternatively in which such of these events as the  
12 court adjudges to be interlinked (if not all) had not  
13 occurred."

14 Now before the alternative case, I will just invite  
15 you to have another look at that counterfactual and  
16 I will say again that that counterfactual, or the  
17 circumstances in that counterfactual, bear no true  
18 resemblance to any of the insured perils in any of the  
19 wordings in this case.

20 There is another reference, it is paragraph 74 of  
21 the same pleading. I will just give you the reference,  
22 but if I can take you to the trial skeleton of the FCA,  
23 paragraph 10.3, that is in {1/1/10}. I will just read  
24 out for everybody's sake the first few lines:

25 "Nothing in the wordings or in the law entitles the

27

1 insurer to deny cover, or requires the court to find  
2 a lack of cover or reduce the indemnity, by reason of  
3 loss not being caused by the insured peril, but because  
4 it was caused by COVID-19 more generally (such as other  
5 public authority action or public reactions to the  
6 pandemic). Moreover, if and to the extent that it is  
7 necessary and appropriate to consider what would have  
8 happened but for the insured peril ... the correct  
9 counterfactual is a scenario in which there was no  
10 COVID-19 and no government intervention related to  
11 COVID-19 -- not an artificial one in that there was, for  
12 example, government intervention but no COVID-19 or vice  
13 versa."

14 Now of course, my Lords, counterfactuals are in  
15 a sense artificial, and indeed the counterfactual being  
16 proposed by the FCA is in itself totally artificial,  
17 because it assumes that in a disease-ridden world there  
18 is one disease-free set of islands, namely the British  
19 Isles. So even the FCA's counterfactual is an  
20 artificiality.

21 Yesterday my learned friend Mr Edelman suggested  
22 that counterfactuals and the "but for" test were all  
23 insurers' misconceived idea. You needn't look it up, it  
24 is {Day3/11:1} to page 12.

25 That misunderstands the position. Counterfactuals

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1 and the "but for" test are inherent in any causation  
 2 analysis, including in contract. Unless you are  
 3 undertaking a "but for" test or standard and applying  
 4 it, and applying a counterfactual, you are actually  
 5 applying a different and unspecified concept of  
 6 causation. I am going to come back to --  
 7 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: You will obviously show us, Mr Kealey,  
 8 the insurance cases which have tested whether there is  
 9 a proximate cause by a counterfactual, a "but for" test.  
 10 MR KEALEY: I shall take you to the cases which tell you  
 11 that in contract cases and in insurance the "but for"  
 12 test applies.  
 13 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Yes, but you will show me the insurance  
 14 cases where that has happened.  
 15 MR KEALEY: I hope to be able to do that, my Lord, yes.  
 16 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Other than Orient-Express?  
 17 MR KEALEY: Other than Orient-Express.  
 18 I shall also hopefully be able to show you, not that  
 19 you need to be shown, but I shall also be able to show  
 20 you the cases that tell you that insurance is a form of  
 21 contract of indemnity, and a contract of indemnity is  
 22 a form of contract, and an insurance contract sounds in  
 23 damages for breach, and the purpose of damages is to put  
 24 the victim of the breach in the position in which he or  
 25 she or it would have been but for the breach.

29

1 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Is that a long way round of saying that  
 2 you haven't got one?  
 3 MR KEALEY: I don't think it is a long way round of saying  
 4 that. I hope not. I will have a look and tell  
 5 your Lordships.  
 6 If you could go to Endurance Capital at {K/184/1}.  
 7 If you go, please, to Lord Justice Leggatt's judgment at  
 8 page 8 of that divider, at paragraphs 34 to 36  
 9 {K/184/8}, you will see there at 34 the learned judge  
 10 says:  
 11 "... the general principles which govern the  
 12 assessment of loss under a policy of insurance against  
 13 property damage in the absence of any different express  
 14 provision are well established and are not in dispute.  
 15 "First of all, in a case where (as here) an insurer  
 16 has agreed to indemnify the insured against loss or  
 17 damage caused by an insured peril, the nature of the  
 18 insurer's promise is that the insured will not suffer  
 19 the specified loss or damage. The occurrence of such  
 20 loss or damage is therefore a breach of contract which  
 21 gives rise to a claim for damages: see ... The Padre  
 22 Island, Ventouris v Mountain, and Sprung."  
 23 "The general object of an award of damages for  
 24 breach of contract is to put the claimant in the same  
 25 position so far as money can do it as if the breach had

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1 not occurred."  
 2 In other words, my Lords, but for the breach.  
 3 "See British Westinghouse ... Where the breach of  
 4 contract arises from loss or destruction of or damage to  
 5 property (as it does where the contract is a property  
 6 insurance policy), there are two distinct ways of  
 7 seeking to give effect to this principle."  
 8 Then the learned judge goes on to talk about  
 9 reinstatement or market values.  
 10 So the learned judge there, although I am going to  
 11 take you to other cases as necessary, doesn't refer  
 12 specifically to a "but for" test in those terms, but  
 13 it is very clear indeed that the damage or the damages  
 14 are to put the claimant in the same position, so far as  
 15 money can do it, as if the breach had not occurred. In  
 16 other words, but for the --  
 17 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Thank you, Mr Kealey, that is helpful.  
 18 Is there any other case in which something has been said  
 19 not to be a proximate cause because it fails a "but for"  
 20 test?  
 21 MR KEALEY: Yes, my Lord. If you could go to the case of  
 22 Blackburn Rovers. You will find that in {K/119/6}.  
 23 This is a case in the Court of Appeal. Your Lordship  
 24 will see that this is an insurance case. You will see  
 25 that a professional footballer, if I can take you to the

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1 headnote to give you the perspective as it were, the  
 2 second paragraph, you see that a professional footballer  
 3 suffered an injury to his back and that put an end to  
 4 his professional career. His club, Blackburn Rovers,  
 5 had obtained insurance from the defendants against the  
 6 risks of injury to its players, and there was a bodily  
 7 injury provision, which required --  
 8 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Sorry, I think, Mr Kealey, Magnum has  
 9 put up the wrong page. We are in the middle of the  
 10 judgment at the moment.  
 11 MR KEALEY: That is my fault. Page {K/119/1}. Page 1,  
 12 my Lord.  
 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
 14 MR KEALEY: I am very sorry, it is probably my fault. It is  
 15 the second paragraph of the headnote, so you can see the  
 16 background.  
 17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes, okay.  
 18 MR KEALEY: So there was a policy which covered accidental  
 19 bodily injury defined, if your Lordships see at (b):  
 20 "Solely and independently of any other cause, except  
 21 illness directly resulting from ..."  
 22 A variety of other matters, and then there is an  
 23 exclusion:  
 24 "The policy excluded 'death or disablement directly  
 25 or indirectly resulting from or consequent upon ...

32

1 "4. Permanent total disablement attributable either  
2 directly or indirectly to arthritic or other  
3 degenerative conditions in joints, bones, muscles  
4 tendons or ligaments."

5 A claim was made in relation of this hapless  
6 footballer and a variety of questions arose. If your  
7 Lordships see (3) in the right-hand column, one of the  
8 particular issues was whether degenerative changes that  
9 are typical of the male population, typical of top-class  
10 professional footballers, et cetera, are to be  
11 disregarded for the purpose of the policy.

12 If your Lordships go to page 6 of the bundle  
13 {K/119/6}, you will see at paragraph 17:

14 "The same approach to causative nexus appears in the  
15 following statement in paragraph 29 of  
16 Mr Justice Moore-Bick's judgment. We needn't go into  
17 that too much. If you look at paragraph 18.

18 "Mr Stuart Smith disavowed having advanced any such  
19 argument and, had he done so, it would have been  
20 manifestly unsound. Disablement cannot be said to be  
21 attributable, either directly or indirectly, to a  
22 pre-existing condition unless, at the least, the  
23 condition is a ..."

24 For Mr Edelman's purposes I will translate this,  
25 my Lord, "the condition is a cause without which not":

33

1 "... causa sine qua non of the disablement." In the  
2 situation postulated by the judge this was not the case.  
3 The accident would have disabled the player regardless  
4 of the pre-existing condition and, conversely, the  
5 player would not have been disabled had he not suffered  
6 the accident."

7 So there, my Lords, is a clear indication, in our  
8 respectful submission, that you have to have  
9 satisfaction of the "but for" test, causa sine qua non,  
10 in order to recover under an insurance policy.

11 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Thank you. I will let you get on with  
12 your order of play.

13 MR KEALEY: Can I also take your Lordships -- that is very  
14 kind of you to have taken me out of my course as it  
15 were, because it enabled me to answer the same question  
16 several times.

17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I am sorry, Mr Kealey, sorry to  
18 interrupt, but in that case, is that analysis because of  
19 the operation of the exclusion or is that independent of  
20 the exclusion?

21 MR KEALEY: That is within the meaning of the exclusion.

22 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We get into the point, you know, the  
23 issues about concurrent independent or concurrent  
24 interdependent clauses and Wayne Tank and all of that.

25 MR KEALEY: Well --

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1 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I just wondered to what extent that is  
2 an example of the operation of the Wayne Tank principle.

3 MR KEALEY: The Wayne Tank principle is obviously  
4 interdependent causes, and you won't have coverage --  
5 or, rather, you only have coverage in relation to  
6 interdependent causes because both causes satisfy the  
7 "but for" test. In other words, but for the operation  
8 of the cause, the loss wouldn't have been suffered; and  
9 but for the operation of each cause, the loss wouldn't  
10 have been suffered.

11 So the interdependent concurrent cause analysis, and  
12 indeed principle, is based, as a matter of principled  
13 law, on the "but for" test. Therefore, if you have one  
14 interdependent cause which is covered and one  
15 interdependent cause which is uninsured, you are covered  
16 for the loss because you can prove that but for the  
17 insured cause the loss would not have been suffered.

18 Per contra -- I am sorry, I don't really want to go  
19 into Latin. By contrast, in relation to independent  
20 concurrent causes, in other words, two causes which  
21 independently can be said to be causative of the loss,  
22 if one is using loose language, and you are looking at  
23 one of those causes which is an insured peril, you have  
24 no coverage because but for the operation of the insured  
25 peril the loss would still have been suffered as

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1 a consequence of the operation of the other concurrent  
2 independent cause. In fact, the other concurrent  
3 independent cause does not actually even have to be  
4 a proximate cause, although most often it is.

5 But the insured cause in that example is neither a  
6 "but for" cause nor, because it is not a "but for"  
7 cause, is it a proximate cause. You can only have  
8 a proximate cause if it has satisfied the "but for"  
9 test, otherwise it is simply not a cause under any  
10 concept of causation known to insurance law.

11 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: That's why I was asking you. Proximate  
12 cause has been around for a very long time and I was  
13 just wondering how many times it has ever been asked:  
14 well, is this a proximate cause or is it not a proximate  
15 cause because it doesn't satisfy the "but for" test?

16 MR KEALEY: I will come back to that if I may, but I would  
17 answer it at this juncture if I may, my Lord, by saying  
18 you don't even get to a proximate cause, unless it is  
19 satisfied -- I am so sorry, my Lord.

20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No, I am sorry, Mr Kealey, I'm talking  
21 over you. That is the problem with this way of  
22 operating.

23 I am just anxious, before you leave your example of  
24 the independent causes and one insured peril and one  
25 uninsured cause, whether you have got any authority that

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1 is directly on the point in the insurance context.  
 2 MR KEALEY: I will have to consider that, my Lord.  
 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I understand the point there, but  
 4 I wonder whether it is really right. If you have got  
 5 two independent causes, and the truth is that if you  
 6 only have the insured cause then there would be a loss,  
 7 why does it matter if there is also another cause which  
 8 is uninsured -- not excluded, but uninsured -- unless  
 9 what you are really talking about is a situation where  
 10 the insured cause falls short of being sufficient to be  
 11 a proximate cause? Do you follow the point I am making?  
 12 MR KEALEY: I follow the point entirely that you are making.  
 13 My Lord, we say in our skeleton argument talking about  
 14 two independent concurrent causes and two independent  
 15 concurrent proximate causes is a little bit of  
 16 a misnomer, because you can't have a proximate cause, we  
 17 say, unless that cause satisfies or at least fulfills  
 18 the threshold "but for" test.  
 19 But coming to your Lordship's question, the question  
 20 that is asked under an insurance contract, which is  
 21 absolutely vital and it seems to be not the question  
 22 that the FCA has asked itself, is whether the insured  
 23 peril has caused the claimed loss.  
 24 The question is not a slightly more metaphysical  
 25 question, which is: what is the cause of the loss?

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1 Because when you are in a bilateral contract, assuming  
 2 a contract of insurance is bilateral for present  
 3 purposes, the only question that arises for any  
 4 tribunal, and indeed for the contracting parties, is:  
 5 firstly, has there been an insured peril; and secondly,  
 6 has that insured peril caused the claimed loss?  
 7 If there is another cause of that loss, which let us  
 8 call it at the moment of equivalent weight, I am just  
 9 using that as a neutral term for present purposes, in  
 10 other words, if that loss would have occurred but for  
 11 the insured peril, then by definition the insured peril  
 12 has not satisfied the threshold "but for" test for the  
 13 purposes of that insurance policy.  
 14 Now there are exceptions to that principle that  
 15 apply, where there are, for example, in other areas of  
 16 contract, and indeed specifically tort, but also in  
 17 contract, where there are multiple wrongdoers, or let's  
 18 call them two wrongdoers. I am going to come on to that  
 19 later, because in fact you can have two wrongdoings by  
 20 one insurer.  
 21 Actually, if one analyses the Orient-Express case  
 22 correctly, where there are two operating perils, both  
 23 pro tanto, if I can use the Latin tag, pro tanto causing  
 24 loss, then what the insurer cannot do is rely upon its  
 25 own breach of contract in failing to hold the insured

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1 harmless from one of those perils, what he can't do is,  
 2 by relying upon his own breach of contract in failing to  
 3 hold the insured harmless from one of those perils, say  
 4 that the peril under which or in respect of which he is  
 5 being sued has caused no loss.  
 6 I will take you to the Orient-Express in a moment,  
 7 or perhaps not so quickly but later on, and I will show  
 8 you the two clauses or the two sets of clauses that  
 9 operated in relation to insured loss or operated in  
 10 relation to insured perils there, and I will show you  
 11 how it is that the insurers paid under the loss of  
 12 attraction clause or the prevention of access clause,  
 13 they didn't pay anything and indeed the dispute was in  
 14 relation to the peril of damage, physical damage and  
 15 whether that damage caused loss, and the answer was --  
 16 well, we know what the answer was and we will come on to  
 17 that later. But what the insurer could not there do is  
 18 say: well, I am not liable to you in relation to the  
 19 business interruption caused by physical damage, because  
 20 the loss was caused in fact by matters which create or  
 21 represent another peril insured against under the same  
 22 contract.  
 23 In other words, there are two perils operating, we  
 24 say, and each of those perils is in the same contract,  
 25 and both perils can be said to have given rise to the

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1 same loss; and what the insurer cannot say when being  
 2 attacked in relation to one peril, what he cannot say  
 3 is, "Well, that has not caused you a loss, because but  
 4 for my breach of contract in relation to that you would  
 5 still have suffered the loss under another peril". He  
 6 can't rely upon his failure to hold harmless under the  
 7 second peril in order to avoid liability in relation to  
 8 the first.  
 9 That is quite a complicated analysis, but if you go  
 10 back to --  
 11 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is the explanation, you say, of  
 12 why it is that they paid under the prevention of access  
 13 extension. Because they couldn't be heard to say: well  
 14 actually your loss is suffered under the property damage  
 15 business interruption section, and therefore you can't  
 16 recover under the prevention of access extension.  
 17 MR KEALEY: That is absolutely right.  
 18 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But non constat, when you get to the  
 19 property damage business interruption section, and you  
 20 are looking to recover more by way of insurance recovery  
 21 than under the prevention of access extension, that the  
 22 insurer can't say: well now at this stage your loss is  
 23 being caused by something other than this insured peril.  
 24 MR KEALEY: Exactly so, my Lord. That is exactly the point.  
 25 In our joint skeleton we have postulated a different

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1 example, where you have one loss insured under two  
2 policies of insurance, issued by two different insurers,  
3 and where one insurer says, "Ah well, the peril under my  
4 contract didn't cause you loss, rather it is the peril  
5 under the other contract, and therefore you are not  
6 covered", and the other insurer does exactly the same by  
7 way of mirror image, "My peril didn't cause you the  
8 loss, it's the peril under the other". So the poor  
9 insured is actually worse off by having two insurance  
10 policies than if he had only one. And there you have  
11 two wrongdoers.

12 This is something I am going to come back to. The  
13 wrongdoing my Lord and the breach of contract is failing  
14 to save the insured harmless from the loss in the first  
15 instance, and that is a wrongdoing.

16 Once that is understood as being the breach of  
17 contract, then you are introduced into the correct  
18 analysis as to causation. Because, as I said a moment  
19 ago and I will come back to it, but as I said a moment  
20 ago --

21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is an oddity of the way in which our  
22 insurance law has developed, but you are absolutely  
23 right that is how it has developed, that at the moment  
24 when the relevant insured peril occurs the insurer is in  
25 breach of contract.

41

1 MR KEALEY: Yes.

2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: And that was analysed in, I forget  
3 which case it was now, but several cases,  
4 *Chandris v Argo* you can go back to, and other cases  
5 since. But you are absolutely right that that is the  
6 law and we have to proceed on that basis.

7 MR KEALEY: That is right, my Lord. In fact  
8 Mr Anthony Clarke QC as he then was, argued before  
9 Mr Justice Hirst in *Ventouris v Mountain* that the moment  
10 the ship went down the insurer was in breach of  
11 contract.

12 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.

13 MR KEALEY: And Mr Justice Hirst's analysis and decision  
14 reflected precisely that. You have to save the insured  
15 harmless from the insured peril operating to cause loss.

16 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I was troubled by this example  
17 overnight, Mr Kealey, and perhaps you would help me with  
18 it. Suppose you have a railway and it insures itself  
19 against delays caused by landslip. And there is a storm  
20 which causes a landslip which delays a train. And it  
21 delays it in the sense that the reason why people don't  
22 proceed down the line is because they think there is  
23 a landslip. But in fact, had it been probed and  
24 investigated, it could have been shown that the storm  
25 had also caused a problem with the signalling, and that

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1 there would have been a delay to that train in any  
2 event, a failure of signalling being neither covered  
3 expressly, nor excluded.

4 Now there, in an obvious sense, the landslip is the  
5 cause of the delay. But it is not a "but for" cause of  
6 the delay. Can the insurers escape liability?

7 MR KEALEY: I would put it differently by saying that the  
8 insured has no coverage in that case. It is not  
9 a question of the insurers escaping liability, it is  
10 simply that that which is the peril which is insured  
11 against has not actually, as a matter of fact, caused an  
12 insured loss.

13 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It has caused it in a real sense. It  
14 has been an absolutely pivotal part of the reason why  
15 the train didn't run.

16 MR KEALEY: Yes, but the train would not in any event have  
17 run, because of the signalling problem. The fact that  
18 there was, whatever it is, Railtrack action, makes no  
19 difference to that.

20 You are absolutely right, my Lord, to say that the  
21 reason why the train did not actually leave the station,  
22 as it were, was because it was told not to. But even if  
23 the train had been told to do so, to leave the station  
24 and run, it could not have done so, and therefore --

25 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Wouldn't one say that the landslip was

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1 the proximate cause?

2 MR KEALEY: No, one would not say that the landslip was the  
3 proximate cause. One would say, in those circumstances,  
4 that the landslip certainly provoked the authority to  
5 stop the train or to say to the train "Do not run", but  
6 actually for the purposes of the insurance contract, the  
7 public authority action or the action in those  
8 circumstances did not cause the loss, because the loss  
9 would in any event have been incurred irrespective or  
10 but for that action.

11 So you are absolutely right, my Lord, that  
12 technically what happened is the chain of events that  
13 you have just identified, but I am going to take you to  
14 examples which will demonstrate that either as well or  
15 as badly as your Lordship's example. And I will take  
16 you to why it is.

17 But under any concept of causation known to English  
18 law, under any concept of causation known to English  
19 law, unless as a *Fairchild v Glenhaven* or some  
20 exception, there is a threshold factual causation  
21 requirement to be satisfied, which is the factual "but  
22 for" concept.

23 In other words, if you would have suffered exactly  
24 the same loss but for something which was not insured,  
25 then your insurance policy does not pay.

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1 Your Lordship asked me about cases in relation to  
 2 insurance --  
 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So my Lord's example, you say, is an  
 4 example of two independent causes, one of which is  
 5 insured and one of which isn't, and because of the  
 6 operation of the second cause, the first cause is not  
 7 the proximate cause of the loss.  
 8 MR KEALEY: Yes, that is absolutely right, my Lord.  
 9 My Lord Mr Justice Butcher asked me about "but for".  
 10 Can I just take your Lordships to another case, it is  
 11 actually referred to in our joint skeleton. I am happy  
 12 to refer your Lordships to this because my learned  
 13 friend Mr Edelman did. It is at {1/6/18} and it is  
 14 a quotation from Sir Peter Webster in  
 15 Callaghan v Dominion. It is in paragraph 23.2.  
 16 "The best way to define an indemnity insurance is  
 17 that it is an agreement by the insurer to confer on the  
 18 insured a contractual right which, prima facie, comes  
 19 into existence immediately when loss is suffered by the  
 20 happening of an event insured against ..."  
 21 I am not sure that I entirely agree with that, but  
 22 putting that to one side, my Lord:  
 23 "... to be put by the insurer into the same position  
 24 in which the insured would have been had the event not  
 25 occurred [that is the peril insured against, my Lord]

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1 but in no better position."  
 2 So, with respect to my Lord Mr Justice Butcher's  
 3 question and example, the insured is not to be in any  
 4 better a position or situation than that in which it  
 5 would have been had the insured peril not have  
 6 eventuated.  
 7 In the example given by my Lord, although there was  
 8 action which stopped, as it were, the train running,  
 9 that train would never have run because it couldn't run,  
 10 because there was a signalling failure which prevented  
 11 it running.  
 12 Therefore, the delay is not something for which the  
 13 insurer is liable.  
 14 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Right, I understand what you say and  
 15 I understand what you say by reference to Callaghan.  
 16 Would you agree that in the sort of case that  
 17 I mentioned, at least, if it were to be asserted that  
 18 the loss would have been suffered anyway by reason of  
 19 the signalling failure, it will be the insurer who has  
 20 to show that?  
 21 MR KEALEY: Well, what I would say is that -- can I address  
 22 it this way, my Lord, and you will now accuse me of  
 23 being a politician and not answering the question  
 24 directly, so I will answer it directly in my indirect  
 25 way.

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1 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I have taken you well out of your  
 2 course already, Mr Kealey, do what you want to.  
 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We are firing questions at you that you  
 4 haven't had prior notice of, so ...  
 5 MR KEALEY: The fact is, my Lord, if you have a train which  
 6 would have run, and the authority says, "There has been  
 7 a landslip, you are not allowed to go", and the insured  
 8 puts that case to the insurer and asks for recovery, on  
 9 the basis of that evidence and on that material I, for  
 10 the insurer, would have to say that there is  
 11 a prima facie case of coverage.  
 12 It would only be --  
 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think sensibly the answer to  
 14 my Lord's question must be that the burden would be on  
 15 the insurer, in the given example, to demonstrate that  
 16 in fact that prima facie case was not good because the  
 17 real cause of the loss was the signalling failure, which  
 18 wasn't covered.  
 19 MR KEALEY: What I would say is actually the insurer has the  
 20 evidential burden of putting before the court, as it  
 21 were, evidence to suggest to the contrary, and it is  
 22 then the legal burden remains on the insured.  
 23 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We are then into that sort of abstruse  
 24 area about legal and evidential burdens, which probably  
 25 doesn't matter for present purposes.

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1 MR KEALEY: That is right. It is not relevant, at least at  
 2 the moment, but that would be my answer. And I don't  
 3 shy in the slightest bit from acknowledging, on behalf  
 4 of insurers in that hypothetical case, that if they are  
 5 just confronted with those facts, then I can't see that  
 6 they would say to the insured, "Now go and prove every  
 7 single negative known to man that it wasn't caused by  
 8 this, that and the other", even though there is  
 9 absolutely no suggestion that whatever it is that is  
 10 "the other" could conceivably have existed or did exist.  
 11 But if the insurer comes along and says, "Well, we  
 12 hear that there was a signal failure and here is the  
 13 record of it, and therefore it seems to us that there is  
 14 a serious doubt as to whether or not you could have gone  
 15 anywhere in any event", that might satisfy, as it were,  
 16 the evidential burden so far as to shift the evidential  
 17 burden back. But the insured, of course, always  
 18 retains, as we always know, the legal burden to prove  
 19 a loss by a peril insured against.  
 20 That, my Lord, by the way, is a completely different  
 21 case from the case of Dalmine, I should say. I am not  
 22 going to go into that at the moment, because if I get to  
 23 it, it is going to be right down the end of the line of  
 24 this much more difficult causation analysis than burdens  
 25 of proof, if I might respectfully suggest.

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1 In relation to my Lord Mr Justice Butcher's  
2 question, though, if the damage as it were or the loss  
3 claimed is the failure to arrive at the destination on  
4 time, then, as we have said, the landslip is not the  
5 cause, it would be the signalling failure for the  
6 purposes of the insurance contract. In other words, but  
7 for the Railtrack or whatever it is determination, still  
8 the train would not have arrived on time. It is as  
9 simple as that.

10 So our analysis is not complicated. It is based  
11 upon fundamental legal principles, and in my respectful  
12 submission those fundamental legal principles have  
13 really been put to one side, deliberately of course,  
14 because they are so clever, put to one side by the FCA,  
15 as though they don't really exist.

16 I would like to go back, if I may, to one or two  
17 matters which actually arise out of the questions that  
18 have been asked of me. I should say, my Lords, I am not  
19 in the slightest bit shy about being asked questions, so  
20 if you want to pepper me with more pellets I'm perfectly  
21 happy to be subjected.

22 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If you are moving on to a slightly  
23 different topic, Mr Kealey, would that be a sensible  
24 point to have a ten-minute break for the transcribers?

25 MR KEALEY: Everything is going to be the same topic but --

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1 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I know, but having answered my Lord's  
2 question you are obviously going back to your script,  
3 and rather than interrupting you five minutes into what  
4 you are going to say next, it might be sensible to break  
5 now.

6 MR KEALEY: That would be sensible. My Lord, I welcome the  
7 interruptions because it means that I probably won't  
8 have to read out everything so much as otherwise  
9 I might.

10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Thank you very much, Mr Kealey. We  
11 will say 11:25am, please.

12 MR KEALEY: Thank you, my Lord.  
13 (11.16 am)

(Short break)

14 (11.25 am)

15 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: When you're ready, Mr Kealey.

16 MR KEALEY: Thank you, my Lord.

17 Mr Edelman said yesterday -- you needn't look it up  
18 but it is page 12 of the transcript for yesterday  
19 {Day3/12:1} -- that insurance is something different  
20 from a normal contract. That is not true. It is  
21 a species of contract, it has specific rules that apply  
22 to it; but those rules, in terms of causation, are  
23 exactly the same rules as any other contract. It has  
24 the same rules on construction, on breach and damages.  
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1 And the "but for" principle, as I have tried to explain,  
2 is an integral part of the law of contract damages as  
3 much as insurance and as much in insurance as contract  
4 damages.

5 Mr Edelman said yesterday, at page 12 of the  
6 transcript Day 3, one is asking a different question for  
7 a different purpose. That is fallacious. Damages are  
8 only recoverable insofar as caused by the breach of  
9 contract of insurance and not insofar as caused by the  
10 breach plus plus plus.

11 It is absolutely critical, my Lords, to identify  
12 what the breach is. We have already gone there. It is  
13 a failure to hold harmless from the insured peril, no  
14 more and no less. That is why it is vital in any case  
15 properly to identify as a matter of interpretation what  
16 the insured peril is.

17 Contrary to everything that Mr Edelman said on Day 2  
18 at pages 5 and following, {Day2/5:1} it is absolutely  
19 expected that the counterfactual that one applies in the  
20 application of the "but for" test will or may be  
21 different between and among different insurers who  
22 insure on different wordings in different contracts in  
23 relation to different perils.

24 The idea that the FCA has, that one can apply the  
25 same counterfactual in every single case, itself

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1 suggests that the FCA must have got it wrong.

2 Mr Edelman is also absolutely wrong when he says  
3 that in the application of the "but for" test or the  
4 application of the counterfactual, whether that be under  
5 general law or under the trends clauses, these insurers  
6 before your Lordships today do not reverse as  
7 relevant -- and I emphasise "as relevant" -- the disease  
8 or the emergency or whatever it is that is at the start  
9 or the bottom of the causal chain.

10 He is absolutely wrong when he suggests that  
11 insurers are cherry-picking or salami slicing or  
12 whatever comestible metaphor he wishes to choose when it  
13 comes to the counterfactual. So that your Lordships can  
14 see it, that is at {Day2/3:25} to page 4, line 6.

15 What he is suggesting there is completely  
16 fallacious, and I am going to take you to some examples.  
17 Before I do so, I want to emphasise the following. What  
18 is reversed, and no more than that which is reversed, is  
19 the combination that makes up the insured peril. Never  
20 any or only any individual aspect of the combination.

21 What you take out is the combination, and what that  
22 means, my Lords, and this is absolutely vital, all the  
23 elements of the combination to the extent that they  
24 combine and form the stated combination, but not  
25 otherwise and no more. You don't remove every aspect of

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1 every ingredient within the combination. That is not  
 2 taking out the combination; it is taking out all the  
 3 ingredients for all purposes, and that goes way beyond  
 4 the combination.  
 5 The combination is only the ingredients and the sum  
 6 of the ingredients insofar as they combine in the stated  
 7 way.  
 8 Let's just take Mr Edelman's verminous example. You  
 9 will see that at {Day1/108:1}. The insuring clause for  
 10 this example my Lord you can actually see in bundle  
 11 {1/6/69}, that is in the insurers' joint causation  
 12 skeleton.  
 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Vermin or pests at the insured  
 14 premises.  
 15 MR KEALEY: That is right, my Lord. It is at the top of the  
 16 page {1/6/69}. Mr Edelman gave you the example of rats  
 17 in a restaurant.  
 18 Now let me just explain to you how this works. This  
 19 clause covers the inability to use the insured premises  
 20 due to restrictions imposed by a public authority  
 21 following, in (e):  
 22 "Vermin or pests at the insured premises."  
 23 Let's just say that there are rats in a restaurant.  
 24 Let's say that a journalist finds out about the rats and  
 25 writes an article saying there are lots of rats in this

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1 restaurant. Let's say that his article is widely read  
 2 by everyone in the vicinity of the restaurant, whatever  
 3 "vicinity" might mean.  
 4 Let's say that subsequent to that article being  
 5 widely read, the local government hears of the rats, or  
 6 indeed the restaurateur tells the local authorities  
 7 about the rats, and the government or the local  
 8 authority orders the closure of the restaurant whilst  
 9 the rats are removed and exterminated.  
 10 If one looks at this insurance clause and one asks  
 11 what is the insured peril, the insured peril is  
 12 a combination of inability to use the restaurant due to  
 13 restrictions imposed by the public authority following  
 14 vermin at the premises; in short order, it is closure of  
 15 the premises as caused by government action, as caused  
 16 by rats. That is the combination you remove in order to  
 17 apply the "but for" test and the counterfactual.  
 18 What you remove, I will repeat it, closure as caused  
 19 by the government action, as caused by the rats. You  
 20 don't remove the rats, pure and simple. You remove that  
 21 causal chain; and you work out, having removed that  
 22 combination, what the loss is that the insured peril has  
 23 caused.  
 24 If those rats are in another causal chain as well,  
 25 for example disinclination of the public to visit the

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1 restaurant, as caused by reading the article in the  
 2 newspaper, as caused by rats, that is another causal  
 3 combination which exists and has caused loss, and the  
 4 loss caused by that combination, which involves rats, is  
 5 not covered.  
 6 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is the example that we discussed  
 7 with Mr Edelman yesterday. Let's stick to rats for the  
 8 moment. I mean, at the time when the restriction is  
 9 imposed, the insured business is already suffering  
 10 a downturn as a consequence of something which is not  
 11 covered by the insurance, because there is no  
 12 restriction in place. That is the trigger for there  
 13 being cover. As I understand your case, you would say,  
 14 in that example, the insured could only recover to the  
 15 extent that it was able to demonstrate that there had  
 16 been a yet further downturn in the business as  
 17 a consequence of the imposition of the restriction.  
 18 MR KEALEY: Exactly so. But I would go even further,  
 19 my Lord.  
 20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Let's say for the sake of argument  
 21 there are some people who like actually seeing rats  
 22 running around a restaurant because of its a novelty  
 23 value, so half the tables have people sitting at them,  
 24 notwithstanding there are rats scurrying around. The  
 25 insurer has suffered a loss of 50% of his turnover, but

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1 when the restriction comes which makes it 100%, he can  
 2 only recover the 50% caused by the restriction.  
 3 MR KEALEY: Correct.  
 4 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: You accept that, do you, Mr Kealey? Or  
 5 do you say he can't recover that, because the rats would  
 6 be there anyway?  
 7 MR KEALEY: Well, let me just put it this way. If the rats  
 8 are known about, rather than people don't know about  
 9 them -- I will answer this in stages. Can I answer it  
 10 in stages?  
 11 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
 12 MR KEALEY: Thank you. The restaurant is closed by the  
 13 authorities. Someone cancels a reservation, not knowing  
 14 of the closure but knowing of the rats, because he has  
 15 read the article, or she has read the article, and does  
 16 so after the closure.  
 17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is a different point.  
 18 MR KEALEY: It is a different point.  
 19 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is a loss that is caused by  
 20 something other than the closure. So in that example  
 21 that would fall, as it were, within the first tranche of  
 22 uninsured loss, as it were. But what my Lord is putting  
 23 to you is: assume the restaurant is then closed, so the  
 24 insured in my example has now lost 100% of his turnover,  
 25 do you say nonetheless he can't recover anything because

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1 the rats would have been there anyway?  
 2 MR KEALEY: No. Your example, my Lord, was about  
 3 a clientele who don't actually mind rats, or like rats.  
 4 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I know that is an extreme example, we  
 5 are just trying to test the point.  
 6 MR KEALEY: I am addressing that precise example. They  
 7 would have gone to the restaurant irrespective of rats.  
 8 The government closure prevented them from going to the  
 9 restaurant, and stopped the restaurant from earning  
 10 money from those diners. That is covered, my Lord,  
 11 because they would have gone to the restaurant  
 12 irrespective of the rats. Therefore, what you have is  
 13 the combination of the inability to use, due to  
 14 restrictions imposed by public authority following  
 15 vermin at the premises actually causing loss.  
 16 But in relation to those diners who wouldn't have  
 17 gone near the restaurant because of the rats, whether  
 18 they had read about the article before the closure or  
 19 having read the article after the closure, in relation  
 20 to those diners or those people who would otherwise have  
 21 gone to the restaurant to eat, to whom the closure was  
 22 an irrelevance because they wouldn't have gone near the  
 23 restaurant because of the rats, there is no loss which  
 24 is covered under this policy.  
 25 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: We are getting very close to the heart

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1 of this issue, because if it goes down from 50% to  
 2 nought after the closure, could it nevertheless be said  
 3 by insurers: well, the reputation of the rats might have  
 4 contributed to that further decrease?  
 5 MR KEALEY: Yes. The answer is absolutely yes. I wouldn't  
 6 say "contributed" to the decrease. Well, I would have  
 7 said "caused" people not to go to the restaurant and  
 8 therefore "caused" the restaurant is loss. Then the  
 9 answer is yes, the closure had no impact.  
 10 I am assuming for your purposes, my Lord, that the  
 11 closure had no impact, because these people were  
 12 learning about the rats and wouldn't have gone near the  
 13 restaurant because of the rats, irrespective of the  
 14 closure. Now --  
 15 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But the reality, of course, may be more  
 16 complicated, because the reality may be that the local  
 17 authority closes the restaurant and nobody goes there,  
 18 but it is impossible to actually extricate or impossible  
 19 to discern why they didn't go there. Is it because of  
 20 the closure by the local government or is it because  
 21 they didn't like the rats?  
 22 MR KEALEY: That is the question.  
 23 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is why my Lord says to you we are  
 24 very close to the heart of what it is that you are  
 25 inviting us to determine here. Because you say, well,

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1 because of COVID, the public reaction was such that the  
 2 people wouldn't have wanted to go to the restaurant  
 3 because they might sit next to somebody who had got  
 4 COVID.  
 5 MR KEALEY: And what your Lordships have just posed to me is  
 6 a factual question to which I do not have an answer.  
 7 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You may be right about that.  
 8 MR KEALEY: I am right about it. I am absolutely right  
 9 about it. You know and I know -- this is not me giving  
 10 evidence -- there were people who were disinclined to go  
 11 to cinemas before closure, because of the proximity of  
 12 other people.  
 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I know that, because my wife cancelled  
 14 a trip to the opera three days before the lockdown, for  
 15 exactly that reason.  
 16 MR KEALEY: There you are. And irrespective of the  
 17 lockdown, Lady Flaux would have cancelled a trip to the  
 18 opera after the lockdown, if the lockdown hadn't  
 19 occurred.  
 20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes. In fact what had happened is that  
 21 the opera house had closed anyway.  
 22 MR KEALEY: Yes, but that closure didn't cause that loss of  
 23 business.  
 24 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is precisely why I put the point  
 25 to you, because it was a point that I was thinking about

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1 when I was looking at your skeleton argument and  
 2 thinking about these points.  
 3 MR KEALEY: You see, I would, or rather Mr Edelman would  
 4 cross-examine the hapless Lady Flaux and extract from  
 5 her, in the same way as Amber Heard, exactly why she did  
 6 what she did.  
 7 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Right, Mr Kealey, let's move on, shall  
 8 we?  
 9 MR KEALEY: But the critical point that I am trying to make,  
 10 my Lords, is that we do reverse the rats. But we don't  
 11 reverse the rats for all intents and purposes. The idea  
 12 that you have still got these nasty little vermin  
 13 running around is actually a given. What you reverse is  
 14 the chain of causation which constitutes and embodies  
 15 the insured peril. No more and certainly no less.  
 16 If you remove more, then you are imposing an  
 17 unjustified and unprincipled obligation and liability on  
 18 insurers. If you remove less, you are depriving  
 19 insureds in an unjustified and unprincipled way of  
 20 coverage.  
 21 The idea postulated and put about by the FCA and on  
 22 their behalf and others, that you remove more than the  
 23 insured peril in order to gain more coverage, is  
 24 antithetical to all accepted concepts of causation and,  
 25 since they like it, common sense.

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1 So there are two points that come out of this  
 2 example, and there are lots of other examples and I will  
 3 probably now no longer take them, but there are two  
 4 points that come out of this example. Firstly, it is  
 5 completely traducing insurers to suggest that we don't  
 6 remove the rats. Secondly, it is completely false to  
 7 suggest that because we remove the rats we remove them  
 8 for all intents and purposes.

9 If you go to another clause or another example --  
 10 you will forgive me while I find the example later on --  
 11 let us just say you have a disease clause, something  
 12 closer. Let's make it very, very simple. Business  
 13 interruption loss resulting from interference with the  
 14 business, caused by illness from COVID-19 within  
 15 25 miles of the insured premises. In short order, that  
 16 is business interruption loss caused by interference,  
 17 caused by illness, within 25 miles.

18 The illness within 25 miles has to be causative of  
 19 the interference and therefore causative of the business  
 20 interruption loss. The illness within 25 miles has to  
 21 be factually causative. That, my Lord, is as relevant  
 22 whether the disease is described as local or as having  
 23 epidemic or, indeed, pandemic proportions.

24 Let me give you an example. Assume an illness  
 25 only --

1 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If you take the obvious example,  
 2 Mr Kealey, of a measles outbreak, let us say in, well  
 3 let's take the west of England. So there is a measles  
 4 outbreak affecting Devon and Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset  
 5 and Wiltshire, and there is a local lockdown of all the  
 6 schools, local shutdown of all the schools in the west  
 7 of England. If you were looking at a 25-mile radius  
 8 around Dorchester say, for the sake of argument, you  
 9 might be able to show that that local outbreak had  
 10 caused the shutdown of the schools. But you would have  
 11 to show that -- this is your case -- and it wouldn't be  
 12 enough to show that simply there had been an outbreak of  
 13 measles within 25 miles of Dorchester, if in fact the  
 14 outbreak everywhere else in the west of England would  
 15 have led to closure of the schools within the 25-mile  
 16 radius in any event.

17 MR KEALEY: That is correct, in our submission. And the  
 18 reason why we are correct, in our submission, is because  
 19 we are simple people and we apply the "but for" test,  
 20 which is the basic threshold factual causation test of  
 21 English contract law.

22 What you find is that if you have a national  
 23 outbreak but it is only the 25-mile radius illness that  
 24 provokes government action within that 25-mile area,  
 25 then there is coverage because but for the outbreak in

1 that area there would have been no government action and  
 2 no loss.

3 If there is, for example, COVID-19 illness in  
 4 Leicester and the Central Government closes down  
 5 Leicester or the environs of Leicester, then the  
 6 business interruption loss was caused by what I will  
 7 describe as the local disease. That is the application  
 8 of the "but for" test; but for the disease within  
 9 25 miles there would have been no government action and  
 10 therefore no loss, therefore there is coverage and the  
 11 loss is recoverable.

12 But let us just say, but what you don't ever do,  
 13 my Lords, is reverse the disease, ever, beyond the  
 14 25-mile area. Because the 25-mile area is the limit and  
 15 the circumscription of the insured peril.

16 So let's go nearer to what the FCA would like.  
 17 Let's take an infectious disease and someone falls ill  
 18 24 miles away from the premises. But the disease is  
 19 everywhere as well outside the 25-mile area. The  
 20 government closes the entire country down. It didn't  
 21 close the country -- I am making this factual  
 22 assumption -- because of the one illness within the  
 23 25-mile area, but because of illness everywhere else and  
 24 the threat of illness coming within the 25-mile area.

25 That one illness, in that example, did not factually

1 cause any business interruption loss. And there is no  
 2 legal or principled basis in the disease clauses with  
 3 which we are concerned that enables the FCA to say there  
 4 is such a close relationship or commonality or linkage  
 5 between the one instance of the illness and the illness  
 6 everywhere else in the country that enables the insured  
 7 to recover, because it is contemplated that a 25-mile  
 8 radius area referable to the disease might be affected  
 9 by something of epidemic proportions.

10 That is the FCA's case; see Mr Edelman, transcript  
 11 {Day1/105:1} to 106.

12 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is right, that as a matter of  
 13 common sense, using that expression, if you have got  
 14 COVID within the 25-mile range, which is a pretty big  
 15 range, depending on where you are in the country, the  
 16 chances are you have got it all over the place  
 17 elsewhere. Unless, in my example, it is limited to the  
 18 west of England, say. But you say, well, that is  
 19 nothing to the point, because that is not what insurers  
 20 have agreed to cover.

21 MR KEALEY: That is exactly right.

22 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is why the 25-mile limit is there,  
 23 because they have only agreed to cover disease within  
 24 the 25-mile limit which has caused the insured a  
 25 business interruption loss, together with all the other

1 interference as a consequence of restrictions ,  
 2 et cetera , et cetera .  
 3 MR KEALEY: That is absolutely right, but we also develop it  
 4 only a tiny little bit more, which is to say that  
 5 Mr Edelman says the insured is covered against the peril  
 6 being caught up in the consequences of a wide area  
 7 disease that manifests itself in the relevant area .  
 8 That is how he put it .  
 9 That is not the peril insured against or remotely  
 10 the peril insured against .  
 11 If , as Mr Edelman says, and let's just assume he is  
 12 right on this one, that objectively the parties might  
 13 have contemplated a disease of epidemic proportions , in  
 14 other words, all over the country, then you have to ask  
 15 yourself this rhetorical question: why is there  
 16 a 25-mile limit ?  
 17 If , on the other hand, objectively the parties did  
 18 not contemplate a wide area epidemic disease , then  
 19 insurers , by giving a 25-mile limit , which as  
 20 your Lordship has indicated is a substantial area, were  
 21 covering a lot of possibilities . Whichever way you look  
 22 at it , there is a geographical limit which applies . And  
 23 it is absolutely clear that both the insured and the  
 24 insurers were agreeing that it is only business  
 25 interruption losses caused by illness within that area

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1 which are covered, nothing more and nothing less .  
 2 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: That is quite a narrow point in  
 3 relation to actually the construction of the insuring  
 4 clauses . This is rather different from your  
 5 counterfactual analysis , isn't it ?  
 6 MR KEALEY: It is. You are absolutely right . But --  
 7 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: This is a coverage point, really.  
 8 MR KEALEY: It's both, actually.  
 9 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It's both, it is. You are absolutely  
 10 right that it is a coverage issue , and you say this is  
 11 where the FCA's case fails to give really any sensible  
 12 meaning to the 1 mile or 25-mile limit in the contract ,  
 13 as a matter of construction . But then you say , well ,  
 14 the causation issue as to whether, in your example  
 15 there, there's business interruption losses within the  
 16 25-mile limit were caused by the illness within that  
 17 limit , is ultimately a factual question .  
 18 MR KEALEY: Yes, that is absolutely right . That is  
 19 absolutely right .  
 20 If you have, my Lords, one instance of illness  
 21 within the 25-mile area , then the question you have to  
 22 ask is: did that cause the business interruption loss ?  
 23 And the question you have to ask in order to answer that  
 24 question is: but for that illness within that 25-mile  
 25 area would the loss have been suffered ?

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1 What you can't do, which is what the FCA seeks to do  
 2 for that counterfactual , is harvest into the 25-mile  
 3 area, notionally , is to harvest in every single other  
 4 illness in the country, and government action responsive  
 5 to everything everywhere, in order to say: well, those  
 6 business interruption losses were caused by that one  
 7 illness .  
 8 In fact , I should correct myself. The FCA knows it  
 9 can't say that, because it has said it can't say that .  
 10 I will come on to that later . So --  
 11 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Just before you move off this point,  
 12 what you are saying, I think I understand it this way,  
 13 is you take out the interruption or the interference or  
 14 whatever it is , and the restriction and the disease  
 15 within the 25-mile area .  
 16 MR KEALEY: Correct.  
 17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So you have now got as it were  
 18 notionally , rather like in Orient-Express, the  
 19 disease-free , restriction-free area within 25 miles .  
 20 MR KEALEY: Yes.  
 21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But, you then ask the question in  
 22 causation terms: the loss that the insured has suffered ,  
 23 would the insured have suffered in any event? To which  
 24 you say the answer is: yes, the insured would have  
 25 suffered it in any event because of the imposition of

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1 the national lockdown.  
 2 MR KEALEY: Correct. But that is a question ultimately of  
 3 fact , of course .  
 4 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is what I said to you. Yes, it is  
 5 a question of fact . Or it might be, going back to our  
 6 example of the restaurant , because members of the public  
 7 don't want to go to the restaurant in any event .  
 8 MR KEALEY: Yes. But --  
 9 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: And if they are not prevented by the  
 10 government. But that again is a factual question .  
 11 MR KEALEY: That is again a factual question .  
 12 If one looks at the 25-mile radius , you might have,  
 13 and indeed I am sure some of the hapless insureds with  
 14 which we are concerned, you may have a local pub or  
 15 a local shop and its clientele all come from within  
 16 a mile or two miles or three miles of the premises .  
 17 Anyone who is experienced with local village shops, they  
 18 know that these little village shops service the village  
 19 and perhaps other villages around, that is their  
 20 demographic, their clientele . And you may well find ,  
 21 my Lord, seriously , that there is cover in respect of  
 22 local disease , in the sense of disease within that  
 23 25-mile area , which brings down some form of prohibition  
 24 or inhibition , whatever the wording of the contract is ,  
 25 which affects that shop. So for example, take the

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1 measles and the local school, the local school is closed  
2 down by government, and that -- depending of course on  
3 the peril insured against, but let's say it doesn't  
4 matter, in let's call it very wide cover, any illnesses  
5 within 25 miles which have a causative effect or cause  
6 business interruption at your shop. If that is what you  
7 have got, if that is the width of your cover, then the  
8 fact that there is measles in the local school, which  
9 inhibits parents from coming, and therefore inhibits the  
10 parents from going to the local shop, et cetera, then  
11 you have got coverage.

12 So the idea put about by the FCA that somehow or  
13 other, by virtue of what these insurers are doing, we  
14 are rendering the cover illusory is itself a fantasy.  
15 Because these insurers, they are not bad people, these  
16 insurers may well in certain instances be wrong about  
17 not paying up, in certain instances they will be right  
18 about not paying up, these insurers, as Lord Sumption  
19 said, have to be treated in exactly the same way as  
20 insureds; in other words, fairly. I know you are going  
21 to do that anyway, but it is something that I wanted to  
22 mention.

23 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Our law makes that very clear, unlike  
24 certain of the jurisdictions in the United States.

25 MR KEALEY: That is absolutely right. In fact, I am not

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1 going to refer to Lord Sumption, that reference to  
2 Lord Sumption is in our joint skeleton -- it isn't in  
3 our joint skeleton, it is actually in Amlin and  
4 Ecclesiastical's skeleton. But looking at our joint  
5 skeleton, one goes way back to paragraph 21.3 {1/6/13},  
6 and I don't want to dwell too much on aleatory bargains,  
7 but there is a quotation from Lord Sumner in  
8 Becker Gray, and the last four lines:

9 "One need only ask, has the event, on which I put my  
10 premium, actually occurred? This is a matter of the  
11 meaning of the contract, and not, as seems sometimes to  
12 be supposed, of doing the liberal and reasonable thing  
13 by a reasonable assured."

14 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: In your point about the radius, and  
15 this may just be because I am being slow, but this isn't  
16 really necessarily tied to a "but for" point, is it?  
17 You would say that the losses suffered by reason of  
18 government action weren't caused by the disease in the  
19 area in any sense at all. It wasn't that anyone  
20 thought, for example, there is a disease here and  
21 therefore there needs to be a restriction. In other  
22 words, the debate we were having about the various  
23 different types of causation, you would say, isn't  
24 relevant here at all.

25 MR KEALEY: Yes.

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1 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: That is at least as I understand it.

2 MR KEALEY: That is absolutely right. I hear myself echoing  
3 for some reason.

4 That is absolutely right. I think that the best  
5 location for the analysis of that is actually, dare  
6 I say it, not in our skeleton, or my skeleton, it is  
7 actually in the skeleton of QBE. To an extent --  
8 I don't mean to disparage anybody else's skeletons, it  
9 may be that I have just read that most recently. But  
10 you are absolutely right, my Lord, there is  
11 a fundamental causation problem here, and indeed the FCA  
12 acknowledges that the government would have done exactly  
13 the same as it did do, irrespective of these individual  
14 insureds or the illnesses locally.

15 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: By contrast, in the case of a local  
16 lockdown, in Leicester or wherever it may be, then there  
17 may very well be insurance coverage within these  
18 clauses, precisely because the government action in  
19 locking down in that area is as a consequence of the  
20 prevalence of disease in that area.

21 MR KEALEY: I would imagine that that is absolutely right.

22 I don't know. But certainly if one takes a basic  
23 disease clause, in the circumstances of which we know,  
24 I would expect there to be coverage.

25 Then if there is coverage, as one would expect there

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1 to have been loss as a result of this, one knows that  
2 the lockdown in Leicester came in very shortly after the  
3 release from lockdown, and so people were starting to go  
4 to pubs or restaurants or whatever it is, and they  
5 suddenly stopped. In those circumstances, it will be  
6 a question for the calculation of the loss, but there is  
7 no doubt in my mind that according to the correct  
8 wording there will be coverage for that.

9 Indeed, I had looked myself just out of interest,  
10 the lockdown is within, as it were, a circle of  
11 25 miles. Obviously it depends where your premises are,  
12 but if your premises are right in the middle of the  
13 lockdown it seems to be that everything around that is  
14 25 miles, but that was --

15 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is actually a bit less, isn't it?

16 It may be as little as 5 miles or 10 miles. But it is  
17 more than a mile but less than 25, I think.

18 MR KEALEY: Exactly so, my Lord.

19 What we suggest to your Lordships is that if you are  
20 going to apply the counterfactual correctly, which you  
21 must, in relation to an insured peril, let's call it A,  
22 it is unprincipled and wrong to apply a counterfactual  
23 reversing A plus B, when B is not an insured peril. At  
24 worst, if the insurer is held liable for the loss caused  
25 by A plus B, the contract is rewritten, because the

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1 insurer never promised to hold harmless against loss  
 2 caused by A plus B. Reversing less than the insured  
 3 peril can cause the insured harm, because you may  
 4 deprive an insured of coverage by not reversing that  
 5 which needs to be reversed; in other words, the insured  
 6 peril .  
 7 Now, if you move away from the "but for" test or you  
 8 purport to apply the "but for" test to something more  
 9 than the insured peril , in other words, but for A plus  
 10 B, you are moving away from fundamental principles of  
 11 law. You can't take refuge in the Fairchild enclave or  
 12 anywhere else, there is no principled basis for doing  
 13 so.  
 14 So my Lords, when the contract insures against loss  
 15 resulting from or caused by or following , or any similar  
 16 language requiring causal connection, what the parties  
 17 are doing, as they did in this case, they are adopting  
 18 traditional "but for" causation and not replacing it .  
 19 You have got to construe this contract as at the  
 20 date it was made, or these contracts as at the date when  
 21 they were made, not with the benefit of COVID-19  
 22 hindsight . So if they are saying "caused by",  
 23 "resulting from", "following ", whether you say that one  
 24 denotes proximate cause or another denotes something  
 25 less , like you might say a less significant causal

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1 connection, you are nevertheless , or you should  
 2 nevertheless conclude that the parties are adopting  
 3 traditional causal analysis , not replacing it .  
 4 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You are taking links in a chain and  
 5 that some of the links may be weaker than others,  
 6 depending on the words that are being used, and where  
 7 you get to is a chain, or a combination as you describe  
 8 it , which comprises the insured peril .  
 9 MR KEALEY: Yes. That is right.  
 10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The proximate cause point only really  
 11 comes in, doesn't it , when you are asking the question :  
 12 is the loss claimed caused by the insured peril ?  
 13 MR KEALEY: Yes, yes.  
 14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So in a sense the points about "arising  
 15 from", "connected to", "following ", et cetera , are all  
 16 beside the point .  
 17 MR KEALEY: That is our submission, my Lord.  
 18 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But still, once you put them together  
 19 in the combination and decided what the insured peril  
 20 is , then the proximate cause test applies at that stage .  
 21 MR KEALEY: That is right. There are two stages in a sense .  
 22 Firstly , are there causative links in the combination  
 23 which constitutes the insured peril ? So disease causing  
 24 this , causing that , causing the other . And you may have  
 25 to , as your Lordship has indicated , apply different

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1 degrees of causation , depending upon the language .  
 2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Sure.  
 3 MR KEALEY: But -- but -- on any of the language in our  
 4 cases , and I don't act for other insurers , but having  
 5 seen them, on any of the language in our cases there is  
 6 never anything less than a factual causation "but for"  
 7 standard that needs to be met in any event . That is the  
 8 first stage .  
 9 The second stage, once you have identified the  
 10 insured peril , has that caused the business interruption  
 11 loss for which a claim is made? And that is  
 12 traditional , legal causation principles that apply, and  
 13 the very least of those principles is the "but for"  
 14 principle .  
 15 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: In fact it's proximate cause at that  
 16 stage, or dominant or efficient or whatever .  
 17 MR KEALEY: It is . It is . But that is a far higher  
 18 standard, as it were, than the "but for" principle ,  
 19 because unless you actually overcome the "but for"  
 20 principle you are not into proximate causation anyway .  
 21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No.  
 22 MR KEALEY: My Lords, I am going to turn if I may, with a  
 23 certain -- not rapidity but I am just going to make sure  
 24 that I cover everything .  
 25 We have discussed quite quickly concurrent

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1 interdependent causes . As I have indicated , my Lords,  
 2 concurrent interdependent causes shouldn't be something  
 3 with which we should be concerned directly in this case,  
 4 but of course it does educate us on the correct analyses  
 5 to be applied as a matter of general causation  
 6 principles . In other words, as I indicated earlier ,  
 7 both causes in two interdependent causes by definition  
 8 satisfy the "but for" test . Each of them does .  
 9 Your Lordships will see that not only in  
 10 MacGillivray , and I will give your Lordships the  
 11 reference , you don't need to look at it , it is  
 12 paragraph 21-005, which is at {K/191/2}, and that was in  
 13 a passage endorsed by Lord Clarke in The Kos, which is  
 14 at {J/115/29}. Perhaps --  
 15 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Shall we have a look at The Kos?  
 16 MR KEALEY: We will have a look at The Kos. It is  
 17 {J/115/29}. It is paragraph 74, my Lord. Perhaps we  
 18 should start at page {J/115/28} .  
 19 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
 20 MR KEALEY: Thank you so much. At the bottom. You will see  
 21 it in the left-hand, paragraph 71, go through Wayne Tank  
 22 and Miss Jay Jay, Midland Mainline and Eagle Star, those  
 23 are all interdependent, my Lord.  
 24 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
 25 MR KEALEY: There are quotations there. Then if we go to

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1 the next page, and about by the letter B, this is The  
2 Miss Jay Jay:

3 "It was held that the faulty design and construction  
4 of the vessel, which was neither an insured peril nor an  
5 excepted cause, and perils of the seas, which was an  
6 insured peril, were both proximate causes of the loss  
7 since they were, as Lord Justice Slade put it, 'equal or  
8 at least nearly equal in their efficiency in bringing  
9 about the damage'. These principles are as I see it  
10 correctly summarised in MacGillivray ... and in McGee  
11 and where Lord Hodge also stressed the importance of  
12 context see I think this is just to be fair".

13 This is just on the question of independent and  
14 interdependent causes that Lord Justice Clarke approves  
15 of Orient-Express and Mr Justice Hamblen, and also the  
16 Global Process case.

17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But this is interdependent causes,  
18 hence the reference to them being both --

19 MR KEALEY: Exactly.

20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: -- of equal efficiency.

21 MR KEALEY: That is exactly right, my Lord. Two  
22 interdependent proximate causes. The cases there are  
23 all of combinations of causes in the absence of either  
24 of which the loss would not have occurred.

25 Of course, being interdependent causes it

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1 necessarily follows that if one is excluded the "but  
2 for" test cannot be satisfied, because both are required  
3 in combination to produce the loss.

4 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: But that shows, doesn't it, that you  
5 can have a proximate cause which is not a "but for"  
6 cause?

7 MR KEALEY: No. You have got two proximate causes, each is  
8 a "but for" cause, but if one is excluded from coverage  
9 then you don't have a covered loss.

10 So you do have two interdependent causes, it is just  
11 that if one is insured and the other is not insured you  
12 have got coverage, because the insured peril satisfies  
13 the "but for" test. But if you have got one insured and  
14 one excluded, then because you have got the exclusion,  
15 you take out one of the necessary arms or elements which  
16 are necessary or is necessary to produce the loss, ergo  
17 your loss is excluded.

18 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That's obviously Wayne Tank.

19 MR KEALEY: That is all those cases, my Lord. It is also,  
20 if one goes -- let me just take you to B Atlantic, that  
21 is probably a good area to go. If your Lordship goes to  
22 {J/139/1}. It is in the Supreme Court.

23 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.

24 MR KEALEY: The passage is in Lord Mance's judgment. If you  
25 go to page 23 {J/139/23} this, as your Lordships

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1 probably know, is a case where drugs had been strapped  
2 to the hull of a ship.

3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I was the hapless trial judge,  
4 Mr Kealey, so I know all about this case.

5 MR KEALEY: Well, there you are.

6 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Lord Mance found another way of  
7 doing me down than the way that Lord Justice  
8 Christopher Clarke had.

9 MR KEALEY: I am sorry about that.

10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: None of that is relevant for present  
11 purposes. This is principles of causation.

12 MR KEALEY: If your Lordship would go to paragraph 49, just  
13 above letter C, this is John Cory, and reference to  
14 Lord Blackburn:

15 "Subsequent authority confirms Lord Blackburn's  
16 conclusion that, where an insured loss arises from the  
17 combination of two causes, one insured, the other  
18 excluded, the exclusion prevents recovery, see [Samuel v  
19 Dumas and Wayne Tank]. Here, the two potential causes  
20 were the malicious act and the seizure and detention.  
21 The malicious act would not have caused the loss without  
22 the seizure and detention, it was the combination of  
23 the two that was fatal."

24 Then it goes on. So what your Lordship sees is that  
25 Lord Mance there is, in our respectful submission, if

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1 not explicitly then certainly very clearly implicitly,  
2 endorsing the proposition that where you have  
3 a combination of causes in circumstances where the loss  
4 wouldn't have occurred without that combination, in  
5 other words, each has to satisfy the "but for" test,  
6 when you have that, then if you are insured and  
7 uninsured you're covered, and if you're insured and  
8 excluded you're not.

9 That is a completely different case, of course, from  
10 that of two so-called independent concurrent causes. I  
11 say *soi-disant* in that case because that begs the  
12 question as to causation.

13 I know my learned friends for the FCA refer to  
14 a passing remark of Lord Justice Clarke in the Court of  
15 Appeal about concurrent causes but, frankly, I am not  
16 going to take you to that because it is not  
17 authoritative, and your Lordships have Lord Mance in the  
18 Supreme Court.

19 So concurrent independent causes. Now, I am going  
20 to take this quite swiftly because I have already  
21 covered much of the ground. But if your Lordships will  
22 in your own time, if you have any, which I know you may  
23 not, it is paragraph 56 of the joint skeleton, that is  
24 {1/6/47}. Well, it is there.

25 What you have is the simple application of the "but

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1 for" test to the insured peril produces the equally  
 2 simple result that the insured peril didn't cause the  
 3 loss as a matter of factual "but for" causation.  
 4 And by reason of being a second independent cause or  
 5 by reason of there being a second independent cause, the  
 6 insured peril did not contribute to the loss.  
 7 Now, the only answer that the FCA seems to be able  
 8 to make to this, apart from slightly ambitious arguments  
 9 on construction or connection or interlinkage or  
 10 jigsaws, is: on that logic, the loss has no cause.  
 11 Because if you ask the question whether, on the "but  
 12 for" test, the second independent cause caused the loss,  
 13 the answer would be no, because of the insured peril.  
 14 So the philosopher would answer that the loss has no  
 15 cause, and that can't be right. That is exactly what  
 16 the FCA said, through one of its counsel, at Day 1 of  
 17 the transcript, pages 130 to 131. [Day1/130:1] And we  
 18 submit, my Lords, that that is simply a nonanswer. It  
 19 is an irrelevance.  
 20 Because the issue on a contract of insurance is  
 21 simply not, if I can put it that way, was the cause of  
 22 the loss, but rather as between two contracting parties,  
 23 and in that context, did the insured peril cause the  
 24 loss.  
 25 The standard "but for" test answers that question

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1 and does so perfectly satisfactorily, traditionally and  
 2 correctly. It is irrelevant to the enquiry that if you  
 3 apply the same approach to the other uninsured  
 4 independent cause you arrive at, as it were, a similar  
 5 mirror conclusion.  
 6 The only time when that is a relevant or might be  
 7 a relevant factor is the one that I have indicated  
 8 before, it's if the other independent cause was itself  
 9 a breach of legal duty owed to the same claimant in  
 10 respect of the same loss. In other words, you have two  
 11 wrongdoings.  
 12 Now, if you have got two wrongdoers the law  
 13 recognises as an exceptional circumstance that both  
 14 cannot be allowed to escape liability by relying on the  
 15 other's wrongdoing, so as to leave the claimant in  
 16 a worse position than it would have been in if it had  
 17 been the victim of only one breach of duty.  
 18 All the decisions relied upon by the FCA as examples  
 19 of cases where the "but for" test has not been applied  
 20 are cases where there are concurrent independent causes  
 21 involving multiple wrongdoers. I don't want it to be  
 22 brought up now, but for your reference it is  
 23 paragraphs 238 to 240 of the FCA's trial skeleton  
 24 {1/1/94}. For example, two people simultaneously but  
 25 independently shooting a victim dead, two people

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1 independently searching for the source of a gas leak  
 2 with the aid of lighted candles; the facts of the  
 3 successive conversions in Kuwait Airways and the  
 4 decision in Greenwich Millennium involving the multiple  
 5 subcontractors who each of them or all of them were  
 6 responsible legally.  
 7 I am going to turn to the issue of multiple  
 8 wrongdoers later, as I have indicated, when looking at  
 9 the Orient-Express.  
 10 What we have done, my Lord, is to have identified  
 11 classical legal principle, and the first question then  
 12 that you will have to consider, probably later, in  
 13 relation to individual wordings is what is the insured  
 14 peril. That is a question of contract construction.  
 15 I have given you some examples.  
 16 When you have identified what the insured peril is,  
 17 my Lords, you will and should, in our respectful  
 18 submission, conclude that there is no legal or  
 19 principled reason, on the basis of the wordings with  
 20 which we are concerned, that enables the insured to say,  
 21 with a straight or other face, there is such a close  
 22 relationship or commonality or linkage between, say, one  
 23 instance of illness and the illness everywhere else in  
 24 the country that enables the insured to recover because  
 25 it is contemplated that, for example, a 25-mile radius

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1 area referable to disease might be affected by something  
 2 of epidemic proportions.  
 3 What Mr Edelman said on {Day 1/105:1} to 106 was  
 4 effectively the same; it was to the effect that the  
 5 insured is covered against the peril of being caught up  
 6 in the consequences of a wide area disease that  
 7 manifests itself in the relevant area. And that really  
 8 says it all. All you need, according to the FCA, is the  
 9 manifestation of a disease in a relevant area for  
 10 coverage to exist.  
 11 They say, and I am going to take you to the  
 12 passages, that so long as, in other words, provided  
 13 that, there is just one case of COVID-19 in the 25-mile  
 14 radius area, the insured can recover all its losses  
 15 caused by the entire pandemic. So the one case doesn't  
 16 even have to be a cause of the insured's loss, the one  
 17 case is merely the gateway. And it is a gateway, my  
 18 Lords, to a different cover from that which the insured  
 19 was granted for the premium that the insured paid.  
 20 It is just like Chesil Beach. If the oil comes only  
 21 one inch into the insured area, and that one inch of oil  
 22 has no significance whatsoever, because it is manifested  
 23 within the relevant radius area, as if by magic the  
 24 insured can recover all its loss caused by the oil spill  
 25 on the beach beyond the insured area.

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1 So what we say is that --  
 2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I mean, the actual example that was  
 3 given was where the area of contamination is greater  
 4 than the insured area. But if the insured can  
 5 demonstrate that even if it had been limited to the  
 6 insured area the relevant shutdown would have occurred,  
 7 then there is cover.  
 8 So, for example, going back to Leicester, let's  
 9 assume for the sake of argument that there is a 1 mile  
 10 limit in the policy, in fact the area that is restricted  
 11 is a 3-mile limit or a 5-mile limit, but if the insured  
 12 can demonstrate that the prevalence of the disease  
 13 within the 1 mile limit was causative of the shutdown,  
 14 then there is cover, even though the extent of the  
 15 disease is greater than the 1 mile area.  
 16 MR KEALEY: I agree with that, my Lord, entirely. I would  
 17 only make sure that we understand each other. In other  
 18 words, but for the disease within that 1 mile area,  
 19 whatever government restriction it was would not have  
 20 been imposed.  
 21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That was part of what I was putting to  
 22 you.  
 23 MR KEALEY: How can I possibly disagree with that?  
 24 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Because one of the points that is taken  
 25 against insurers, as I understand it, is: well, if there

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1 is a national pandemic or if there is a wider outbreak  
 2 of disease then they are saying there is no cover. And  
 3 that is not in fact what you are saying. What you are  
 4 saying is, provided that within the relevant limit,  
 5 whether it is 1-mile or 25-mile limit, there has been  
 6 a restriction as a consequence of disease in that area,  
 7 the fact that the overall area of the disease is greater  
 8 is neither here nor there.  
 9 MR KEALEY: That is right.  
 10 Two qualifications: the insured has to prove that  
 11 but for the disease within that area the restrictions  
 12 wouldn't have been imposed; and secondly, the insured --  
 13 this is going to be very fact-sensitive, but the insured  
 14 should not be entitled to recover, other than in respect  
 15 of the loss caused by the restrictions caused by the  
 16 disease within that 25-mile area.  
 17 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: So you say, supposing turnover of these  
 18 restaurants in Leicester has been at 50% of normal  
 19 because of the -- restaurants is not a good example --  
 20 the shops have been 50% of normal because of the  
 21 lockdown nationally, and then there is the local closure  
 22 and it goes down to nought, you are saying that it still  
 23 has to be shown, in that 50% decline, that that was due  
 24 to the local lockdown and not to the other effects of  
 25 COVID.

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1 MR KEALEY: Correct.  
 2 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Because, I mean, this is an area which  
 3 really troubles me, and it troubles me about your  
 4 church, for example. If you had for the first three  
 5 weeks of March a church which has takings which are,  
 6 let's say, at 80% of what they had been the previous  
 7 year, you accept, as Ecclesiastical -- I know you are  
 8 not Ecclesiastical just at the moment but you are  
 9 otherwise Ecclesiastical -- you accept that on 23 March  
 10 there was a government action which was capable of  
 11 restricting access, as I understand it.  
 12 MR KEALEY: Yes.  
 13 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: And the churches, let's take a church,  
 14 as I say, it was 80% before, and it falls to 10% of what  
 15 it had been the previous year.  
 16 Now, do you then say: well, the insured can't  
 17 recover the difference between 80% and 10% unless it can  
 18 be said that they can distinguish between that part of  
 19 that difference which was due to the restrictions on  
 20 churches and not to any other part of the governmental  
 21 action on the 23 March?  
 22 MR KEALEY: Yes. I put it this way, that you start with  
 23 80%. So on any view, subject to any other facts that  
 24 might arise, the insured can't recover more than up to  
 25 80%; that is the first stage. The second stage is that

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1 the diminution by a further 70% of the 100% is  
 2 ostensibly covered following the insured peril unless,  
 3 as I have put it before in answer to a question of  
 4 your Lordship, it is prima facie covered because you  
 5 have the closure, you have the reduction, and therefore  
 6 there is a prima facie case. If those are the only  
 7 facts you have got, then there is a prima facie case.  
 8 If, however, there is evidence sufficient to shift  
 9 the evidential burden, or rather shift it back, to the  
 10 effect that irrespective of the closure of the church  
 11 you would have been deprived of the income because all  
 12 your congregation was dead, then the insured will have  
 13 to take that on the chin.  
 14 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: The trouble is that the nature of these  
 15 events is that after the occurrence of the restriction,  
 16 in conjunction with all sorts of other restrictions, it  
 17 becomes impossible to tell.  
 18 MR KEALEY: Right. You assert that, my Lord.  
 19 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It might be impossible. It might be  
 20 difficult to tell.  
 21 MR KEALEY: I don't necessarily disagree with your Lordship  
 22 on the last statement. I don't shy away from it either,  
 23 because business interruption losses are quite often  
 24 really difficult and complicated analyses. I am not  
 25 saying that as an in terrorem attack on these hapless

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1 insureds in our cases. I am just saying business  
2 interruption losses are notoriously difficult to  
3 calculate. In fact, my Lord, this is why loss adjustors  
4 are so heavily -- and I am not talking about insureds in  
5 this case, I am just talking generally -- loss adjustors  
6 are heavily engaged for both sides in trying to work out  
7 what the answer or the answers are.

8 If your Lordships go to paragraph 26.6 in our  
9 skeleton this is something that we recognise. It is not  
10 something that we are frightened of and it is not  
11 something that we are unaware of. It is at  
12 paragraph 26.6 if you go to {1/6/29}.

13 Could I just invite your Lordships to read that. So  
14 this is something we recognise. But I have to say to  
15 your Lordship that it is not a reason why one should  
16 construe the contract or manipulate the law in any way  
17 which is not justified by the contract or the law.

18 Now you are right, it would be a difficult exercise  
19 if you have, for example, as your Lordship has said, you  
20 have a shop closed, or let's call it the Ecclesiastical,  
21 let's call it the church. You have a reduction to 80%  
22 and if the government had not had acted that, let's just  
23 assume my Lord it can be proved, would have reduced to  
24 60%, not because of the closure but because of other  
25 factors, for example, the public's disinclination to be

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1 seen with other people or be near other people, or the  
2 Church of England, or depending what type of church it  
3 is, might have said: "We don't encourage you to go to  
4 take communion" or whatever it happens to be.

5 I have to say, and I don't say it with timidity,  
6 I say it legally, that that extra 20% is a loss that  
7 cannot be attributed to the closure of the church; that  
8 loss is attributed to something other than the insured  
9 peril.

10 It may be difficult to prove and in fact it may be  
11 difficult even for insurers to satisfy its own, or their  
12 own evidential burden. But I don't in any way retreat  
13 from the legal principles by which we are all bound.

14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Mr Kealey, just to follow that through:  
15 do you accept that in my Lord's example where there is,  
16 as it were, events which are inextricably linked one  
17 with another, that it might, given on any set of  
18 facts -- and I entirely accept that it is  
19 a fact-sensitive analysis -- you might or an insured  
20 might as it were succeed in a claim under the policy on  
21 a similar basis to that which applied in the Silversea  
22 case?

23 MR KEALEY: Actually I don't accept that. I don't accept  
24 that. I will come on to Silversea, or the Silver Cloud  
25 in due course.

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1 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is an example of a case where the  
2 judge had said at first instance there are two causes  
3 but you can't actually say which of them -- you can't  
4 extricate them. So it is a case of interdependent  
5 causes.

6 MR KEALEY: That particular judge was inappropriately  
7 seduced by the advocacy of the insured in that case.  
8 But what he decided in relation to that was -- I am not  
9 saying he was wrong to decide it, of course he decided  
10 it -- what he decided was the impact of two  
11 circumstances, I will call them that neutrally, which  
12 occurred one immediately following the other which had  
13 an influence or an effect upon the minds of individuals.

14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.

15 MR KEALEY: So you have a terrorist attack and a government  
16 warning, which I think he said were, upon the basis of  
17 expert evidence that he heard, of indivisible causative  
18 effect.

19 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: He couldn't say that the one was of  
20 greater causal impact than the other. That was the  
21 point.

22 MR KEALEY: No, he couldn't say that. That is on the mind  
23 of individuals. Now that is not, if I might put it this  
24 way, my Lord, our case.

25 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No.

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1 MR KEALEY: Because the case postulated by  
2 Mr Justice Butcher, my Lord Mr Justice Butcher, or the  
3 case in fact I postulated to him, I cannot remember  
4 which way it went, but I suggested that after the  
5 closure you would have found that a further 20% wouldn't  
6 have gone into the church in any event. In other words,  
7 they weren't affected by the closure. The closure,  
8 unlike the government warnings, or the State Department  
9 warnings in your case, my Lord, the closure didn't have  
10 that impact. I am not saying that closure can't. Of  
11 course a closure could shape how someone thinks about  
12 something.

13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think we might be slightly at  
14 cross-purposes, because I think what I was really  
15 putting to you, I was really just trying to explore  
16 whether if on the facts it wasn't possible to say  
17 whether it was the closure or fear of COVID, and in the  
18 case, you know, assuming that there is a trial, the  
19 evidence is to the effect that you simply cannot  
20 distinguish between the two, then you would have  
21 a scenario that was very similar to the one in  
22 Silversea. That is all I am putting to you I think.

23 MR KEALEY: Right. Then the answer is that the insured has  
24 failed to satisfy its burden.

25 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Right.

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1 MR KEALEY: It is no different from The Popi M. I don't  
 2 think -- well, anyway, it is not for me to think or not  
 3 think.  
 4 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I don't know.  
 5 MR KEALEY: I try and think a little bit.  
 6 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Do you submit then that Silversea is  
 7 wrongly decided?  
 8 MR KEALEY: Oh no. No, no, no. What I say is Silversea  
 9 didn't decide anything of any relevance to this case.  
 10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is a different point. Yes,  
 11 I follow. Anyway, I was taking you out of your course.  
 12 MR KEALEY: Not at all. I am going to come to Silversea.  
 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You have limited time, Mr Kealey, so  
 14 let's shut up now.  
 15 MR KEALEY: No, please don't, my Lord.  
 16 The important point that I was making is that -- and  
 17 I am going to give your Lordships the references: it is  
 18 {Day1/101:6-14}, {Day1/104:16-22} and {Day1/105:22} to  
 19 {Day1/106:4}.  
 20 What Mr Edelman submitted was that business  
 21 interruption losses caused to an insured by disease  
 22 everywhere in a pandemic or epidemic are recoverable  
 23 simply "so long as" the pandemic extends into the stated  
 24 radius of the insured premises. I am using a disease  
 25 radius clause for this example.

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1 According to the FCA and their counsel, the insured  
 2 does not have to show, apparently, that the business  
 3 interruption losses were actually caused by any disease  
 4 within the 25-mile radius.  
 5 There is absolutely no insured peril clause in any  
 6 of these contracts which comes anywhere near wording to  
 7 that effect. If there were it would have to read  
 8 something akin to, "You are entitled to recover business  
 9 interruption loss resulting from interference with the  
 10 business caused by illness from an infectious disease  
 11 provided that there is a case of illness of infectious  
 12 disease within 25 miles of the insured premises".  
 13 The effect of doing that is actually to remove the  
 14 causative requirement and to demote the disease within  
 15 25 miles to the status of a mere subsidiary trigger. It  
 16 removes the in-built restriction from the scope of the  
 17 disease cover.  
 18 So instead of promising to insure against disease  
 19 within 25 miles causing business interruption loss, the  
 20 insurer is confronted by a promise that he never made to  
 21 insure against disease occurring everywhere so long as  
 22 one case can be proved within a 25-mile radius area of  
 23 its premises, of the premises of the insured.  
 24 It transforms the promise from an agreement to  
 25 insure local disease to meet the insured's aspiration

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1 after the event in this case for broad national disease  
 2 cover, and for that matter threatened national disease.  
 3 Now I am not like the FCA saying, oh well, you  
 4 should have excluded this or you should have excluded  
 5 that. All I am saying is that if these insurers had  
 6 been prepared to give cover for infectious diseases on  
 7 an epidemic scale in a disease clause that would not  
 8 have been the disease clauses with which your Lordships  
 9 are confronted.  
 10 Now my learned friend, I can't remember, I think  
 11 it is Mr Edelman in his comestible metaphors, accused us  
 12 of salami slicing or cherry-picking {Day1/97:3-4}. We  
 13 are not guilty. The guilt lies elsewhere with him.  
 14 Mr Edelman also argued that on our approach the more  
 15 widespread the disease the less cover the insured has.  
 16 {Day1/122:17-25}  
 17 My Lord, that is just wrong. It all depends on what  
 18 the disease is and what the government's approach is to  
 19 that disease.  
 20 If the government only imposes restrictions where  
 21 there are outbreaks and one of those areas is covered by  
 22 the policy then the insured can readily show not only  
 23 disease within the requisite area but also causation.  
 24 If the government imposes restrictions on all areas  
 25 regardless of whether there is at the time any case or

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1 any serious number of cases, then if the insured cannot  
 2 show that the disease within 25 miles, in other words  
 3 the relevant area, caused him loss or caused it loss,  
 4 then the insured doesn't have the coverage.  
 5 All this is because as the FCA has acknowledged in  
 6 its pleadings and in its skeleton argument, it cannot  
 7 prove and does not have the evidence that comes close to  
 8 proving that any disease or any incident or anything  
 9 happening within a particular area was causative of the  
 10 government's response, whatever that response was, to  
 11 COVID-19. And by "whatever that response" I mean  
 12 whatever shape or form it took: whether it was advisory;  
 13 imposition of regulations; whether it was on social  
 14 distancing; whether it was on closures. No causation  
 15 can be proved.  
 16 That, my Lords, for your reference is reply  
 17 paragraph 52. That is {A/14/27}; the FCA trial  
 18 skeleton, paragraph 241. That is {I/1/97}.  
 19 So, my Lords, I have taken you to some examples.  
 20 I have got some other examples in my notes, for example  
 21 a lorry spill and other examples. I can go through  
 22 those. But I just wonder whether it is of real value to  
 23 you since I think I have made my points on those.  
 24 If your Lordships wish me to go through, for  
 25 example, a lorry spill and causation enquiries I can do

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1 so. But I am not sure --

2 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Speaking for myself, I suspect we have

3 covered the ground in relation to that. I think I can

4 imagine what you are going to say about it.

5 MR KEALEY: Yes, I think I have covered the ground, my Lord,

6 because I see a certain amount of repetition in my

7 examples of the principles. So I am grateful for that.

8 So, my Lords, what I think I would like to do is to

9 take your Lordships now, or what I am going to try and

10 cover now in not short order but I am not going to be

11 trespassing too much on everybody's time, I want to go

12 to the Orient-Express, then to Silversea, and then back

13 to Orient Express. Then I think I am probably done.

14 Your Lordships may say you have not answered all our

15 questions. But I am going to proceed along those lines

16 in the hope that I will have done so by the end of my

17 submissions sometime after lunch, about an hour after

18 lunch this afternoon.

19 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: If you have not answered our questions,

20 Mr Kealey, we will tell you.

21 MR KEALEY: Then I will go straight to the Orient-Express at

22 {J/106/1}.

23 The reason I do so at this stage is not the reason

24 I will do so later.

25 So 106. The reason I go here now is to identify to

1 your Lordship some fallacies in my learned friend's

2 submissions on the Orient-Express, and particularly how

3 it worked.

4 What I want to do, my Lord, and the whole purpose of

5 this exercise right now -- and you may tell me that you

6 know the answer already -- I want to identify the

7 insured peril in the business interruption section of

8 the policy. Not the insured peril in the property

9 damage section of the policy, but the insured peril in

10 the business interruption.

11 Of course, in doing so I will also tell you what the

12 insured peril is in relation to the property damage

13 section of the policy.

14 On {Day2/101:7-19} Mr Edelman said that

15 Mr Justice Hamblen reached the wrong judgment about what

16 the insured peril was because he said "indubitably the

17 insured peril was the hurricane".

18 Now your Lordships have to look at the case rather

19 more carefully. If your Lordships go to paragraph 12 of

20 the judgment {J/106/3}, where it says "The Policy",

21 bottom right, there are two sections.

22 Firstly under (a):

23 "The insurers agree to indemnify the insured under

24 the material damage and machinery breakdown sections

25 against direct physical loss, destruction or damage,

1 except as excluded herein to property as defined herein,

2 such loss, destruction or damage being hereafter termed

3 [capital D] Damage."

4 So the subject matter of that section is damage, and

5 the perils insured against, as indeed was accepted on

6 behalf of the FCA, were all risks, in other words all

7 fortuitous risks.

8 I want to emphasise one thing at this stage.

9 Contrary to Mr Edelman's suggestions on {Day2/99/1} to

10 {Day2/100:1}, nothing that I am about to say, and

11 nothing that Mr Justice Hamblen said, would have been

12 any different if the property damage section of the

13 policy that I have just read out was a specified risks

14 policy as opposed to an all risks policy. Absolutely

15 nothing. It wouldn't have made any difference if every

16 single risk, including hurricane, had been set out

17 verbatim. That is, my Lord, because as we say at

18 paragraph 16.3 of the Ecclesiastical skeleton, I think

19 it is, and Amlin's skeleton, that is {I/12/13} at

20 footnote 7:

21 "As Lord Sumner said in the case of British and

22 Foreign Marine v Gaunt: 'An all risks policy is

23 equivalent to a policy in which every single risk is set

24 out and enumerated".

25 You see that at footnote 7:

1 "All risks have the same effect as if all insurable

2 risks were separately enumerated."

3 Back to paragraph 12 {J/106/3} you can imagine every

4 single risk, including hurricane, being enumerated

5 there. That is the first stage of the policy.

6 The second section has a different insurance

7 coverage: under the business interruption section

8 against loss due to interruption or interference with

9 the business directly arising from damage.

10 The subject matter of 1(b) is the business. The

11 peril insured against is damage, capital D Damage as

12 defined. In other words capital D Damage as having been

13 caused by whichever risk falls within all risks, but

14 whatever risk falls within all risks and causes damage

15 ...

16 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So the peril insured against under the

17 business interruption section is damage caused by

18 hurricane, not hurricane.

19 MR KEALEY: Correct, and that is the only point I am making.

20 I am going to make it rather lengthily but unfortunately

21 I have to because it was submitted to you that the peril

22 was a hurricane, and that is blatantly fallacious.

23 If you look, my Lords, at paragraphs 57 and 58 of

24 Mr Justice Hamblen's judgment {J/106/11} -- one should

25 really start at 52. It is at page {J/106/11}:

1 "Sixthly, OEH [that is the insured] submits that  
2 Generali's approach subverts first principles in that it  
3 involves seeking to strip out from the claim for  
4 business interruption loss, loss caused by insured  
5 damage, not merely the concurrent consequences of the  
6 extraneous circumstances."

7 Et cetera:

8 "But the concurrent consequences of the very peril  
9 that caused the damage which was a proximate cause of  
10 the business interruption loss in the first place.  
11 However the relevant insured peril is the damage; not  
12 the cause of that damage."

13 If your Lordships now go to paragraph 57:

14 "I agree with the tribunal that the clause is  
15 concerned only with the damage, not with the cause of  
16 the damage. What is covered are business interruption  
17 losses caused by damage, not business interruption  
18 losses caused by damage or other damage which resulted  
19 from the same cause."

20 If your Lordships go to the bottom of that  
21 paragraph, the same page, in relation to the trends  
22 clause but also actually the "but for" test:

23 "The assumption required to be made under the trends  
24 clause is had the damage not occurred, not had the  
25 damage and whatever event caused the damage not

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1 occurred."

2 When he says that your Lordships should recall that  
3 he also said that the trends clause was merely  
4 a reflection of the general "but for" test as a matter  
5 of general legal principle.

6 Then at 58 over the page, my Lords:

7 "I agree with Generali that OEH's construction  
8 effectively requires words to be read into the clause or  
9 for it to be redrafted."

10 Just towards the end of that paragraph -- well,  
11 I should read on:

12 "Further such a redrafting of the trends clause  
13 which would allow for OEH to recover for the loss in  
14 gross operating profit suffered as a result of the  
15 occurrence of the insured event (ie the hurricanes) as  
16 opposed to the loss suffered as a result of the damage  
17 to the hotel, is inconsistent with the causation  
18 requirements of the main insuring clause which OEH  
19 accepts requires proof that the losses claimed were  
20 caused by damage to the hotel."

21 Then in the next paragraph he refers to the trends  
22 clauses providing clear support for adopting the "but  
23 for" approach to causation.

24 Now what I think the FCA has done, which is wholly  
25 inappropriate and quite wrong, is to have tried to lead

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1 your Lordships to think that when Mr Justice Hamblen was  
2 referring there to the insured event as the hurricane  
3 being the insured event what he meant for the purposes  
4 of the business interruption part of the policy was the  
5 same as the insured peril under the BI part of the  
6 policy.

7 That, my Lords, is wholly wrong, and quite wrong to  
8 have been suggested.

9 Your Lordships will see that, just little bits, if  
10 your Lordships go back to paragraph 45. I hope your  
11 Lordships will read now this judgment from the correct  
12 not misleading perspective {J/106/10}. If your  
13 Lordships go back to page 10, paragraph 45, at  
14 paragraph 45:

15 "However, without an adjustment mechanism as  
16 provided for by the trends clauses, an application of  
17 that standard formula to the facts of a given case may  
18 not give proper effect to the indemnity intended to be  
19 provided under the business interruption section of the  
20 policy, namely in respect of the loss resulting from the  
21 business interruption suffered in consequence of the  
22 property damage, which is itself the result of an  
23 insured event."

24 "Insured event" at this juncture of my Lord  
25 Mr Justice Hamblen's judgment, is the cause of the

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1 insured peril, and is not the insured peril.

2 Then the last couple of sentences or three  
3 sentences --

4 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Even though it might be an insured  
5 peril under section A of the policy, the material damage  
6 section.

7 MR KEALEY: Exactly so, my Lord. That is exactly the same  
8 point as was addressed by the Court of Appeal in  
9 Silversea.

10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Quite.

11 MR KEALEY: Exactly so. Mr Justice Hamblen is no slouch  
12 when it comes to, you know, grammar and vocabulary and  
13 taking the right words, he knew what he was saying and,  
14 in my respectful submission, when you read the words  
15 that he uses, anyone reading this judgment knew what he  
16 was saying and knows what he was saying.

17 If your Lordships go to the bottom of paragraph 46  
18 the middle:

19 "One cannot ignore the damage and yet pretend [this  
20 is the submission of the insured] for the purposes of  
21 the trends clause that the event which caused the damage  
22 still happened. However, this does not follow. The  
23 only assumption required by the clause is that the  
24 damage has not occurred."

25 That, my Lord, is the insured peril:

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1 "It does not require any assumption to be made as to  
2 the causes of that damage."

3 I am going to be referring to this case again, but  
4 since I am on it now, do your Lordships remember that --  
5 let me check, have I taken your Lordships to  
6 paragraph 52? I think I have. Yes, I have. That is  
7 okay.

8 Do your Lordships remember I was talking about  
9 wrongdoers and multiple wrongdoers? Since I am here  
10 now, my Lords, it is probably not inappropriate that  
11 I should just mention the multiple wrongdoers.

12 Sorry, my Lords I am just losing my --

13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is paragraph 24, it's the reference  
14 to Kuwait Airways.

15 MR KEALEY: I'm grateful, my Lord.

16 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Is it from Kuwait Airways at 73 and 74,  
17 the judge quotes it at page --

18 MR KEALEY: Yes, it is, 73 and 74. In fact, I wanted to  
19 take your Lordships also to paragraph 39 at page  
20 {J/106/9}:

21 "Further, it is not the case that the application of  
22 the 'but for' test means that there can be no recovery  
23 under either the main insuring clause or the prevention  
24 of access or the loss of attraction. If, for the  
25 purpose of resisting the claim under the main insuring

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1 clause, Generali asserts that the loss has not been  
2 caused by the damage to the hotel, because it would in  
3 any event have resulted from the damage to the vicinity  
4 or its consequences, it has to accept the causal effect  
5 of that damage for the POA or LOA, as indeed it has  
6 done. It cannot have it both ways. The 'but for' test  
7 does not, therefore, have the consequence that there is  
8 no cause and no recoverable loss, but rather a different  
9 (albeit, on the facts, more limited) recoverable loss."

10 That is because, my Lord, the losses were partly  
11 covered or potentially covered under both clauses.  
12 Therefore, because it was partially covered, or the loss  
13 was partially covered under both clauses, there was  
14 a breach of contract under both clauses, or under all  
15 three clauses actually. Because the insurer, Generali  
16 in this case, did not hold the insured harmless by  
17 preventing the loss from occurring. Ex hypothesi, the  
18 insurer was in breach of contract and was a wrongdoer.  
19 And a wrongdoer, in applying the "but for" test, cannot  
20 rely upon its own wrong.

21 So that is a further extrapolation of the instances  
22 or examples given in the Kuwait Airways case by  
23 Lord Nicholls and in other places about multiple  
24 wrongdoers. In fact, this is an a fortiori case, in the  
25 sense that this is one double or triple wrongdoer.

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1 My Lords, it is now 1.00 pm. I think I have dealt  
2 with, in this context, Orient-Express as to the  
3 proper -- I really shouldn't have had to do this --  
4 proper identification of the insured peril under the  
5 business interruption section. I am sorry to have had  
6 to take your time and it is wholly wrong that I should  
7 have been required to do so, but I have. I am now going  
8 to turn, if I may, my Lord, after lunch to the Silversea  
9 case, I think, and then revert finally to the  
10 Orient-Express.

11 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So you have got about another hour,  
12 have you?

13 MR KEALEY: I'm afraid I do, my Lords. I'm sorry.

14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: How the defendants divide up their time  
15 is a matter for them.

16 MR KEALEY: Yes indeed.

17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No doubt your colleagues will upbraid  
18 you if they think you have been belabouring points.

19 MR KEALEY: I think they already have.

20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Fortunately, they can't upbraid us for  
21 interrupting too much, but I hope we haven't interrupted  
22 too much.

23 Anyway, 2 o'clock, Mr Kealey.

24 MR KEALEY: Thank you so much, my Lord.  
25 (1.00 pm)

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1 (The short adjournment)

2 (1.58 pm)

3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Mr Kealey, it's just before 2 o'clock.  
4 If you are ready, shall we resume?

5 MR KEALEY: I'm grateful, my Lord.

6 Earlier this morning I had mentioned that the  
7 difficulties with which the FCA is confronted, the FCA  
8 sought to get around on essentially two bases. Firstly,  
9 which I have covered, we say that they, that is the FCA,  
10 sought to rewrite the insured perils, and we have dealt  
11 with that. But secondly, the FCA has come up with  
12 a novel concept of inextricable linkage, which seems to  
13 have been lifted imaginatively out of The Silver Cloud  
14 decision which, as we will demonstrate to your  
15 Lordships, is not an authority for anything relevant to  
16 this case and was, for the purposes of this case, purely  
17 a decision on the facts.

18 Now, this inextricable linkage novel concept appears  
19 to be a concept to which the FCA says that the legal  
20 principles applicable to concurrent interdependent  
21 causes applies.

22 So they say that the concept of interlinkage enables  
23 insureds to bring into contracts of insurance, as a form  
24 of almost unnamed peril and unnamed coverage, in this  
25 case all losses attributable to COVID-19. They say that

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1 this new category sits somewhere between the categories  
2 of concurrent independent causes and concurrent  
3 interdependent causes. It has the characteristics of  
4 a hybrid.

5 So one of its factual features is one that the  
6 insured peril of one part of the hybrid would not  
7 satisfy the "but for" test, but so long as one of the  
8 independent causes in this hybrid is insured and the  
9 other is not excluded, rather like interdependent  
10 causes, the insured can recover. And the way they put  
11 it is to say that this applies where the insured peril  
12 is inextricably interlinked or related to or connected  
13 with something else.

14 Where they articulate their case is at a number of  
15 places in fact, at transcript {Day2/37:1} really through  
16 to page 39. We needn't go there for present purposes,  
17 because I think I have accurately summarised what they  
18 say. It is sufficient that there is an inextricable  
19 linkage or sufficient that there is some commonality or  
20 relationship.

21 The reason why this is so important is because, as  
22 I have indicated this morning, as the FCA accepts, look  
23 at their trial skeleton page 241, that is {1/1/97}, and  
24 indeed if one looks at paragraph 241 you will see that  
25 they accept there that it would have made no difference

1 that there was anything within any one 25-mile area, it  
2 would have made no difference to the existence of the  
3 business interruption loss.

4 That is also accepted at paragraph 52 of the FCA's  
5 reply, in {A/14/27} at paragraph 52. They specifically  
6 say that:

7 "It is not alleged that the advice given and/or  
8 restrictions imposed were caused by any particular local  
9 occurrence of COVID-19 but they were caused ..." then  
10 they tell you by what they were caused.

11 So it is accepted, in our respectful submission,  
12 that the operation of any individual insured peril did  
13 not actually cause, on the FCA's own case, any insured  
14 business interruption loss.

15 Looking back at the new hybrid concept of  
16 interlinkage, one tries to look for the principle by  
17 which it is to be assessed, whether a non-insured cause  
18 is sufficiently interlinked with an insured cause to be  
19 treated as falling within this special category. And as  
20 a matter of law there is actually no legal or principled  
21 basis for doing so. The best that it seems the FCA can  
22 offer is the decision of the High Court and the Court of  
23 Appeal in Silversea, but actually the decisions in both  
24 of those courts help the FCA not at all.

25 Silversea is a case which you will find at {J/90/1}.

1 That is the decision of Mr Justice Tomlinson. Before we  
2 turn to that, the new concept which is proposed by the  
3 FCA is an entirely new concept of concurrent cause. It  
4 involves identifying what loss was proximately caused by  
5 a cause other than or additional to the insured peril.

6 So what they have done is to conjure up a gateway to  
7 an outcome where the insured peril need not actually be  
8 the cause of the loss at all. It is again reduced to  
9 a gateway to an outcome, where the insurer is fixed with  
10 a set of losses caused by something other than or in  
11 addition to the insured peril.

12 Now, we have dealt with the Silversea decision in  
13 some length in the joint skeleton. I am not going to  
14 turn to that, because I am just going to pick up various  
15 important points.

16 In the joint skeleton at paragraph 60, which is  
17 {1/6/62}. You have it out, as I say, in {J/90/1}.

18 Now, the following are quite important to note. The  
19 case came before the court on the footing that it was  
20 common ground between the experts that the events of  
21 9/11 and the State Department warnings were concurrent  
22 causes of the downturn in bookings.

23 Having heard the expert evidence,  
24 Mr Justice Tomlinson as then he was, decided, on the  
25 facts, that it was impossible to divorce the effects of

1 the warnings from the effects of the events on the  
2 travelling public. He decided that it was not possible  
3 to separate out those different factors, and to assign  
4 to them a different weight in terms of their impact on  
5 decision-making. You can see that at paragraph 68 of  
6 the learned judge's judgment, at {J/90/29}. Having  
7 heard the evidence, at line 4:

8 "... I am confirmed in that view. It is simply  
9 impossible to divorce anxiety derived from the attacks  
10 themselves from anxiety derived from the stark warnings  
11 issued in the immediate aftermath thereof."

12 Therefore, Mr Justice Tomlinson rejected  
13 underwriters' case, as referred to at paragraph 67  
14 further up on the left-hand side of that page, rejected  
15 underwriters' pleaded case that any diminution in  
16 business was attributable, either wholly or in  
17 overwhelming part or in part at all, to the attacks  
18 themselves. You see that:

19 "Underwriters' pleaded case was that any diminution  
20 in business after the 11 September attacks was  
21 attributable either wholly or in overwhelming part to  
22 reaction to the attacks themselves, rather than to any  
23 official warnings issued in their aftermath."

24 The experts suggested that 80 to 90% of the effect  
25 was actually attributable to the attacks and only 10 to

1 20% attributable to the State Department advisories and  
2 similar warnings. But Mr Justice Tomlinson concluded in  
3 the next paragraph that that was an impossible approach  
4 and you couldn't divorce anxiety from one from anxiety  
5 derived from another.

6 What then happened, my Lords, is that he thereupon  
7 proceeded, because the parties before him proceeded,  
8 upon the conclusion that on the basis of those facts the  
9 two causes were concurrent causes.

10 There was no indication in his judgment -- and  
11 I will tell you why in a second -- that on this  
12 conclusion, that there were concurrent causes, and  
13 therefore because of the inapplication or  
14 inapplicability of one of the exclusions the insured was  
15 covered, there was no indication in his judgment that he  
16 was breaking any new ground.

17 If you look at paragraph 69 he says en passant that:  
18 "... since, as I find, and as was common ground  
19 between the two experts, the events of 11 September and  
20 the warnings were concurrent causes of downturn in  
21 bookings, including cancellations thereof, and since the  
22 consequences of the events of September 11 are not for  
23 the purposes of section A.ii excluded from the ambit of  
24 the cover, as opposed to simply being not covered, a  
25 claim under the policy must lie -- see Wayne Tank. I am

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1 not sure that, on this hypothesis, insurers contend to  
2 the contrary."

3 Indeed, as your Lordships will see from the Court of  
4 Appeal, they did not. And they were not.

5 This judgment by Mr Justice Tomlinson, on the basis  
6 of a factual finding, was a judgment where there was no  
7 contest between the parties as to the application of the  
8 Wayne Tank principle. There was no argument that  
9 because the causes were not interdependent, on one view,  
10 therefore the "but for" test applied.

11 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: They were clearly interdependent  
12 causes, weren't they?

13 MR KEALEY: On one view they were.

14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Interdependent in that there wouldn't  
15 have been State Department warnings at all if it hadn't  
16 been for the 9/11 attacks.

17 MR KEALEY: That is absolutely right. That is absolutely  
18 right. In that sense they were interdependent, I do  
19 accept that.

20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: And the evidence, whilst he concluded  
21 that you couldn't disentangle them, he proceeded on the  
22 basis that they were both, in effect, causative of the  
23 loss.

24 MR KEALEY: He did, my Lord, he did. And the point that you  
25 make makes my submission, as it were, a fortiori.

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1 Because here, if that is right, and I am going to remain  
2 neutral at the moment, my Lord, but if that is right, as  
3 it appears to be, then of course this authority is no  
4 more, and indeed no less, than a further authority  
5 explaining the application and scope of the  
6 interdependent concurrent cause line of cases. But if  
7 ever it is argued to the contrary that it is not an  
8 interdependent cause case, one can rest assured that  
9 there was no argument before his Lordship to the effect  
10 that the "but for" test did not apply, or that the "but  
11 for" test was not satisfied in relation to either of the  
12 concurrent causes.

13 Insurers never argued that the Wayne Tank principle  
14 did not apply and never argued that the "but for" test  
15 was not satisfied in relation to either of the two  
16 candidate causes.

17 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: So it's Mr Swainston missed the point  
18 and Mr Justice Tomlinson didn't see that he'd missed the  
19 point.

20 MR KEALEY: Well, that is as may be. Mr Flaux could  
21 probably, as it were, give us the answers, but --

22 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The short answer is, as you rightly  
23 say, the point wasn't argued; and the reason the point  
24 wasn't argued is the one I have just put to you, which  
25 is that on the evidence before the court, and as

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1 a matter of, using Mr Edelman's words, common sense,  
2 both causes were operative, effective "but for" causes,  
3 proximate causes, whatever you describe them as. That  
4 was the point.

5 MR KEALEY: Yes, my Lord, I agree with that. I defer to  
6 your Lordship on that. And it does appear, you are  
7 absolutely right, it is a bit like the Atlantic B, where  
8 in that case the seizure would never have occurred  
9 without the drugs being on the underside of the hull.

10 And that was regarded by Lord Mance as interdependent.  
11 And here, likewise, the State Department would never  
12 have issued any warnings had there not been a 9/11  
13 attack. So I agree with that, my Lord.

14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.

15 MR KEALEY: I will come back to that in a moment.

16 In the Court of Appeal, the insurers in that case --  
17 and your Lordships will see it is at the next divider,  
18 it is at {J/91/1}. In the Court of Appeal, the insurers  
19 sought to take advantage. If your Lordships can go to  
20 {J/91/21}. Insurers sought to take advantage of the  
21 judge's conclusion, in rejection of their factual case  
22 on causation, that in fact the causes were indivisible  
23 and were both concurrent.

24 The reason they did so, my Lords, is because of the  
25 exclusion clause which you see referred to at

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1 paragraph 97. There was an exclusion clause which  
2 excluded cover for any loss arising from deterioration  
3 of market and/or loss of market and/or lack of support  
4 for any scheduled cruise, unless as a direct result of  
5 an insured event.

6 Insurers, through Mr Swainston, sought to take  
7 legitimate advantage of that exclusion clause, and  
8 indeed the Wayne Tank principle, by saying that one of  
9 the causes, one of the two concurrent causes, was  
10 excluded as a result of that exclusion clause and  
11 therefore, on Wayne Tank principles applicable to  
12 interdependent causes, the loss was not recoverable by  
13 the insured. You see that, my Lords, at paragraph 100.

14 "On this appeal [this is Lord Justice Rix's  
15 judgment] the underwriters do not seek to go behind the  
16 judge's rejection of their factual case on causation.  
17 They do, however, take a further point of law briefly  
18 referred to by the judge in this passing comment [which  
19 I have already read out]."

20 At paragraph 101:

21 "Now on appeal at any rate they do."

22 That is leading from Mr Justice Tomlinson's last  
23 sentence:

24 "I am not sure that, on this hypothesis, insurers  
25 contend to the contrary."

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1 "Now on appeal at any rate they do. Mr Swainston  
2 submits that because of the exclusion only losses caused  
3 by government warnings are covered, not losses caused by  
4 the underlying events. Since, on the judge's own  
5 findings, all the losses such as they may turn out to be  
6 were caused as much by the underlying events as by the  
7 warnings, it follows that the same losses would have  
8 taken place even in the absence of the warnings. It  
9 follows that on Dr Gibbs' findings Silversea could  
10 recover for only 10-20% of their claim, whereas on the  
11 judge's finding they could recover nothing.

12 "It is common ground that the law is to be found  
13 encapsulated in this citation from Lord Phillips'  
14 judgment in *The Demetra K.*"

15 You can turn over the page. It is the Wayne Tank  
16 principle, on the left-hand column:

17 "The effect of an exception is to save the insurer  
18 from liability for a loss which but for the exception  
19 would be covered."

20 Then at 103:

21 "Both parties, however, submit that the application  
22 of these principles produces a result in their favour  
23 respectively. Mr Swainston submits that the 9/11 events  
24 themselves, because a direct cause of the losses  
25 different from the 'insured event' under cover A.ii,

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1 which has to be a warning, are excluded perils, and that  
2 losses caused by such perils are excluded losses.  
3 Mr Flaux, however, submits that the events of war or  
4 terrorism which lead to warnings are not excluded  
5 perils, but are perils covered elsewhere within the  
6 policy and are a necessary pre-condition, actual or  
7 threatened of the warnings within cover A.ii itself."

8 Then the learned judge concludes that Silversea are  
9 right. Lord Justice Rix goes on to say:

10 "Cover A.ii is premised on acts of war, armed  
11 conflict or terrorist activities, actual or threatened,  
12 provided, however, that they generate the relevant  
13 warnings about them. If they do, and those warnings are  
14 not excluded perils, it is simply that they are not  
15 covered under cover A.ii as perils in themselves."

16 For example, hurricane, physical damage:

17 "Something extra is required. However, they are 'an  
18 insured event' for the purpose of the contract as  
19 a whole. There is no intention under this policy to  
20 exclude loss directly caused by a warning concerning  
21 terrorist activities just because it can also be said  
22 that the loss was also directly and concurrently caused  
23 by the underlying terrorist activities themselves."

24 Therefore, Lord Justice Rix concluded, turning back  
25 to paragraph 97, that the 9/11 event was an insured

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1 event within the meaning of the exception to the  
2 exclusion in the exclusion clause.

3 Now, in order to understand that fully you need just  
4 to have in mind the A.ii cover, which you will see at  
5 page 8 of this report. {J/91/8}. In the top left-hand  
6 column, under A.ii:

7 "The heading of A.ii referred to 'loss of  
8 anticipated income ...' and the loss was further  
9 described as ..."

10 And if your Lordships go to paragraph 12:

11 "To cover the ascertained net loss resulting from  
12 a State Department advisory or similar warning by a  
13 competent authority regarding acts of war, armed  
14 conflict, [et cetera], terrorist activities, whether  
15 actual or threatened, that negatively impacts the  
16 assured's bookings and/or necessitates a change to the  
17 scheduled cruise itinerary, subject to a maximum period  
18 per event of 6 months ..."

19 That is the A.ii. The underlying causes of the  
20 warnings, as I have indicated, were not excluded perils,  
21 but they were not covered under A.ii as perils in  
22 themselves. In other words, the actual terrorist  
23 activities were not perils under A.ii, and therefore  
24 something extra was required in that the acts of  
25 terrorism must have given rise to a State Department

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1 warning, from which warning the loss must have resulted  
2 in order for the cover to respond.

3 If you go to A.i ...

4 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: In other words, the something extra  
5 that was required was the insured peril under  
6 cover A.ii.

7 MR KEALEY: The something extra that was required was in  
8 fact the insured peril under A.i.

9 I'm sorry, your Lordship is absolutely right, under  
10 A.ii. The something extra that was required is the  
11 peril under A.ii. I am so sorry, my Lord, you are  
12 absolutely right.

13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think that must be right.

14 MR KEALEY: No, that is right.

15 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Because if they are not covered under  
16 A.ii's perils in themselves, something extra is  
17 required, and the something extra that is required is  
18 whatever it is that is an insured peril under A.ii.

19 MR KEALEY: Forgive me, that is absolutely right. I was  
20 looking at another one. Thank you. That is absolutely  
21 right. Forgive me, my Lord.

22 A.i, which is at paragraph 6, at page {J/91/7}:

23 "The heading of A.i referred to 'loss of income' and  
24 the cover was described as ...

25 "this insurance covers loss due to the vessel being

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1 wholly or partially deprived of income as a consequence  
2 of an occurrence within the policy period of one of the  
3 following events."

4 Then under [5] you have:

5 "... any other event which directly interferes with  
6 the scheduled itinerary of the vessel by ... terrorists  
7 ... actual or threatened ... [and]

8 "[7] Acts of war, armed conflict [et cetera] which  
9 interfere with the scheduled itinerary of the insured  
10 vessel, whether actual or threatened."

11 So it is not surprising, my Lords, that in  
12 construing the exclusion clause, which is referred to at  
13 paragraph 97, and refers in the exception to the  
14 exclusion of a direct result of an insured event, that  
15 the court concluded that the terrorist activities which  
16 were an insured peril under A.i were, for the purposes  
17 of the application and meaning of A.ii, an insured  
18 event.

19 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.

20 MR KEALEY: It is as simple as that.

21 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Mr Kealey, you are clearly right about  
22 the Court of Appeal. But the net result of the case, at  
23 least at first instance, is that where you have related  
24 causes, in the sense that the advisory only followed the  
25 terrorist events, they are related causes and they lead

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1 to effects which it is impossible to allocate between  
2 the two, the insurers pay for the combined effect.

3 MR KEALEY: Yes. Can I answer that in the sense of  
4 your Lordship's question, which I at least infer?

5 Firstly, if they were interdependent causes then the  
6 answer is the classical answer provided in Wayne Tank  
7 and the Miss Jay Jay, because you have one insured and  
8 one uninsured, ergo there is coverage because one  
9 shouldn't forget that before Mr Justice Tomlinson there  
10 was no argument as to the application of any exclusion.  
11 That is the first thing.

12 Secondly, if that is wrong, as I indicated to  
13 my Lord Lord Justice Flaux earlier, Mr Justice Tomlinson  
14 noted en passant what the consequence was. But there  
15 was no argument before Mr Justice Tomlinson as to, if  
16 they were independent concurrent causes rather than  
17 interdependent concurrent causes, the "but for" standard  
18 had to be satisfied nevertheless and was not. In other  
19 words, the case proceeded before Mr Justice Tomlinson  
20 without adverse argument or without any opposing  
21 arguments as to the application of the Wayne Tank and  
22 Miss Jay Jay principles, which apply only to  
23 interdependent causes.

24 Therefore, if one is going to seek any authority  
25 from this in relation to independent concurrent causes,

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1 it does not exist. There was no argument that one can  
2 see, and that was the end of the matter.

3 It is instructive, my Lord, to look at  
4 Mr Justice Hamblen in the Orient-Express. If your  
5 Lordships go to 106, that is {J/106/1} and the important  
6 passage here is at paragraph 32 at page {J/106/8} of the  
7 report.

8 Whilst the FCA criticises Mr Justice Hamblen,  
9 I don't think they have any legitimacy in criticising  
10 him about his ability of reading cases and analysing  
11 what they say or don't say. He first mentions the  
12 Silversea case at paragraph 29. Then he says that there  
13 was some support of the approach in Silversea at  
14 paragraph 30. Then at paragraph 31 he recites what  
15 happened, and at paragraph 32 he says:

16 "I agree with Generali that no great assistance can  
17 be derived from this case, which largely turned on the  
18 court's factual conclusions. In particular, it did not  
19 address the specific issue of two concurrent independent  
20 causes, nor the applicability of the 'but for' causation  
21 test in such a case. Further, there is an important  
22 difference between a case involving two concurrent  
23 interdependent causes and one involving two concurrent  
24 independent causes. In the former case the 'but for'  
25 test will be satisfied; in the latter it will not."

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1 Your Lordships should be aware of paragraph 29 and  
2 the specific contention or submission of Orient-Express  
3 Hotels, which was specifically rejected. If your  
4 Lordships look at 29:

5 "Although OEH cannot point to any insurance or  
6 indeed contract case in which it has been held to be  
7 inappropriate to apply the 'but for' test, it relies on  
8 the generally accepted principle that where there are  
9 two proximate causes of a loss an insured can recover on  
10 the basis that it is sufficient that one of the causes  
11 was a peril insured, provided the other cause is not  
12 excluded; see the Miss Jay Jay. While to date this has  
13 been a principle applied in respect of concurrent  
14 interdependent causes, OEH submits that it should  
15 equally be applied to concurrent independent causes."

16 My Lords, not only did Mr Justice Hamblen reject  
17 that argument but he moreover said, and correctly in our  
18 respectful submission, that the Silversea decision is no  
19 authority to the contrary of what he concluded, and that  
20 the Silversea decision simply is no support for the  
21 proposition that the principle applied to interdependent  
22 causes should apply equally to concurrent independent  
23 causes.

24 So it is not as if Mr Justice Hamblen did not have  
25 the issue well in mind. He had it very well in mind.

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1 And in my respectful submission, where we see -- and of  
2 course I can't say this for certain, but where we saw,  
3 for example, that Lord Clarke, referring to the  
4 principle applicable to interdependent causes, and  
5 referred in that context to, among other cases, the  
6 Orient-Express, we would suggest respectfully that  
7 Lord Clarke in the Supreme Court had well in mind, since  
8 he referred explicitly to this case, these passages, in  
9 which interdependent and independent concurrent causes  
10 are debated and determined.

11 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I see that, but in our case, or in the  
12 present case, whether a particular person goes to  
13 a church or whatever, there may be two causes, it may be  
14 very difficult to say whether they are independent or  
15 interdependent in a particular case.

16 How is that addressed? Certainly without an  
17 investigation which is prohibitively expensive, as it  
18 were.

19 MR KEALEY: Well, firstly addressing the point that  
20 your Lordship made towards the end, it may or may not be  
21 expensive, and it may or may not be difficult, but cost  
22 and difficulty don't necessarily provide a legal answer  
23 to the question. In fact, in my respectful submission  
24 they don't provide an answer at all to a completely  
25 different and very important conceptual question of law.

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1 Secondly, the answer is that if you have two as it  
2 were indivisible causes, or rather two causes that can't  
3 be separated one from the other, in a case where one is  
4 insured and the other is not insured but they are not  
5 interdependent, then I have to tell you that the insured  
6 fails to satisfy the burden of proof upon it.

7 Now, it makes no difference whether the insured is  
8 a small insured or is BP. The position of the law is  
9 the same in relation to both insureds. Interdependent  
10 causes require that each pass the "but for" test,  
11 otherwise there is no coverage.

12 If what your Lordship has postulated are  
13 interdependent causes, each has to pass the "but for"  
14 test, so the insured has to prove that but for that the  
15 loss would not have been suffered. That is if they are  
16 interdependent. That is, in a sense, the high watermark  
17 for an insured.

18 If they are independent causes, then it is exactly  
19 the same, each has to pass the "but for" test, and if  
20 that cannot be proved to the satisfaction of the court  
21 then the insured fails on the burden of proof.

22 Now, it is said quite often, and I acknowledge, that  
23 courts do not like determining cases on the basis of  
24 burden of proof. However, as was made absolutely plain  
25 by Lord Brandon in Popi M, and by Lady Hale more

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1 recently in that case about the BP engineer who might or  
2 might not have committed suicide in Braganza, courts  
3 should not be in the slightest bit timid or afraid or  
4 reticent about concluding, if it be the case, that the  
5 burden of proof has not been satisfied.

6 So for example, in The Popi M, the House of Lords,  
7 through Lord Brandon and others, concluded that despite  
8 the fact that one might say one wants to help the  
9 insured in that case, the insured failed on the burden  
10 of proof, and the court should not be shy about so  
11 concluding, even if that means that the cause of the  
12 loss is unexplained or if that means, as a necessary  
13 consequence of the legal principles, that it has not  
14 been shown that the loss was caused factually, let alone  
15 proximately, by the insured peril.

16 What this actually demonstrates, in my respectful  
17 submission, is there is nothing wrong with the policy  
18 language, there is nothing wrong -- you may criticise  
19 the insurers for taking certain defences or not taking  
20 certain defences, I know not, that will be in the  
21 future. But there is nothing wrong with the policy  
22 language as such. But one thing is very, very clear,  
23 and that is that the FCA's case that these insureds were  
24 insured against infectious diseases generally is simply  
25 not right.

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1 Now if that had been, and I imagine perhaps some  
2 insurer may one day have given such wide coverage, but  
3 these are extensions to already an extension to  
4 coverage. In other words, property damage is the  
5 primary part of the insurance contract, business  
6 interruption losses which are, as it were, parasitic on  
7 property damage is the next section, and then you get  
8 additional non-damage extensions. And in those  
9 non-damage extensions, most of them are relatively  
10 circumscribed.

11 Why are they circumscribed? It is not because  
12 insurers had a pandemic in mind and decided not to  
13 include them; they are circumscribed because they are  
14 add-ons. So they are, as it were, not a gift but they  
15 are of benefit to the insured.

16 That is one big reason why, as it happens, one finds  
17 that insurers are of course, for many reasons, but one  
18 reason why insurers are anxious about cases such as  
19 this.

20 Anyway, what I have said is that the decision in  
21 Silversea or Silver Cloud is not an authority that  
22 actually helps you at all. And although  
23 Mr Justice Tomlinson, for better or for worse,  
24 determined that in that case, the effects of The  
25 Government State Department warnings and 9/11 attacks

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1 could not be distinguished, that is a factual finding  
2 which was not taken on further, as it were, as a matter  
3 of legal analysis, by either counsel, one of them very  
4 sensible not to and the other who knows, was not taken  
5 any further in relation to --  
6 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But the important point about that, if  
7 we go back to paragraph 69 of Mr Justice Tomlinson's  
8 judgment, is it is quite clear, which is I think the  
9 point you were making about what Mr Justice Hamblen said  
10 in Orient Hotels, that he was applying the Wayne Tank  
11 principle on the basis that what he was faced with was  
12 two concurrent interdependent causes, in the sense that  
13 they were both of equal efficacy. Hence he says at 69  
14 that:

15 "The events of 11 September and the warnings were  
16 concurrent causes of the downturn in bookings."

17 So they were both effective causes or proximate  
18 causes, or whatever you describe them as. And you say,  
19 or insurers say here that, in effect, in relation to the  
20 disease clauses -- I mean the position may be different  
21 with the public authority denial of access clauses, as  
22 I see it anyway, but in relation to the disease clauses  
23 it is effectively accepted by the FCA that the local  
24 occurrence of the disease was not a proximate cause of  
25 the losses that were suffered. So unless they can get

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1 home as it were on concurrent independent causes, then  
2 they don't have a case, and that's what you say.  
3 MR KEALEY: That is what we say.  
4 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: And what you are pointing out is that  
5 there is nothing in this case, Silversea, that helps us  
6 to conclude that concurrent independent causes, or  
7 rather the same Wayne Tank doctrine, if I can put it  
8 that way, applies to concurrent independent causes.  
9 MR KEALEY: That is absolutely right, my Lord. That is  
10 absolutely right.  
11 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
12 MR KEALEY: I leave that case, my Lord.  
13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
14 MR KEALEY: Because in my respectful submission it doesn't  
15 take you any further.  
16 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No.  
17 MR KEALEY: I want to return now, my Lord, to  
18 Orient-Express.  
19 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
20 MR KEALEY: Which is in the same bundle, and I think I have  
21 taken you to it a moment ago, and it is in divider 106.  
22 {J/106/1}.  
23 Before I go into this case in any detail, and your  
24 Lordships know this case pretty well by now so I am  
25 going to take it quite shortly but I don't want to

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1 underplay my hand, it was suggested, I think by  
2 Mr Edelman, that this case did not reach the Court of  
3 Appeal perhaps because insurers wanted to bank their  
4 victory.  
5 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: There is absolutely no basis for that  
6 whatsoever.  
7 MR KEALEY: And it is false.  
8 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We don't know.  
9 MR KEALEY: No.  
10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: All I know is that there was an appeal  
11 and it was due to be heard, and that was settled pretty  
12 close to the appeal hearing.  
13 MR KEALEY: Yes, that is absolutely right.  
14 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: That is just anecdotally what I was  
15 told by Mr Justice Picken.  
16 MR KEALEY: Yes. He is right. Indeed, Mr Justice Picken's  
17 junior, Ms Sushma Ananda, is helping me hugely in this  
18 case.  
19 Anyway, I just wanted to put paid to any --  
20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It wouldn't matter anyway, would it?  
21 MR KEALEY: It shouldn't.  
22 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It is a "So what?" point. Either the  
23 case is correct or it is not correct, and the fact that  
24 they didn't go to the Court of Appeal is neither here  
25 nor there.

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1 MR KEALEY: Yes. I agree. I won't trouble your Lordship  
2 any more on that point.  
3 Can I take your Lordship to page 2 of the report.  
4 It is page 532, but it is page 2 of the bundle  
5 {J/106/2}. Your Lordship sees there that there were two  
6 questions or two issues that arose. These were  
7 questions, my Lord, that, as addressed by  
8 Mr Justice Hamblen, were questions referable to the  
9 policy as a whole and not specifically with reference to  
10 the trends clause.  
11 So (1) is the question:  
12 "Whether on its true construction the policy  
13 provides cover in respect of loss which was concurrently  
14 caused by (i) physical damage to the property; and (ii)  
15 damage to or consequent loss of attraction of the  
16 surrounding area.  
17 "(2) Whether on the true construction of the policy,  
18 the same events which cause the damage to the insured  
19 property which gives rise to the business interruption  
20 loss are also capable of being or giving rise to special  
21 circumstances for the purposes of allowing an adjustment  
22 of the same business interruption loss within the scope  
23 of the trends clause."  
24 So one is of general application as a matter of  
25 construction and, as your Lordship will see, general

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1 application of the law, and the second is the trends  
2 clause.  
3 So the FCA is wrong in its skeleton argument, at  
4 paragraph 299.4 which is {I/1/118}, to say that the  
5 decision has no application to policies without a "but  
6 for" test in an applicable trends clause. That is not  
7 correct. That ignores question (1) that  
8 Mr Justice Hamblen addressed.  
9 Now I have looked at this case with you before and  
10 if I may, therefore, I am going to turn -- I have looked  
11 at paragraph 11 and 12, at 12 we have the wording.  
12 Your Lordship sees that at paragraph 14 we have the  
13 POA clause and paragraph 15 the LOA clause.  
14 We need, sorry, on the screen {J/106/4}.  
15 We have looked at paragraph 17 at page 4, where the  
16 insuring clause defines damage directly arising, and  
17 then also business interruption directly arising from  
18 damage, et cetera.  
19 If your Lordships could turn to paragraph 18 at the  
20 top of page {J/106/5} left column.  
21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: This is within the award, isn't it?  
22 MR KEALEY: No, this -- oh yes, you are absolutely right.  
23 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Confusingly, the paragraph numbers  
24 overlap with each other, so I think you will find this  
25 is paragraph 18 of the award.

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1 MR KEALEY: Yes, you are absolutely right.  
2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Being quoted in paragraph 17 of the  
3 judgment.  
4 MR KEALEY: Yes, you are right, my Lord. You are right.  
5 I am so sorry. Anyway, this is a pretty good award so  
6 I'm not deterred.  
7 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No.  
8 MR KEALEY: Just above paragraph 19 of the award it says:  
9 "The third question, in Mr Fletcher's formulation in  
10 opening submissions, was what is the loss resulting from  
11 such interruption?"  
12 I should say that for my own part I actually regard  
13 Mr Fletcher's arguments as really perfectly good. He  
14 lost in front of the tribunal but that is, of course, as  
15 it goes. Anyway, paragraph 19:  
16 "it is the third question on which the parties part  
17 company. On behalf of Generali, Mr Picken submitted  
18 that the words are clear; the cause of the loss has to  
19 be and be shown by OEH to be interruption or  
20 interference resulting from the physical damage to the  
21 hotel and not from the damage to the City of New Orleans  
22 or, say, want of demand because of the damage to the  
23 city which the hotel would have suffered even if it had  
24 not been damaged at all."  
25 Then it is said that:

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1 "Mr Fletcher did not ... ever supply a convincing  
2 answer to this submission. He criticised the submission  
3 as one creating a false hypothesis because the cause of  
4 the damage to the city and to the hotel was the same  
5 event or events, and submitted that the policy was  
6 intended to cover losses resulting from all damage  
7 caused by the events which damaged the hotel, and only  
8 to exclude losses resulting from damage which was  
9 completely unconnected in the sense that it had an  
10 independent cause. He submitted that the law relating  
11 to concurrent causes would in any event enable the hotel  
12 to recover in circumstances where a given loss was  
13 caused both by damage to the hotel and the damage to the  
14 city. And he submitted that the effect of excluding  
15 losses resulting from damage to the city was to require  
16 an artificial and hypothetical enquiry to be made."  
17 Pausing there, this is very much like the FCA's  
18 arguments in this case; talking about exclusions when of  
19 course there aren't any relevant exclusions, at least in  
20 relation to this part of the case:  
21 "But none of these submissions, in the view of the  
22 tribunal, addresses the language used in the provisions  
23 to which we referred and which we have emphasised. That  
24 language requires OEH to establish that the cause of the  
25 loss claimed is the damage to the hotel. It is not

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1 necessary or relevant for this purpose to go behind the  
2 damage and consider whether the event which caused the  
3 damage also caused damage to other property in the city ;  
4 the fact that there was other damage which resulted from  
5 the same cause does not bring the consequences of such  
6 damage within the scope of the cover. As for the  
7 argument that there were concurrent causes, it is  
8 difficult to think of examples of a loss that would  
9 reasonably be attributable both to damage to the hotel  
10 and to the damage to the city. But in any event the  
11 trends clause language is ... conclusive."

12 Then if your Lordships go to the second half, the  
13 last bit of the right-hand column, we are still in the  
14 award, reference is made to a case from the  
15 United States Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, which  
16 I should tell your Lordship does not include the  
17 Carolinas :

18 "The critical question in this case was whether  
19 particular profits ..."

20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Where is it, Mr Kealey?

21 MR KEALEY: It is Texas. The Fifth Circuit -- I'm sorry,  
22 this is the Fourth Circuit. I will have to get that one  
23 right. Will your Lordship bear with me for a second?

24 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Don't worry, it's only a matter of  
25 interest, that's all.

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1 MR KEALEY: The Fourth Circuit includes, I think, Virginia.  
2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
3 MR KEALEY: I will tell your Lordship and I think actually  
4 the Carolinas are probably --  
5 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think it is Virginia, North and South  
6 Carolina and possibly West Virginia.  
7 MR KEALEY: I am told that is right, my Lord.  
8 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
9 MR KEALEY: Then in the last part of the page:

10 "The critical question in that case was whether  
11 particular profits would have been earned 'had the loss  
12 not occurred'. The majority of the Court of Appeals  
13 interpreted these words as requiring the court to ask  
14 whether the profits would have been earned had the  
15 hurricane not occurred, to which the answer on the facts  
16 was 'no'. The third member of the Court of Appeals  
17 dissented on the ground that 'had the loss not occurred'  
18 did not refer to the hurricane or to the overall loss in  
19 the surrounding area, but only to the loss incurred by  
20 the insured. It seems to the tribunal, with respect,  
21 that the reasoning of the dissenting judge is  
22 persuasive; but whether it was right or not on the  
23 wording of the policy in that case, the tribunal has no  
24 doubt that the policy in the present case permits  
25 recovery only for loss caused by the damage to the hotel

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1 itself."

2 If your Lordships turn to paragraph 18 of  
3 Mr Justice Hamblen's decision, he recites the fact that  
4 the tribunal therefore held that a "but for" causation  
5 approach was appropriate and that it is necessary to  
6 assess the BI loss on the hypothesis that the hotel was  
7 undamaged but the City of New Orleans was devastated, as  
8 in fact it was.

9 So, my Lords, the tribunal concluded, on the  
10 application of the "but for" test, in relation to the  
11 insured peril in that case for business interruption,  
12 namely physical damage to the property, that it was  
13 necessary to assess the BI loss on the basis that the  
14 hotel was undamaged but nothing else was different. In  
15 other words, but for the damage to the hotel. In other  
16 words, but for the insured peril. No more and no less.

17 "Question 1: whether, on its true construction, the  
18 policy provides cover in respect of loss which was  
19 concurrently caused by: (i) physical damage to the  
20 property; and (ii) damage to or consequent loss of  
21 attraction of the surrounding area."

22 Your Lordships see, at paragraph 20, the answer to  
23 this question is moot:

24 The tribunal has not excluded recovery of losses  
25 concurrently caused by damage to the hotel and damage to

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1 the vicinity ... It has only excluded losses which would  
2 have been suffered in any event but for damage to the  
3 hotel. Such losses are not to be regarded as caused in  
4 fact by the damage. At the hearing it became apparent  
5 that the crucial issue of law dividing the parties was  
6 the appropriateness of applying the 'but for' causation  
7 test in this case."

8 Then you have, my Lords, a reference to the normal  
9 rule for determining causation in fact being the "but  
10 for" test, being a necessary but not sufficient  
11 condition. You have Clerk & Lindsell, McGregor on  
12 Damages, and various exceptions; for example, your  
13 Lordships see at page {J/106/6}, right-hand column,  
14 under (1) "The exceptions", that's the tort of  
15 conversion, and then (a) "Negligence", in other words,  
16 more than one wrongdoer. Then OEH submits that this is  
17 one of those very occasional cases where fairness and  
18 reasonableness require a relaxation of the standard, and  
19 then reference is made to Lord Nicholls' judgment or  
20 speech in Kuwait Airways. Can I invite your Lordships  
21 just to read paragraph 73 and 74 from Lord Nicholls'   
22 speech. {J/106/7}. (Pause)

23 At the end of Lord Nicholls' speech at paragraph 25,  
24 OEH acknowledge that the cases in which it has been held  
25 to be inappropriate to apply the "but for" test have

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1 been cases in tort, particularly negligence and  
 2 conversion, and the same approach should be applied in  
 3 an appropriate case in contract. He says:  
 4 "This is such a case, being a case of two concurrent  
 5 independent causes in relation to which the application  
 6 of the 'but for' test would lead to the untenable  
 7 conclusion that neither of the causes caused the  
 8 business interruption loss."  
 9 That, my Lords, is what I said was in fact the wrong  
 10 question being asked by OEH.  
 11 Then I am going to leave that part of the judgment  
 12 and go past Silversea and then turn to paragraph 33,  
 13 because there Mr Justice Hamblen acknowledges that as  
 14 a matter of principle there is considerable force in  
 15 much of OEH's argument. At page {J/106/8} of the  
 16 bundle:  
 17 "As a general rule the 'but for' test is a necessary  
 18 condition for establishing causation in fact. However,  
 19 there may be cases in which fairness and reasonableness  
 20 require that it should not be a necessary condition.  
 21 This is most likely to be in the context of negligence  
 22 or conversion claims, but I would accept that in  
 23 principle it is not limited to tort or to particular  
 24 torts. I would also accept that a case in which there  
 25 are two concurrent independent causes of a loss, with

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1 the consequence that the application of the 'but for'  
 2 test would mean that there is no cause of the loss, is  
 3 potentially an example of a case in which fairness and  
 4 reasonableness would require that the 'but for' test  
 5 should not be a necessary condition of causation  
 6 particularly where two wrongdoers are involved."  
 7 My Lords, that is not this case.  
 8 "However, whether or not this is so will depend on  
 9 all the circumstances of the particular case and  
 10 ultimately the issue is whether the tribunal erred in  
 11 law in applying a 'but for' causation approach under  
 12 this policy ..."  
 13 There are a number of difficulties that the judge  
 14 identified, but I want you to go through, if I may, to  
 15 paragraph 38 at page {J/106/9}, because this is  
 16 important.  
 17 "Thirdly, in any event I am not satisfied that it  
 18 has been shown that 'fairness and reasonableness' does  
 19 require that the 'but for' test should not be applied."  
 20 So, my Lords, what the judge is there doing is  
 21 addressing, quite independently of the fact that this  
 22 was an appeal from a tribunal award, whether as a matter  
 23 of principle in that case fairness and reasonableness  
 24 required -- and it is a requirement, it is not just  
 25 something that would be nice to do, it is whether

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1 fairness and reasonableness does require that the "but  
 2 for" test should not be applied.  
 3 Can I invite your Lordships to read paragraph 38 to  
 4 yourselves because, just as in this case, anything other  
 5 than that "but for" test results in something which is  
 6 wholly inconsistent with the contractual bargain.  
 7 (Pause)  
 8 It is the first possibility that you should be  
 9 focusing on. (Pause)  
 10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: When you say the first possibility,  
 11 Mr Kealey, what do you mean?  
 12 MR KEALEY: One possibility --  
 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: But for the damage to the hotel and the  
 14 city?  
 15 MR KEALEY: That is the one, yes. Because that is what the  
 16 FCA is contending.  
 17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So no COVID in the defined area and no  
 18 COVID in the country.  
 19 MR KEALEY: Exactly so. (Pause)  
 20 Now my Lords, looking at the first possibility, one  
 21 possibility but for the damage to the hotel and the  
 22 city, in other words but for COVID-19 in the area and in  
 23 the country, that would measure the gross operating  
 24 profit that would have been made by the insureds if  
 25 COVID-19 had not struck at all, and would therefore

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1 compensate the insureds for all business interruption  
 2 losses howsoever caused by COVID-19, even where those  
 3 losses were not in any way caused by COVID-19 within the  
 4 specified area, and as such are not recoverable under  
 5 the main insuring clause of the policy.  
 6 In other words, just as I started earlier this  
 7 morning, and I finish as it were late at night, it would  
 8 provide cover for a peril not insured against.  
 9 Of course this covers -- I have done it in  
 10 shorthand, but of course it would provide coverage to an  
 11 insured even if that coverage was dependent upon public  
 12 authority action, in circumstances where the public  
 13 authority action made absolutely no difference.  
 14 That possibility is what the FCA is gunning for, and  
 15 I will remind you of Mr Edelman. Mr Edelman says:  
 16 provided that there is just one case, provided that the  
 17 peril insured against can be said to be activated, that  
 18 is enough to harvest in all the consequences of COVID-19  
 19 however those consequences are and wherever those  
 20 consequences are to be found.  
 21 So you have an insured peril different from that  
 22 which the insurer agreed to underwrite, and he concluded  
 23 that none of those alternatives was more fair and  
 24 reasonable than enforcing the contract according to its  
 25 terms. And we say that the most objectionable of the

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possibilities was the first, because that simply re-wrote the peril. There is nothing fair and reasonable about rewriting the parties' contract after the event. There is nothing fair and reasonable in terms of common sense or public policy. The parties have contractually agreed the framework and the boundaries of the insurance for which an indemnity is payable, and they have agreed that the indemnity is only payable when a loss is caused in the traditional sense.

Now, the FCA also says that notwithstanding all this law, in some cases you can reverse more than the insured peril in the counterfactual. Ms Mulcahy said on Tuesday, that is {Day2/63:6} to line 9, that the boundaries of the peril do not need to be the boundaries of what is subtracted for the purposes of the "but for" test. In other words, you can reverse more than the peril.

That is so heretical and so bad as a proposition of law that there should be no hesitation in its rejection. Reversing more than the insured peril gives rise to a loss which is completely different, or is different from the loss caused by the insured peril. You are essentially throwing out the basic and fundamental concepts of factual causation under English law. It is wholly unacceptable. It is anarchic in legal terms and

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fundamentally wrong.

So, my Lords, the Orient-Express, we say, was undoubtedly correctly decided. It involved an entirely orthodox application of principles relating to the proper interpretation of BI policies, the "but for" test and concurrent causes. The FCA has sought to suggest that the decision has been widely criticised. In fact that is far from true; there are many references to the Orient-Express without criticism. If it has been criticised, we would respectfully suggest that those who are critical of it have not understood the fundamental principles by which Mr Justice Hamblen was guided and which compelled him to the correct conclusion to which he came.

My Lords, those are I think, I hope, my submissions on the fundamental principles of causation, supplemented by specific examples, including rodents, and concluding with an analysis of the Silversea case, on which the FCA has placed so much reliance, which is in our respectful submission of absolutely no value as a matter of legal principle to your Lordships, and concluding with the Orient-Express, which we say was correctly decided.

So, my Lords, having perhaps overstayed my welcome by about five minutes, I hope that your Lordships are satisfied and have no further questions at this stage.

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LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I don't know if my Lord has any questions for you, Mr Kealey.

MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: No. Thank you very much, Mr Kealey.

LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Kealey. Who is up next?

MR TURNER: It is me, my Lord.

LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think it might be sensible, rather than interrupting you 15 minutes into your submissions, if we took a break now for ten minutes, and then we can have a clear run for the rest of the afternoon. Does that suit?

MR TURNER: Of course.

LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: My clock says just after 5 past, so we will say 3:15pm. Okay?

(3.06 pm)

(Short break)

(3.15 pm).

Submissions by MR TURNER

LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Right, Mr Turner, when you are ready.

MR TURNER: My Lords, could I give you a route map.

I am going to start with a handful of preliminary points. Then I am going to address, in not great detail, the question of proximity requirements and causation, without, I hope, repeating what Mr Kealey has spent much of today saying. Then I am going to turn to

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the incorporation of damage-based quantification machinery, and I will then turn to each of the RSA policies in turn.

The strength of English commercial law has been its consistency, and no more so than in the field of insurance, and in this case insurers ask the court to adopt entirely conventional approaches to the identification of the insured peril, the application of long-established rules of causation, and the principles applicable to the construction of contracts; and to do so without recourse to jigsaws, spreadsheets, and the wholesale rewriting of insuring clauses, trends clauses and exclusions, according to what the FCA asserts would be a reasonable landing point and therefore must have been in the contemplation of the parties or the intention of the parties at the time of contracting.

We would suggest that the court cannot determine in this action the question of whether different causes of loss are or are not separable. As Mr Kealey indicated, those are classically matters for adjustment in due course, and for a future fact-finding tribunal to resolve should it be necessary to do so.

Yesterday afternoon my Lord Mr Justice Butcher raised a question about the enforceability of cordons by the police, can I deal with that very shortly.

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1 The police have powers at common law to take action  
 2 to prevent a breach of the peace, and those powers  
 3 extend to the right to impose and enforce a cordon. The  
 4 leading example of that is the case of Austin v The  
 5 Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, which was the  
 6 case which arose out of the 2001 May Day protests, and  
 7 which endorsed the legality in principle of what is now  
 8 known as "kettling". There are also statutory powers to  
 9 impose and enforce cordons, and an example within the  
 10 authorities folder in front of you is part 4 of the  
 11 Terrorism Act, which has enforcement powers within  
 12 section 36, the reference is {K/11/50}, along with  
 13 a provision within section 36 that it is an offence to  
 14 fail to comply with an order, for example, to leave the  
 15 cordoned area.

16 Then a short word in response to Mr Edey's  
 17 submission that the relevant interruption or  
 18 interference is part of the peril insured.

19 The short answer to his submission is that the clue  
 20 is in the name of the relevant cover. For a material  
 21 damage cover, the loss or its occasion is the damage,  
 22 and the peril is the fire, the flood or the explosion.  
 23 For a business interruption cover, the loss or its  
 24 occasion is the interruption or the interference, and  
 25 the peril, we would say, is the notifiable disease

1 et cetera.

2 We also say that there is a clue in the use of the  
 3 word "peril", it must be a reference to a danger, here  
 4 to the insured's gross profit, which brings about the  
 5 interruption or interference and thereby the loss.

6 Whilst Hiscox may not thank us for saying so, very  
 7 little, if anything, is added to the policy by the use  
 8 of the words "interruption or interference". If  
 9 financial loss flows from the operation of the insured  
 10 peril, then the fact of interruption or interference  
 11 will be self-evident.

12 The words "interruption or interference" are little  
 13 more than a coat hanger over which the cover is draped.  
 14 For those reasons, we align ourselves with QBE's  
 15 submissions as set out in paragraph 214 and following of  
 16 its written submissions, reference {I/17/74}.

17 Turning to proximity requirements, these arise in  
 18 one shape or another in relation to all of RSA's  
 19 wordings, as well as the wordings of most of the other  
 20 insurers. The requirements can either be expressed by  
 21 reference to a specified distance or by use of the  
 22 phrase "the vicinity", a term which is undefined in most  
 23 wordings but which is a defined term, uniquely, in RSA4.

24 The starting point, as Mr Kealey has identified, is  
 25 that the stipulated proximity requirement is an integral

1 part of the insured peril; and the FCA is not entitled  
 2 to look outside the words used in the policy for the  
 3 purposes of identifying what that peril may be.

4 The FCA's submissions as to peril bear no  
 5 resemblance to the words used in the relevant policies  
 6 and are wholly dislocated from any concept of proximate  
 7 cause. Let us look at the disease clauses or just  
 8 remind you, if I may, of the disease clauses in RSA1, 3  
 9 and 4 as examples.

10 RSA agreed only to insure against the proximately  
 11 caused consequences of: for RSA1, closures or  
 12 restrictions imposed on the premises or placed on the  
 13 premises as a result of the manifestation of  
 14 a notifiable human disease within 25 miles of the  
 15 premises; for RSA3, it is a notifiable human disease  
 16 within 25 miles of the premises; and for RSA4,  
 17 a notifiable human disease within the vicinity of the  
 18 premises.

19 We submit that the commercial rationale for these  
 20 provisions is obvious. If there is a notifiable human  
 21 disease within the specified proximity, people may be  
 22 less willing to visit the area of the insured premises,  
 23 they may be less willing to undertake economic activity  
 24 within the relevant area, thereby impacting on the  
 25 insured business. Plainly, the likelihood of people's

1 behaviour being so affected will increase as the  
 2 distance from the insured premises decreases.  
 3 Accordingly, we say it cannot be said that insurers'  
 4 approach to the construction of the relevant perils is  
 5 in any way uncommercial. And, my Lords, we would  
 6 endorse or agree with, respectfully, the bread and  
 7 butter disease outbreak example which my Lord  
 8 Lord Justice Flaux gave on {Day1/136:12} to line 15. I  
 9 think you contemplated an outbreak of mumps or measles  
 10 and, as a result, schools and the like being shutdown in  
 11 a particular area.

12 Conversely, the consequence of the FCA's approach is  
 13 to reduce each proximity requirement to no more than an  
 14 arbitrary, wholly incidental and non-causal contingency  
 15 which, providing it is satisfied, brings within the  
 16 scope of the insured peril everything which happens  
 17 beyond the specified limit.

18 A contract having such an effect would be the  
 19 epitome of happenstance, as my Lord Mr Justice Butcher  
 20 observed on {Day1/135:8}. It would be what Lord Sumner  
 21 referred to in Becker Gray as an "aleatory bargain",  
 22 something turning on the roll of a dice. There is no  
 23 obvious reason which we can discern as to why the FCA  
 24 draws a line at a specified proximity of 1 mile from the  
 25 premises, since its reason would apply, if correct, just

1 as much to manifestations of disease at the premises,  
2 which would doubtless be explained as pixels on the  
3 individual pieces of the jigsaw.

4 Remarkably, the FCA seeks to justify that approach  
5 by reference to the quotation from Lord Sumner's speech  
6 in Becker Gray, with which it concludes paragraph 220 of  
7 its skeleton argument. Could we turn that up, please,  
8 it is {1/1/89}.

9 The suggestion in the final sentence is that the  
10 only question with which your Lordships need to concern  
11 yourselves is: has the event, on which I put my premium,  
12 actually occurred?

13 If we go over the page {1/1/90} we will see that  
14 that is characterised as being an important feature of  
15 an indemnity policy.

16 We say that the FCA's approach is infected by  
17 a misreading of the relevant passage in Lord Sumner's  
18 speech. Could we now look at that at {J/42/13}.

19 Can we go back one page, please. {J/42/12}. We can  
20 really pick up the relevant passage in his speech in the  
21 middle, or about a third of the way down on page 12  
22 where he deals with proximate cause. In about the  
23 middle of the page, having said it helps one side no  
24 oftener than it helps the other, he says:

25 "I believe it to be nothing more nor less than the

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1 real meaning of the parties to a contract of insurance."

2 If we could then go to page {J/42/13}, and about  
3 two-thirds of the way down is a passage starting:

4 "In a contract of indemnity ..."

5 Could I ask you to read from those words through to  
6 the end of the sentence concluding on the last line of  
7 that page. (Pause)

8 It is plain that Lord Sumner is drawing  
9 a distinction, we submit, between on the one hand  
10 contracts of indemnity, such as the policies that are  
11 before you, and on the other, what he terms aleatory  
12 contracts, contracts of chance, contingency.

13 With the former, to adopt his words, "the question  
14 is whether the loss was caused in that way, and the  
15 remoter causes of this state of things do not become  
16 material". And with the latter, and again adopting his  
17 words, "one need only ask: has the event, on which I put  
18 my premium, actually occurred?"

19 To be fair to the FCA, many of us have been standing  
20 too close to the trees to see the wood, and it is only  
21 really with the benefit of what Mr Gaisman would call  
22 "time to think" that the error apparent on the face of  
23 the FCA's skeleton argument really becomes obvious.

24 We submit that there would be no commercial  
25 justification for adopting a construction of the

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1 insuring clauses within these policies which effectively  
2 reduces the perils to the status of mere contingency.  
3 Nor can such a construction be fashioned or justified  
4 from the words which the parties have chosen to use to  
5 define the perils.

6 We submit it is clear that the FCA cannot provide  
7 a rationale for treating the proximity requirements as  
8 a happenstance, other than its assertion that the effect  
9 of the contingency or ticking the box, or the need to  
10 tick the box, is it relieves insurers of the need to pay  
11 someone in the Scilly Isles; and the reference for that  
12 is {Day2/119:6} to line 16.

13 Can we see that, please.

14 That is said by Mr Edelman to be its commercial  
15 purpose, the function and the purpose.

16 Mr Edey made similar submissions on behalf of the  
17 hospitality interveners yesterday, {Day3/166:25}, that's  
18 the start of the passage. Sorry, it is {Day3/167:1}.  
19 Could we go to that page, please.

20 My Lords, the second point is the question which, if  
21 we go over the page, {Day3/169:1}, and Mr Edey at least  
22 acknowledged that what he was effectively canvassing  
23 created a postcode lottery. A classic aleatory contract  
24 on any view.

25 In our submission, what both the FCA and Mr Edey

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1 described is not a commercial purpose for imposing  
2 a contract of contingency on insurers, but it simply  
3 describes the effect that such a contingency would  
4 create.

5 One can draw a distinction between perhaps the best  
6 known contingency in material damage policies, which is  
7 the material damage proviso. On one view, the  
8 requirement that there has to be in place before the  
9 business interruption cover can respond there must be  
10 property cover in place under which liability is  
11 admitted, could be described or seen as a pure  
12 contingency, a happenstance. And no doubt the FCA and  
13 Mr Edey would say that that affects whether insurers  
14 have to pay out a business interruption loss.

15 But that is not the commercial purpose for the MD  
16 proviso. The proviso is there to ensure that the  
17 assured can rebuild its premises, and thereby bring the  
18 period of interruption to an end as soon as possible,  
19 thereby hopefully reducing the exposure of insurer.  
20 That is the obvious commercial purpose which underlies  
21 the MD proviso and nothing else, and that is in Riley at  
22 paragraph 2.10. I will give you the reference, it is  
23 {K/323/1}. We don't need to turn it up.

24 It is, in our submission, not surprising that the  
25 FCA's approach to proximity requirements, thus infected,

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1 has left it in a state of confusion. You can see this  
 2 at paragraph 951 of its skeleton argument, where in the  
 3 context of RSA1 the FCA -- and that reference is  
 4 {I/1/302} please. Can we go to {I/1/302}, please.  
 5 You will see in paragraph 951:  
 6 "The clause thereby requires establishing (i)  
 7 closure or restrictions placed on the premises, (ii)  
 8 as a result of COVID-19 manifesting itself within  
 9 25 miles ..."  
 10 To similar effect were the submissions by Mr Edelman  
 11 on Day 3 at page 45, lines 4 to 9. {Day3/454}.

12 We would suggest that no one could sensibly make the  
 13 submission that the wording set out in paragraph 951 of  
 14 the FCA's skeleton argument should be construed as  
 15 requiring no more than a box to be ticked. They plainly  
 16 require the policyholder to establish a proximate causal  
 17 link between the manifestation of the disease within the  
 18 specified radius and the relevant closure or  
 19 restrictions, as well as a proximate causal link between  
 20 the loss and the closure or restrictions thus caused.

21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: In commercial terms it is completely  
 22 pointless, isn't it?  
 23 MR TURNER: Yes.  
 24 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Because if the cover is as broad as the  
 25 FCA asserts, then the 1 mile or 25-mile or vicinity

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1 requirement is completely pointless.  
 2 MR TURNER: So is --  
 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Other than as a trigger for being able  
 4 to say -- as you say, a box to be ticked or a trigger  
 5 that says: provided you have one case within 1 mile, or  
 6 in the vicinity, or within 25 miles, then everything  
 7 else follows.  
 8 MR TURNER: My Lord, exactly.  
 9 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Why on earth you would do that, why you  
 10 would feel the need to do that remains unexplained.  
 11 MR TURNER: Wholly. Wholly. And it goes against every  
 12 grain of construing an indemnity policy where, as  
 13 Lord Sumner makes clear in Becker Gray, the assumption  
 14 from the very start, unless you have clear words to the  
 15 contrary, is that under an indemnity policy you are  
 16 insuring loss caused in a particular way. And that  
 17 predisposition towards requiring the causal link is  
 18 reflected in section 55 of the Act.  
 19 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I have to say, Mr Turner, I'm not sure  
 20 that Lord Sumner was addressing really the same point as  
 21 you are addressing. There would be, on one view, loss  
 22 as a result of closure or restrictions. But the point  
 23 you are really focusing on is within the clause itself,  
 24 that the closure or restrictions are not as a result of  
 25 a notifiable human disease manifesting itself within the

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1 25 miles.  
 2 MR TURNER: That is a very fair point. That is a very fair  
 3 point, my Lord. But in relation to RSA3, where we  
 4 indemnify against loss caused by a notifiable disease  
 5 within 25 miles of the premises, the point is, in my  
 6 submission, more directly apposite, and the link into  
 7 what Lord Sumner was saying.  
 8 We would go further, and if you take the wording in  
 9 RSA3, which is notifiable disease, loss caused by  
 10 notifiable disease, in fact it is "loss following  
 11 notifiable disease within 25 miles", and I will address  
 12 you in due course as to the meaning of the word  
 13 "following", but please for present purposes assume that  
 14 I am right when I say that that requires a proximate  
 15 causal relationship, the question which would arise in  
 16 relation to that clause, if one borrows from  
 17 Lord Dunedin's speech in Leyland Shipping, {J/43/14},  
 18 and as explained by my Lord Mr Justice Butcher in  
 19 Insurance Disputes at paragraph 7.15, reference  
 20 {K/204/9}, the question is whether the occurrence of  
 21 COVID-19 within 25 miles of the premises has been the  
 22 dominant cause -- and I put the words "dominant cause"  
 23 in inverted commas -- of the loss.  
 24 In answering that question, and to borrow once again  
 25 from Lord Sumner in Becker Gray, one does not take

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1 account of the remoter causes of the loss.  
 2 That then leads me to the next feature of the FCA's  
 3 argument in relation to causation, which is the jigsaw,  
 4 or the lines on the spreadsheet.  
 5 Now, Mr Kealey has already addressed the novel  
 6 inextricable linkage concept. The other way the FCA  
 7 puts its case, albeit, we would say, as the other side  
 8 of exactly the same coin, is the jigsaw or lines on the  
 9 spreadsheet, each making its concurrent contribution to  
 10 the cause. Not to the loss, to the cause. And I am  
 11 quoting there from Mr Edelman on {Day3/140:20} to lines  
 12 25.  
 13 Perhaps it is Day 2. Could I just have one moment,  
 14 please? I am not doing very well with my references,  
 15 my Lord.  
 16 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Don't take up time, Mr Turner, we  
 17 recall the submission.  
 18 MR TURNER: All I am going to say in relation to this is  
 19 that this seems to be an attempt by the FCA to abolish  
 20 the law of proximate cause or the rule of proximate  
 21 cause, however one wishes to articulate it, as explained  
 22 by Lord Dunedin, as set out or summarised in  
 23 paragraph 7.15 of Insurance Disputes, to unleash the  
 24 remoter causes disapproved by Lord Sumner in  
 25 Becker Gray, and introduce the concept of material

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1 contribution , as explained in cases such as Bonnington  
 2 Castings, into the law of insurance .  
 3 Such an approach, we suggest, has absolutely nothing  
 4 to do with the test of proximate cause or even, as one  
 5 can see from Lord Hodge's speech in Barker v Corus, at  
 6 paragraph 72 {K/126/31} -- I will just ask you to read  
 7 that, the first eight lines , to yourselves . (Pause)  
 8 It is paragraph 72, but it is the passage at the top  
 9 of page 31.  
 10 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.  
 11 MR TURNER: All I need to say by way of conclusion on this  
 12 part of my submissions is that it is no surprise  
 13 whatsoever that Bonnington Castings makes no appearance  
 14 in either Insurance Disputes or in MacGillivray .  
 15 The concept of material contribution or underlying  
 16 causes of a cause is unknown in the field of insurance  
 17 when it comes to identifying the proximate cause of  
 18 loss .  
 19 My Lords, can I turn now to the incorporation of  
 20 quantification machinery, where that is damages based or  
 21 damage based within policies .  
 22 It is common ground as between us and the FCA that  
 23 the adjustment provisions in RSA4 do apply to the  
 24 calculation of any indemnity payable under that policy ,  
 25 because the quantification provisions are phrased in

1 terms which do not refer to "Damage", capital D. That  
 2 quantification machinery we will come to briefly in due  
 3 course .  
 4 The RSA2 and RSA3 policies, along with policies of  
 5 some of the other insurers , do contain adjustment  
 6 provisions which apply to business interruption losses  
 7 resulting from "Damage", capital D.  
 8 For RSA's purposes, you can find those provisions in  
 9 RSA2.1 at {B/17/34}. This is a policy where the  
 10 adjustments provision appears within the " Definitions "  
 11 section of the policy . As you would expect, "Damage" is  
 12 a defined term requiring physical loss , damage or  
 13 destruction .  
 14 In RSA2.2, exactly the same wording can be found at  
 15 {B/18/52}, special condition 4.  
 16 And in RSA3 one finds the quantification machinery  
 17 at {B/19/34}, and under the heading of " Vicinity " or the  
 18 definition of " Vicinity " is then an unheaded special  
 19 provision , which concludes "so that the figures thus  
 20 adjusted shall represent as nearly as may be reasonably  
 21 practicable the results which but for the incident would  
 22 have been obtained during the relevant period after the  
 23 incident ."  
 24 The term "incident" is defined on the previous page,  
 25 please, {B/19/33}, and you will see that it incorporates

1 "Damage", capital D, in the middle of the page.  
 2 So, says the FCA, none of these clauses in RSA2.1,  
 3 2.2 or 3 can apply to the quantification of losses under  
 4 a non-damage extension to the business interruption  
 5 cover .  
 6 My Lords, the reasons for maintaining what some  
 7 might say is an uncharacteristically puritan approach to  
 8 policy construction can be found at paragraphs 273 to  
 9 274 of its skeleton argument, {1/1/107}.  
 10 If we go on, please, to {1/1/108}, this is in the  
 11 context of the Hiscox wording, the trends clause doesn't  
 12 apply because it is damage-based, and it's said to be  
 13 entirely understandable or unsurprising because there is  
 14 often a modest subject limit and time limit on the  
 15 period of indemnity, and the parties will therefore  
 16 often have been content with a simpler and cheaper  
 17 quantification process . One might observe that there is  
 18 a rather obvious non sequitur in the final sentence of  
 19 274.  
 20 We say that the FCA approach is wrong. Indeed, we  
 21 go as far as to say it should be common ground that, and  
 22 I quote:  
 23 "Unless one proceeds on the premise that the peril  
 24 in each extension , if it does not involve Damage  
 25 [ capital D], is to be treated as if it were damage for

1 the purposes of the policy , there is no indemnification  
 2 provision . This cannot have been intended by the  
 3 parties ."  
 4 That is a quotation , my Lords, from the FCA's own  
 5 skeleton argument at paragraph 947, page 300 in this  
 6 document, please {1/1/300}. This is in relation to the  
 7 Argenta policy , and it is the last two sentences of  
 8 paragraph 947.  
 9 Now, we say those points as to mutual intention are  
 10 plainly of general application and cannot be limited  
 11 specifically to either the Arch or Argenta wordings,  
 12 because the stem by which the extensions provide cover  
 13 effectively requires manipulation of the text .  
 14 What the FCA is setting out in 947 are general  
 15 propositions which are equally applicable to every  
 16 single damage-based quantification clause in any of the  
 17 policies before you .  
 18 And that should be the end of it . The issue is  
 19 a simple one of construction , easily accommodated,  
 20 certainly in the context of the RSA policies , by  
 21 construing the words which extend the primary business  
 22 interruption cover as extending it , subject to the  
 23 incidence, including as to quantification , of the  
 24 primary cover .  
 25 In relation to RSA3 in particular , we can also point

1 to clear indicators within the language of the  
2 non-damage extensions that show the parties were  
3 treating the non-damage extensions as if they were  
4 damage for the purposes of the quantification machinery,  
5 for example, through the use of terms such as "indemnity  
6 period" which is defined in a way which requires there  
7 to be damage. But we have identified those additional  
8 linguistic or textual factors in our written submissions  
9 at paragraph 32 of appendix 3, {1/18/66}.

10 In conclusion, each adjustments clause should, as  
11 with RSA4, be construed according to its language, as  
12 that is how it would be naturally understood, and  
13 construed as applying to non-damage losses which would  
14 otherwise be indemnifiable in the policies before you.

15 There is some other machinery in RSA 1, to which  
16 I am going to come in just a moment, but we say  
17 a similar approach should be adopted there.

18 My Lord, could we now go to RSA1, and the policy can  
19 be found in bundle {B/16/1}. Our submissions on RSA1,  
20 for your notes, are {1/18/7} and following.

21 Can we go, please, to {B/16/5}. About the third  
22 paragraph down contains the reminder that the policy and  
23 any schedule endorsements, et cetera, should be read as  
24 if they were one document.

25 In terms of business interruption cover, could we

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1 look, please, at page {B/16/12}, and at the top of the  
2 page:

3 "This insurance applies only where shown as included  
4 in the schedule."

5 If we then go to the schedule, please, the same tab  
6 at page {B/16/82}, one sees the business interruption  
7 insurance, and what is insured is loss of gross revenue.  
8 That is a defined term, the definition of which you will  
9 find at page {B/16/73}, on the left-hand side:

10 "The actual amount of the reduction in the gross  
11 revenue received by you during the indemnity period  
12 solely as a result of damage to buildings."

13 So in other words, it is a damage-based definition.  
14 But in our submission that has to be manipulated to  
15 encompass non-damage losses as if those non-damage  
16 losses or perils are the "Damage", capital D, for the  
17 purposes of the definition. Because otherwise the FCA  
18 gets no cover at all in relation to the non-damage  
19 extensions.

20 So that machinery introduces a requirement, we say,  
21 that the reduction in the gross revenue during the  
22 indemnity period must be solely as a result of the  
23 insured peril under the non-damage extensions.

24 If we look at the business --

25 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: They are not very well drafted, but

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1 this sort of terminological inconsistency is not unknown  
2 in insurance policies.

3 MR TURNER: It really isn't, and particularly where one is  
4 looking at extensions to primary cover.

5 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: You wouldn't have any quantification  
6 provisions at all. I mean, unless you read the  
7 definition of "Loss of Gross Revenue" as encompassing  
8 within "Damage" other non-damage extensions, then there  
9 isn't any basis for saying there is any method of  
10 quantification of the loss.

11 MR TURNER: There is no method, so presumably the FCA's  
12 approach is to say -- and I make this assumption because  
13 they haven't told us what their approach is -- that the  
14 parties just have to establish what the loss is from  
15 first principles.

16 How that conforms with the FCA's submission that the  
17 parties can have been intending to make it simpler and  
18 cheaper I don't know, because the whole purpose of the  
19 quantification machinery is to make it simpler and  
20 cheaper and to avoid argument.

21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes.

22 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: In fact, I suspect you would say it  
23 doesn't make any difference whether they are included in  
24 it or not, wouldn't you?

25 MR TURNER: No --

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1 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: It just makes it clearer.

2 MR TURNER: It makes it clearer and it avoids dispute,  
3 my Lord. That is really as far as it goes. But what it  
4 does mean is that the policyholders have to accept the  
5 extensions along with the quantification machinery that  
6 goes with the primary cover. And if that machinery  
7 introduces a particular causal test, it has to be  
8 respected.

9 A separate issue whether it does, and that is  
10 a matter for your Lordships in due course construing the  
11 words of the particular clauses as they appear in each  
12 policy, without any assumption that they are all simply  
13 to be characterised as trends clauses, whatever that may  
14 mean. Because the language does differ from clause to  
15 clause.

16 Let us turn, if we may, to the business interruption  
17 insuring clause. We can find that on page 22.  
18 {B/16/22}. Again, slightly odd drafting because we have  
19 had the business interruption perils, so to speak, set  
20 out. Then on the previous page we have the insuring  
21 clause for property damage. Or perhaps not on the  
22 previous page, but the previous page to that {B/16/20}.  
23 So after we have set out all the business interruption  
24 perils, we then have -- it's called "How we settle  
25 claims for damage to buildings", but it actually starts

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1 with what one would call a conventional insuring clause,  
 2 which is then followed by basis of settlement  
 3 provisions .  
 4 Going forward two pages to {B/16/22}, please, "Gross  
 5 revenue -- How we settle claims" actually again starts  
 6 with the primary insuring clause for business  
 7 interruption , and then goes on to set out the machinery.  
 8 Again, item number 1 there is:  
 9 "In respect of gross revenue.  
 10 "[It is] the amount by which the gross revenue  
 11 received during the indemnity period falls short of the  
 12 standard gross revenue as a result of the damage."  
 13 And the same points arise .  
 14 There is a material damage requirement in this  
 15 policy , on the next page {B/16/23}, on the right-hand  
 16 column, from which there is a specific carve out in  
 17 relation to event 13, but nothing is said whatsoever in  
 18 relation to the preceding non-damage extensions to the  
 19 business interruption cover. But again, that can be  
 20 resolved by treating the perils insured under those  
 21 extensions as if they were damage.  
 22 The relevant extension with which we are concerned  
 23 appears at page 16 {B/16/16} it is item 2(a). Can we  
 24 start at the top of the page. "This insurance also  
 25 covers" must, in my submission, be a reference to the

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1 insurance under the business interruption section , if  
 2 shown within the schedule. "What is covered", item 2A:  
 3 "Loss as a result of:  
 4 "Closure or restrictions placed on the premises as  
 5 a result of a notifiable human disease manifesting  
 6 itself at the premises or within a radius of 25 miles at  
 7 of the premises."  
 8 So the first point to note is that there has to be  
 9 a notifiable human disease at or within a radius of  
 10 25 miles of the premises.  
 11 That disease, thus circumscribed in its geography,  
 12 has to manifest itself , and the manifestation of the  
 13 disease as thus circumscribed has to result in closure  
 14 or restrictions placed on the premises. So that the  
 15 words "as a result of" appear both as a link between the  
 16 loss and the peril as a whole, and as the causal  
 17 connector between the different parts of the peril . And  
 18 those words, we say, require proximate causation, and  
 19 they require proximate causation both at level of the  
 20 cause of the loss and also the cause of restrictions .  
 21 You can't interpret the same words in the same clause as  
 22 having two different meanings.  
 23 There is an issue between us about manifestation .  
 24 The FCA says that "manifestation" means "occurrence";  
 25 and as long as there is an actual occurrence, either

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1 known or apprehended, then that is sufficient for the  
 2 purposes of being a notifiable human disease manifesting  
 3 itself at the premises.  
 4 We say that is wrong, because if the parties had  
 5 wanted to say "a notifiable human disease at the  
 6 premises or within a radius of 25 miles of the premises"  
 7 they could have said so. They have used the word  
 8 "manifesting", and that clearly indicates a requirement  
 9 that the disease is apparent. And that requirement is  
 10 underlined or reinforced by the fact that the  
 11 manifestation of the disease, thus circumscribed, has to  
 12 result in a closure or restrictions .  
 13 We say it is absurd to suggest that an unknown  
 14 episode of COVID-19 can satisfy the causal test which  
 15 appears within the middle of the insuring clause .  
 16 The FCA's submission boils down to a notifiable  
 17 human disease manifesting itself at the premises whether  
 18 it is manifest or not. It deprives the word  
 19 "manifesting" of all effect . But it may be that in the  
 20 overall scheme of things this becomes an academic  
 21 debate, given the required causal link .  
 22 The definition of "Indemnity Period", can I draw  
 23 your attention to, is on page {B/16/72}. It is on the  
 24 bottom of the left -hand column:  
 25 "The maximum number period from the date of the

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1 Damage ..."  
 2 So the definition of "Indemnity Period" incorporates  
 3 the concept of "Damage", capital D.  
 4 But if we go back to extensions 1 and 4 on page  
 5 {B/16/16}, this is reinforcing the same point about  
 6 machinery, so one is failure of supply, so it is  
 7 a non-damage cover but again refers to the indemnity  
 8 period.  
 9 The same point can be made in relation to extension  
 10 4 over the page, {B/16/17}. Again, it is a non-damage  
 11 cover, but clearly contemplates the application of the  
 12 damage-based quantification machinery.  
 13 Can I then move on to some high level submissions as  
 14 to what our position is .  
 15 First, we say that closure or restrictions are only  
 16 placed on the premises by the 26 March regulations. We  
 17 say that the earlier advice and directions are  
 18 insufficient . Can we just take an example to illustrate  
 19 that.  
 20 If one assumes that you have a customer who lives  
 21 20 miles away from the premises, he develops symptoms of  
 22 consistent with COVID-19 on 12 March and he cancels  
 23 a booking starting on the 15th, complying with the  
 24 self - isolation advice that had already been circulated  
 25 at the end of the preceding week. He subsequently tests

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1 positive for COVID-19. We say that it could not  
2 properly be suggested that the booking of that customer  
3 is cancelled because of closure or restrictions placed  
4 on the premises. The premises are not closed, they are  
5 not restricted, no restrictions have been placed upon  
6 them. The booking is cancelled because the customer  
7 personally has the notifiable disease and he is  
8 complying with the social distancing measures, the  
9 advice, but that isn't enough to bring the loss of the  
10 booking within the insured peril.

11 We go on to say that the necessary causal link  
12 between the closure or the restrictions and the  
13 manifestation within 25 miles cannot be satisfied by the  
14 FCA. We give the example of the Scilly Isles. So if  
15 you take at this stage you can apply the counterfactual,  
16 where you have multiple causal links within the peril,  
17 it is both right and proper to test that causal link by  
18 a counterfactual. If you pose the question of whether  
19 the premises would have been subject to closure or  
20 restrictions even if there had been no manifestation of  
21 disease within 25 miles, the answer is yes, "but for"  
22 causation is not satisfied, and therefore the peril has  
23 not occurred.

24 One can test that also by reference to the Scilly  
25 Isles. No known -- no manifestation of disease within

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1 25 miles, on the basis of the agreed facts, but still  
2 subject to the closure or restrictions.

3 You have my submissions in relation to  
4 quantification machinery, and so I am not going to  
5 repeat them any more than I already have.

6 Your Lordship Lord Justice Flaux posed a question  
7 yesterday in relation to an outbreak of Legionnaires'  
8 disease at the premises, and the government contacting  
9 the people who were planning to stay at the premises in  
10 the next three weeks and telling them not to go, and  
11 asking the question whether or not that would amount to  
12 closure or restrictions placed on the premises.

13 We would say, perhaps obviously, that the example is  
14 artificial, because in reality what would happen is the  
15 public health official in the locality would direct the  
16 premises to close until they have been deep-cleaned and  
17 certified safe. But if it is to be treated as a closure  
18 placed on the premises, it is because there is  
19 a specific risk relating to the specific premises, and  
20 so the directions given are intrinsic to the premises.  
21 And that would be the only way by which to say that that  
22 particular requirement had been satisfied on the basis  
23 of that example.

24 If one takes a different example, if one  
25 hypothesises that in order to slow down the spread of

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1 the disease the government, on 12 March, banned the use  
2 of public transport by everyone, except for key workers,  
3 and a booking due to start on the 15th was cancelled by  
4 a party, because they were relying on a train from  
5 Paddington to Penzance to get to the holiday cottage and  
6 could no longer get there, it couldn't be said that that  
7 booking was cancelled because of a closure or  
8 restriction placed on the premises; it had been  
9 cancelled because of restrictions placed on the use of  
10 public transport by individuals. It is not intrinsic to  
11 the premises, and therefore the peril would not be  
12 satisfied, even if there were outbreaks. And perhaps  
13 not Paddington to Penzance, let's take Truro to Penzance  
14 or even Camelford to Penzance, 22 miles, so that might  
15 satisfy the causal test, and one can postulate various  
16 different scenarios. But certainly on that scenario we  
17 would say that there is no closure or restrictions  
18 placed on the premises.

19 As for the Chesil Beach example, your Lordships will  
20 have well in mind Mr Edelman's admonition at page 3 of  
21 the transcript for Day 1 {Day1/3:1} that your Lordship  
22 should not express views on issues or clauses that are  
23 not before you. That was before he embarked on the  
24 Chesil Beach example, the vermin example, the Buncefield  
25 example and many other examples in order to illustrate

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1 his submissions.

2 Mr Kealey has dealt with Chesil Beach this morning.  
3 We deal with it as much as it needs to be dealt with,  
4 because it is misconceived, at {1/18/23}, paragraphs 34  
5 to 36 of our written submissions. My Lords, I am not  
6 going to repeat those now.

7 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: I have to say, Mr Turner, I didn't  
8 understand Mr Edelman to mean that we couldn't express  
9 a view on other policy clauses which are completely  
10 irrelevant. I think he was warning us not to say  
11 anything which might be relevant to the sort of COVID  
12 issues we are concerned with.

13 MR TURNER: I think I have pulled Mr Edelman's leg as much  
14 as it needs pulling in relation to that.

15 Mr Edelman said, and the reference for this is  
16 {Day3/65:24} to page 66, line 9, that RSA can't say that  
17 the closure cannot be as a result of a notifiable  
18 disease, because the government measures were  
19 preventative or pre-emptive. The FCA say that can't be  
20 correct, because the government were responding not just  
21 to the known but also to the known unknowns, in  
22 Rumsfeldian language.

23 My Lord, the difficulty with that is the use of the  
24 word "manifesting" within the relevant peril, and so the  
25 closure, an anticipatory closure, or preventative

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1 pre-emptive closure cannot be said to be as a result of  
 2 the manifestation of a notifiable disease within the  
 3 prescribed radius .  
 4 In relation to the counterfactuals , the complaint is  
 5 that we subtract the whole of the clause , we subtract  
 6 the closure , the restrictions and the disease  
 7 manifesting itself within 25 miles , so it is said we  
 8 don't make the mistake of other insurers . Well,  
 9 Mr Kealey has already dealt with that . One can apply on  
 10 this clause , so I have already indicated ,  
 11 counterfactuals at different stages . One can apply the  
 12 counterfactual to test , whether the necessary causal  
 13 link for the closure or restrictions is satisfied , and  
 14 we say it plainly is not , even on the FCA's own case .  
 15 One can then test the question of the counterfactual to  
 16 the insuring clause as a whole by posing the question :  
 17 what would have happened if , following the manifestation  
 18 within the prescribed radius , or because of the  
 19 manifestation , if one assumes there had been some , the  
 20 closure or restrictions were imposed?  
 21 So one simply takes away , at that stage , the closure  
 22 or restrictions to ask what the question would be . As  
 23 I have already indicated , the social distancing  
 24 measures , set out with legislative force from 26 March ,  
 25 would have provided a complete answer from that date .

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1 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: In one sense , Mr Turner , and I think  
 2 this is a point my Lord made to Mr Kealey , one can move  
 3 away from counterfactuals . I mean , you say your case  
 4 is , as a matter of construction , you only have to cover  
 5 if you can demonstrate that the closure or restriction  
 6 has been placed on the premises as a result of  
 7 manifestation of disease within 25 miles .  
 8 Now , it may be that in any given case that can be  
 9 demonstrated on the facts . But you say that is  
 10 extremely unlikely , and if it can't be demonstrated on  
 11 the facts then there isn't any cover . So you don't need  
 12 to get to counterfactuals at all .  
 13 MR TURNER: Precisely . Counterfactuals are only really  
 14 a way of testing the application of proximate cause , and  
 15 if one simply poses the question and says , "Has any loss  
 16 proximately been caused or have the closure or  
 17 restrictions proximately been caused by the  
 18 manifestation of a disease within 25 miles?" , then until  
 19 we get to examples such as Leicester , the answer is no .  
 20 And you are quite right , my Lord , one doesn't need to go  
 21 on to counterfactuals , they are there as a reality check  
 22 if one needs one . But I would agree that on those facts  
 23 one doesn't need one .  
 24 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: You can just ask the question: was the  
 25 closure or the restriction placed on the premises as

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1 a result of a notifiable disease manifesting itself ?  
 2 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Within 25 miles .  
 3 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Within 25 miles .  
 4 MR TURNER: Precisely .  
 5 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: And if the answer to that question is  
 6 no , that is the end of it .  
 7 MR TURNER: Yes , it is . We are in violent agreement .  
 8 My Lords , that is all I propose to say about RSA1 .  
 9 Could I make a start on RSA2 , at least to the extent  
 10 of setting out the route map to the policy itself .  
 11 It is {B/17/1} and the submissions in relation to RSA2  
 12 are appendix 2 to our written submissions {1/18/28} and  
 13 following , and we don't need to go there .  
 14 Page 3 of tab 17 , and this is the pubs policy --  
 15 {B/17/3} -- we have a one document provision . It is  
 16 three paragraphs under the inapt heading " Insuring  
 17 Clause" .  
 18 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: These policies are in fact written by  
 19 a managing general agent , are they?  
 20 MR TURNER: They are . A managing general underwriter .  
 21 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: A general underwriter rather , I think  
 22 on behalf of Aviva , and Aviva is part of your clients ,  
 23 is it not?  
 24 MR TURNER: No . That is Resilience . Resilience is actually  
 25 a broker created broker place policy through Marsh ,

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1 where RSA's exposure on Resilience is relatively modest .  
 2 QBE , Zurich , Aviva and AIG , and lots of others , there is  
 3 enough to fill a 52-seater coach , I can tell you , they  
 4 also write business on the Resilience wording , and some  
 5 if not all of them write a lot more of that business  
 6 than RSA does .  
 7 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So in a sense RSA4 is , if you like ,  
 8 a test case for a lot of other policy wordings .  
 9 MR TURNER: It is . Or a test case for a lot of other  
 10 insurers .  
 11 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Yes .  
 12 MR TURNER: And they are watching anxiously .  
 13 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: So this one is RSA through an  
 14 underwriting agent .  
 15 MR TURNER: Yes , it is RSA , though it's Eaton Gate's  
 16 wordings , and you will observe various features of their  
 17 wordings in due course and we will address those as we  
 18 come to them .  
 19 Let's look at the business interruption insuring  
 20 clause here . If we start , please , at page {B/17/36} .  
 21 I am just checking that is -- sorry , I am in the  
 22 wrong -- no , I am in the right bundle .  
 23 In fact let's start , if we may , at {B/17/34} . It is  
 24 the start of the "Business Interruption " section . You  
 25 have already seen the adjustments provision included

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1 within the definitions section, or subsection. Then we  
 2 have "Subsection A -- Gross Profit", and over the page  
 3 "What is Covered":  
 4 "In the event of damage to property used by you at  
 5 the premises ..."  
 6 So there is the answer to Mr Edelman's Buncefield  
 7 scenario; in relation to RSA2, the peril is damage.  
 8 Then below that we find the heading "Extensions":  
 9 "Cover provided by this subsection is extended to  
 10 include interruption or interference with the business.  
 11 "What is Covered", and we say those general words of  
 12 extension are sufficient to, if you like, wrap over the  
 13 quantification machinery, if you need a route by which  
 14 to do so.  
 15 Subclause A or Extension A is actually a disease  
 16 clause with specified diseases.  
 17 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: It doesn't actually use the words  
 18 "caused by" or anything of that kind, but they must be  
 19 necessarily implicit, mustn't they?  
 20 MR TURNER: This wording doesn't, so we say this is  
 21 section 55 territory. One defaults to proximate cause  
 22 unless the policy provides otherwise, and it doesn't.  
 23 So we have specified diseases in A, and then in F  
 24 over the page {B/17/36} we have the relevant extension,  
 25 a "Prevention of Access - Public Emergency" extension:

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1 "The actions or advice of a competent public  
 2 authority due to an emergency likely to endanger life or  
 3 property in the vicinity of the premises which prevents  
 4 or hinders the use or access to the premises."  
 5 My Lord, quite what sense one takes away from the  
 6 insuring provision may depend slightly on where one  
 7 draws breath as one reads it out, but as I am going to  
 8 show you in due course, the parties are happily agreed  
 9 as to how that provision should be construed.  
 10 And the agreement, just not to keep you in suspense,  
 11 is that it should be construed as referring to an  
 12 emergency in the vicinity of the premises likely to  
 13 endanger life or property, and I will make that good in  
 14 due course.  
 15 Then "What is not Covered", we start with a time  
 16 deductible.  
 17 Then we have exclusion (b), on which Mr Edelman made  
 18 submissions yesterday, and on which we rely as  
 19 delineating the cover or restricting the scope of cover  
 20 to the period of actual prevention. It is an unusual  
 21 approach to policy wording, but there are a number of  
 22 unusual features to the approach to this policy's  
 23 wording.  
 24 (c) is labour disputes; (d) is Northern Ireland; and  
 25 (e) is specified diseases, so extension A sub(a); and

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1 then finally there is a freestanding inner limit, "Any  
 2 amount in excess of €10,000". One can see that a number  
 3 of these extensions have freestanding inner limits thus  
 4 expressed, so extension A, extension B, extension C, F  
 5 we have just looked at, G, H, all have freestanding  
 6 inner limits.  
 7 The equivalent provisions within RSA2.2, the  
 8 business interruption insuring section, starts at  
 9 {B/18/49}. The extension starts on page 50 {B/18/50}.  
 10 Disease is again nominated or specified diseases, in  
 11 B(a), freestanding and a limit in B(a). I ask you to  
 12 note the freestanding limits in C as well, and G.  
 13 The extension with which we are concerned is the  
 14 "Public Emergency" extension at F, which is in identical  
 15 terms to that in RSA2.1, subject to two features, at  
 16 least as a matter the text. The first is that the  
 17 exclusion --  
 18 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: We need to go to the next page.  
 19 MR TURNER: Sorry, {B/18/51}. I ask you to note the inner  
 20 limit on G on that page, and then go back to F. The  
 21 insuring provision, the "What is Covered" provision is  
 22 identical.  
 23 Then the "What is not Covered" provision, again we  
 24 have the time deductible and so on, and it is all really  
 25 the same until we get to (e). The first difference in

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1 relation to (e) is that the exclusion in respect of  
 2 "infectious or contagious diseases" is unqualified by  
 3 reference to the specified diseases in A, on {B/18/50};  
 4 and the second point is that the "any amount in excess  
 5 of €10,000" has found itself onto or into sub-exclusion  
 6 (e), where previously it has been a freestanding inner  
 7 limit.  
 8 I am going to address that exclusion and our  
 9 approach to it, if I may, on Monday morning.  
 10 Just before we break, so that I do make use of the  
 11 time, can I identify some points of agreement.  
 12 We accept that there is action or advice by  
 13 a competent public authority.  
 14 We accept that the closure measures hindered use,  
 15 but say they did not prevent access.  
 16 We accept that COVID-19 was a general public health  
 17 emergency. But we are not insuring general public  
 18 health emergencies; we say we are insuring emergencies  
 19 in the vicinity of the premises likely to endanger life  
 20 or property.  
 21 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Yes. You will have so show me how that  
 22 works grammatically.  
 23 MR TURNER: Grammatically, if one were using punctuation,  
 24 and it is fair to say that the draftsman is sparing in  
 25 his use of punctuation, one would put a comma after the

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1 word "emergency" in the second line of the "Public  
 2 Emergency" extension, and another comma after the word  
 3 "property" in the next line.  
 4 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Right. Thank you.  
 5 MR TURNER: That appears to be common ground. And can I now  
 6 make good, as perhaps one of my last points for today,  
 7 that that appears to be common ground. It is the FCA's  
 8 skeleton argument at paragraph 610, reference {1/1/209}.  
 9 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Where are you referring to, Mr Turner?  
 10 MR TURNER: The opening words of 610:  
 11 "[Their] primary case is that the emergency was  
 12 within the vicinity of the premises ..."  
 13 I may be reading too much into it, but we suggest  
 14 that that indicates that there is common ground between  
 15 the parties, certainly on their --  
 16 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I'm not sure about that. Because they  
 17 have a very wide definition of "in the vicinity".  
 18 There are two ways in which you could look at it,  
 19 aren't there? One is to say, as Mr Edelman does: well  
 20 "in the vicinity" means the whole of the UK.  
 21 MR TURNER: Yes.  
 22 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: The other is to say: wherever there is  
 23 COVID in the vicinity, in the sense of within a distance  
 24 that it is going to affect the premises so that it gets  
 25 closed down.

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1 MR TURNER: "In the vicinity" here, we don't have  
 2 a definition.  
 3 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: No, you don't have RSA4, it is true.  
 4 MR TURNER: It is natural meaning of words. We adopt what  
 5 Hiscox say about the Latin derivation of "vicinity". It  
 6 means "close to", and it doesn't need elaboration, which  
 7 is the creation solely of lawyers and can't represent --  
 8 MR JUSTICE BUTCHER: Without your commas, you could say that  
 9 the emergency was likely to endanger life, the life  
 10 being in the vicinity of the premises, anyone near the  
 11 premises was endangered by COVID. On one view, it  
 12 doesn't say that the actions have to come from the  
 13 danger to the life near the premises.  
 14 MR TURNER: Yes, but the actions have to come from something  
 15 close to the vicinity, close to the premises, to put it  
 16 into paraphrase, and we say the natural way to deal with  
 17 that is to say it is an emergency in the vicinity. So  
 18 an emergency likely to endanger life or property in the  
 19 vicinity of the premises.  
 20 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: Why don't we return to issues of  
 21 punctuation on Monday morning, Mr Turner.  
 22 MR TURNER: I shall look forward to it, my Lord.  
 23 LORD JUSTICE FLAUX: I think that is probably enough for one  
 24 day. Thank you very much.  
 25 Unless there is anything that anybody wants to raise

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1 with the court, we will rise now, metaphorically, if not  
 2 in fact, and resume again at 10.00 am as requested on  
 3 Monday morning.  
 4 Can I just say to all of you that I hope you all  
 5 have as good a weekend as you can in the middle of  
 6 a difficult and long case.  
 7 MR TURNER: Thank you, my Lord.  
 8 (4.30 pm)  
 9 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on Monday  
 10 27 July 2020)

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