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Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd v (1) MasterCard Inc, (2) MasterCard International Inc, (3) MasterCard Europe S.P.R.L.

Day 5 - Redacted

February 2, 2016

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Tuesday, 2nd February 2016
( 2.00 pm )

## Housekeeping

MRJUSTICE BARLING: Good afternoon.
MR HOSKINS: Just a bit of housekeeping before we start which is the witness order, because I was going to come back with you with our witness order. To confirm where we are this week, we are about to do Mr Brooks and tomorrow we have Ms Bernard and Mr Rogers. Thursday not sitting. Friday is Mr Coupe and then that completes the Sainsbury's factual witnesses and then we are going to call Mr Abrahams.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: Also on Friday?
MR HOSKINS: Also on Friday, yes.
Then going into the next week, that's the week beginning 8th February, on the Monday, Mr Douglas and Mr Willeart, on the Tuesday, Mr Perez and Mr Tittarelli and on the Wednesday, Mr Sidenius and Mr Koboldt. What we have done is we have got those pairs coming each day and they will be ready to go when the first one finishes but we won't have a third one lined up if that's okay, partly because people are flying in, et cetera.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: So that takes us up to Wednesday 10th. MR HOSKINS: That is right. Then Mr Brealey has an overflow

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in the afternoon if he needs.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: Yes. Then there is a possibility of a problem I think in the morning, in the morning of the 11th, isn't there?
MR HOSKINS: I have already got that as a non-sitting morning.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: Have you? Right. You think that is more of a definite non-sitting, is it? So it is not sitting in the morning of the 11th. I will just amend my diary. But we are sitting in the --
PROFESSOR JOHN BEATH: That's my problem in the morning. I have another --
MR HOSKINS: We already had it in our plans so no problem at all.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: We are sitting in the afternoon of the 11th but not sitting on the 12th.
MR HOSKINS: That is right.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: We will take it from there, good.
MR HOSKINS: Mr Brealey is going to call Mr Brooks.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: Yes, Mr Brealey?
Is there anything we need to say about
confidentiality before we start?
MR BREALEY: I understand Mr Hoskins is going to try to cross-examine Mr Brooks in open court. If he does refer to any confidential documents he will try and refer to
the non-confidential bits and then maybe leave the figures out.

## MRJUSTICE BARLING: Good.

MR BREALEY: I call Mr Brooks.
MR DAVID BROOKS (affirmed)
Examination-in-chief by MR BREALEY
MR JUSTICE BARLING: Thank you, Mr Brooks. Make yourself comfortable. If you prefer to sit down, which I am sure you do, then do.
MR BREALEY: Could the witness be given C1, please?
Mr Brooks, you have a bundle there, C 1 and if you go to tab 3. If you flip through that document and then go to page 44 , right at the end, that's 44 of the bundle. Do you see there a signature?
A. That is right, yes.
Q. Could you confirm that is your signature?
A. That is my signature.
Q. Could you confirm that the evidence in the statement is
true to the best of your knowledge and belief?
A. I can.

MR BREALEY: If you wait there, I think Mr Hoskins has some questions.

Cross-examination by MR HOSKINS
MR HOSKINS: Afternoon, Mr Brooks. Staying in that witness statement that you have just looked at, can you turn to

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paragraph 36, please. This is one of the functions that we understand you are responsible for. You say:
"My team provides the information in relation to the budgets for MSCs for the different business areas to group finance as well as to the relevant business unit finance analysts who provide periodic re-forecasts.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: I'm so sorry, Mr Hoskins, we have a slight technical problem. Some people's computers have shut down.

Thank you, Mr Hoskins.
MR HOSKINS: I was just reading out paragraph 36. I have got to the sentence:
"We provide periodic re-forecasts, latest views over the year and analysis of actual performance against budget. We also do a full half year re-forecast and summarise corporate plan submission. Any underlying budget assumption change could also trigger a re-forecast, for example changes in MSCs paid."

This is all work you do specifically in relation to the MSCs; is that correct?
A. My team do, yes.
Q. One of the things you do is produce latest views?
A. That is right.
Q. We look at bundle E5.2, tab 37, please. It is probably worth you keeping your bundle C1 and your witness
statement out. We will come back to that. It is tab 37
of this bundle. It is quite difficult to read because
of the shading and it is also the details are
confidential so I'm not going to go to any of the
figures. But the heading, I hope you can read it as
well, says "MSC 2011/ 12 Budget Summary". Then one sees
"Latest View 2010/ 11". Can you read that?
A. Yes.
Q. Then some other entries in the rows and then finally
budget 2011/ 2012. I just want to clarify, when you talk
in your witness statement at paragraph 36 about
providing latest views, is this an example of one of
those latest views?
A. It looks as though it is, I don't actually submit this
actual form off to Group, my team do, but it looks like
the latest view to me.
Q. It does say "latest view" on it, which is where I got
the clue from. But that's the best you can do?
A. Yes.
Q. If one looks through it, let's for example go to
page 747. We see two boxes again. I'm not going to
read out any of the figures:
"Visa Credit MasterCard."
Then there is various total sales made presumably in
Sainsbury's supermarket that were made using these
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different cards, that seems to be what those boxes are, yes? Then follow that through at page 749.
Then it is MSC and CIT costs. CIT is cash in transit, again various figures broken down with the main stores, convenience stores, that is broken down?
A. Yes.
Q. In that way, yes.

Then on page 753 "MSC Budget", you see broken down by different types of card. Without going into the detail, it runs on for pages and pages. I think it is stating the obvious, isn't it? The information in here is very detailed, isn't it?
A. Mmm .
Q. How is it produced? How do people go about producing these comprehensive reports on MSC's latest view? What does your team do to produce it?
A. We take -- we will take the latest sales figures, we will look at historic breakdown between the different card types, we will be looking at what the average transaction values are for those card types and then applying them to the new forecast sales figures.
Q. It looks as if this is a pretty time-consuming exercise, is that also fair to say, for someone?
A. It is, yes.
Q. So that is a yes?
A. Yes.
Q. Why is such detailed information produced? What does the supermarket use it for? What does the company use it for?
A. It is a cost line on our operating costs that shows up and we -- significant cost lines we monitor performance against budget and we explain variances.
Q. And this is a significant cost line?
A. It is significant enough to go into this sort of detail to look at it.
Q. If I can go back to your witness statement, starting at bundle C1. This time go to paragraphs 38 to 39. If you want to have a quick look at those paragraphs to refresh your memory, I am sure you have read this many times. By all means have another look if that assists.
The first question I wanted to ask you about this was why did you volunteer Sainsbury's participation in the Commission's 2011 and 2013 surveys?
A. Well, as it says in my statement, I was previously head of procurement at Sainsbury's and I moved across into this finance operations role in 2010. And I had experience, whilst I was head of procurement, with the tender value acquiring business. In 2011, we re-tendered the business as well. It was becoming apparent that our costs for taking cards were increasing

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and I also say in my statement apart from statutory items, it was the only area of our cost base that we couldn't negotiate on, apart from the acquirer margin that is, or the acquirer processing costs. And we were having difficulty having any sort of dialogue with the schemes around why the MIF rates were set as they were and when the European Commission approached us to get involved in a survey, I saw it as an opportunity to be able to demonstrate what the significant cost of taking cards was against the cost of taking cash.
Q. So I don't want to put words into your mouth, but is it fair to say that you saw it as an opportunity to demonstrate that the MSCs were too high?
A. Yes.
Q. What was the process within Sainsbury's for preparing the information? Let's focus on the 2013 survey, I don't know if there's any difference. The second one. That's the Deloitte survey. Can you give us an indication of the sort of work you prepared in the response?
A. I had a full-time qualified accountant on it, probably for one to two months. With all these type of things of extracting costs, the difficulty is you have to go to different areas of the business to get that information and you have to persuade colleagues in the business that
giving you that information is more important perhaps on that day than doing their day job. So there was a lot of going round to get these costs because they weren't in the normal format that we report our costs. One example would be trying to understand how long it took a colleague on the till to take a cash transaction versus a card transaction, and so we would have to go to the labour methods department for them to give us that information and prioritise it above other things that they were doing.
Q. Again, would it be fair to say that that was
a time-consuming exercise as you just described?
A. Yes.
Q. So it must have been an issue that you thought was important?
A. It was, yes.
Q. Did other people in Sainsbury's also think it was important?
A. Well, they needed persuading of the importance of it.
Q. Did you persuade them?
A. I hope so.
Q. Who did you persuade?
A. If they were colleagues who were delaying giving me the information then I would go to their bosses and explain to them why I needed the information. I would have let

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my boss, the group finance director, know as well as the CFO, John Rogers, know to give them an understanding of the issue around these costs increasing and having very little influence on changing them.
Q. Did John Rogers give you the green light to go ahead with this project?
A. I don't think John did personally. I think I would have discussed it with the group finance director and we have agreed it was worthwhile doing.
Q. In paragraph 39 you describe your role in this exercise, you say:
"My role in responding to the European Commission's costs of card and cash surveys was to ensure my colleagues were inputting information correctly and provide an overview or sense check, for example reviewing the classification of fixed and variable costs."
Did you have the final say on whether costs were classified as fixed or variable?
A. Yes, I would have probably reviewed it before it got sent off.
Q. You are aware that the more costs that are variable, the higher the MIF?
A. I was told that fixed costs didn't affect the MIF.

I just wanted to make sure that we got the right
allocation between fixed and variable.
Q. And when were you told that fixed costs did not affect
the MIF? Was it prior to doing this survey?
A. I don't think it was. I think it was later on when CEG started to look at the survey again, CEG is Mr von Hinten-Reed's company.
Q. We will come to when he was involved, but just to clarify your evidence, are you saying that you had no idea that fixed costs, as you put it, had no effect on the MIF at any stage prior to the results being submitted to the Commission?
A. I can't recall knowing that.
Q. Do you think it is possible?
A. It is possible. I did meet the accountants from

Moore Stephens and then Deloittes who were doing it but I can't recall the conversation where they said that, but it is possible that they might have said that.
Q. Sainsbury's commenced its claim against MasterCard, the damages claim, the reason why we are all here now, in December 2012?
A. Yes.
Q. And the Deloittes survey was submitted in 2014. And

Sainsbury's had been preparing its claim since at least 2011; yes?
A. Yes.

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Q. Sorry, you need to say "yes" because the nodding doesn't come up in the transcript?
A. Sorry, yes.
Q. And Sainsbury's had retained Mr von Hinten-Reed at least as early as 2013 to assist with its damages claim, hadn't it?
A. Yes.
Q. When did you first meet Mr von Hinten-Reed?
A. Probably at the outset.

MR HOSKINS: Sir, I need to tread carefully here obviously for privilege reasons, so you will understand why?
MRJUSTICE BARLING: The outset of what, sorry, just so I know? The outset of the preparation of the claim?
A. When we approached a firm of solicitors and they would have introduced us to the economist and I would have been probably there early -- at the early meetings.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: I think you said that was some time in 2011 or that's when you started preparing; is that right?
A. I can't remember the exact dates.

MR HOSKINS: Can we look at one of Mr von Hinten-Reed's reports. It is in D2.1, tab 3. If you could turn to page 521. If you could read to yourself, please, paragraph 472. Were any persons outside Sainsbury's involved in preparing the Sainsbury's response to the

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2013 survey?
A. I'm not aware of it. I think it was my team who sent
        it -- it was quite interesting because when we sent it
        off, we believed Deloittes published it before we gave
        our final say-so, so I know there was some rowing around
        trying to get -- to understand why Deloittes had done
        that. We thought it was a final draft that not been
        finished that we may have sent. So we were a bit
        alarmed to find that Deloittes had gone ahead and
        included it in the survey without I guess our formal
        sign-off. So that's what makes me think that we were
        the only people looking at that.
        CEG did subsequently look at that Deloittes
        submission and we had further discussions on the
        allocation between fixed and variable costs.
        Q. Subsequently, so that was after the Deloittes'
        submission?
        A. I'm fairly certain it is.
        Q. I don't want to put words in your mouth so --
        A. Well --
        Q. Did CEG have any input into the response to the
        Deloittes survey?
        A. I can't remember them having a response but when you
        went across the dates early, before, about when CEG were
        brought on board, it is probably they did talk about the
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fixed and variable costs at some point before that Deloittes survey went off but I don't think they reviewed the survey before it went.
Q. So they didn't review it before it went, but they did talk about the fixed and variable costs difference before the survey went in?
A. I can't remember exactly but given the timings you talked about earlier, about when they came on board and when we sent the survey off and me meeting with CEG on several occasions, it is likely that that did come up in a conversation. So I was really keen that we got the fixed and variable allocation correct.
Q. Because you knew it made a difference to the level of the MIF?
A. Yes, probably.
Q. Because you had been told that by Mr von Hinten-Reed? There's nothing sinister, I'm just trying to establish what you knew and when.
A. It is possible, I can't remember those conversations but it is likely that having Mr von Hinten-Reed on board, he would have mentioned the importance of getting the fixed and variable cost allocation correct.
Q. And would have told you in the course of meetings that the more the costs were fixed, the lower the MIF, or the way you put it that fixed costs didn't affect the level
of the MIF?
A. We may have done but my view would have been: so be it. I wanted to get the correct view on what my cost base was. I was really interested myself to find out what our cost of cash was because it is counter-intuitive to think taking cash is cheaper than taking a card. So I was really intrigued to get this survey right.
Q. What role have you played in bringing this claim against MasterCard?
A. I have encouraged it.
Q. You say you met Mr von Hinten-Reed at the outset of the claim, which was in around 2011 at least, that's more than encouragement?
A. Well, it would have been before that. It would have been with our legal department and through my work with the BRC and understanding what was going off in the European courts, it would have been a discussion with the legal department to say, and I'm paraphrasing what I might have thought, but if they have been found to be acting anti-competitively in Europe, how does that relate to how they have been behaving in the UK and what's the read across from Sainsbury's and have we got any redress? That is the type of conversation that I would have had with our legal department.
Q. Was it you that raised the prospect of bringing a claim

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first within Sainsbury's? Was it your idea?
A. I don't necessarily think it was my idea but that would have been the conversation and the legal department would have taken their own decision.
Q. But did you raise it with the legal department?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you take it to them?
A. I took it to them.
Q. You referred to your work with BRC, what work was that?
A. When I moved from procurement to this financial role, a member of the team sat on the British Retail Consortium. They had a payments action group because it was one of the issues for retailers at the time, just like I guess rates are, business rates are at the moment and they have different groups looking at that and deciding the best way forward to try to influence government or other bodies to see our side, see our view, take our view. I saw this as quite an important area and I actually replaced -- one of my team used to sit on there, and I replaced that member on the team in BRCround about early 2011.
Working with other members on the BRC there is a good breadth of retailers on there, Tesco's, Asda, Morrisons, Marks \& Spencer, John Lewis, it was a common issue for us all. That was my role in that area.

1 Q. Within the BRC you obviously discussed this issue of 2

## 13 Q. And you were part of that strategy?

14 A. I contributed towards it, yes.
15 Q. Within the BRC, what discussions did you have about the 16 response to the Commission's 2013 survey?
A. I think we were pleased it supported what we all knew already. We knew cash was cheaper than cards by a long way.
Q. Did you have any discussions within the BRC about how to approach the survey?
A. No, I think the only discussions we had at the BRC was trying to persuade members to participate in the survey. To this day I don't know what other retailers around BRC table participated in the survey. I was vocal in

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saying: I'm taking part in it, this is the resource I'm having to put against it and I would encourage you to do the same.
Q. Within the BRC, did you discuss the extent to which the higher the rate of variable costs, the lower the MIF would be in the end?
A. I can't recall ever getting to that sort of detail.
Q. Presumably you in taking part of this survey were doing it because I think you already accepted you wanted the MIF to be lower?
A. Yes.
Q. So you must have known what effect classifying costs as
fixed/ variable must have had, you weren't doing this blind, were you? You didn't put all this information together purely objectively, send it off to the Commission and hope it was the right result?
A. I honestly did.
Q. Well we will come to some statements on that. You didn't ask Mr von Hinten-Reed at any stage what the implications would be?
A. I honestly can't recall having any detailed conversations about fixed and variable, other than it is important we get this right and maybe that if costs are variable, then that would affect things rather than if they were fixed.
Q. Sorry, explain that last sentence to me?
A. I think what you are saying is that if you classify costs as variable costs rather than fixed costs, then the MIF will be lower.
Q. Correct. So you accept that you knew that? Do you want me to read back the transcript?
A. No I accept that I knew it but that I didn't try to influence in any way, I wanted an objective study --
Q. I will come that, that is important. So you knew that whilst you were compiling a response to the Deloittes survey, the effect classifying of costs as fixed or variable would have on the MIF?
A. I probably did.
Q. You did?
A. I can't recall that conversation, Mr von Hinten-Reed saying it, but I think because of the timings I probably did.
Q. Why didn't you mention in your witness statement the role that you played in bringing this claim against MasterCard?
A. I didn't think it was important but I'm happy to say I have talked about what I did.
Q. Did you think it would look bad if someone who was in charge of Sainsbury's response to the Commission's survey was also heavily involved in pushing this

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litigation against MasterCard?
A. No.
Q. It does look bad though, doesn't it?
A. I don't think so.
Q. Bear with me for one moment, please.

Can you turn please to bundle E5.1, tab 29. I'm told the whole of this document is confidential, it seems somewhat surprising when one sees the content, but I will tread carefully.
Tab 29, page 539. You see this is an email from you to David Tyler. Can you tell us who David Tyler is, please?
A. Yes, David Tyler is the chairman of Sainsbury's Plc.
Q. The chairman?
A. The chairman.
Q. There is a sentence that I want to read out loud but

I will check with Mr Brealey it won't be a problem.
(Pause)
We see in the middle of that email, you say:
"Both EFT costs and charge-backs are very much on my radar and I'm presenting back to John in January with more detail covering various issues."

Who is John?
A. That would be John Rogers, the CFO of Sainsbury's.
Q. Sainsbury's supermarkets or --

| A. Sainsbury's Plc. | 1 |
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| Q. So in November 20th, 2010, you are raising EFT costs, | 2 |
| which is MIF costs, MSC costs; is that correct? | 3 |
| A. Yes. | 4 |
| Q. And you are raising it with the chairman of the Plc and | 5 |
| the CFO of the Plc? | 6 |
| A. Yes. | 7 |
| Q. This is an important issue? | 8 |
| A. Yes. | 9 |
| Q. Can we go to bundle E5.2 please. Tab 34. This is | 10 |
| a memo from you to John Rogers and Richard Fleming dated | 11 |
| 12th May 2011 and the subject is "Interchange Fees". | 12 |
| Can you tell us who Richard Fleming was at that time? | 13 |
| A. Yes, Richard Fleming was the group finance director who | 14 |
| was my boss and he reported to John Rogers, the CFO. | 15 |
| Q. Can you remember why did you write this memo? What was | 16 |
| the purpose of it? | 17 |
| A. I think it was because interchange fees were rising, | 18 |
| they were adding to our cost base and there was very | 19 |
| little we could do about it. It was making John aware | 20 |
| of the issue. | 21 |
| Q. So is it fair to say that Sainsbury's Supermarkets | 22 |
| Limited were concerned about this issue? | 23 |
| A. Yes, we were. | 24 |
| Q. Is it fair to say that Sainsbury's Plc was concerned | 25 |

about this issue?
A. I was concerned, I don't know how concerned David Tyler and John Rogers were per se, there was other things on their minds, but certainly it was a major concern for me.
Q. You certainly don't disturb higher officials in the Plc with trivial matters, do you?
A. No.
Q. So you thought it was a matter they should be concerned about?
A. I think if -- the email that I sent to David Tyler was as a result I think of a conversation -- it must have been a corridor conversation with myself and Richard Fleming earlier in the day. I think that email starts off "further to our discussions earlier today" and I can't recall having a set meeting with him to talk about interchange but it may have been a follow up. The chairman may have had one or things on his mind, asked us a question and then we were obliged to follow up fairly quickly.
Q. Is it fair to say that this was your project in

Sainsbury's, this was something you took control of?
A. It wasn't a project, it was part of my responsibility.

My role -- I had the responsibility -- the relationship with the acquiring banks. I have the responsibility for
putting the budget together. I have the responsibility for explaining variances to that budget and as part of that, I will have been questioned on what are we going to do about this overspend?
Q. You were also proactive about the issue, though, because you raised it with various people and you persuaded people to take it seriously?
A. Yes.
Q. You had invested in it?
A. I had.
Q. At page 717 you will see a heading "Our approach to interchange fees". Can I ask you to read the three bullet points on page -- bottom of 717 and the top one on 718 please?
(Pause)
You see in the final bullet point on page 717:
"At our initial meeting with the Commission, they confirmed that on completion of the study they intended to discuss the UK retail findings with relevant national competition authorities. Our view is that they will uncover that interchange fees are not cost reflective and too high."

That's the result that Sainsbury's wanted from the Commission, didn't it, you wanted a finding to that effect?
A. Yes.
Q. That's why you agreed to take part in the Commission's surveys isn't it, it is to help the Commission achieve that result?
A. Yes, because it would be helping us reduce our MIFs.
Q. The bullet point at the top of 718 says:
"Should the schemes be found in breach of competition law by the EU or UK at any point, we may be able to sue for damages to recover the difference we have paid between a competitively and non-competitively set interchange fee."

Bear in mind this document is May 2011. That seems to me to suggest that you were already contemplating the possibility of damages in May 2011; is that correct?
A. It would have been. It would have been on the advice of probably our legal team, I had been discussing it with them around that time.
Q. You go on to say:
"This is very much a last resort but we would want to use that right, should it arise, at least to get better financial terms going forward. (The schemes are likely to argue, perhaps fatally for us, that we have passed on any alleged legal surcharge to consumers, so we have not suffered)."
What did you mean by that sentence in brackets: "The
schemes are likely to argue, perhaps fatally for us", et cetera?
A. That would have been advice I received from our legal team.
Q. You don't need to say any more about it, that is protected.

At the bottom of page 718 you will see a heading "Evidence" and there's two bullet points:
"Evidence is key to the BRC case, Sainsbury's already provided evidence."

So again you weren't acting on your own. You were acting in support of the BRC and the other members of BRC you mentioned. You were all taking part in the survey with a view to bringing MIFs down; correct?
A. No, I think that might refer to the BRC's annual survey. They do what they call -- I refer to it as the cost of collection survey, it may be called something else, but each year $60 \%$ of UK retailers contribute to the BRC survey on the costs of their different types of transactions. I think that's what the BRC would have been using.
Q. The BRC played a role with the Commission, in fact I think it made a complaint to the Commission about the level of MIFs, did it not?
A. I don't -- I really don't know the detail of what the

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BRC -- the BRC have been doing things on this since the year 2000. I only joined in 2010/11.
Q. But from 2010/ 11 the BRC were involved in the
proceedings, in the investigation the Commission was carrying out?
A. Yes.
Q. The language here is evidence is key to the BRC case?
A. Yes.
Q. Is it not fair to assume that the BRC case refers, amongst other things, to the case they were making to the EU Commission about the high level of MIFs?
A. Yes, it probably does.
Q. Did you discuss within the BRC, the BRC's role before the Commission?
A. What I can recall, usually the first agenda item at each BRC payment action group meeting was interchange fees and we would have been updated on what the current state of play is, what they were doing and where they are at with it.
Q. The first agenda item?
A. The first agenda item.
Q. Because it was the most important generally?
A. Yes, it was -- it was the one where our costs were rising and we had very little we could do to stop it rising.
Q. Can we take bundle E5.3, please. Tab 50. This is all on yellow paper. So neither of us is allowed to go into the detail of it. You will see the title of this document. It is a brief that's written for "John's Meeting". You will see on page 1245 it was you who wrote this brief on 4th February 2012?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is John?
A. Again that is John Rogers, the CFO.
Q. On page 1243 you see a heading at the bottom of the page:

## "MasterCard Litigation"?

A. Yes.
Q. You don't need to get into the details but if you have a quick glance through that section. You see there is a detailed description of the litigation against MasterCard there?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you write that section?
A. I would have written it but it is certainly not something I would have written on my own. I would have been working with our legal department to get the facts right in that.
Q. But is it fair to say that you were working with your legal department on the claim, it was something you were

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actively involved in, the claim against MasterCard?
A. Yes.
Q. Again bear with me for a moment, please.

Can you go to bundle E3.6, please? It is tab 138A.
Hopefully you get an email from
paulcrisp@sainsburys.co.uk to you and Martyn Lee?
A. Yes.
Q. If one looks over the page, pages 2 and 3 of this email, they come first in time, you see that what's happening here is these are the results that are being worked up for Sainsbury's response to the 2011 survey; is that correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Then you send an email to Paul Crisp on 30th March 2011:
"I would like to nominate both David and Angela for Shining Stars for the support work we are doing for the BRC and for the EU to help demonstrate the fees we pay to the banks for debit and credit cards are excessive." So the 2011 survey was work that you did to help demonstrate that the fees that you paid to banks for debit and credit cards are excessive?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, we know that Sainsbury's issued its claim against

MasterCard on 19th December 2012.
A. Yes.
Q. You can take my word for that. Can we go, still in this
bundle, to tab 140A? It should be a chain of emails.
The one at the top of the page should be from
Bruce Lessels, 5th July?
A. Sorry, what was the tab again?
Q. It is 140A.
A. At 140 I have got at the bottom "Consultancy Group".
Q. Behind that what's the next tab you have, is it A or
141?
A. I have got a 141 then.
MR HOSKINS: Let me see if I can have a clean copy handed
up.
Sorry, sir, if you will bear with me.
MRJUSTICE BARLING: Do you have one?
MR HOSKINS: We are trying to find one.
MRJUSTICE BARLING: These bundles have been updated, your
bundle has obviously missed out on the updating process.
(Handed)
MR HOSKINS: If you could just slot that in behind
page 2787. Thank you.
If we can begin at the bottom because again it is
a chain of emails that begins at the bottom. There is
an email from you dated 27 th June 2013 to
Edward Anderson.
We see from the email above, at the foot of that, he

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was head of dispute resolution competition and retail law at Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited; is that correct?
A. That is correct.
Q. What was Edward Anderson's role in the damages claim against MasterCard?
A. Edward would have been -- is the person I had been working with on the claim, he is the person from the legal department who has been leading the claim litigation.
Q. When you said you have been working with him on the claim, I'm interested to know what you have been doing. What's your role been?
A. Well, nothing like instructing solicitors or anything like that. It would have been -- he would have been asking me for information to support the claim and I would have been working with him on that.
Q. Are you the main contact in the business for the claim?
A. Yes. Outside of legal, yes.
Q. I understand. Is it Bruce Lessels --
A. Bruce Lessels was an accountant who was working in that area for -- on a six month temporary contract. That was the -- the previous person had moved elsewhere in the business and I had not been able to recruit so I brought somebody in temporarily.
Q. Then the email on 27th June you said to Edward Anderson:
"I have reviewed the EU survey and I'm happy with the content. However, before we send it off to the EU, I thought that you and Mishcon may also want to review in view of the claim versus MasterCard."
Mishcons are the solicitors who are representing
Sainsbury's in this claim against MasterCard?
A. That is right.
Q. The reason why you wanted them to review it is you wanted to make sure that your response to the 2013 survey helped the case against MasterCard?
A. I think it was just due diligence. We have got one part of the business in litigation against MasterCard. I'm submitting information to the EU about MasterCard. I just --
Q. You were taking part in the survey, you have told the Tribunal, because you wanted the Commission to find that MIFs were excessive?

## A. Yes.

Q. You have already told us that. You have been one of the prime movers in the business of Sainsbury's bringing a claim against MasterCard based on allegations the MIF is too high?

## A. Yes.

Q. The reason you wanted Mishcon to review the survey was

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to make sure that it helped your case against MasterCard.
A. Yes, but I would just see that as due diligence that I'm sending something off, I want our legal people to cast their eyes over it to make sure there is no glaring errors or omissions in there.
Q. They were not checking the maths or the arithmetic, they were making sure they were helping your case, weren't they? What else would the solicitors instructed to bring this claim against MasterCard be capable of doing other than giving you comfort that what you were doing would help you in your claim against MasterCard?
MR BREALEY: Is Mr Hoskins suggesting that Sainsbury's in-house legal has somehow massaged the figures --
MR HOSKINS: I'm sorry, Mr Brealey should not be standing up and making that sort of comment to me in cross-examination. I will make submissions at the end on the basis of the evidence that is given.
MR BREALEY: Well, precisely --
MR HOSKINS: That is not an appropriate intervention, I'm sorry.

When I asked you earlier this afternoon about whether anyone else had played a role in the survey, you didn't mention Mishcons, did you?
A. I can't recall you asking me everybody who was involved
in, I think you just asked me whether Mr von Hinten-Reed was involved in it and I said he was --
Q. I asked you whether anyone from outside Sainsbury's was involved in the 2013 survey. So Mishcons were?
A. Well, in terms of reviewing that document, yes, clearly.
Q. Then if we go up from Edward Anderson to David Brooks: "Thanks David."
My copy has a hole in it but I think it says:
"You would like Nils to make sure he understands it, can it be forwarded on?"
Is that Nils von Hinten-Reed?
A. Yes.
Q. Then the next two emails up, Bruce Lessels, 2014, 10.56, you were copied in on it:
"Hi Edward, please find attached the latest draft of the Sainsbury's 11/ 12 EU survey submission. Please can you forward on to Nils ..."
Again Mr von Hinten-Reed?

## A. Yes.

Q. "... for his review? I will follow up with Deloitte
about the submission date but we would like to ensure that Nils is in agreement before sending to Deloittes, please."

So you wanted Mishcons to say that this helped your case and you also wanted to make sure that

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Nils von Hinten-Reed was happy that it helps your case with the Commission; is that correct?
A. I honestly think I was just being diligent in checking
in with our legal team and checking in with the economist that was doing similar work on it.
Q. Being diligent because you didn't want to harm

Sainsbury's claim against MasterCard. It was not some simple neutral accountancy exercise?
A. No, honestly, first of all, there was such a disparity between card costs and cash costs. If they wanted to make some tweaks I don't think it would have made a great deal of difference. I was just merely wanting other parties who were involved to make sure that there was no glaring omissions or errors in it. I generally objectively wanted to really understand what the cost of our cash was in a different way than we had done it with the BRC.
Q. The due diligence you talk about, the reason why you involved Mishcons and Mr von Hinten-Reed in the response to the 2013 survey was because that response, the response to the survey was part of Sainsbury's overall strategy to have the level of the MIF lowered, wasn't it?
A. Yes.
Q. Sorry, can you say that more loudly?
A. Yes, sorry.
Q. You didn't want to put in their response the survey which was unhelpful, did you?
A. As I have explained earlier, the difference between cash and cards was so great that I knew filling in the survey would be helpful, there was no small -- it wasn't marginal.
Q. It was obvious?
A. Yes.
Q. Can we go to bundle D3, tab 3, please. It is page 330 .

I should explain to you, if you look at the front page first, it is 207 , behind tab 3. This is the first report of Dr Gunnar Niels. Do you follow me?
A. No, I'm sorry.
Q. The title page, it says it is the expert report of Dr Gunnar Niels?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know who he is?
A. Yes.
Q. Who is he?
A. He is the expert witness who has been looking at whether

MIT-MIF is appropriate.
Q. Can you turn to page 330 of his report. Paragraph 6.79:
"As illustrated in the table 6.2, Sainsbury's has over time switched a significant proportion of its costs

$$
35
$$

of cash from variable to fixed.
"I consider that those changes reflect a certain degree of subjectivity in terms of the allocation of costs."
Then table 6.2:
"Sainsbury's allocation of its costs of cash in different drafts ...(Reading to the words)... cost items for which the allocation is changed."
Then I can give you the dates, you will see the type of costs, there is fixed variable, by value variable by number and then there is various -- these are document references in the litigation. So 58567 was on 5th July 2013, we think. Then 62718, 24th July 2013. Then 62728 oddly also appears to be on the 24th July 2013.
Now, what Dr Niels has done is he has looked at the spreadsheets that you produced, these documents on the different dates, and he has looked to see the way they have changed. You will see that the level of fixed costs in the first draft that he refers to goes from 11\% at the outset to $55 \%$ in the final submissions to Deloittes and the variable costs move from a total of $58 \%$ to $14 \%$.
So, with respect, Mr Brooks, it wasn't at all obvious from the outset that the proposed response to
the survey was going to be helpful to Sainsbury's?
A. I'm not familiar with the drafts but I think you said they were drafts and with draft documents you are waiting for figures and so my thought process is that we were waiting for parts of the business to come back with costs. One of the most difficult areas I do remember was trying to get details off our fixed cost register and it may be that that is why the fixed costs have built up as we have been getting to the bottom --
Q. It is not accretion because what he is comparing is in the first draft we have said a certain category of costs is fixed and he is going through iterations of the draft. He follows it through and he gets to the end and one finds that it has gone from $11 \%$ to 55 . You understand the significance of that?
A. I do, yes.
Q. That's not a matter of detail, is it?
A. It may be a matter of -- if it is not building up those costs as a draft as I first explained, it would be a matter of review and I think there is a matter of subjectivity between fixed and variable and it may be that it was that subjectivity that was being firmed up.
Q. You made the final call, you told us, on what was to be a fixed and variable cost?
A. I would have on the final meeting reviewed that.

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Q. In preparing Sainsbury's response to the 2013 survey, you adopt an approach to classifying costs as fixed and variable that was helpful rather than unhelpful to your case, did you not?
A. No, as I explained earlier, I was trying to get it factually correct.
MR HOSKINS: Sir, I have no further questions but Mr Cook has some questions.
MRJUSTICE BARLING: All right, okay.
MR HOSKINS: I don't know if it is a good time for you to take a break.
MRJUSTICE BARLING: Is it a good time?
MR COOK: Sir, it certainly would be a good time. Before I start, my cross-examination is going to be dealing with matters to do with Sainsbury's Bank, it is an area where there are unfortunately a lot more documents that are categorised as confidential. It is doubtful to my mind how many of them are, but certainly I will be going to 20 documents or so, of which about 10 of them are completely yellow and I need to look at some of the comments that are specifically within them.

Unfortunately, sir, I don't see any easy route round it other than to say that the whole of the cross-examination should be held in camera. Otherwise people will be going in and out as I move from document
to document.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: I think Professor Beath has one question on the subject that Mr Hoskins has been dealing with.
PROFESSOR JOHN BEATH: Yes, it should be, I hope, fairly factual and that is we have been talking about classifying items that appear in the balance sheet or in the set of accounts into fixed and variable. Is there anywhere available at all, a list of the things that would comprise cost items so that we could see to what extent I, for example, might be able to think about what I would consider fixed and what I would consider variable?
MR HOSKINS: Sir, there are, because the extract from Dr Niels' report Ijust looked at had the document references.
PROFESSOR JOHN BEATH: Yes.
MR HOSKINS: For example, those drafts are available and they are Excel spreadsheets with entries.
PROFESSOR JOHN BEATH: Where are they in the bundle?
A. Schedule E to Deloitte's survey, I don't know if we have
that in the bundle but I think that is the breakdown
between fixed and variable.
MR HOSKINS: We will obviously check and make sure you have those.

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MR JUSTICE BARLING: Thank you very much. PROFESSOR JOHN BEATH: Yes, that would be helpful. MR JUSTICE BARLING: I don't know who is in court at the moment but there may be members of the public in court. One of the ways in which we can actually hear these cases efficiently which often involve evidence about business secrets is by having a confidentiality ring so that only certain people who need to see documents are able to see them and that's one of the ways in which the litigation can be conducted in the interests of justice to all sides.
So I'm afraid that does mean that from time to time when matters have to be ventilated, only those who are within the confidentiality ring or the relevant confidentiality ring can remain in court.

Mr Brealey, Mr Hoskins, I think we have an order in place now, haven't we, with everyone who needs to have given undertakings having given undertakings? Is that your understanding?
MR HOSKINS: I believe that is correct, yes.
MR JUSTICE BARLING: Yes. And you would presumably be able
to identify members of your team or someone in your team will be able to identify those who are within the confidentiality ring, who can remain. I know there are people in the slightly different categories too and then

| 1 | there is the relay to Jones Day that we talked about | 1 |
| ---: | :---: | ---: |
| 2 | last week. | 2 |
| 3 | When I believe I was told that steps would be taken | 3 |
| 4 | to ensure that only those within the confidentiality | 4 |
| 5 | ring would be able to see the live feed that's being | 5 |
| 6 | transmitted. | 6 |
| 7 | MR HOSKINS: I will double-check that has been done. | 7 |
| 8 | MR JUSTICE BARLING: We will rise now for a short time and | 8 |
| 9 | if you could confirm when we come back that those people | 9 |
| 10 | in court are within the ring and if there's anyone in | 10 |
| 11 | the court who knows that they are not, who has not given | 11 |
| 12 | the relevant undertakings, who is not within the | 12 |
| 13 | confidentiality ring, I'm afraid it means that until | 13 |
| 14 | further notice -- and we will make it as short as | 14 |
| 15 | possible -- you will have to leave the court. | 15 |
| 16 | MR HOSKINS: Sir, before you rise, I don't want to waste | 16 |
| 17 | people's time or not in the ring, but tomorrow it is | 17 |
| 18 | going to be the same position for Hannah Bernard and | 18 |
| 19 | Mr Rogers. | 19 |
| 20 | MR JUSTICE BARLING: What, for all their cross-examination? | 20 |
| 21 | MR HOSKINS: Yes. | 21 |
| 22 | MR JUSTICE BARLING: We will have a word -- I think the same | 22 |
| 23 | will apply therefore. | 23 |
| 24 | MR HOSKINS: I just raise it now, so I don't want someone to | 24 |
| 25 | turn up tomorrow. | 25 |

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[^0]:    MR JUSTICE BARLING: If there are people again in court now
    who were planning to come tomorrow who are not in the confidentiality ring then it might be that if they do come, they will be disappointed. Anyway, there we are. ( 3.08 pm )
    (A short break)
    ( 3.20 pm )
    (In camera session)
    (Confidentiality Ring Only)
    ( 4.45 pm )
    (The court adjourned until 10.30 am
    on Wednesday, 3rd February 2016)

