1 IN THE SUPREME COURT COMMON LAW DIVISION 2 OF VICTORIA MAJOR TORTS LIST 3 4 5 BEFORE JUSTICE J. FORREST FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2016 6 7 ERIN DOWNIE -v- SPIRAL FOODS PTY LTD & ORS 8 9 _ _ _ _ _ MS NICHOLS: If your Honour pleases, I appear for the scheme 10 11 administrator. 12 HIS HONOUR: I think what we might do, given that there has been some interest in this matter expressed by group 13 members, we might just have to have it called outside. 14 15 MS NICHOLS: Yes, certainly. 16 MR VARDY: No appearance, Your Honour. 17 MS NICHOLS: As Your Honour is aware, Mr White is in 18 attendance today. I will canvass with Your Honour what 19 might be most convenient to you. We are seeking some 20 orders which I think we have sent to Your Honour's chambers. We are seeking three orders. The first, 21 that you adopt Mr White's report; the second, that you 22 approve administration costs in the amount stated 23 24 there. HIS HONOUR: Which would follow, if I adopt the report. 25 MS NICHOLS: Indeed. That's the basis on which we say you 26 should approve those costs and there is an order in 27 28 relation to how those funds be dispersed, namely first from the interest accrued on the settlement fund, and 29 30 second, from the principal sum. 31 The issues really are very straightforward

today, they really involve informing Your Honour about some things that remain outstanding and also to deal with Mr White's report. What would be most convenient for Your Honour?

5 HIS HONOUR: I think we should not detain Mr White any more 6 than is necessary and you can take me through 7 Ms Lubomirska's affidavit, which I have read. Why 8 don't we call Mr White and you can lead him through 9 things. I have got a couple of questions for him as 10 well. I have a copy of Mr White's report in front of 11 me as well. Thanks, Mr White.

12 <JOHN DAVID WHITE, sworn and examined:

MS NICHOLS: Is Your Honour content if I ask Mr White some questions?

15 HIS HONOUR: Yes, sure.

MS NICHOLS: Mr White, were you appointed as a special referee pursuant to orders made by His Honour on 27 July 2016?---Yes, I was.

Does that appointment require you to make a report in writing to the court on each occasion on which the administrator of this settlement scheme seeks payment of the costs of administering the settlement scheme?---Yes. The scheme does have that requirement.

The orders, sorry, have that requirement.

25 Specifically, were you asked by the court to respond to two 26 questions; one, to determine are the costs sought 27 reasonable in relation to the administration of the 28 settlement dispute and if not, in what amount should 29 they be disallowed?---Yes, that's correct.

30 Have you performed that task and recorded the results of 31 your assessment and stated your opinion in a report

2

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

24

1

dated 10 November 2016?---Yes, I have.

- Mr White, I don't need to take you to the background which I am sure His Honour is familiar with. You recently performed a very similar exercise in relation to the Kilmore and Murrindindi bushfire class actions?---Yes, I did.
- 7 Can I just ask you to confirm that you have received a very
 8 considerable amount of material in order to perform
 9 your task which is set out in the report?---Yes, I
 10 have.
- Were there any aspects in which you felt you were not given adequate material in order to answer the questions that you were asked to opine on?---No, not at all and in fact, any queries that I did have were expeditiously and, almost embarrassingly, quickly responded to by the scheme administrator's staff.
- 17 Is it correct that you had the opportunity to meet with the 18 scheme administrator's staff in person and ask 19 questions?---Yes.

20 Can you just explain to His Honour very briefly the 21 methodology that you have used to assess the 22 costs?---The methodology is stated in the report and 23 there are in this matter eight separate steps. The 24 first was to establish the basis - - -

HIS HONOUR: Just wait a second, Mr White. These are all set out, are they not, in your report?---Yes, Your Honour.

28 Step 1 is at paragraph 48; is that right?---That's correct, 29 sir. Paragraph 12, page 41 details the eight separate 30 steps. The first step is to establish the basis on 31 which the administrator's costs are to be calculated.

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

1 The second step is to identify the scope of the work 2 done. The third step is to identify the nature of the costs incurred over particular periods of time. The 3 4 fourth step was to examine the copy invoices and 5 calculate the time spent on the proceeding by each of the lawyers and non-lawyers. The fifth step had two 6 7 parts: to take samples and examine those samples of 8 work claimed as done by reference to selected operators and selected dates; and the second aspect was to take 9 and examine samples of disbursements claimed by 10 11 reference to selected service providers and selected 12 dates. The sixth step was to apply the established basis for costing to the work reasonably done. 13 The 14 seventh step was in relation to the number of hours relating to non-recoverable work, by reason of that 15 16 work not being reasonably incurred or reasonable in 17 amount and if there was any work of that nature, to excise that from the figures. The eighth step was to 18 19 identify and if any were located, reduce or deduct 20 disbursements which appeared unreasonably incurred or unreasonable in amount. 21

22 MS NICHOLS: Can I just ask you to confirm your opinion in 23 relation to whether the hourly rates charged were 24 reasonable or not?---The hourly rates charged, in my 25 view, are reasonable and that was canvassed, I think, 26 in paragraphs 48-55 of the report.

HIS HONOUR: I was going to ask you and I think the answer is in 48, this is different to Kilmore/Murrindindi in which the orders specified the hourly rates?---Yes, it is, sir, and that led to the additional step, the first step in this matter, which wasn't present in the

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie WHITE XN

1 reports of the Murrindindi and the Kilmore matters. In 2 terms of the hourly rates, as I mentioned in the report, I had the benefit of examining Ms Dealehr's 3 4 quite extensive report on the solicitor/client costs of the class action proceeding itself and having sighted 5 the memorandum of Judicial Registrar Gourlay of 17 6 7 August 2015 in respect of Ms Dealehr's report - - -8 Can I interrupt you there for a moment. Was the situation this: that the court ask Judicial Registrar Gourlay, 9 who is an experienced costs consultant, to examine 10 11 Ms Dealehr's report and report back if it thought there 12 were any problems with that? Is that roughly how it worked?---Yes, sir, that's correct. 13

14 So you had Ms Dealehr's report?---Yes, sir.

15 And that had been scrutinised by Judicial Registrar 16 Gourlay?---Yes. Ms Dealehr was of the view in her report that the hourly rates utilised in the main class 17 action proceeding were reasonable and reflected the 18 19 expertise and experience acquired by Maurice Blackburn 20 in the field of class actions and Judicial Registrar 21 Gourlay effectively agreed. Whilst the scheme document itself doesn't detail the hourly rates, it would appear 22 that Maurice Blackburn adopted them, the hourly rates 23 24 that were utilised in the main class action proceeding to the work done in relation to the settlement 25 distribution and it follows, in my view, that if 26 Ms Dealehr was of the view that they were appropriate 27 28 hourly rates and Judicial Registrar Gourlay was of the 29 view that they were appropriate hourly rates and in fact they are the same hourly rates as were specified 30 31 in both the Murrindindi and the Kilmore East schemes

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie WHITE XN

then they are reasonable rates. Also, in my
 experience, they are rates within the marketplace that
 one would expect in any event.

That was going to be my question, I think. From your own
experience are we talking, in terms of the rates are we
talking - what are the two scales now? There's
standard and - - -?---The two bases of taxation are the
standard basis and the indemnity basis.

On the standard basis would these fit within the standard 9 basis?---Yes, sir. The difference between standard 10 11 basis and indemnity basis is really one of a test 12 that's applied by the costs court. On a standard basis all costs reasonably incurred and of reasonable amount 13 should be allowed. On an indemnity basis, if there was 14 15 a doubt as to whether a cost was reasonably incurred or 16 reasonable in amount the court must determine that in favour of the party claiming costs. That doesn't 17 18 actually in the end impact on the process that we are 19 going through here. In any event, having - - -20 You thought with all that exercise you took the view that the rates being charged were appropriate?---Yes, sir, I 21 did. The next step on was that Maurice Blackburn then 22

utilised the elite time recording system to keep
records of the time.

25 MS NICHOLS: When do you say about the adequacy of those 26 records that you have seen?---The records are very 27 thorough actually. I must say one sees in practice 28 everything from the scant to the fulsome and the 29 records that were maintained are certainly at the 30 fulsome end of that scale. Maurice Blackburn have a 31 fairly rigorous approach to utilising the time

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie WHITE XN

б

1 recording system, the time costing system. All file 2 operators, as I understand it, are provided with a memorandum of protocols that are to be utilised and 3 4 it's a fairly thorough - I have sighted that document, it's a fairly thorough memorandum. In relation to the 5 class actions, I have sighted a separate document which 6 7 I think is entitled "Tips For Time Costing" or 8 something to that effect and that's specifically in respect to how to deal with time recording in class 9 actions. The system itself is a sold throughout 10 11 Australia for legal management systems, and indeed the 12 world and the manner in which it's applied is fairly easily identifiable. I recall, if I might digress at 13 14 this time, during my time on the witness stand in the 15 Murrindindi and the Kilmore matters there was an issue 16 arising as to a "dead man's handle" in the case - - -17 HIS HONOUR: I think that was my expression?---It was and I 18 took the opportunity to make some further enquiries as to how that would operate and I have been given some 19 20 fairly detailed information. You had better tell Ms Nichols what we are talking about are 21 Mr White, because Ms Nichols, I think, is not au fait 22 with the discussion we had and this resulted from a 23 24 question asked by one of the group members and it related to the way in which the time costing program 25 operate, didn't it?---Yes. 26

And my recollection is as to whether in some way it automatically cut in if effectively someone didn't make an appropriate entry or just left the entry rolling. Was that about it?---It was basically, yes, what would happen if you forgot to turn it off, I suppose is the

7

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

1 simplest way of putting it, when you recorded. The 2 Elite system doesn't have a dead man's handle but if the time was running for a particularly lengthy period 3 4 of time, for example overnight is one example, the system itself, the software, would crash and you would 5 have to re-start it and it would be very obvious then 6 7 when you attempted to re-start, that something had gone 8 horribly wrong. If an operator forgot to - - -What about if he or she goes off and has a cup of coffee 9 though? That's a more risky situation?---If they 10 11 forgot to do that and had a cup of coffee, when they 12 came back to utilise the system and tried to activate it, they would find that it was already activated. 13 The 14 system does allowed for manual override and in fact, 15 most time costing systems do allow for manual override. 16 In the circumstances where that occurred, the operator would be able to manually override the time that was 17 recorded on the system to reduce it to an appropriate 18 time. As I understand it, the direction given in 19 20 Maurice Blackburn is that if something like that occur and given human nature it does occur from time to time, 21 as clearly it would be fallacious to suggest that it 22 doesn't. If that does occur, then the file operator is 23 24 to give their best, most conservative estimate of the time that was expended doing that particular task and 25 26 manually edit the system to that effect. It would actually show, I suspect, in any event in the daily 27 28 running sheets - - -

When you did your audit, if there was one that seemed to be an extraordinarily long time devoted to what was a simple task, that would show up, wouldn't it?---It

8

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

1 would stand out. It would certainly stand out. In 2 fact, I can say that of the percentage that I did examine in some detail, I didn't come across anything 3 4 that would have concerned me along those lines. So, in effect, whilst there's no physical dead man's handle 5 like when you walk away the time automatically stops -6 7 and doubtless that technology will arrive some day -8 there are some in built safeguards. The quality control protocols that were in place once the time was 9 to be translated into a monthly bill of costs was such 10 11 that any error like that would immediately be picked up 12 and cross-referenced and I have no doubt that the data processing staff would raise that with the particular 13 14 operator.

MS NICHOLS: In short, the bills, whilst they might initially be a compilation of entries generated through the time costing system they are automatically signed off, as it were, by a lawyer with responsible for the file?---Yes and following a fairly rigorous process through the accounts department of verifying the information that's in those bills.

The description for each time entry, meaning what work has actually been done, that is manually entered by the operator, isn't it?---Yes, it is.

It's not an automatically generated category; they are bespoke entries for each item?---They are indeed.
HIS HONOUR: I know this is jumping around but I have read the report and I know from the last time, there are a couple of things I am interested in. Did you do a stack graph with this case or not?---Yes, Your Honour.
It should be the last attachment, attachment 3, to the

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

report.

1

2 Is there anything untoward about this as you see it in relation to the management of the scheme?---No, there 3 4 isn't, Your Honour, and in fact although it differs slightly from the Murrindindi and Kilmore matters, in 5 that the size of the paralegal component in those was 6 much larger in an overall sense but that doesn't 7 8 surprise me in this matter. The bulk of the hack work, if I can put it that way, was generally done by 9 paralegals. But in this matter you had, rather than 10 11 assessments being done by counsel briefed out, the 12 assessments were done by the scheme administrator's staff, principally Ms Ling and Ms Lubomirska, and that 13 shows in the "Solicitor" column and the "Senior 14 15 Associate/Special Counsel" columns for the work that 16 was done by those file operators in respect of the assessment of claims. 17

MS NICHOLS: Were you aware whether or not the work of the administrative assistant was built and reflected in that stack graph?---I am aware that the work of the administrative assistant wasn't.

Had it been billed it would have been reflected in a 22 23 non-lawyer category in the stack graph?---It certainly 24 would have been, yes. Might I raise one matter that perhaps, I think, should be - and it's minor. In my 25 view it's minor and it should be on the report. 26 There are two glaring typographical errors that I think for 27 28 completeness should be corrected. If I can refer you to page 9, paragraph 37 of the report. The last line 29 says: "Costs including disbursements for the period 2 30 31 June 2016 to 1 June 2016." Clearly that should be "2

10

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

1 June 2015 to 1 June 2016". The second is on page 29 2 and that is paragraphs 96(a) and (b) in relation to Mr Curtain QC and Mr Keogh SC, as he then was. In the 3 4 second line of paragraph 96(a) it reads: "GST exclusive maximum hourly rate allowable to junior 5 counsel." That clearly should be "senior" and the same 6 7 in paragraph 96(b) which just proves the evils of 8 copying and pasting.

HIS HONOUR: I ought to indicate that I have read the report 9 and I am satisfied that it ought to be adopted but if 10 11 there is anything else you want me to have a look at. 12 MS NICHOLS: Your Honour has read the report. I really was just going to assist Your Honour going through it if 13 that helped but I just want to ask Mr White two things. 14 15 The first starts at paragraph 113 of the report which 16 concerns the group member whose material - in respect 17 of whom you were provided with material. Can you just 18 explain to - I will give you a minute to get to that 19 part of your report. Can you just explain briefly to 20 His Honour what you did, having received the material that was provided? --- On being provided with the 21 material in relation to that aspect of the matter, I 22 isolated in the accounts the work that was done by the 23 24 scheme administrator in answering the queries raised by the claimant's husband and in respect of the claimant's 25 review. In fact, I had been provided by the 26 administrator's staff with an itemised bill of that 27 28 work but in fact that was in completed. There was more work that I located in the invoices that I considered 29 30 was directly referable to those two aspects. Having 31 gone through that exercise, there can be no doubt in my

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie WHITE XN

1 mind, there is no doubt in my mind that the costs 2 having been capped at \$3,000 were most reasonable. In fact, in my view, the costs were substantially more 3 4 than that and that in those circumstances, there is really no basis for complaint as to the costs that were 5 incurred in respect of the matter. I did consider it 6 necessary to raise the issue though because the conduct 7 8 of - in a wider sense, the conduct of one claimant or a representative of one claimant can impact on all other 9 claimants in a class action and it seems to me to be 10 11 something that's integral to the conduct of a class 12 action, that class members must be mindful of the consequences of their actions in that it doesn't 13 14 necessarily just impact on them alone, it can impact on others. 15 16 HIS HONOUR: I am not clear about that. You are talking 17 about the diminution in the fund?---Yes. 18 By reason of a cap, which means that the actual costs exceed the cap and that's borne by the other class members; is 19 20 that the point?---That's the point, yes. MS NICHOLS: Mr White, do you also make the point that the 21 scheme administrators, of necessity, have to spend time 22 23 dealing with the complaints and issues raised by group 24 members which is part of their job but that incurs costs in and of itself?---Of course. 25 HIS HONOUR: That's part and parcel of the deal if you take 26 on the job. We find that too. If you take on the 27 28 job you are going to, as we now know from these cases, find that there are some group members who either 29 legitimately or for other reasons have concerns?---Yes 30 31 and that's human nature.

12

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

1

That's part of the deal.

- MS NICHOLS: Your Honour, I was just going to draw Your
 Honour's attention to Mr White's conclusion at
 paragraph 118. No doubt you have read that. I have no
 further questions for Mr White.
- 6 HIS HONOUR: I have a couple and you might have something
 7 arising out of this.
- 8 One of the issues it seems to me that's arisen out of this and Murrindindi and Kilmore is whether there is an 9 alternative to getting a solicitor's firm to manage 10 cases such as these. I draw the distinction 11 12 immediately between a tort claim, where claims have to be assessed individually, and let's say a shareholder 13 14 claim where things can be done mechanically. I am just wondering if there is any alternative to the solicitors 15 16 administering the scheme. There is, as you will 17 appreciate, was raised by one of the group members in 18 Kilmore East who referred to an American experience. Ι have not looked at this but I think this is a 19 20 longwinded way of saying is there a practical alternative to a solicitor's firm carrying out 21 administration of a scheme that involves individual 22 assessments?---I am not sure that there is, although 23 24 having regard to what was raised in the Kilmore matter about the American experience, it strikes me that class 25 actions have been around in America and the United 26 States for quite possibly a lot longer than they have 27 28 been here.
- 29 Since the mid-60s?---And I understand that a whole industry 30 has grown around the class action process in the United 31 States and it's therefore not surprising that there

13

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

1 should be niche firms, maybe of accountants, maybe of 2 lawyers, maybe of others, who deal specifically with certain aspects of the administration of a settlement 3 scheme. In Australia, as I understand it, we are 4 nowhere near that level and I am not certain that our 5 population would necessarily support such a specialised 6 7 area. So having thought about that, I am not certain 8 that there are better ways but it's quite possibly something that should be looked at in some more detail. 9 These questions are all of a general prospective nature. 10 Ι 11 am content with what's happened here but I am 12 interested in what we might do in the future. The application of the Supreme Court scale. In each of the 13 other cases - and I have no problem with how it's been 14 applied in this case. Is it necessarily appropriate to 15 16 apply the Supreme Court scale to administration as opposed to the actual trial?---I think there is 17 probably a case to be made out for the fact that 18 19 certainly at the paralegal levels the rates may perhaps 20 be lowered a little. Given the way - having examined the administrations in now throw of these matters, I am 21 satisfied that the professional staff, if I can put it 22 that way - the qualified staff - basically do only the 23 24 work that they really need to do in the matter and I think the hourly rates are entirely appropriate for 25 that sort of work and in fact, there is some case law, 26 as I have mentioned in the report, that would support 27 28 that view. Insofar as the rates for paralegals, et cetera, are concerned, perhaps there is some ability 29 to review them and perhaps bring them down a little 30 31 bit, in terms of the work that's done and having

14

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

- regard, I suppose, to things like the rate of pay
 that's given to paralegals, office overheads of keeping
 them.
- I understand that and I understand it's not just looking at
 the rate of pay, it's the overheads, all the
 add-ons?---Yes.

I think that's helpful though. Clearly your view in 7 8 relation to the administration of this scheme is that it's been conducted leanly and efficiently and indeed, 9 the solicitors are to be complimented for not charging 10 11 everything out as they could have?---Yes. My 12 impression of this matter was that it was run extraordinarily lean, extraordinarily efficiently. 13 I suspect that's probably as a result of learning from 14 15 the other matters as well and I suspect that in future 16 in similar sorts of matters they will become leaner and 17 leaner as time goes by. This was a particularly good 18 exemplar of how, in my view, the process should be run. 19 Ms Nichols, anything else?

20 MS NICHOLS: No, Your Honour.

HIS HONOUR: Can I thank you on behalf of John Dixon J and 21 myself for all the efforts you have put in. It's been 22 23 Herculian. You set yourself a mammoth task and you have achieved it. We are all the wiser for it. As you 24 have just indicated, Mr White, it has been a learning 25 experience and I compliment you and thank you for the 26 assistance you provided as special referee, not only in 27 28 this case but also in Kilmore East and Murrindindi. So thank you very much and thanks for coming along 29 today?---Thank you, Your Honour. 30

31 You are excused. Thanks very much, Mr White?---Thank you,

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie WHITE XN

sir.

1

2 And thanks again for all your help.

3 <(THE WITNESS WITHDREW)

- 4 HIS HONOUR: I propose to adopt Mr White's report. What
 5 about a couple of these other issues that are raised in
 6 Ms Lubomirska's affidavit?
- MS NICHOLS: They won't take long, Your Honour. Just in relation to the status of the distribution scheme, Your Honour ordered on 4 November that an initial distribution be made and as you will recall, that distribution was to be 100 per cent of the assessed losses, less relevant deductions. That occurred on 11 November of this year.
- 14 There was only one group member who sadly 15 had died before a distribution could be made and once a 16 grant of representation is achieved, that will be dealt 17 with.
- 18 HIS HONOUR: That will be paid out.
- MS NICHOLS: Yes. There is an amount of \$3,515,864.06 remaining in the fund. That amount is intended to cover the assessed maximum possible tax liability of the fund. As Your Honour knows, the ATO has expressed a view that the income is assessable.
- The position of the scheme administrator is it is eminently sensible for this scheme administrator to wait until that matter is determined in Kilmore and Murrindindi.
- 28 HIS HONOUR: Just let me go back to Ms Lubomirska's
- 29 affidavit. What's left to be paid out? Where are your 30 orders?
- 31 MS NICHOLS: It's simply the top-up amount which will be the

16

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie funds that are left at the end of the day after the tax
 issue is resolved, less any further administration
 costs. They fall into two parts.

4 The first part is at paragraph 9.1 and those are for the months of October and November. They have 5 not been assessed and approval for those is not sought 6 today. At 9.3 Ms Lubomirska sets out the reasons why 7 8 additional costs are likely to be incurred and expresses the view that they are likely to be minimal 9 and the proposal is that once the tax issues are 10 11 resolved, that the scheme administrator returns to 12 court once and once only so that a final distribution and final costs can be approved, rather than coming 13 back on an interest mitt ant basis simply because that 14 incurs costs itself. 15

16 HIS HONOUR: Sure. Does it mean at the moment there's 17 roughly \$6 million in funds held by the scheme 18 administrator?

19 MS NICHOLS: \$3.5 million.

HIS HONOUR: There's the \$3.5 million which is being held for a prospective tax liability and then there's also the amount which the orders are sought of today. MS NICHOLS: Correct, that's right.

24 HIS HONOUR: There is the potential for a relatively small amount in terms of further administration expenses 25 which is set out at 9.1, as you have indicated, to be 26 claimable but as you have indicated, it's far more 27 28 sensible to hold that until the tax situation is resolved and then we can make final orders, in effect, 29 dealing with the lot. Is that a fair summary? 30 31 MS NICHOLS: Indeed, that's exactly what's proposed.

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie

DISCUSSION

HIS HONOUR: Is there anything else you want to tell me
 about, Ms Nichols?

MS NICHOLS: No. Everything else is covered in the 3 4 affidavit. I will just mention without going to the explanation provided about the \$14,000 in forfeited 5 bonds money. That is there in a trust account. It 6 simply can't be transferred to the controlled moneys 7 8 account until a bill is rendered and amounts can be set off against that bill. So that can't happen until the 9 10 costs are approved.

HIS HONOUR: That can wait as well until that's sorted out. MS NICHOLS: Once Your Honour approves the costs today that money can be offset. It's a technicality about where the funds are kept. Ms Lubomirska wanted to inform Your Honour because she said something different in her final affidavit.

17 There is reference to two group members who 18 phrased issues on prior occasions and they are dealt with in the affidavit and there's nothing arising. 19 20 HIS HONOUR: I have read what's said about those. MS NICHOLS: Thank you. There are no other matters that I 21 wish to bring to Your Honour's attention. 22 23 HIS HONOUR: Thank you very much, Ms Nichols. I thank 24 Ms Lubomirska as well for that very comprehensive affidavit. 25

I am satisfied that I should make each of the orders contained in the draft. I think they have already been sent up electronically. I will make them before lunch today and have them transmitted back to your instructors.

31 MS NICHOLS: Thank you very much, Your Honour.

.DTI:MD 16/12/16 Downie DISCUSSION

HIS HONOUR: I compliment your instructors and I particularly compliment Ms Lubomirska on the job she's done as scheme administrator. It seems to me that the observations that Mr White made accorded with the way I have understood many the scheme to have been administered and that is in an extraordinarily efficient and capable fashion and the fact that the group members have been paid out rapidly and fulsomely is a attribute to the scheme administrator. I will make those orders and I will grant liberty to apply as well so that hopefully we can come back on one final occasion at some time in the dim distant future and try and sort out the final distribution. MS NICHOLS: Yes, Your Honour. HIS HONOUR: Thank you very much, Ms Nichols, for your assistance.