

Page 1	Page 3
<p>1 Wednesday, 16 January 2019</p> <p>2 PROF YEUNG TAK CHUNG, ALBERT (on former affirmation)</p> <p>3 (10.07 am)</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, just before we start, could I mention one</p> <p>5 thing. I have a longstanding hearing this evening in</p> <p>6 the Market Misconduct Tribunal, starting at 5.30. It's</p> <p>7 not merely a directions hearing, it's a substantive</p> <p>8 hearing, and I'll obviously have to be there. I've got</p> <p>9 the papers with me, so it's only a question of</p> <p>10 presenting myself there by 5.30. I wouldn't want to</p> <p>11 keep a room full of people waiting.</p> <p>12 So, all being well, I would this evening ask if we</p> <p>13 could rise at quarter to five. All right? Thank you</p> <p>14 very much.</p> <p>15 MR BOULDING: Sir, I was going to ask for leave to ask one</p> <p>16 or two further questions arising out of our reading of</p> <p>17 last night's transcript, but I understand that Mr Shieh</p> <p>18 might also have an application to reopen his</p> <p>19 cross-examination. So assuming that leave is granted,</p> <p>20 logically he probably ought to go first.</p> <p>21 MR SHIEH: Yes. Mr Chairman, I've had a word with Mr Chow</p> <p>22 who indicated that he would be asking questions after</p> <p>23 me, and also with Mr So, representing China Technology,</p> <p>24 that I have one topic I wish to explore with Prof Yeung,</p> <p>25 arising out of one of the slides that he produced. The</p>	<p>1 Q. Then you tried to plot that in your graph versus the</p> <p>2 actual physical test results. That was the purpose of</p> <p>3 your chart; remember?</p> <p>4 A. Correct.</p> <p>5 Q. We can look at that now. Could I have shown on the</p> <p>6 screen Prof Yeung's chart. We actually sent -- we took</p> <p>7 that out of Prof Yeung's series of slides yesterday and</p> <p>8 we emailed that to the Commission. I don't know whether</p> <p>9 or not the Commission has managed to include that in the</p> <p>10 e-bundles yet.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN: I think we all have them. This is the one we're</p> <p>12 talking about? (Indicating).</p> <p>13 MR SHIEH: Yes, but for the benefit of those sitting</p> <p>14 outside --</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course, who are sitting outside.</p> <p>16 MR PENNICOTT: What's the question?</p> <p>17 MR SHIEH: The question has not been asked yet because I'm</p> <p>18 trying to locate the actual graph Prof Yeung presented</p> <p>19 yesterday. It's halfway through.</p> <p>20 WITNESS: I think it's slide number 12.</p> <p>21 MR SHIEH: That's it, yes.</p> <p>22 Prof Yeung, look at the description that you put --</p> <p>23 at the bottom of page 108, you say, line 24:</p> <p>24 "Then now you can look at the open circle. The open</p> <p>25 circles are the experimental results from the five</p>
Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 slides were produced sometime during the day yesterday</p> <p>2 and we only had time to do some detailed checking and</p> <p>3 production of graphs overnight. Therefore, for that</p> <p>4 reason, I seek leave to ask some further questions of</p> <p>5 Prof Yeung on one topic.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: That's fine.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN: Yes. You may proceed, and Mr Boulding also,</p> <p>8 thank you.</p> <p>9 MR BOULDING: I appreciate that.</p> <p>10 Further cross-examination by MR SHIEH</p> <p>11 MR SHIEH: Prof Yeung, good morning.</p> <p>12 A. Good morning.</p> <p>13 Q. Can I ask you to look at the transcript of yesterday's</p> <p>14 hearing at page 109.</p> <p>15 In fact, it starts at page 108, the previous page.</p> <p>16 This is where you introduce that chart -- remember, in</p> <p>17 your slides, you produced a chart -- where you tried to</p> <p>18 plot, first of all, the tensile strength as per BOSA's</p> <p>19 table; right?</p> <p>20 A. Correct.</p> <p>21 Q. One thread, two threads, three threads, all the way down</p> <p>22 to ten threads; yes?</p> <p>23 A. Correct.</p> <p>24 Q. Reaching the figure of 1002, I think.</p> <p>25 A. I cannot recall the exact number.</p>	<p>1 ones ..."</p> <p>2 And then over the page at page 28:</p> <p>3 "... that we saw so far. So you can see now I try</p> <p>4 to adopt the same symbol you have seen in those reports,</p> <p>5 so 'S' stands for slipout ... 'C' stands for the failure</p> <p>6 in the coupler, and then the 'B' stands for the fracture</p> <p>7 in the bar.</p> <p>8 When you look at this circle, look at the first one</p> <p>9 with 'S', it looks like it's very close to the</p> <p>10 theoretical calculation, but in fact now is, if you</p> <p>11 think about more detail, the solid circle ..."</p> <p>12 Pausing here, Prof Yeung, the solid circle is what</p> <p>13 we call the calculated -- the theoretical circle?</p> <p>14 A. The calculated value.</p> <p>15 Q. The calculated value, yes.</p> <p>16 "... the solid circle is based on a tensile strength</p> <p>17 of 529 and this bar may actually be, as what we've been</p> <p>18 discussing so far, 500 with a tensile strength of 625.</p> <p>19 And if you use those numbers to recalculate, BOSA's</p> <p>20 calculate, those red dots ..."</p> <p>21 That means the solid dots; right?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. "... those red dots ..."</p> <p>24 Sorry, the red dots should be the open ones?</p> <p>25 A. The solid circle.</p>

Page 5

1 Q. The solid circle.
 2 "... those red dots should be a whole lot higher
 3 because you get a higher shear strength, so for each
 4 thread get engaged, they can take more stresses."
 5 Yes?
 6 I'm not sure if there's anything wrong there. No.
 7 If I may ask you to look at your graph, looking at
 8 the open circles, the first open circle appears above
 9 "Number of threads engaged", 4?
 10 A. Correct.
 11 Q. Now, that, according to the result, is actually
 12 30 per cent engagement.
 13 A. Correct.
 14 Q. And because the BOSA calculation is based on number of
 15 threads engaged, we have to convert percentage
 16 engagement into threads engaged?
 17 A. Actually, when I do the analysis, I did look at the
 18 picture in BOSA's letter. When they take a picture of
 19 the 30 -- what they mark 30 per cent in the picture, and
 20 I look at the picture, I actually count the threads in
 21 the picture. That's how I get four.
 22 Q. The BOSA table, actually -- if we look at the BOSA
 23 table -- the BOSA table we can find in Prof McQuillan's
 24 report, appendix V.
 25 So that's ten threads, based on ten threads?

Page 6

1 A. BOSA calculate up to ten threads.
 2 Q. Up to ten threads, yes. Whether it's ten threads or
 3 11 threads, a 30 per cent engagement of ten threads
 4 would be three threads, do you accept that,
 5 arithmetically?
 6 A. 10 times 0.33.
 7 Q. Yes, and 10 times -- even if you apply 11 threads,
 8 it would be 3.3 threads?
 9 A. Correct.
 10 Q. So, on that basis, would you accept that if we convert
 11 the percentage engagement into number of threads in this
 12 way, the open circle above the number 4 should be moved
 13 sideways a bit to the left, to be above 3 or 3.3?
 14 A. In terms of research, when you try to plot the
 15 experimental data to compare the calculated data, the
 16 way you plot it is you should plot what you have
 17 actually done in the experiment. That's why I told you
 18 earlier is -- I looked at the picture that they
 19 prepared, that they denote as 30 per cent threads.
 20 I looked at that bar and I count it, there are four
 21 threads on it. They call it 30 per cent.
 22 Q. So, basically, what you are telling us is you did not do
 23 the conversion by an arithmetical process of multiplying
 24 the percentage engagement by the number of threads, but
 25 you trusted your vision and you counted the number of

Page 7

1 threads that appeared on the photographs?
 2 A. I trust the experimental record, rather than what they
 3 say to be 30 per cent, because I think they may make the
 4 thread first -- because the bar was specially made for
 5 that experiment, and you can look at it, there are only
 6 four on it, because they did it on purpose to test the
 7 bar with less number of threads than the standard number
 8 threads. Then they may do the calculation and say it's
 9 approximately 30 per cent and I would consider the
 10 accurate way to do is you look at actually what they
 11 have done in the experiment and put it on the graph.
 12 Q. Now, I would ask you to tell me where the photographs
 13 are, because everyone can look at the photographs. They
 14 are in the bundles; right?
 15 A. They are in the bundle.
 16 Q. I'm going to ask you where the photographs are.
 17 A. I think they are attached to the letter of 7 January
 18 from BOSA to BD.
 19 Q. Yes. As I say, I'm going to look at that set of
 20 photographs with you later.
 21 A. Okay.
 22 Q. But I'm just trying to test with you some propositions
 23 based on pure arithmetical value and see whether you
 24 accept. You may not agree with the underlying
 25 assumption but let's leave that to one side.

Page 8

1 A. No, I think that's not an assumption. When you went to
 2 compare experimental data with theoretical or calculated
 3 data, you need to actually plot what has been done in
 4 the experiment. You cannot mix up the two sets of data
 5 in such a way for a fair comparison.
 6 Q. Can I proceed to the next open circle, at -- I think
 7 it's 40 per cent engagement in the actual test --
 8 remember? 50, sorry.
 9 A. They denote it as 50.
 10 Q. 50. If you apply 50 per cent to ten threads, that would
 11 give you five threads, numerically?
 12 A. Correct.
 13 Q. Even if you proceed on the basis that it has 11 threads,
 14 50 per cent of 11 threads would be 5.5 threads,
 15 arithmetically?
 16 A. Correct.
 17 Q. So proceeding on that basis, rather than looking at the
 18 photographs, the open circle above the number 6 would
 19 have to be moved sideways towards the left, on that
 20 basis?
 21 A. Again, as what I said, you try to mix up the theoretical
 22 and the experimental results, and that's not the correct
 23 way to research on a certain phenomena, when you perform
 24 experiment and try to check it out, how correct your
 25 theory is. Experiments are experiments.

Page 9

1 Q. I did say "on that basis".
 2 A. So you are mixing up the basis.
 3 Q. I know. You can assume that I am as wrong as I possibly
 4 can, but on the wrong basis then the circle above the
 5 number 6 would have to be moved sideways, to the left?
 6 A. Correct.
 7 Q. By saying "correct", I know you don't mean to accept the
 8 underlying premise that I put to you the question, but
 9 as I say I'm just putting to you the arithmetical
 10 consequences.
 11 A. Or your logic of plotting the data.
 12 Q. Then we come to the next dot, open dot, which is at
 13 60 per cent engagement. 60 per cent engagement, on the
 14 basis of a ten-thread bar, would be six threads?
 15 A. Correct.
 16 Q. Even if it's 11 threads, it would be 6.6 threads?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Then, on that basis, again, that circle, that open
 19 circle, somewhere between 6 and 8, marked "B", which you
 20 intended to denote the 60 per cent breakage, would have
 21 to be moved again sideways to the left?
 22 A. Very slightly.
 23 Q. Slightly to the left.
 24 Now, could I show to you what Mr Southward has done,
 25 the next slide which we submitted to the Commission this

Page 10

1 morning.
 2 If you look at the screen, Professor --
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. -- this is what Mr Southward has done overnight, by
 5 replotting your graph, by applying the percentage to
 6 a thread length of ten threads; right?
 7 A. Okay.
 8 Q. Then the result would be, as I have just explored with
 9 you, a moving sideways to the left of the circles
 10 depicting 30 per cent engagement, 50 per cent engagement
 11 and 60 per cent engagement. You understand the logic?
 12 You may not agree with the logic but you understand this
 13 logic?
 14 A. I understand.
 15 Q. Then you can see that there is a pattern whereby for the
 16 theoretical line and the line represented by the actual
 17 result, the two lines are similar in shape?
 18 A. What do you mean by "two lines"? We see only one line
 19 on the graph.
 20 Q. If you try to look at -- because you are making a point
 21 about the comparative value between the actual result
 22 and the theoretical result, and you observe that there
 23 was something not quite right --
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. -- under the graph you plotted.

Page 11

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. But, if you replot the graphs, then you can see that the
 3 position of the circles would have changed, and the odd
 4 or strange feature that you described in the transcript
 5 no longer featured; would you accept that?
 6 A. No, I don't.
 7 Q. Right. Why was that?
 8 A. Steel now -- I think Mr So would want to make a fair
 9 comparison. The tensile strength of the experimental
 10 data are based on 500 grade steel. The solid circle
 11 right now shown on the graph, on both graphs, are based
 12 on 460 steel.
 13 Q. When you said "experimental data" --
 14 A. No, the calculated data.
 15 Q. Calculated data is based on 460?
 16 A. 460, right, and the experimental data are based on 500.
 17 Q. So there would be a gap between them, which is what you
 18 expect to see?
 19 A. Between the two sets of theoretical data, there should
 20 be a gap.
 21 Q. Which is there.
 22 A. No, no. This one we are comparing experimental data to
 23 calculated data.
 24 Q. Yes, I know, and there should be a gap between
 25 experimental, actual pulling out, and calculated,

Page 12

1 theoretical; correct?
 2 A. That's right.
 3 Q. So you would expect to see a gap between solid circle
 4 and hollow circle for each value of engagement; correct?
 5 A. Correct.
 6 Q. But that is what you see, for each value of number of
 7 threads engagement, you see one value for theoretical,
 8 calculated value, and one value for actual pulling-out
 9 test results?
 10 A. When you mention you see a gap between theoretical data
 11 and experimental data, the gap can go either way. Like,
 12 for example, I can create a model myself and then I run
 13 experiment. If the experiment match my model
 14 100 per cent, that's probably a good indicator my model
 15 is correct. On the other hand now is, the experimental
 16 data, in the usual way in research, may not match
 17 100 per cent to your theoretical data. Then the other
 18 side we need to look at now is does my experimental data
 19 overestimate the theoretical data or underestimate?
 20 The point I want to make yesterday is the
 21 theoretical data presented by BOSA actually
 22 overestimates the experimental data.
 23 In this graph now, what you try to present is the
 24 experimental data is overestimating the theoretical
 25 data, because the open circles are above the theoretical

Page 13	1 line. 2 Q. The open circles represent the result of actual pulling 3 out based on the actual steel bars used; correct? 4 A. Correct. 5 Q. And if the actual steel bars are of a higher grade, 6 let's say 500, you would expect them to require a higher 7 strength to be able to break them? 8 A. Even theoretically. 9 Q. But theoretically they used 460? 10 A. That's correct. 11 Q. But if in fact 500 is used you would expect the tensile 12 strength to be higher? 13 A. I would expect that the solid line will be moved above, 14 because the thread gets stronger; right? 15 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: May I interject? 16 MR SHIEH: Yes. 17 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Prof Yeung, are you saying that if 18 one were to plot also on this graph the theoretical line 19 for 500 -- 20 A. Yes. 21 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: -- that would also provide a useful 22 additional piece of information? 23 A. You are perfectly correct. 24 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: And maybe that can be done before we 25 hear from one of the other experts.	Page 15	1 in response to the BD's enquiry of BOSA? 2 A. Right. That's what I can recall. 3 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Mr Shieh, could we have in the break 4 this morning -- we don't need it now -- a hard copy of 5 this graph, please? 6 MR SHIEH: Mr Southward's graph? 7 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Yes. 8 MR SHIEH: We can. Certainly. The Commission will deal 9 with it. 10 Let's look at BOSA's letter, bundle H26. A letter 11 from BOSA. 12 MR PENNICOTT: 221_11. Is that it on the screen? 13 MR SHIEH: Yes. 14 You are talking about page 45643? Is that the 15 photograph that you were referring to? 16 A. I also saw a different set, but I think they are taking 17 the same sample -- taking the same specimens. 18 Q. Because if you are talking about the letter -- the 19 photograph attached to BOSA's letter, that is the BOSA 20 letter attaching photographs. 21 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I'm not sure I'm very comfortable 22 with counting threads off photographs. 23 MR SHIEH: I just wish to make sure that we know what the 24 professor is talking about. 25 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Yes, I understand.
Page 14	1 A. I think that's a good idea. 2 MR SHIEH: We can do all kinds of replotting and all that, 3 but as a matter of shape, if you plot -- if you look at 4 the distance -- if you look at the shape of the three 5 hollow lines -- 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. -- if you try to plot the three hollow lines, they are 8 almost parallel to the solid line, maybe 30 per cent 9 higher? 10 A. If you are eyeballing, yes. 11 Q. And the difference between 460 and 500 is 8 per cent? 12 A. 460 and 500 is -- 13 Q. Around 8 per cent? It's a matter of arithmetic. 14 A. Yes. I think you are talking more -- it's about 15 9 per cent, I guess. 16 Q. Anyway, can I ask you to refer us to the photograph that 17 you say you looked at. I'm not going to spend any more 18 time discussing what we can see from photographs, 19 because we can all see what's in the photograph. I just 20 wish the professor to let us know, when he said instead 21 of using percentage he counted the number of threads in 22 the actual pulling-out results, I wish you to refer us 23 to the actual photographs so we have on record where 24 they are. 25 You say they are attached to BOSA's January letter	Page 16	1 MR SHIEH: As I say, I'm not going to engage in this tedious 2 exercise of asking for each bar to be magnified and then 3 we do a counting by committee. I just wish to make sure 4 that we all know where it is and we can all observe the 5 threads ourselves. 6 So this is the photograph that we can locate. Do 7 you have in mind some other photograph that you acted 8 on? 9 A. I recall I saw one is with -- a photograph of each of 10 the specimens. But I think they are taking the picture 11 of the same specimens. 12 Q. Except this one they put all five together, you are 13 saying? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Anyway, we know that these are the bars that you looked 16 at? 17 A. Correct. 18 Q. Photographs of the bars that you looked at. You are 19 saying that there may well somewhere be individual 20 photos of each bar? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Maybe bigger? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Which we can replicate by zooming in, maybe? 25 A. I think we can.

Page 17	1 MR SHIEH: Thank you. 2 Thank you very much. I have no further questions. 3 Further cross-examination by MR BOULDING 4 MR BOULDING: Thank you for allowing me to ask a few further 5 questions, Commissioners. 6 Good morning, Prof Yeung. 7 A. Good morning. 8 Q. Yesterday, you will remember we were talking about 9 figure 4 in your report. I think we probably ought to 10 get it up. Bundle ER1, tab 8 at page 26. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. If we could go down to page 26, please. That's the one. 13 There we've got the "Visual inspection -- acceptable 14 thread tolerance", and we can see that zero tolerance is 15 acceptable, right up and including a maximum of 16 2 millimetres showing; correct? 17 A. Will you repeat the last part of the question? 18 Q. Yes. If we look at the red arrow below the bottom of 19 the photograph, we can see that zero tolerance is at one 20 end, and then the maximum tolerance is the two threads 21 we can see there; correct? 22 A. Correct. 23 Q. Yesterday we were proceeding on the basis, were we not, 24 that the conscientious MTR site inspector, the 25 conscientious worker, would have this document in his or	Page 19
Page 18	1 her back pocket to be able to check on site what was 2 acceptable? Do you remember proceeding on that basis? 3 A. I recall. 4 Q. You'll know, won't you -- and in any event we've 5 heard -- that at the time this check has to be carried 6 out, first of all you've got the D-wall constructed; 7 correct? 8 A. Depending whether checking for the reinforcement of the 9 D-wall or checking on the reinforcement between the EWL 10 slab and the D-wall. These are also used for the 11 D-wall. 12 Q. Yes. Well, I'm talking about the EWL slab to the 13 D-wall. 14 A. Correct. 15 Q. So let's proceed on that basis. So you've got the 16 D-wall concreted; correct? 17 A. Correct. 18 Q. And you've got the couplers in the D-wall encased in 19 concrete? 20 A. Correct. 21 Q. And one is looking to see whether the threaded rebar 22 which goes into the coupler is adequately engaged; 23 correct? 24 A. Correct. 25 Q. We had some evidence on this particular matter.	Page 20

Page 21

1 And it was in this context yesterday that you brought up
 2 the so-called BOSA requirement for butt-to-butt; do you
 3 remember mentioning that to the Commissioners?
 4 A. Yes, I did.
 5 Q. We've been through the BOSA brochures overnight that
 6 were available during the course of the contract and we
 7 cannot find anything there.
 8 I wonder if we can look at a document together,
 9 H4056. Thank you.
 10 A. Hang on. I haven't got the document yet.
 11 Q. It's on the screen.
 12 A. Okay.
 13 Q. There we see, do we not, the MTR writing to the BD on
 14 8 July 2013; correct?
 15 A. 8 July, correct.
 16 Q. They are making a submission, and we can see that they
 17 are sending the material submission of the proposed
 18 coupler for diaphragm wall reinforcement cage and slab
 19 construction at Hung Hom Station; right?
 20 A. Correct.
 21 Q. If we look at the document -- I think if we go on to
 22 H4142, I hope you see a BOSA catalogue entitled,
 23 "Technical and quality assurance manual ... Seisplíce
 24 standard ductility coupler type A (type II -- ductility
 25 coupler)"; do you see that?

Page 22

1 A. Correct.
 2 Q. If you look back at your report on page 26, one can see,
 3 can one not, in the summary, number 2:
 4 "Please refer to our Seisplíce technical and quality
 5 assurance manual ..."
 6 That is the same document, is it not, that we are
 7 looking at at H4142?
 8 A. Agree.
 9 Q. Then if we go over to H4143, we've got a "Content" page,
 10 and if we look together at item 8, we can see, can we
 11 not, the "Seisplíce standard ductility coupler --
 12 coupler installation method"; do you see that?
 13 A. Item ...?
 14 Q. Item 8. It's on page H4143.
 15 Do you see it? Just there.
 16 A. Yes, yes.
 17 Q. Then we can pick that document up at H4173.
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Do you see, at the top of the page, the BOSA logo? Do
 20 you see that?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Thank you. "Coupler installation method (standard
 23 splice -- type A)". Now, the type A is the rebar that
 24 has the ten threads on, isn't it?
 25 A. Yes.

Page 23

1 Q. Looking down, we can see, can we not, that the reader is
 2 being told here what the appropriate installation method
 3 is; right?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. And step 1, "Position the 1st stage rebar":
 6 "Ensure the coupler is fully screwed into the bar
 7 prior to being cast in concrete.
 8 Protective cap should be fitted on coupler end to
 9 prevent ingress of foreign material."
 10 Now, there we are talking about the D-wall, are we
 11 not?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Then step 2, "Connect the continuation bar". Now, here
 14 we are talking about the bar which goes from the slab
 15 into the coupler, which has already been cast in the
 16 D-wall; correct?
 17 A. I think if you look at the letter --
 18 Q. Which letter?
 19 A. The cover letter of this manual. It was this set of
 20 information are attached for the diaphragm wall
 21 construction.
 22 Q. But this also applies to the slab?
 23 MR PENNICOTT: And slab. It says "slab".
 24 A. Okay. I take your word for it.
 25 MR BOULDING: And step 2, "Connect the continuation bar":

Page 24

1 "Position the continuation bar.
 2 Remove both protective cap on the rebar and the
 3 coupler.
 4 Fully engage the thread using hand to the coupler.
 5 This should develop full tensile strength of the splice
 6 once fully engaged."
 7 Then step 3, "Lock the splice":
 8 "Use a typical pipe wrench to tighten the splice.
 9 No special torque amount is required."
 10 Now, it's obvious, is it not, that there's
 11 absolutely no reference to, is there, to a requirement
 12 for a butt-to-butt connection; that's correct, isn't it?
 13 A. No, it's not.
 14 Q. Well, where do you see it there?
 15 A. If you follow these four steps as shown on the
 16 instruction, I think for the first one, they say the
 17 first one needs to be tightened to the end; right?
 18 Q. Sorry, where are you looking?
 19 A. Step number 1.
 20 Q. Right.
 21 A. The coupler needs to go all the way to the end of the
 22 parent bar; right?
 23 Q. Yes.
 24 A. How do you know you reach the end of the parent bar?
 25 Q. Is that a question for me?

Page 25	Page 27
<p>1 A. No, I try to answer the question. The way you know it 2 is because when you tighten the coupler, you are using 3 up at the threads on the parent bar and your coupler 4 cannot go in any more. That's the way you know you 5 reach the end of the parent bar. 6 Q. Right. Then you've got the continuation bar. 7 A. I've got the continuation bar to come in. 8 Q. Absolutely, and you are allowed to have a maximum of two 9 threads showing; correct? That's correct, isn't it? 10 A. You are allowed when your bar cannot go in any more. 11 Q. No, you are allowed to have two threads showing. That 12 is clear from your figure 4, "Summary": 13 "After connection has been fully tightened, one 14 should see a maximum of two full threads to ensure 15 a proper installation." 16 A. But during construction, if you look at the last step on 17 this page that you have just shown me -- 18 Q. Step 3? 19 A. Step 3, you try to hand-tighten it, right, until the bar 20 doesn't go in any more. 21 Q. Right. 22 A. How do you know the bar cannot go in any more? It's 23 either this bar has -- the butt of this bar, of the 24 continuation bar, hit the butt of the parent bar. 25 That's why your bar cannot go in any more.</p>	<p>1 more." Then they will go on to the last step, "Put 2 a wrench on it and put more force on it to make sure it 3 doesn't go in any further". 4 If at that point they still see threads exposing 5 from the coupler, that means the bar cannot go in, and 6 the instruction they got is if the exposed bar is not 7 more than two, we can accept it. 8 Q. That's all very interesting, Prof Yeung, but none of the 9 instructions that you would give your worker can be 10 found in this document, can they? 11 A. I can find it. It's "fully engage the threads". 12 Q. There, they are talking about the initial step, using 13 your hand to put the rebar into the coupler. That's 14 what they're talking about. That's the step you do by 15 your hand, isn't it? 16 A. Fully engage? 17 Q. Yes, to make sure you can screw it in. Then, once you 18 have done that, you use a typical pipe wrench to tighten 19 the splice. So you put it in using your hand, that's 20 a manual operation, to make sure you can screw it in. 21 You might have to get a bit of dust out or a little bit 22 of debris. Then once you've done that, you get 23 the wrench, and we've seen pictures of that, and you 24 tighten it, and when you've got your two threads 25 showing, you can say "job done", can't you?</p>
Page 26	Page 28
<p>1 Q. No. It doesn't say anything here about putting the 2 continuation bar in until it cannot go any further. 3 What it says is you position the continuation bar, you 4 remove the protective cap on the rebar and the coupler, 5 and you fully engage the thread using hand to coupler. 6 "This should develop full tensile strength of the splice 7 once fully engaged. 8 3: Lock the splice. 9 Use a typical pipe wrench to tighten the splice. 10 No special torque amount is required." 11 What I've got to suggest to you, Prof Yeung, this 12 says absolutely nothing whatsoever about the need for 13 a butt-to-butt connection, does it? 14 A. I don't think so. 15 Q. Good. You are agreeing with me then? 16 A. No, I don't. If I'm going to tell my construction 17 worker -- I don't want to say something discriminating 18 but in Hong Kong most construction workers are not 19 really highly educated. I think that may apply to many 20 parts of the world. So when I look at step number 3, 21 what I would instruct my worker to do is, "Use your 22 hand, keep tighten it until you cannot go in any 23 further". Isn't that another easier instruction to give 24 to your worker? I think that's the easiest thing I can 25 tell them to do, "Keep tighten until it doesn't go any</p>	<p>1 A. I think you keep avoiding the word "fully" in the 2 instruction. 3 Q. Well, there we are. 4 Let me put this situation to you. Of course, when 5 you are screwing in this rebar, by hand or indeed by 6 a wrench, what would happen if you hit a bit of debris 7 there? How do you know that that wasn't the butt that 8 you contend for? If you hit a bit of debris, you would 9 be led to believe, wouldn't you, that you had hit the 10 butt; that's right, isn't it? 11 A. That is correct, but that is not the intent, to leave 12 a gap in there. That means you are talking about 13 an error in the construction. 14 Q. We can all read that for ourselves and that's the BOSA 15 coupler installation method. 16 We looked pretty hard and we can find one reference 17 to butt-to-butt and I want to discuss it with you. If 18 you would be kind enough to go to H4265. Here we've got 19 the "Quality supervision plan on enhanced site 20 supervision and independent audit checking by MTRC and 21 RC for the installation of couplers", and we can see 22 that they're talking there, can we not, about the 23 type II coupler; correct? 24 A. Correct. 25 Q. Then if we go on to H4280, we've got a diagram that is</p>

Page 29

1 contained in the QSP, and then there's a box below it,
 2 and we've got managed to establish where that comes
 3 from, but let's look at that together. It says:
 4 "The tolerance established in the table above
 5 provides a lower limit on the permissible variation of
 6 the length of the threaded bar.
 7 The larger the nominal size of the rebar, the
 8 greater the tolerance allowed."
 9 Then there's a note:
 10 "BOSA CNC threading machines are always programmed
 11 by default to allow a positive tolerance on the thread
 12 length. This is to ensure butt-to-butt connections can
 13 always be achieved when the rebar are spliced inside the
 14 coupler[s]."
 15 Now, that's the only reference we can find to
 16 "butt-to-butt" at all, and it's a matter of legal
 17 submission as to what that means, but what I would
 18 suggest to you is that it's not setting out any sort of
 19 mandatory requirement, is it, that there always has to
 20 be a butt-to-butt connection so far as the two pieces of
 21 rebar are concerned?
 22 A. Counsel, I think you have just mentioned to us this is
 23 part of a legal submission.
 24 Q. Yes.
 25 A. And this legal submission has been approved by the BD.

Page 30

1 Q. Yes.
 2 A. And on this construction site, this instruction becomes
 3 a mandatory instruction.
 4 Q. Well, it depends what it means, doesn't it? What I've
 5 got to suggest to you is that if you look back at your
 6 figure 4, if you look at the BOSA acceptable thread
 7 tolerance, and "After connection has been fully
 8 tightened, one should see a maximum of two full threads
 9 to ensure a proper installation", if you are allowed to
 10 have a maximum of two full threads to ensure proper
 11 installation, what I would suggest is you would never
 12 have a butt-to-butt connection; that's right, isn't it?
 13 A. I don't agree. The number doesn't add up.
 14 MR BOULDING: Thank you, Professor.
 15 A. I would add one more point to the Commissioners.
 16 I think you may have seen the TV, doing the
 17 interview, the project director of MTR can do this
 18 connection by hand, even like us in suits. So that
 19 tells you one thing. Even though you try to fit it by
 20 hand, it's very easy to fit in. There's no point for
 21 a construction worker to try to stop somewhere in
 22 between without getting into a butt-to-butt situation.
 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I've not seen that.
 24 MR BOULDING: Again, that begs the question as to whether,
 25 on the true meaning of the documentation we've been

Page 31

1 looking at, there is indeed a requirement for
 2 a butt-to-butt connection, but I think that's a matter
 3 of submission, Professor. Thank you very much indeed.
 4 WITNESS: Thank you.
 5 Questioning by THE COMMISSIONERS
 6 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, Professor, can I ask you this, and I do so
 7 very much in the knowledge of what Mr Boulding has
 8 commented, namely that your suggestion of what you would
 9 say to workers on site, obviously it appears nowhere
 10 here, but if butt-to-butt connection was vital or
 11 entirely necessary to ensure integrity, speaking as
 12 a layperson, would you not have something written down
 13 saying, "Ensure there is butt-to-butt connection.
 14 Important: ensure butt-to-butt connection", or something
 15 like that, because then everybody on site knows the two
 16 threads -- whatever the mathematics of that is we will
 17 come to later -- but you have to have butt-to-butt
 18 connection, because if you don't, you could have
 19 difficulty?
 20 A. From a practical standpoint, when you are a construction
 21 worker trying to tighten bar in a coupler, there's no
 22 way you can really guarantee you get butt-to-butt. When
 23 you think about a normal construction worker, the only
 24 thing he knows is, "I keep tightening, I clearly cannot
 25 go any further in", and then my supervisor may ask me to

Page 32

1 check, "If you cannot go any further, how much is left
 2 outside the coupler? If there's only two, okay, take
 3 it. More than two, take it out, do it again." The easy
 4 way to do it --
 5 CHAIRMAN: So if you're trying to get it in and for all
 6 sorts of reasons you can't get butt-to-butt, have
 7 a look; if there's two there, you're okay. I'm the
 8 world's worst do-it-yourself person, so I have lots of
 9 experience in this. You take a screw, you try to screw
 10 it into something where the wood perhaps is a little
 11 warped or difficult and you suddenly find you've still
 12 got about three screws left on your screw but you can't
 13 get it in any further; okay? You then look and you test
 14 it and it doesn't look too good because it should really
 15 be in fully, but that's as far as you can go; you've
 16 achieved what you can. Is that not the same thing here?
 17 It doesn't say it must be butt-to-butt because (a) you
 18 can never tell if it in fact is, unless you have x-ray
 19 eyes, and we don't --
 20 A. Yes.
 21 CHAIRMAN: -- that's number one. But number two, accepting
 22 that, providing there's only two screws there or two
 23 threads showing, you're okay. If there are four threads
 24 showing, then you should go to your foreman and say,
 25 "Look, I don't know what I've hit here but I've got four

Page 33

1 threads showing."

2 A. Mm-hmm.

3 CHAIRMAN: If he comes across and says, "No, you can't

4 count, there's two", and you say, "Sorry, yes, there's

5 two", then everybody is happy. So there hasn't been

6 butt-to-butt but there has been -- the tolerance level

7 of two has been met. Now, that's on what I might call

8 the workability basis on site.

9 Now, whether in fact two itself is over-engineering,

10 I don't know. That's something else. That's like in

11 pharmacy they say, "Only take two pills a day", but in

12 fact, if you take three, that's okay, but they don't

13 want to be sued if somebody's got some particular

14 problem. Do you see what I mean?

15 A. I fully understand what you mean. That's exactly the

16 condition while you are working on site. I tell my

17 worker, "Go as far as you can, until you cannot go in

18 any further", but if you like, what you have mentioned,

19 you come back and say, "I tried my best, still two out

20 there", and we understand construction is never perfect

21 and this is the kind of thing we need to allow for, and

22 exactly what we talk about in this Commission, I think

23 many engineers will mention to you what a factor of

24 safety is, and so. Those are something we try to cover,

25 some of the imperfections in construction.

Page 34

1 CHAIRMAN: So BOSA must then build into their engineering of

2 these things a situation where because maybe the angle

3 is not 100 per cent right, because the thread perhaps is

4 not fully beautifully honed, that you might not get

5 fully in, so you don't have to have butt-to-butt,

6 provided you are close enough that only two threads

7 show; that will be sufficient?

8 A. Or I think another very good suggestion is by

9 Mr Boulding, maybe you've got a small piece of debris in

10 there, and then simply your bar gets jammed and cannot

11 go in any further.

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes, but the point I'm making is assuming you've

13 got the diaphragm wall and it's all concreted and you've

14 used your hydraulics, and actually it presents a rather

15 difficult situation, some are off at bad angles but

16 a lot of them, shall we say a run of say ten of them,

17 are not that badly off but are just a little bit off and

18 you try to get it in, and each time you get as far as

19 you can, two screws showing -- you know?

20 Now, the foreman comes across and says that's okay.

21 You know it's okay because BOSA have told you it's okay,

22 and you've done that on a run of say six or seven or

23 even ten of them. None of them are butt-to-butt, but

24 there's only two threads showing. Now, if I was

25 an ordinary worker there, I would say, "I'm okay.

Page 35

1 I haven't got butt-to-butt but I've got a run of nine or

2 ten of these which are only showing two threads."

3 Wouldn't BOSA say that's okay?

4 A. If I'm the resident engineer on site, as a resident

5 engineer on site, although I work full-time on site, I'm

6 not really full-time on the site because I may be in the

7 site office, working on paperwork and other things.

8 CHAIRMAN: No, I appreciate that.

9 A. But I still inspect my site from time to time. If

10 I encounter the hypothetical situation you have

11 mentioned, that I got 30 bars there and all 30 bars got

12 two threads sticking out, I would do an evaluation to

13 see what happened.

14 CHAIRMAN: But you are a professor and you are involved at

15 a much higher level. I'm talking about ordinary,

16 everyday construction methodology. What I'm saying,

17 I suppose, is this: surely, if BOSA demanded

18 butt-to-butt, and they would only demand it for safety

19 and structural integrity reasons, they would say so.

20 But they don't, they say two threads is okay. That's

21 not an invitation not to have two threads, because

22 by and large if everything's lined up, you can just

23 screw away and clunk, you've hit the butt; do you see

24 what I mean?

25 A. And then two threads was caused by the tolerance,

Page 36

1 because that's the one mentioned about full tolerance,

2 that means the threaded section is longer than design.

3 So you can still maintain the ten threads in the

4 coupler. That's what they mean by full tolerance on the

5 right side of the figure.

6 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: How do we know that? How do we know

7 that's what they mean?

8 A. Because they say "maximum tolerance". That means both

9 bars get a maximum tolerance and both bars are 48 -- the

10 threaded section, both bars are 48mm long.

11 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, so you are saying -- please forgive me --

12 the two threads means that you still hit the butt

13 because that's the tolerance?

14 A. Yes. I can give you a simple example on the numbers.

15 CHAIRMAN: No, no, I understand that. All right. I'm just

16 trying to bring it down to a level that I can

17 understand; okay? Because I'm thinking to myself, "Why

18 say this, why not say it"; do you see what I mean? To

19 an ordinary worker, "I've come on site, and it doesn't

20 say anything about you've got to do butt-to-butt. It

21 says try to get full engagement, which I understand as

22 meaning unless you get them lined up, you can't get them

23 screwed in." So line them up, get full engagement, and

24 then screw them in, and when it starts to get hard, as

25 it always does, because there's a big long rebar which

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 is weighing a lot and you've got some guy at the other 2 end holding it up, then get the wrench and you turn the 3 wrench until you feel, "Right, I can't go any further", 4 you can still see two threads. What you are saying is 5 that means that in fact, even though you can't see it, 6 you are now butt-to-butt or as close such that it 7 doesn't matter if you're not -- you're within a tiny 8 millimetre of not being butt-to-butt so therefore you 9 don't have to worry -- so two threads showing means 10 butt-to-butt? 11 A. Let me explain that to you in a simple way. 12 CHAIRMAN: No, my question, ordinary -- I'm wearing my 13 wellies, I've got my hard hat on -- two threads showing 14 means butt-to-butt? 15 A. It's still butt-to-butt. 16 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Just as a supplementary to the 17 Chairman's question, Prof Yeung -- on page 26 of your 18 witness statement -- can we go to it, actually? 19 In the summary under your diagrams, why have you 20 underlined -- why have you got in capitals and 21 underlined "two full threads"? 22 A. The summary is a verbatim copy from BOSA. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So BOSA have underlined and have in 24 capitals "two full threads"? 25 A. You are perfectly correct.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 for you. 2 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, Mr Chow. Please continue. 3 MR CHOW: No problem, sir. 4 The first topic I would like to explore with you, 5 again, relates to the butt-to-butt requirement. 6 A. Okay. 7 Q. You recall that yesterday, in your discussion with 8 Mr Boulding, acting on behalf of MTRC, it was suggested 9 by Mr Boulding that the requirement for butt-to-butt 10 splicing is not part of the contract, and by "contract" 11 my understanding is the contract between MTRC and 12 Leighton. Do you recall that? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Do you agree that the couplers manufactured by BOSA is 15 a kind of proprietary product of BOSA? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Meaning that if one used that product, one has to go to 18 BOSA to purchase it? 19 A. That may not be necessary. You may get one of BOSA's 20 distributors, if they have one. 21 Q. And it's a product developed by BOSA with the necessary 22 testing data? 23 A. For them to get approval from the government. 24 Q. And the property of BOSA's coupler, the party who knows 25 the best would be BOSA; am I correct?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 2 CHAIRMAN: Because, to repeat, "two full threads" means it's 3 butt-to-butt anyway? 4 A. The thread get exposed because the threaded section is 5 longer than the design value. 6 CHAIRMAN: That's correct, yes. But then -- again, please 7 forgive me, I've stopped being a worker, first day 8 on site, I'm back to being a lawyer, and I can't help 9 but think to myself, the guy who writes the 10 instructions, he would say, "There will always be two 11 threads showing; that's proof that you are now 12 butt-to-butt"? 13 A. If the threads are 44mm long, both will go in, you won't 14 have any threads exposed, because 44 plus 44 is 88. The 15 reason we got this thread cannot get in is because 16 you've got one section with 48mm long. So once the 17 first one goes in, there's only 40mm left for the 18 continuation bar, and that's why the two threads gets 19 out. 20 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Good. Thank you very much. That helps 21 me. 22 Cross-examination by MR CHOW 23 MR CHOW: Good morning, Prof Yeung. 24 A. Good morning. 25 Q. I represent the government and I have a few questions</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 A. Yes, you are correct. 2 Q. And the requirement in relation to installation, to 3 ensure that the couplers will perform as designed, the 4 best party to define how it should be installed should 5 be BOSA; do you agree? 6 A. Of course. 7 Q. Just now, Mr Boulding took you to look at a material 8 submission -- 9 A. Counsel, I want to go back to one point you mentioned 10 earlier, whether this installation procedure is in the 11 contract. I would say exact specific instruction may 12 not be in the contract, but in the contract there must 13 be something saying you need to follow the instruction 14 from time to time as the project goes on. 15 So indirectly that installation procedure is part of 16 the contract, although it may not be explicitly spelt 17 out in the contract. 18 CHAIRMAN: We don't need to argue the matter, but if 19 everything is meant to meet specifications, so you 20 assume, if it's going to be that proprietary product it 21 will need specifications, and you assume that it will be 22 properly installed. I don't think you need -- provided 23 your -- and in this case we know that BOSA gave 24 instructions to workmen before these workmen set about 25 their job.</p>

Page 41	Page 43
<p>1 A. Correct. Because sometimes, in some contract, 2 something -- we may not know what product to use, so 3 that means then we use the provision in the contract 4 called engineer's instruction. 5 CHAIRMAN: Good. Thank you very much. 6 MR CHOW: Thank you, sir. 7 Just now, Mr Boulding took you to look at a material 8 submission from MTRC to the Buildings Department. Do 9 you recall that? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. It seems there is no dispute that the material or the 12 use of BOSA's proprietary product is proposed by MTRC? 13 A. Correct. 14 Q. Mr Boulding also took you just now to the quality 15 supervision plan. Can I trouble you to go to the 16 supervision plan again, at bundle H9, starting at 17 page 4263. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. This is a supervision plan, again, submitted by MTRC to 20 the Buildings Department for the Buildings Department's 21 acceptance. 22 If we then turn over the page and go to page 4265. 23 That is the quality supervision plan. At the top of the 24 page we have Leighton's logo on the left, and on the 25 right we have BOSA's logo as well.</p>	<p>1 see that reference? 2 A. No, I don't. 3 Q. Page 4276. 4 A. 4276, yes. 5 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, can I get back -- I'm just slightly behind 6 you -- paragraph 4: 7 "Once couplers are fully engaged and tightened." 8 And the answer to that was? 9 A. That would ensure butt-to-butt. 10 MR CHOW: Butt-to-butt, yes. 11 CHAIRMAN: Then why put in "then use a regular wrench to 12 tighten"? What that means, surely, is once the couplers 13 are fully engaged and you actually move them in a bit, 14 then what you do is you take your wrench to tighten the 15 splice. So the first sentence doesn't say butt-to-butt, 16 it just says engage it and screw it in, probably as far 17 as is comfortable doing it by hand, and then you use 18 your wrench to tighten; would that be correct? 19 A. That's normally what they do, but if -- 20 CHAIRMAN: The reading of that instruction. 21 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: And further to that, isn't it the 22 case that if it was already butt-to-butt, you wouldn't 23 be able to tighten it with a pipe wrench? 24 A. You are correct, but that's one thing you do as a check 25 on site, because sometimes, as what the Commissioner has</p>
Page 42	Page 44
<p>1 So do you agree that this is a document, on the face 2 of it, jointly prepared by Leighton and BOSA? 3 A. I think it's more likely it's Leighton adopt BOSA's 4 document to submit. 5 Q. Right. 6 Can I then ask you to go to page 4276. This is part 7 of the quality supervision plan that we are now looking 8 at, and this part talks about the installation procedure 9 or method. Do you see that? 10 A. You mean the five points on the top? 11 Q. That's correct. 12 Now, paragraph 4 describes one of the steps. It 13 says: 14 "Once couplers are fully engaged and tightened. Use 15 a regular pipe wrench/chain wrench to tighten the 16 splice." 17 Do you see that? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Just now, according to what you have told the 20 Commissioners earlier, fully engaged, given the 21 dimensions of the thread produced by BOSA, it actually 22 would result in a butt-to-butt splicing condition? 23 A. Correct. 24 Q. Then do you see under section (v) it refers to a sample 25 inspection record sheet with example as attached; do you</p>	<p>1 mentioned, they may not be properly aligned, so 2 sometimes you need to use a little bit more force. 3 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Okay. But it doesn't say that. 4 CHAIRMAN: All right. Continue, sorry. 5 MR CHOW: At the bottom of that page, 4276, there is 6 a reference to a sample inspection record; do you see 7 that? 8 A. You mean the sample or just the sentence? 9 Q. The sentence. Under section (v), the phrase within the 10 brackets; do you see that? It refers to a sample 11 inspection record sheet. 12 A. Okay. You mean the last sentence on the whole page? 13 Q. Yes. So if you look at the sample inspection sheet on 14 the next page, 4277 -- you see there a number of 15 columns; do you see that? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. The first column is just for putting in the bar's 18 reference; do you see that? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. The second column is supposed to record one of the 21 things that you need to check and inspect, right, and 22 this requires the inspector to make sure that the 23 coupler is fully screwed and fitted; do you see that? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Then if we move on to page 4279, 4279 apparently relates</p>

Page 45

1 to type I, ie the non-ductile couplers; is that right?

2 A. I think so, yes, because the coupler is only 86mm long

3 rather than 88.

4 Q. We have a similar rectangular box at the bottom of the

5 page, and the last line inside the box asks for similar

6 requirement:

7 "This is to ensure butt-to-butt connections can

8 always be achieved ..."

9 Do you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now, the following page is the page Mr Boulding has

12 taken you to, so we don't need to go to that. So do you

13 agree that "fully engage" the threaded bars and "to

14 ensure butt-to-butt connections" actually applies to

15 both non-ductile and ductile couplers?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Then, if I may, I would like you to go to have a look at

18 the letter from BOSA dated 7 January 2019. Bundle H26,

19 page 45640, please.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Prof Yeung, this letter, actually you should be quite

22 familiar with, because you have also referred to this

23 letter --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- in your report. Just now you agreed -- you actually

Page 46

1 confirmed that the couplers that were being used by

2 Leighton in this project is a proprietary product from

3 BOSA; correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. In this letter, we have BOSA telling us something very

6 important, at least it appears to me, which relates to

7 the specific property of its own product.

8 Can I ask you to go to the bottom paragraph on

9 page 1, the first page of the letter, where BOSA said

10 "we confirm" -- do you see that, the first line of the

11 bottom paragraph?

12 "... we confirm the maximum positive tolerance is

13 one thread or 4mm. The tolerance is always positive,

14 and we wish to emphasise here that this is an important

15 feature of our design to ensure butt-to-butt connections

16 can always be achieved when the rebars are spliced

17 together inside the coupler."

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. It goes on to say:

20 "Please refer to the last remark in the table at

21 appendix A. Please note further if rebars are not

22 spliced butt-to-butt, the coupler assembly will be

23 loose."

24 Do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

Page 47

1 Q. So this is what BOSA tell us.

2 Then if we can move on, turn over the page, BOSA

3 then go on to say, the first line of the first

4 paragraph:

5 "... we do not have any test data on correlating

6 partial thread engagement of coupler to its structural

7 performance. We have no intention in conducting such

8 tests as it should serve no useful purpose for our

9 products. Our products are designed for butt-to-butt

10 full thread engagement and that is what we sell."

11 Right?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. Then if we can jump to the second paragraph:

14 "Regarding your question on how a partially engaged

15 coupler would perform in permanent elongation test,

16 static compression and tension tests and cyclic

17 tension-and-compression tests, it is our opinion as

18 explained in paragraph 4 above, that it is unlikely that

19 such couplers, without being spliced butt-to-butt and

20 are therefore loose, will survive permanent elongation,

21 and cyclic tension-and-compression tests."

22 Now, this is what the owner of the proprietary

23 products tells us as to the property of his own product.

24 Now, leaving aside whether the butt-to-butt

25 requirement is part of the contract between Leighton and

Page 48

1 MTRC, purely from a technical point of view, for BOSA's

2 couplers to function properly and serve its intended

3 purpose of splicing two pieces of rebar together, does

4 it matter whether the butt-to-butt requirement is

5 clearly set out in somebody else's contract, if someone

6 decided to use its own product?

7 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I have difficulty with that.

8 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Yes, I don't understand that.

9 CHAIRMAN: I would say I have difficulty with this letter

10 too, because with the greatest of respect, this letter

11 is written by January 2019, by which stage this whole

12 thing had blown up.

13 MR PENNICOTT: Exactly.

14 CHAIRMAN: And anybody worth half an ounce of salt is going

15 to make sure their position is secured as possible in

16 law. So it's a defensive letter in that respect.

17 That's not a criticism, it's a statement of common

18 sense. So I have difficulty with the contents of that

19 letter.

20 MR CHOW: Very well, sir. We can attach different weight to

21 any of the documents.

22 CHAIRMAN: Yes.

23 MR CHOW: I just want to ask Prof Yeung, as an expert,

24 whether from a technical point of view, given what the

25 owner of the proprietary product tells us as to the

Page 49

1 property of his its product, what his view is going to
 2 be. But of course the views of BOSA are set out in
 3 a letter which was only issued recently, after all this
 4 has blown up, is something that the Commission can take
 5 into consideration.
 6 CHAIRMAN: We will obviously do that, should this be put
 7 before us and argued on that basis.
 8 MR CHOW: My last question on this topic is: if the measured
 9 engaged length is less than 37mm, in your opinion, is it
 10 still possible that the splicing inside the couplers is
 11 still butt-to-butt?
 12 A. Counsel, I think you are referring to the embedment
 13 length, not the engagement length, because that's not
 14 what we measure.
 15 Q. Okay. How about --
 16 A. If the embedment length is less than 37, even though we
 17 take into account of the measurement tolerance of 3mm,
 18 it won't have a minimum of 40. So there's no way you
 19 can guarantee them to be butt-to-butt. Very simple
 20 mathematics we can look at it is -- because the coupler
 21 is 88mm long, if the bar, the parent bar, has a full
 22 tolerance, it will be 48mm long. So that still have
 23 40mm for it to be butt-to-butt. If what you measure is
 24 less than 37, there's no way the threaded length into
 25 the coupler can reach the value of 40, so that means it

Page 50

1 won't be butt-to-butt.
 2 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sorry, Prof Yeung, can you just
 3 enlighten me, what's the difference between embedment
 4 length and engagement length?
 5 A. Engagement length will be, when you put the thread in,
 6 the thread will engage the thread inside the coupler.
 7 And what we measure now is -- we can measure the end of
 8 the bar, and depending on how many -- from that
 9 measurement, we cannot really deduce -- we can do some
 10 deduction but we cannot guarantee how many threads are
 11 actually engaged, because we only measure how long is
 12 the bar into the coupler.
 13 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sorry, we are receiving almost daily
 14 reports of the opening-up exercise. Are we being
 15 advised -- I need to check -- of engagement length or
 16 embedment length?
 17 A. We are measuring embedment length, because we can only
 18 measure where the end of the bar is.
 19 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Right. Okay. Thank you.
 20 CHAIRMAN: So, in very simple terms again, embedment length
 21 means it's a 10 foot bar, it's now 6 foot, so 4 feet of
 22 it's gone into the structure; that's embedment.
 23 Engagement is we've got X number of threads and it
 24 appears from our counting that six threads have actually
 25 gone in?

Page 51

1 A. Yes.
 2 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So, just to complete this,
 3 engagement less than is always shorter than embedment
 4 length?
 5 A. Correct.
 6 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you.
 7 MR PENNICOTT: Sir, the information we are getting on the
 8 table is headed "Engagement length".
 9 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: That's why -- thank you. I don't
 10 know if that's helpful or not.
 11 MR PENNICOTT: I'm just telling you, it's a fact.
 12 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So the table calls it "Engagement
 13 length"?
 14 MR PENNICOTT: It does, sir.
 15 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: But Prof Yeung would call that
 16 "embedment length"; is that correct?
 17 A. That's why I'm very careful.
 18 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: You're being careful but it appears
 19 that those providing us with the regular tables are not.
 20 So when they say "engagement length" you would say that
 21 really means embedment length, and engagement length is
 22 something shorter?
 23 A. Correct.
 24 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you.
 25 A. I can --

Page 52

1 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: No, that's -- unless you need to
 2 elaborate, I've understood that.
 3 MR CHOW: Sir, my understanding is so far that people take
 4 the reading from the ultrasonic tests as representing
 5 the engagement length for the purpose of our discussion,
 6 but --
 7 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Prof Yeung calls it something
 8 slightly different.
 9 A. That's actually the embedment length.
 10 MR CHOW: Thank you. Prof Yeung, I would like to move on to
 11 a new topic.
 12 A. Okay.
 13 Q. You recall yesterday Mr Pennicott took you to
 14 Prof McQuillan's report, paragraph 89. Can I ask you to
 15 go to the report, and I think it's in tab 1 of the
 16 bundle, at page 38, paragraph 89.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. You have been taken to subparagraph 2; do you recall
 19 that? Where Prof McQuillan says:
 20 "The geometry of the connection between the EWL slab
 21 and the east diaphragm wall, however, precludes any
 22 ductility. The structural 'plastic' deformation which
 23 might occur during seismic activity will develop lower
 24 down the D-wall."
 25 Do you see that?

Page 53

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The part I would like you to focus on is the first two

3 sentences that I've just read to you.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. My question is this. Well, you have given an answer

6 yesterday. Your answer was something like, "It depends,

7 there may be many different loading cases"; that was

8 your answer. Irrespective of that, do you agree with me

9 that to be able to form a plastic hinge at the diaphragm

10 wall below, as suggested by Prof McQuillan, there is one

11 very important prerequisite or assumption, the joint,

12 the connection between the EWL slab and the east

13 diaphragm wall, is strong enough to transfer the

14 loading. If the joint failed, then the plastic hinge

15 under the connection may never form. Do you agree or

16 not?

17 A. When you mentioned the joint failure, what is the

18 failure mechanism of the joint, before I can answer your

19 question?

20 Q. How about shear failure?

21 A. On the slab?

22 Q. No, within the joint.

23 A. I think without a detailed analysis I cannot definitely

24 answer that question.

25 Q. All right. Thank you.

Page 54

1 Do you recall yesterday you mentioned that you are

2 also of the view that the stresses inside the joint has

3 to be checked?

4 A. I think I mean the construction joint.

5 Q. Yes, the additional construction joint?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So, to that extent, you agree with the opinion of

8 Prof Francis Au; right?

9 A. Yes. But we are not saying it is not adequate. I think

10 we need to check it to make sure it's adequate. Without

11 the analysis at this point in time, we cannot say the

12 joint is not structurally adequate. We won't make that

13 opinion for the time being.

14 Q. Yes. This is also the position taken by Prof Au as

15 well.

16 If I may move on to another topic, about the

17 question of whether there is requirement in relation to

18 the use of couplers in the 2004 Concrete Code. Do you

19 recall that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. At one point, you seemed to agree with Mr Pennicott that

22 there was no requirement in relation to couplers in the

23 Concrete Code 2004. Do you recall that?

24 A. If I remember correctly, coupler is not in the Code of

25 Practice 2004.

Page 55

1 Q. All right. I'm not sure that it is the true position.

2 Let's see if I can get you to clarify. Can I first ask

3 you to take a look at the acceptance letter issued by

4 the Buildings Department, dated 25 February 2013.

5 Bundle H9, page 3908, please.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. This is an acceptance letter -- sorry, I have some

8 problem with my iPad. Just bear with me, please. Like

9 Mr Shieh, I cannot rotate the page.

10 This is the first page of the acceptance letter. If

11 we can then now go to the relevant part, the specific

12 requirement for ductile couplers, at page 3931, please.

13 You see, under paragraph 5 -- paragraph 5 is part of

14 the requirement imposed by the Buildings Department. It

15 relates to the various tests --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- that the contractor has to perform for the use of

18 couplers in the project.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Under subparagraph (a), it refers to tests specified

21 under the American code, AC133; do you see that?

22 A. I think it's the acceptance criteria.

23 Q. Yes.

24 In subparagraph (c), it refers to a requirement in

25 relation to permanent elongation of the splicing

Page 56

1 assemblies after loading to 0.6 of the yield strength

2 should not exceed 0.1 millimetre in accordance with the

3 requirements stated in clause 3.2.8.2 of the Code of

4 Practice for Structural Use of Concrete 2004; do you see

5 that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. So that is some requirement in the Concrete Code in

8 relation to maximum elongation after certain level of

9 loading is applied?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. There is also reference to AC133, which you have also

12 attached to your report. Can I ask you to go to

13 appendix II of your report, please. Appendix II of the

14 bundle ER1, tab 8.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If you go to page 3, can you confirm that the

17 section 4.1.2 contains requirement for various tests to

18 be performed on ductile couplers?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And also, if we go back to section 4.1.1, which refers

21 to "Type 1 splice", am I right to say that "type 1

22 splice" referring to this American code, actually refers

23 to non-ductile couplers?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Or they are different? Okay, right.

Page 57	1 A. Actually, they match the type I and type II of BOSA. 2 Q. I see. So you mean "type 1 splice" referred to in 3 AC133, under section 4.1.1, corresponds to the 4 non-ductile -- 5 A. The type I of BOSA. 6 Q. The type I of BOSA, and "type 2 splice" referred to in 7 paragraph 4.1.2 corresponds to type II ductile couplers 8 of BOSA? 9 A. Correct. 10 Q. So we can see there are requirements for various tests 11 to be conducted for both ductile and non-ductile 12 couplers to be used? 13 A. Correct. 14 Q. Do you want me to refer you to the relevant section of 15 the 2004 Concrete Code, just so make sure there are 16 requirements for testing? 17 A. It would be good to look at it, yes. 18 Q. Sure. Can I take you to bundle H8, page 2852. This is 19 the Code of Practice 2004. Clause 3.2.8.2, regarding 20 "Bars in tension": 21 "The only acceptable full strength butt joint 22 between bars in tension is formed using a mechanical 23 coupler satisfying the following criteria". 24 If you can turn over the page, the first bullet 25 point:
Page 59	1 permanent elongation also applies to non-ductile 2 couplers. 3 A. Correct. 4 Q. So am I right in saying that irrespective of whether it 5 is a ductile or non-ductile coupler, one has to comply 6 with the requirement as to the permanent elongation of, 7 you know, the maximum 0.1 millimetre after a loading of 8 up to 0.6 yield strength? 9 A. Correct. 10 Q. And as far as you know, BOSA has not performed 11 elongation tests to any of the partially engaged 12 couplers? 13 A. You mean the tests they conducted specifically for this 14 Commission? 15 Q. No. 16 A. No, they didn't. 17 MR CHOW: Sir, I think it's a convenient moment to have the 18 morning break. I have just one more topic to go 19 through. It will take maybe another five minutes. 20 CHAIRMAN: Then I think finishing your examination would be 21 good. Thank you. 22 MR CHOW: Prof Yeung, the last topic I would like to explore 23 with you -- 24 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, just before we move on, the question and 25 the answer that was just exchanged, it suggests that
Page 58	1 "-- when a representative gauge length assembly 2 comprising reinforcement of the diameter, grade and 3 profile to be used, and a coupler of the precise type to 4 be used, is tested in tension the permanent elongation 5 after loading to 0.6 [yield strength] should not exceed 6 0.1 millimetre; and 7 -- the coupled bar assembly tensile strength 8 should exceed 287.5 newtons per millimetre squared for 9 grade 250, and 483 newtons per millimetre squared for 10 grade 460." 11 So you confirm it's actually a requirement under the 12 2004 Concrete Code? 13 A. For couplers, yes. 14 Q. And this requirement actually applies to both ductile 15 and non-ductile couplers; correct? 16 A. I think in 2004 they may not consider ductile coupler at 17 that time. 18 Q. Okay. But the acceptance letter from the Buildings 19 Department also sets out testing requirement for 20 non-ductile couplers. Can I ask you to go back to the 21 acceptance letter, bundle H9, page 3934. This is the 22 same acceptance letter that we have just looked at, it's 23 just that this is another page under the section for 24 non-ductile couplers. Paragraph 3, in subparagraph (a), 25 we can see that similar requirement in relation to
Page 60	1 BOSA were not requested to do this or that BOSA failed 2 to do it. There's quite a difference, because BOSA is 3 not a party, and that would be a criticism of BOSA if we 4 use the suggestion "failed". But if they were not asked 5 to do it by way of later testing, that's a different 6 matter. 7 MR CHOW: Sir, the last line of questions that I asked 8 actually related to the test carried out by BOSA to the 9 partially engaged couplers for the purpose of the 10 Commission, in relation to which my instruction is that 11 the test was carried out by BOSA without the request of 12 the Buildings Department, and the Buildings Department 13 was only invited on the day of the testing to send 14 someone to witness the test. 15 It is not clear whether the test performed by BOSA 16 was originally requested by MTR or not. That is 17 something beyond my knowledge or the government's 18 knowledge. 19 CHAIRMAN: All right. That puts it into context. 20 MR CHOW: Yes. 21 MR PENNICOTT: Sir, there was certainly no failure. It may 22 be I'm in a very similar situation to Mr Chow. I'm 23 still struggling a little bit to help the Commission in 24 establishing where the initiative came from to do those 25 tests, because unless I've suffered a complete memory

Page 61	1 failure, which is quite possible, I'm not convinced it 2 was something initiated by the Commission itself, and if 3 that is correct then I'm still a little bit, as I say, 4 factually unclear as to precisely the provenance and how 5 all that came about in the first place. 6 CHAIRMAN: I accept that. 7 MR PENNICOTT: So I certainly don't think one can categorise 8 it as a failure. Clearly they either did it of their 9 own initiative or somebody asked them to do it. I don't 10 think it was the Commission and it doesn't sound as 11 though it was the government, so the number of potential 12 requesters are limited. 13 CHAIRMAN: Good. I'm sure you understand my position 14 though -- 15 MR PENNICOTT: Yes. 16 CHAIRMAN: -- that obviously if BOSA is criticised in some 17 way, it would be quite wrong for them, not being 18 parties, to just pick it up somewhere or other in the 19 media at some later stage, without being given 20 an opportunity to reply. 21 MR PENNICOTT: Of course, sir. 22 MR CHOW: Sir, can I also add this: from my recollection, 23 Mr Glover's report also mentioned about the tests as 24 something commissioned by MTRC. That is where I got 25 that impression. Perhaps we can clarify with Mr Glover	Page 63	1 this kind of change has to inform the Buildings 2 Department and get its acceptance before the 3 implementation of the changes. 4 The issue now is what is the proper classification 5 of the station box structure. The expert instructed by 6 Leighton -- 7 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I am interrupting you again; I do 8 apologise. This is a classification question, is it 9 not, that may differ from one jurisdiction to another, 10 so that in jurisdiction A -- I may be wrong here; please 11 tell me if I am. In jurisdiction A they may say this 12 type of working classifies as a foundation whereas in 13 jurisdiction B it may, depending on certain things, 14 classify as superstructure. I'm just wondering, 15 therefore, if the professor, with due acknowledgement of 16 all his skills, is actually in a position to determine 17 a classification in Hong Kong of a particular form of 18 building. 19 MR PENNICOTT: Also, sir, there's a rather broader question 20 that has arisen on a number of occasions already, as to 21 whether this is actually an issue which concerns the 22 Commission at all in any event. 23 CHAIRMAN: Because I think we made it quite clear earlier 24 on, we were not being pulled into any aspects related to 25 the sort of thing that arises in civil litigation. You
Page 62	1 later on. 2 As Mr Pennicott said, at the moment it is not clear 3 to the government as to who was the one who initiated 4 this test, but definitely not the government. 5 Prof Yeung, I have one last topic I would like to 6 explore with you. You know, when I heard about your 7 credentials, I noticed that you are a specialist in 8 geotechnical engineering. 9 A. Correct. 10 Q. One of the issues so far that has given rise is how we 11 should classify the station box structure, comprising 12 the platform slab and the diaphragm wall. 13 The position of the government or some of the 14 factual witnesses -- for example, Mr Humphrey Ho of the 15 Buildings Department considers the diaphragm wall 16 forming part of the station structure, it should be 17 considered as foundation; right? We also have evidence 18 from an Atkins engineer, for example Mr Sung, who 19 confirmed that to him the change made to the top of the 20 eastern diaphragm wall is a change made to the 21 foundation, and he also advised the Commission that 22 prior consultation has to be done with BD before the 23 implementation of the change. 24 We also have Mr Andy Leung, the design manager of 25 the MTRC, telling us that as far as he was concerned,	Page 64	1 know, you have built to this or built to that and 2 somebody has to determine what it is in law. So I'm 3 a bit concerned as to whether we should really be 4 enticed into this area. 5 MR CHOW: Sir, may I try to assist further on this point? 6 The reason why I need to ask this question actually 7 relates to one of the issues I believe that the 8 Commission would be interested in. That is whether 9 prior consultation with the Buildings Department before 10 the implementation of the changes is required. 11 Given the experts also discuss about the implication 12 of a practice note, PNAP ADM-19 -- 13 CHAIRMAN: I appreciate all of that. That's why we are 14 aware of the fact that this issue has been dealt with. 15 I don't see it falling into our terms of reference. 16 I can certainly see a situation arising as to as-built 17 drawings. I can certainly see the argument being there 18 should have been earlier consultation. And then the 19 question is whether it was required or not. But as to 20 whether it was required or not, that seems to us at the 21 moment, subject to your representations in a week or so, 22 not to be an issue for us. 23 MR CHOW: Okay. I take note of your -- 24 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I don't mean to appear rude about it, but 25 it's just one of the things we have to be careful about

Page 65	Page 67
<p>1 is we stick to our terms of reference and only to our 2 terms of reference -- 3 MR CHOW: Very well. 4 CHAIRMAN: -- and we don't get enticed into other areas; all 5 right? 6 MR CHOW: In that case, I have no more questions. Thank 7 you. 8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. 9 MR CHOW: Thank you, Prof Yeung. 10 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, Mr Pennicott, as counsel to the tribunal 11 does that roughly accord with your approach? 12 MR PENNICOTT: It does, sir, yes. 13 MR SO: Sir, I have some re-examination. I'm entirely in 14 your hands as to whether you want me to do it now. 15 CHAIRMAN: It's now nearly 12 o'clock, so we will allow for 16 tea or coffee now. 17 MR SO: Thank you. 18 CHAIRMAN: Quarter of an hour. 19 (11.54 am) 20 (A short adjournment) 21 (12.17 pm) 22 MR KHAW: Mr Chairman and Mr Commissioner, just on the last 23 point that was discussed between Mr Chow and the 24 Commission regarding the terms of reference before the 25 morning break -- I heard what the Commission said and</p>	<p>1 foundation, et cetera. 2 So it is actually in relation to this particular 3 area that this issue has arisen. 4 I have also checked the transcript regarding this 5 Monday. In fact when Prof Au was giving evidence, 6 Mr Shieh also referred Mr Au to a particular passage in 7 Mr Southward's report regarding this classification in 8 relation to the structure. 9 CHAIRMAN: You are right. 10 MR SHIEH: That's because the government asked Prof Au 11 a question along those lines and that's what prompted me 12 to ask him that question. 13 The whole thing about foundation came about because 14 the government witnesses made a point that whether or 15 not consultation is needed or not needed may turn on the 16 interpretation of that particular practice note, which 17 then turns on whether or not the D-wall counts as part 18 of the foundation. 19 CHAIRMAN: That's right. 20 MR SHIEH: Which is the origin of all this. 21 CHAIRMAN: Sorry to interrupt. I'll let you continue in 22 a second. What has concerned the Commission is this. 23 We appreciate the issue is one of when this decision was 24 made or before it was implemented, should there have 25 been representations made to the Buildings Department.</p>
Page 66	Page 68
<p>1 I heard what Mr Pennicott said. I don't want to argue 2 this point with anybody but it's just that I have a duty 3 to point out that this may have a direct bearing on the 4 scope of the closing submissions that our team has been 5 working on. 6 CHAIRMAN: Yes. 7 MR KHAW: During the break, I had a look at Mr Pennicott's 8 second opening address. In fact if I can very briefly 9 refer to one of his sentences which in fact had been 10 formulated as primary topics of enquiry, one of the 11 question which has been formulated is this: 12 "In relation to the connection between the east 13 diaphragm wall and the EWL slab and, in particular, the 14 reinforcement steel arrangement in respect thereof, 15 separately in relation to area A, area HKC, area B, 16 area C1, area C2 and area C3 ..." 17 Under his (v) it says: 18 "Insofar as the as-built situation differs from the 19 original design/specification, what reporting to the 20 government ought to have been taken place, if any, when 21 and by whom?" 22 I believe it is in this context that parties have 23 put forward various arguments regarding the 24 interpretation of this PNAP no. 19. That actually gives 25 rise to this question in relation to superstructure,</p>	<p>1 One can look at that more holistically by saying one 2 needs to build up a culture of cooperation and close 3 liaison; it becomes a joint endeavour in these things. 4 Or one can look at it, perhaps -- and I'm just giving 5 examples at the moment -- from a much more restrictive 6 legal perspective, which then becomes a case of saying: 7 in order to determine whether this was a design change, 8 as opposed to not a design change, one therefore has to 9 determine whether what was being changed was 10 a foundation as opposed to a superstructure. It's then 11 required for the Commission to make a legal 12 determination of what, under existing regulations in 13 Hong Kong, constitutes a foundation in respect of the 14 diaphragm walls, et cetera, et cetera. 15 That becomes a peculiar and particular legal issue, 16 and I don't know that we are -- there may be occasions 17 when it is necessary to do so, and we would be very 18 happy to be educated on this, but that's our major 19 concern. 20 Then, of course, what are we going to do -- is 21 somebody going to appeal that on the basis that actually 22 we've got it wrong, it's not a foundation, it's 23 a superstructure? It becomes a peculiar legal issue 24 that we want to try to avoid. Do you see what I mean? 25 MR KHAW: (Nodded head).</p>

Page 69	Page 71
<p>1 MR SHIEH: In fact it resonates, from Leighton's 2 perspective, with one observation which came from the 3 Commission at a certain juncture where the Commission 4 actually observed that the Commission is well aware of 5 certain actions taken by the government in respect of 6 Leighton prior to the commencement of the Inquiry, but 7 the Commission is not going to enter into 8 a determination of the civil aspects of any matters 9 which may transpire between Leighton and the government 10 There may be all kinds of legal disputes subsequently 11 arising. 12 CHAIRMAN: Yes, of course. Sorry, Mr Khaw, I'll let you 13 stand in a second. We are aware that these are the 14 issues, and we've allowed some debate on the issue, 15 because unless we understand the issue we can't know, 16 for example -- and this is off the top of my head -- 17 whether something should come forward from this 18 Commission suggesting more cooperative manoeuvres or 19 steps in future between the Buildings Department and 20 various contractors and the like. So we have to know 21 something about it. 22 But we don't want to be taken so far into the jaws 23 of it that we get chewed up in a legal debate which then 24 becomes a legal decision which should really come from 25 a court of the classic kind as opposed to a Commission</p>	<p>1 doubt Mr Shieh can confirm this -- you will recall that 2 on 27 November Mr Shieh and his team put in -- I think 3 it's somewhere in the bundle; I'm not sure -- 4 a submission on the design change issue, which as 5 I understood it was indeed an attempt, by Leighton at 6 least, to take the Commission away from deciding these 7 issues. 8 Certainly since then, I'm bound to say I've been 9 trying to row the Leighton boat on that particular 10 point, that the Commission shouldn't get involved in 11 deciding these rather complex issues which, as you've 12 said, sir, are rather more relevant perhaps to 13 commercial litigation or arbitration or however it may 14 be resolved in the future, if it needs to be. 15 CHAIRMAN: Yes. 16 MR PENNICOTT: Sir, that's really how I have been 17 approaching it since all the evidence has emerged about 18 the construction of the provisions of the Ordinance and 19 the contractual documents. 20 CHAIRMAN: Yes. 21 MR SHIEH: That is indeed our position. May I echo what the 22 Chairman has said? It is one thing to say on a high 23 level of generality at the very beginning, "Let's 24 enquire whether or not anyone should be made known about 25 it, et cetera, at an earlier stage." But if, as things</p>
Page 70	Page 72
<p>1 of Inquiry. 2 Mr Khaw, you may want to answer that. 3 MR PENNICOTT: Can I just make some observations as well, 4 very briefly? 5 Obviously, what was said in the opening submissions 6 has been accurately read out by Mr Khaw and I have no 7 difficulty with that. But what we have here is 8 a dynamic process, and I am bound to say that when 9 I wrote that -- and I take full responsibility for it, 10 of course -- I have to say I was completely unaware of 11 where all this was going to lead. I had no idea 12 of course that all of this ultimately might hinge on the 13 question of whether or not this was a foundation or not 14 a foundation and all of that. 15 I had more in mind at the time that this was 16 actually going into a potential project management issue 17 as to how the MTR and Leighton on the one hand should 18 have communicated with the government, was there 19 a breakdown? It was more seen as a project management 20 issue than a technical issue, if you like, that it seems 21 to have turned into. 22 So, in defence of myself, if I can say so, 23 I honestly didn't understand the technicalities that 24 obviously have emerged as we have progressed. As 25 I understand it, from Leighton's position -- and no</p>	<p>1 transpired, the finer points of detail are no longer 2 whether something should have been sent -- we know 3 something had been sent -- but whether or not, on a fine 4 legal construction, that amounted to a proper form of 5 statutory application or consultation, that is 6 a completely different kettle of fish and which we had 7 suggested the Commission should stay away from. 8 If what the government wants is some assurance that 9 this is not what the terms of reference require and not 10 what the Commission is going to get into, I hope and 11 I think the government has its answer. 12 But if what the government now wants is to 13 positively press for it, then I would respectfully 14 suggest some underlying agenda which is unknown to us. 15 In other words, if they want assurance, I suspect they 16 would have got their assurance by now, but if they go 17 any further, then I hear what they say. 18 MR KHAW: Certainly no hidden agenda whatsoever. I just 19 want to make myself clear, Mr Chairman and 20 Mr Commissioner. My point is simply this. I'm not 21 trying to encourage anyone in fact to really labour this 22 point. This is certainly not my intention. I only 23 wanted to make sure that we will cover everything in our 24 closing submissions in order to assist the Commission. 25 Another point that Mr Shieh raised is that it's the</p>

Page 73

1 government's stance that we need to have
 2 an interpretation on this PNAP no. 19. In fact we never
 3 raised it in the first place. It is Leighton who tried
 4 to convince the Commission that they did not need to
 5 report this change to the Buildings Department, ie they
 6 rely on this practice note to say it's not necessary.
 7 That is why this interpretation of the practice note
 8 came into being. It was never the government's case
 9 that this was relevant.

10 But since Leighton has raised this point, we have to
 11 meet this case by doing an interpretation on the
 12 practice note in relation to this narrow part regarding
 13 the classification of the structure.

14 Of course, if it is now Mr Shieh's case that
 15 Leighton is not going to run this argument, that "This
 16 is a superstructure, not a foundation; we are not going
 17 to rely on the interpretation of this PNAP no. 19", I'm
 18 perfectly fine with that and we don't need to actually
 19 deal with this particular argument.

20 But when we look at it, they actually have chosen to
 21 raise this point again in their expert report.
 22 I believe they still find it necessary to do so. That
 23 is why, just as a matter of prudence, we would like to
 24 clarify this point, because if they are going to run
 25 this point and they are going to rely on the

Page 74

1 classification of the structure, and if Mr Chow is now
 2 not given a chance to ask Prof Yeung this question, we
 3 may not have a complete picture regarding this narrow
 4 point on classification. That is my only concern.

5 CHAIRMAN: I think you can accept from us -- we have
 6 discussed this matter, so this is not
 7 an off-the-shoulder answer to you; far from it, we've
 8 discussed it on more than one occasion -- and we are of
 9 the view that it is not for this Commission to make
 10 a legal decision in this instance, which it would be, as
 11 to whether the diaphragm walls in this particular
 12 structure constitute foundations in accordance with the
 13 prevailing regulations, statutes, bylaws, et cetera,
 14 that prevail in Hong Kong.

15 So, that said, it's clearly a very important issue
 16 because it sets the scene and contains within its
 17 parameters the reason for a lot of dynamic happenings
 18 that have taken up the time. So we will expect from
 19 parties who believe it's relevant to their case that the
 20 issues should be there, but we will not, at the end of
 21 the day, make a decision on that limited legal point of
 22 whether the diaphragm walls in this structure constitute
 23 foundations in accordance with the law of Hong Kong.

24 MR KHAW: I'm very grateful for the clarification,
 25 Mr Chairman.

Page 75

1 CHAIRMAN: Good. Can I also just say -- I appreciate that
 2 parties have in the past and will continue to do so,
 3 that they will look to what may have been said for
 4 counsel for the Commission at the outset. That's quite
 5 proper. There's no criticism at all. However, unlike
 6 litigation of the classic kind, where the chess pieces
 7 are set up ready to be moved -- that's why whenever you
 8 take a civil case to court, it takes you so long,
 9 because the pleadings have to be prepared -- with
 10 a Commission of Inquiry which commences within a much
 11 more limited scope of time, the chess pieces make their
 12 own way onto the stage, bit by bit. It's a much more
 13 fluid, a much more progressive process. It's
 14 an inquiry, and inquiries you have to follow your nose
 15 in many respects.

16 Good. So what Mr Pennicott's nose tells him at one
 17 time, the combined olfactory wisdom of everybody may say
 18 shouldn't influence us at a later stage.

19 Good. Thank you very much.

20 MR SO: In that case, I wonder if Mr Chow would --

21 CHAIRMAN: Yes, I was just waiting. I think Mr Chow was
 22 having a brief final discussion with Mr Khaw.

23 MR CHOW: Prof Yeung, just before the break, I was going to
 24 ask you -- you recall about the classification of the
 25 station box structure; right? You recall that?

Page 76

1 A. I think we were talking about the diaphragm wall in
 2 particular.

3 Q. Yes. What I was going to say is that according to
 4 Mr Southward's expert report, having made reference to
 5 a foundation analysis and design textbook, Mr Southward
 6 takes the view that the station box in question should
 7 be treated as a superstructure. Do you agree?

8 A. I think that's not in his report. I think he's saying,
 9 if my recollection is correct, the diaphragm wall below
 10 the EWL slab is a foundation, but then above the EWL
 11 slab is not. I think that's what he said in his report.
 12 Correct me if I'm wrong.

13 Q. Yes. Perhaps it's easier for me to refer you to
 14 a particular part of his report, section 14.2, page 40
 15 of Mr Southward's report.

16 A. I think you are referring to page 41, internal page
 17 number.

18 Q. Page 41 is the figure, the figure 13 referred to by
 19 Mr Southward on page 40. In page 40, under
 20 section 14.2 --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- Mr Southward refers to a foundation analysis and
 23 design textbook, and in particular he refers to
 24 a sentence stated in the textbook which says:
 25 "The foundation is the part of an engineered system

Page 77	<p>1 which transmits to, and into, the underlying soil or 2 rock the loads supported by the foundation and its 3 self-weight." 4 Then he goes on to refer to the Code of Practice for 5 Foundations 2017, which provides: 6 "Foundation. That part of a building, building 7 works, structure or street in direct contact with and 8 transmitting loads to the ground.' 9 The term diaphragm wall is explained by the 10 Buildings Department in the same publication as follows: 11 'A diaphragm wall may be used as a temporary lateral 12 support wall for deep excavation or the permanent wall 13 of a basement, or it may be designed for both temporary 14 and permanent uses. It may also be used to support 15 vertical loads." 16 Then Mr Southward continues to say: 17 "In the context of the SCL1112 station box 18 structure ..." 19 Now, the station box structure is the one that you 20 were just pointing out to us, figure 13, turn over the 21 page, it's the part comprising the ground, EWL slab, the 22 purple NSL slab and the section of diaphragm wall in 23 between the two slabs, as the station box structure. 24 In the penultimate paragraph, Mr Southward 25 concluded:</p>	Page 79	<p>1 going to often find areas where highly respected experts 2 may agree on definition, or may disagree on definition? 3 A. Not frequently. 4 CHAIRMAN: No, but when you've got an in-depth investigation 5 of this kind, you may find that happening? 6 A. I have seldom see for one structural member get two 7 definitions, because diaphragm wall is one single entity 8 and it was actually built in one piece. 9 CHAIRMAN: Okay. Fine. Thank you very much. 10 MR SO: Thank you, sir. 11 Professor, I have two topics that I wish to discuss 12 with you. The first one is arising out of a discussion 13 you had between yourself and Prof Hansford this morning 14 about the engagement length and embedment length issue. 15 Prof Yeung, I heard that you told us in your answers 16 to Prof Hansford that the current tests could only 17 measure the engagement length but not the embedment 18 length -- 19 A. No, it's the other way around. 20 Q. The other way around. Only the embedment length but not 21 the engagement length. Can you tell us why this is so? 22 A. The technique we are using is actually sending 23 an ultrasound wave into the bar. And then when the wave 24 hits the end of the bar, it gets reflected back, and 25 then by measuring the length of time it takes, we know</p>
Page 78	<p>1 "This element of the overall structure should be 2 termed the superstructure." 3 Do you see that? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Do you agree with his conclusion? 6 A. No, I don't. 7 Q. How would you classify this part of the station box 8 structure? 9 A. If you look at the structure itself, the weight or the 10 load on the EWL slab will be transmitted to that part of 11 the diaphragm wall, and through that diaphragm wall it 12 will transmit the load to the ground. So if you look at 13 all the definitions, that remains a foundation. 14 The second thing is you also see from the figure, 15 you see the ground level. So that part, the whole box, 16 is underground, so it cannot be called "superstructure". 17 Q. So how would you describe it, foundation or substructure 18 or whatever, something else? 19 A. I will call this a foundation. 20 MR CHOW: Thank you, Prof Yeung. I have no more questions. 21 Re-examination by MR SO 22 MR SO: Prof Yeung, I have two topics -- 23 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I do apologise for interrupting. 24 So that, Professor, would reveal the point that 25 whenever you have investigations of this kind, you are</p>	Page 80	<p>1 where the end of the bar is. That's why we call it 2 embedment length. 3 In between are all the threads and the threads are 4 engaged to the coupler. So this thread doesn't tell us 5 how many threads are engaged. So we are trying to make 6 a deduction now is: if we know where the end of the bar 7 is and try to -- make that to deduce how many threads 8 are within that section. 9 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Forgive me, because I'm quite keen 10 to understand this point. 11 MR SO: Sure. 12 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So in your view the difference 13 between the embedment length and the engagement length 14 is the chamfer; is that correct? 15 A. In this case, yes. 16 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: And the chamfer, I think we said 17 yesterday, was a maximum of 2 millimetres? 18 A. Correct. 19 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So therefore, in your view, the 20 engagement is 2 millimetres short of the embedment 21 length? 22 A. At most. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: At most, maximum. Okay. 24 MR SO: Thank you. Actually that's the next question I was 25 going to ask and I'm very grateful the professor has</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 helped to resolve that matter.</p> <p>2 I will move to the second topic I wish to discuss</p> <p>3 with you. The second topic is arising out of your</p> <p>4 discussion with the learned Chairman this morning.</p> <p>5 There was a lot of debate between yourself with other</p> <p>6 counsel as to the definition of "butt-to-butt" and the</p> <p>7 stipulation where BOSA said there would be a tolerance</p> <p>8 of maximum up to two threads.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. I remember this morning when you were trying to explain</p> <p>11 the mechanism, you want to give us some examples and the</p> <p>12 details of that.</p> <p>13 A. Mm-hmm.</p> <p>14 Q. I understand that the secretary has kindly prepared</p> <p>15 a pen next to yourself. Can you try to help us</p> <p>16 demonstrate graphically why butt-to-butt would be</p> <p>17 equivalent to what you have told us to be the two-thread</p> <p>18 tolerance?</p> <p>19 A. Okay.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I think you will need the microphone</p> <p>21 with you.</p> <p>22 A. Let me draw it first.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Okay.</p> <p>24 A. (Drawing on the whiteboard) So what I draw here is on</p> <p>25 the top will be the type A bar. The type A bar was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 sentence you have told us -- so if the parent bar is</p> <p>2 48mm, so by a simple calculation we would know the</p> <p>3 remaining bar would be 40mm only into the coupler?</p> <p>4 A. Correct.</p> <p>5 Q. So if it takes up to 48mm in the other bar, then it will</p> <p>6 be at most two pitches; is that what you are trying to</p> <p>7 say?</p> <p>8 A. That is if both bars are at the maximum tolerance.</p> <p>9 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 I would like to bring you to page OU135. I believe</p> <p>11 this is the up-to-date opening-up result.</p> <p>12 MR PENNICOTT: The very latest is 338.</p> <p>13 MR SO: I heard it was 338. I'm not sure which is the most</p> <p>14 updated one.</p> <p>15 MR PENNICOTT: 338.</p> <p>16 MR SO: Thank you. This is the 15 January opening-up</p> <p>17 result. Can I bring you to the last page of it.</p> <p>18 A. So this is 352 then.</p> <p>19 MR PENNICOTT: The last page.</p> <p>20 MR SO: Yes. Thank you.</p> <p>21 In my examination-in-chief, and of course it was</p> <p>22 also cross-examined by Mr Pennicott on this topic,</p> <p>23 regarding the opening-up results, you were asked by</p> <p>24 Mr Pennicott and also by Mr Paul Shieh, if the standard</p> <p>25 was changed, then the opening-up results would be</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 designed to be the threaded section, by design it's</p> <p>2 44mm. In real-life construction or manufacturing,</p> <p>3 there's no way we can make it exactly 44 all the time.</p> <p>4 That's why, in engineering, we have something we call</p> <p>5 the tolerance. And by the design of BOSA, BOSA make the</p> <p>6 tolerance, they make sure that the threaded length is</p> <p>7 always greater than 44. Their tolerance didn't allow</p> <p>8 anything to be less than 44. Then this tolerance, they</p> <p>9 allow it to be the maximum would be 4mm.</p> <p>10 So that threaded section will be from 44 to 48, in</p> <p>11 reality. Then the coupler itself will be 88mm.</p> <p>12 So what it shows on that picture is if the two bar</p> <p>13 that we try to put in, both the parent bar and the</p> <p>14 continuation bar, if they are both 44, so both will get</p> <p>15 in and they butt-to-butt, 44 plus 44 equal to 88. On</p> <p>16 the other hand now, we may get a situation now is: both</p> <p>17 bars reach their maximum tolerance, that becomes the</p> <p>18 figure on the right-most, that becomes 48 plus 48. And</p> <p>19 also the installation procedure, we say the coupler</p> <p>20 needs to go into the end first, so that the parent bar</p> <p>21 will take up already 48. As the coupler is only</p> <p>22 88 millimetres long, so the continuation bar, when it</p> <p>23 comes in, it can only go in for 40, and that's exactly</p> <p>24 why you get two threads sticking out from that side.</p> <p>25 MR SO: Just following from what you have told us, the last</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 different in terms of the failure rate.</p> <p>2 Do you remember that exchange you had with</p> <p>3 Mr Pennicott yesterday?</p> <p>4 A. I think we are talking about the acceptance criteria.</p> <p>5 Q. Exactly. So, with your -- after your oral synopsis and</p> <p>6 with your criteria that you have proposed to this</p> <p>7 Commission, can you tell us what is the percentage of</p> <p>8 the failure rate, if using your standard?</p> <p>9 A. So that means we start to count all the numbers here?</p> <p>10 Q. I think we have the total numbers at the end. There are</p> <p>11 altogether 75.</p> <p>12 A. 75, okay. Can it come down a little bit?</p> <p>13 Q. Maybe you can be given a hard copy. I think that would</p> <p>14 be more convenient for you to count.</p> <p>15 A. The hard copy is extremely small.</p> <p>16 Q. I see.</p> <p>17 A. Okay, good.</p> <p>18 Okay, go up.</p> <p>19 Okay, move.</p> <p>20 Move up. Okay.</p> <p>21 I got 45 that are less than 40. So 45 divided by 75</p> <p>22 is 60 per cent.</p> <p>23 Q. The last question I have for you, in light of that: in</p> <p>24 your expert opinion, and in your expert opinion in</p> <p>25 referring to the terms of reference of this Commission</p>

Page 85	Page 87
<p>1 of Inquiry, it's your expert opinion that the structural 2 integrity is now compromised, not compromised, or you 3 have doubt? 4 A. We see 60 per cent of the couplers not installed 5 properly in the sample, so by statistics that means, in 6 the population, you may get a little bit more or less, 7 depending on the margin of error in the sampling. But 8 with 60 per cent not construct according to the drawing, 9 and before I can have a chance to do a very detailed 10 analysis on the existing conditions, the best I would 11 say is I have doubt on the structural integrity of the 12 structure. 13 MR SO: Thank you very much. I have no further questions. 14 CHAIRMAN: Good. Any questions arising from that? Because 15 that sort of came out at the end. 16 Professor, thank you very much indeed. I think we 17 kept you somewhat longer than intended. But thank you 18 for all your help. It's been of great value. Thank you 19 very much indeed. 20 WITNESS: Thank you. 21 (The witness was released) 22 MR PENNICOTT: Sir, I see it's about 1.50, is it? 23 CHAIRMAN: It is, yes. 24 MR PENNICOTT: Mr Southward is the next expert to give 25 evidence. Can I suggest perhaps we break for lunch now</p>	<p>1 handed to you I think in October. 2 However, and as will be apparent from the last 3 answer that Prof Yeung gave, safety now seems to be 4 determined by reference to the opening-up, one would 5 have thought perhaps exclusively by reference to the 6 opening-up, and in particular the arbitrary, we would 7 say, pass or fail measurement of 37 millimetres which 8 the government has imposed upon MTR; secondly, the issue 9 of engagement or embedment, and very recently whether 10 rebars will butt-to-butt. 11 We are very concerned about this because none of 12 these matters were investigated in the factual evidence. 13 For example, there was evidence that BOSA gave 14 instruction courses to the workers. It wasn't 15 investigated whether there was any direction that it 16 ought to be butt-to-butt or whatever. But we are very 17 concerned as to whether it's going to be suggested in 18 some way that MTR -- Leightons must speak for 19 themselves -- are responsible for the way the case on 20 safety or lack of safety is now being put, whether it's 21 going to be suggested that instead of satisfying 22 ourselves that there was a maximum of two threads 23 showing, we should have had some sort of x-ray machine 24 and we should have been looking for embedment or 25 engagement. We don't know whether it's going to be</p>
Page 86	Page 88
<p>1 and come back a bit earlier? 2 CHAIRMAN: Yes. 3 MR PENNICOTT: Perhaps come back at 2.05 or something of 4 that nature? 5 CHAIRMAN: That sounds good. So we will adjourn now until 6 2.05. Thank you. 7 (12.53 pm) 8 (The luncheon adjournment) 9 (2.14 pm) 10 MR BOULDING: Sir, before Mr Southward is called, I wonder 11 if I can make one or two observations on behalf of MTR 12 as to quite where we are going now. 13 It seems a long time ago but when the Commission of 14 Inquiry started, perhaps the two most important matters 15 to enquire into was firstly the issue of the cut rebar 16 and secondly the connection detail, and you will recall 17 that that was the focus of the evidence over a number of 18 weeks, and of course it was against those two matters 19 primarily, if not exclusively, that issues of safety 20 were to be considered. 21 But we have now moved on to the opening-up phase 22 which, as I understand it, was directed initially at 23 establishing the extent of the cut bars and secondly 24 whether the connection detail was in accordance with the 25 as-built drawings as prepared by Leighton and MTR, and</p>	<p>1 suggested against us. And it's not entirely -- 2 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, suggested that you should have had some 3 sort of technology available to you at the time that the 4 couplers were coupled? 5 MR BOULDING: Exactly, whether our inspectors or supervisors 6 should have been watching out for butt-to-butt, and if 7 so how, and so on and so forth. 8 So I don't know what the answer is but I did feel it 9 appropriate just to put down a marker at this stage 10 because we do seem to be moving quite a considerable way 11 from where we started. 12 CHAIRMAN: Yes. It's one of the dangers of an inquiry of 13 this kind. I confess to having considerable sympathy 14 because both Prof Hansford and myself have been 15 burrowing away behind our closed doors, looking for 16 example to BOSA's evidence, and going back to some of 17 the original employees and things like that, to find out 18 did anything arise about these issues, and at the moment 19 it seems not. 20 MR BOULDING: As you will have heard this morning, you heard 21 me refer to Mr Wong's evidence, and he was looking for 22 the 2 millimetres. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Two threads. 24 MR BOULDING: Two threads, I'm sorry -- and I put it to 25 Prof Yeung that he appeared to have in mind the BOSA</p>

Page 89	Page 91
<p>1 recommendation and he agreed with me.</p> <p>2 That seems to me to be a test that we ought to have</p> <p>3 been looking for. If we found the two threads,</p> <p>4 a maximum of two threads, job done. Now it appears to</p> <p>5 be progressing somewhat from that, and I don't know</p> <p>6 what's going to be suggested at the end of the day, so</p> <p>7 far as we're concerned, and of course so far as Leighton</p> <p>8 is concerned because -- Mr Paul Shieh is obviously very</p> <p>9 competent and will be looking after their interests, but</p> <p>10 I don't know whether it's going to be suggested that</p> <p>11 Leightons were somehow in breach of contract through</p> <p>12 failing to achieve butt-to-butt on every single coupler.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN: Well, butt-to-butt is brand new to us.</p> <p>14 MR BOULDING: And to me.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN: Look, this is a danger we run. We have had in</p> <p>16 progress, and still have in progress, a collateral</p> <p>17 exercise, namely one of opening up, conducted</p> <p>18 essentially independently of the Inquiry, and that</p> <p>19 collateral exercise is being judged and assessed</p> <p>20 independently. So what we have to do, I think, is just</p> <p>21 try to stay abreast of that, and if we have to recall</p> <p>22 a number of witnesses, even if, with the greatest of</p> <p>23 respect, it means calling them after normal working</p> <p>24 hours or something like that, just so we can clarify</p> <p>25 some matters, then I think we may have to do so. That's</p>	<p>1 terms of reference; it may throw up matters outside of</p> <p>2 the allegation of cutting of threads, which ironically</p> <p>3 was the only thing Mr Poon alleged at the very outset</p> <p>4 which gave rise to media enquiry, and I would add it's</p> <p>5 somewhat ironic that Mr Poon and China Tech, and the</p> <p>6 experts engaged by China Tech now see fit to have</p> <p>7 a roving enquiry on matters outside of the allegations</p> <p>8 originally made. These are all matters we will make in</p> <p>9 due course.</p> <p>10 But in order to assist the Commission, because the</p> <p>11 Commission when it asked for the experts' evidence to be</p> <p>12 reduced into a kind of synopsis, the Commission did ask</p> <p>13 for the experts to comment on opening-up,</p> <p>14 understandably, and the experts will be commenting on</p> <p>15 that.</p> <p>16 But it is not to be taken as somehow Leighton</p> <p>17 accepting that somehow we are to be taken as being fully</p> <p>18 equipped or prepared to deal with a hitherto</p> <p>19 unarticulated cause for concern, namely bars, albeit not</p> <p>20 cut, for whatever reason, now having been detected to be</p> <p>21 not possessing the arbitrarily imposed 40 millimetres</p> <p>22 engaged or embedded length.</p> <p>23 As the discussion we have seen so far, we have all</p> <p>24 been trying to "interpret" in lawyerly fashion what BOSA</p> <p>25 has written back then and maybe a couple of weeks ago.</p>
Page 90	Page 92
<p>1 just off the top of my head.</p> <p>2 MR BOULDING: Of course.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN: But we share your concerns, Mr Boulding.</p> <p>4 MR SHIEH: May I simply add that Mr Chairman had his fingers</p> <p>5 on the nub of the matter, namely that we actually have</p> <p>6 two parallel processes going on. As perhaps of</p> <p>7 a political knee-jerk reaction or whatever may be the</p> <p>8 reason, the administration appointed a Commission of</p> <p>9 Inquiry, and then as things went by, someone came up</p> <p>10 with an idea of some experts getting their heads</p> <p>11 together and then an opening-up exercise going on, when</p> <p>12 the Commission of Inquiry was actually deep into its</p> <p>13 hearings.</p> <p>14 One of the points we may make in our closing</p> <p>15 submission is that usually, in prior Commissions of</p> <p>16 Inquiries in the past few years, one has an undisputed</p> <p>17 incident or catastrophe, such as a ship collision or</p> <p>18 lead found in drinking water, where nobody is seriously</p> <p>19 disputing what actually happened, so people can</p> <p>20 meaningfully find out why it happened, with no one</p> <p>21 having any particular axe to grind; whereas now we are</p> <p>22 obviously having a rather different animal.</p> <p>23 The opening-up results show matters which may cut</p> <p>24 across the cutting of threads aspect, which we</p> <p>25 respectfully suggest would fall within the ambit of the</p>	<p>1 That is unsatisfactory. All I can say is we will do our</p> <p>2 best to assist by commenting on the issues of opening-up</p> <p>3 but with an eye to ultimately addressing the issues</p> <p>4 raised by the terms of reference, which actually are</p> <p>5 referable back to allegations made way back in May, as</p> <p>6 publicised by the media.</p> <p>7 MR SO: Mr Chairman, if I may respond.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR SO: I have two points to address. First is in regards</p> <p>10 to Mr Boulding's observation as per whether there would</p> <p>11 be allegations on the part of in particular China</p> <p>12 Technology as to whether there are failures in</p> <p>13 supervisory plan.</p> <p>14 As far as I'm concerned, I'm not trying to make</p> <p>15 submission or giving evidence from the bar table, but</p> <p>16 insofar as we read the evidence of Prof Yeung and read</p> <p>17 the evidence of Mr Paulino Lim from BOSA in collective</p> <p>18 terms, it seems that the butt-to-butt requirement would</p> <p>19 effectively be satisfied if the requirement of BOSA that</p> <p>20 no more than two threads are being exposed. So, in</p> <p>21 effect, the supervision would have been done without the</p> <p>22 need of, say, what Mr Boulding is suggesting, x-ray</p> <p>23 detection of that point. Of course this will be</p> <p>24 reserved to our closing submissions as to whether this</p> <p>25 is tenable or an appropriate interpretation in terms of</p>

Page 93

1 evidence.

2 But insofar as the second point I wish to address,

3 regarding whether we are shifting focus on the terms of

4 reference, I wish to quote a small bit of transcript.

5 If I may be so bold as to invite the Commission to look

6 at Day 8 of the transcript, page 97, at lines 8 to 18.

7 This is the cross-examination of Mr Pennicott, counsel

8 for the Commission, against Mr Jason Poon.

9 There Mr Poon deliberately made clear that:

10 "For T40 table, above that T40 table, it's clear,

11 external thread tolerance is 4mm, right, and metric

12 thread per pitch, that means for every thread, every

13 circle of thread, the distance is 40.5 metric times

14 4 millimetres. That means this table already tells

15 you -- this is the table approved by BD, it's telling

16 you that in the other paper of BOSA, to say that we

17 could leave out two or three threads and that's already

18 outside the tolerance limit, if the tolerance limit is

19 just one thread or no more than one thread, the pitch,

20 crest to crest, that is."

21 Now, of course the terminology adopted by Mr Poon is

22 "crest to crest". As for now, we are mentioning a new

23 term, "butt-to-butt". But I must say, this term or this

24 allegation made by China Technology is in no way out of

25 the blue, neither are involved parties being ambushed.

Page 94

1 This is clearly being revealed in the course of the

2 evidence that this Commission has heard. Therefore,

3 I would, in my most respectful submission, say the

4 Commission will not taken by surprise that there is such

5 an allegation that threads are now not fully engaged or

6 fully threaded into the couplers. That evidence is

7 clear there and I leave the evidence there until we make

8 further submissions in our closing. Thank you.

9 MR BOULDING: Sir, I will just observe that when the phrase

10 "crest to crest" is being used, it's being used in the

11 context of the thread and the pitch. It's not being

12 used in the sense of butt-to-butt.

13 CHAIRMAN: Yes. Thank you.

14 The position as I see it -- and I don't have the

15 terms of reference directly in front of me -- is

16 essentially and primarily that we have to conduct

17 an inquiry in order to be satisfied that the structures

18 which are subject of the inquiry are safe.

19 It is, of course, regrettable that this issue of

20 butt-to-butt or this issue of embedment and/or

21 engagement of the rebars into the couplers should have

22 arisen so late in the day. It has arisen, from what we

23 can see, because of an independent and collateral set of

24 proceedings, entirely legitimate and very helpful in

25 themselves, conducted outside of the Commission of

Page 95

1 Inquiry; that is the opening-up exercise and that has

2 raised new issues.

3 I think for us to say, "Sorry, it's not really part

4 of our terms of reference as we saw them originally" is

5 not acceptable. The fact of the matter is the public

6 expects us to consider all matters that are relevant to

7 safety of the structures within the terms of reference,

8 and if it means that we have to spend a bit more time

9 calling back some witnesses or looking at new aspects of

10 evidence in order to satisfy ourselves, then that we

11 will have to do. I think the public would quite rightly

12 believe that they had been severely let down by this

13 Commission if we were to deal with cut rebars and

14 despite the public concern say nothing about the

15 opening-up issues that have arisen.

16 So I think I make myself quite clear there.

17 If it means we have to burn the midnight oil, then

18 we will have to do that, or if it means that because the

19 matter becomes one of central importance to this Inquiry

20 and we ourselves are not able properly to submit our

21 report to the Chief Executive until we are better

22 informed on this issue of opening-up, then we will have

23 to inform the Chief Executive of that fact. We are not

24 going to be found wanting in our desire to give to the

25 public a full report because the report is due in in

Page 96

1 a week's time when we could easily put it in in three

2 weeks' time, for example. Quite clearly, the public

3 will want -- they are happy to wait an extra two weeks

4 and get a proper report.

5 That's our view on that.

6 That said, we share the concerns that this has

7 arisen so late in the day and we will make sure that we

8 can properly deal with it so that everybody, all the

9 parties that appear here, are given a full and fair

10 hearing. That includes the government and includes MTR

11 and Leighton, as well as the sub-contractors.

12 So we will proceed on that basis. It may well be,

13 of course -- and let me say this emphatically -- that

14 while we have given absolute weight and will consider

15 most anxiously the reports of the two experts who have

16 already given evidence before the Commission, there are

17 three more experts still to give evidence, and it's our

18 duty to be able to assess all of that expert evidence,

19 and it may well colour our view as we proceed.

20 One of the reasons why Prof Hansford sits on this

21 Commission of Inquiry is because it was accepted by

22 those who constituted this Inquiry that somebody of

23 international eminence in engineering matters, both as

24 to structural matters and as to project management

25 matters, must sit with me.

Page 97

1 So clearly, all of these issues fall under our ambit
 2 and all will be considered. I don't think I need to say
 3 anything further. I think we all know where we stand.
 4 But we will keep a running eye on this and see how we
 5 can assist. We ourselves may wish to have somebody
 6 called back to give more evidence. We don't know.
 7 MR SHIEH: Mr Chairman and Professor, may I next call our
 8 expert for Leighton, Nick Southward.
 9 MR NICHOLAS JOHAN SOUTHWARD (sworn)
 10 Examination-in-chief by MR SHIEH
 11 Q. Mr Southward, can I trouble you to look at the expert
 12 bundle in front of you, tab 5. You can see that is
 13 a report entitled "MTRCL Shatin to Central Link
 14 contract 1112, Hung Hom Station & stabling sidings,
 15 change of details at eastern diaphragm walls and slabs";
 16 do you see that?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Usually in these expert reports one looks at the signing
 19 page, and in this particular case we see that at the
 20 next page, internal page 2.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. That is your signature there?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. What follows is a table of contents, and all the way
 25 down to the final page, page 83, consists of your report

Page 98

1 and its various appendices attached?
 2 A. (Nodded head).
 3 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Page 83?
 4 MR SHIEH: 53, sorry.
 5 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: It's 53 plus appendices.
 6 MR SHIEH: 53 is the end of the report itself. 83 would be
 7 the end of everything else, so when I said all the way
 8 down to 83, I did say the report and the appendices.
 9 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I understand, it's just I don't have
 10 the pages numbered after 53. They are just appendix
 11 numbers.
 12 MR SHIEH: I'm sorry.
 13 Mr Southward, before I ask you to formally put
 14 forward your expert report as evidence and also to
 15 deliver your synopsis orally, can I just take you to two
 16 points in your report.
 17 First of all, can I ask you to look at
 18 paragraph 7.4.3. That's where you dealt with technical
 19 query no. 34; do you see that? It's internal page 18
 20 of 53; do you see that?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. In the second full paragraph, you said:
 23 "This would have been caused by an out-of-tolerance
 24 installation of the reinforcement cage of this D-wall
 25 panel."

Page 99

1 Do you have anything you wish to say or change or
 2 add to the phrase "would have been caused"?
 3 A. Yes. I think perhaps the sentence should start, "This
 4 could have been caused by an out-of-tolerance
 5 installation". So simply the substitution of "could"
 6 instead of "would".
 7 Q. To follow up on that, in the context of the report and
 8 the purpose of the report, were you intending to be
 9 judgmental or fault-attributing in that particular
 10 sentence?
 11 A. Absolutely not. That's not part of my brief.
 12 Q. Next, can I ask you to look at internal page 49 of 53.
 13 Yes?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. There is a reference at the top of the page to:
 16 "The relationship between characteristic yield
 17 strength and ultimate tensile strength may be
 18 conservatively taken as 5 per cent."
 19 Now, do you have anything to change or to add, to
 20 say in respect of that sentence?
 21 A. Yes. This unfortunately is a typographic error and
 22 really it should say "20 per cent" in this context.
 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So the 5 should be a 20?
 24 A. So the 5 should be a 20, yes.
 25 MR SHIEH: Does that have any consequential effect on any

Page 100

1 part of the numbers in this report?
 2 A. It does, yes. So the next single line which says:
 3 "Thus the minimum fracture load allowed for a bar
 4 coupler assembly ..."
 5 The value should be 727, not 636.
 6 Q. 727?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Thank you.
 9 Subject to these two comments and changes, you put
 10 forward your report as evidence in this Commission of
 11 Inquiry?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Mr Southward, I understand you have prepared some slides
 14 and an oral presentation summarising the evidence, so
 15 may I now invite you to start your presentation.
 16 CHAIRMAN: If we could just hear a bit about yourself.
 17 A. I have the words.
 18 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.
 19 A. Mr Chairman and Prof Hansford, my name is Nick
 20 Southward. I am an executive director of Tony Gee and
 21 Partners and I am the independent expert appointed to
 22 the Commission of Inquiry on behalf of Leighton.
 23 I would like to thank you both for allowing me to appear
 24 before you.
 25 I have been practising civil engineering for

Page 101	Page 103
<p>1 30 years, the last 25 of which I have spent in 2 Hong Kong. I have only a small amount of publications 3 and awards to my name because I choose to work at the 4 sharp or pointy end of the civil engineering industry, 5 practising real structural design for large civil 6 engineering infrastructure projects. 7 I have designed personally some significant 8 infrastructure projects in Hong Kong. I typically 9 design structures for contractors, mainly in design and 10 build situations, so I am skilled in preparing 11 cost-effective, practical and buildable designs that 12 comply with all rules, regulations and design codes. 13 I am a chartered civil engineer. I am a fellow of 14 the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. I am a member 15 of the Institution of Civil Engineers in the UK. And 16 I am a registered professional engineer in Hong Kong. 17 My primary brief has been to look at the Hung Hom 18 Station structure and investigate whether the sequence 19 of events that occurred during construction has had any 20 impact on the overall structural integrity of the 21 station structure, and to advise if, in my opinion, the 22 structure is safe. 23 I can cut to the chase and advise that in my opinion 24 the structure is safe. I will now continue to explain 25 why.</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 2 A. Next slide, please. 3 I'm sure you are all familiar by now with the layout 4 of the station, but to remind, we are talking about the 5 junction of the upper EWL slab in red and the D-wall on 6 the left-hand side in blue. This is circled in yellow 7 on the slide. 8 Next slide, please. This is a 3D graphic which is 9 a representation of the reinforcement arrangement at the 10 top of a typical D-wall panel. You will see that the 11 EWL slab was to be connected to the D-wall using 12 L-shaped T40 rebars through couplers in the top and 13 bottom surfaces of the slab. The OTE was connected to 14 the D-wall in a like manner. 15 Next slide, please. However, for practical 16 construction reasons, the original arrangement of 17 reinforcement had to be re-arranged to provide space in 18 the middle of the panel for construction equipment to be 19 inserted into its top. As a result, the horizontal bars 20 at the top of the D-wall panels were re-arranged into 21 three layers, to provide a space in the middle. Two 22 layers of rebars, which are the magenta and green 23 coloured bars, originally L-shaped, are no longer turned 24 down into the D-wall but are extended to the other face 25 of the D-wall, with a coupler at each end, and they are</p>
Page 102	Page 104
<p>1 There are three key areas which I wish to highlight 2 from my report. 3 Next slide, please. First, on the design change of 4 the horizontal reinforcement in the EWL slab from the 5 use of couplers to continuous rebars, my view is that 6 the changed design is stronger and more robust than the 7 original accepted design detail. It is compliant with 8 all the relevant design codes, and it is structurally 9 safe. 10 Next slide, please. Second, on the length of the 11 threaded end of the rebars, my opinion is that the 12 minimum acceptable embedded length is 26.4 millimetres 13 embedded into the coupler, based on the results of the 14 load tests undertaken so far. 15 Third, my report explains that there is significant 16 structural redundancy in the design, or in simple terms 17 spare capacity in the rebar connections. For the top 18 layer of the EWL slab as it connects into the D-wall, 19 this is 40 per cent. The bottom layer, 50 per cent. 20 But I have to stress that this opinion is based on the 21 findings of three separate large engineering consultancy 22 firms and not my own calculations, as doing those 23 calculations was not part of my brief. 24 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sorry, and those three firms? 25 A. Atkins, Arup and COWI.</p>	<p>1 arranged in two groups of four bars, which provide 2 a clear space in the middle. 3 There is also an additional layer of rebar which is 4 the yellow bars at the bottom. This is provided so that 5 the total number of horizontal bars per panel remained 6 unchanged from the original design. All three layers of 7 this rebar were planned to be extended into the OTE slab 8 for their anchorage. 9 This was design change number 1 and was submitted 10 and accepted for construction by the Buildings 11 Department. This change to the original design had no 12 overall effect on the global stability of the station 13 structure. 14 Later, it transpired that the position of the 15 horizontal couplers in some isolated D-wall panels were 16 misaligned. To remedy the problem, it was proposed to 17 trim off the top portion of the D-wall from the EWL 18 slab -- sorry, to trim off the top portion of the D-wall 19 so that bars from the EWL slab could be installed at the 20 correct level. This involved removing the top layer of 21 the coupled rebars and replacing them with continuous 22 bars. 23 These incidents were the precursor for the decision 24 taken to make a minor change to the accepted design as 25 follows.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 Next slide, please. This shows how the top portion 2 of the D-wall was trimmed down to expose the transverse 3 reinforcement and the couplers. 4 Next slide, please. This slide shows how those bars 5 and couplers were replaced with two continuous layers of 6 bars which passed over the top of the D-wall from the 7 EWL side and were anchored into the OTE slab in the same 8 way as the change 1 design. 9 Now, I have to stress that this is a 3D 10 representation. It's not meant to show the actual 11 arrangement of the bars and the lapping that connected 12 to them. It's just a graphic for illustration. 13 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sure. 14 A. So was this change compliant with building codes? Under 15 the Hong Kong Code of Practice for Structural Use of 16 Concrete, both the versions of 2004 and 2013, 17 reinforcement continuity in concrete is allowed to be 18 provided using bar laps, welding or couplers. Such 19 choices are present in all international design codes. 20 The change, however, from change 1 to change 2, was 21 just a simple matter of substituting straight, 22 continuous bars instead of coupled bars. So it's 23 completely compliant with what's allowed, with what is 24 stipulated in the codes. 25 Next slide, please. This is just a simple,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 In fact, I am of the view that the change marks 2 an improvement to the design. It increases the amount 3 of reinforcement that connects the slab and the wall, so 4 the structure has an increased amount of strength, 5 robustness, redundancy, spare capacity. The bending 6 strength of this EWL slab connection has increased by 7 50 per cent from the original design. 8 Next slide, please. The change also eliminates the 9 vertical construction joints at the top, between the EWL 10 slab, the D-wall and the OTE slab. These interfaces are 11 points of high stress. And as a matter of good 12 practice, the Hong Kong Code of Practice for Concrete 13 recommends construction joints are avoided in points of 14 high stress. The top section of the joints, which you 15 can see on the left-hand side, the top section of those 16 joints were eliminated by the continuous or monolithic 17 concrete pour across the EWL slab, across the top of the 18 D-wall, into the OTE slab. 19 Importantly, the construction joint has now been 20 moved to a horizontal location, embedded within the 21 overall body of the concrete, and is at a position where 22 the stress on that construction joint is lower than that 23 at the original locations. 24 The trimming down of the top of the D-wall did not 25 affect its integrity. Such trimming down of the top</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 side-by-side illustration of the principal effects of 2 the change. It's just a repeat of the three previous 3 slides but it shows clearly the order of sequence of the 4 changes. 5 Next slide, please. This slide gives us a closer 6 look at how much additional reinforcement has been 7 placed across the joint. If you count the bars that 8 cross the D-wall, you will see that they have increased 9 from 24 number on the left to 36 on the right. So the 10 24 bars on the left are the magenta, green and yellow 11 bars, and they are now replaced with an increased number 12 of magenta and green bars on the right. 13 So what was the effect of the changes? It is my 14 view that the change to use continuous rebars has had no 15 effect on the design, performance, behaviour or 16 durability of the EWL slab and the connection to the 17 D-wall. The member sizes, sequence of construction and 18 load parts remain the same. The top reinforcement in 19 the EWL slab remains anchored into the OTE slab as per 20 the change 1 design. The deletion of couplers at the 21 top level of the D-wall has no effect on the tension 22 forces in the bars or the manner in which those forces 23 are anchored into the OTE slab concrete. The bending 24 strength of the EWL slab and the OTE slab, as they 25 connect into the D-wall, is in fact increased.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 section is no different from the trimming of the section 2 of the over-poured concrete above the top of the D-wall. 3 Such trimming was finished by the use of hand-held 4 breakers, which is the accepted practice for preparation 5 of construction joints. 6 On the issue of minimum embedded length of threads, 7 in my opinion, it is wrong to suggest that the entire 8 threaded end of a rebar must be screwed into a coupler 9 with no visible threads outside. 10 MR PENNICOTT: The next slide? 11 A. I'm going to say now, next slide. I wanted to say that 12 bit first. 13 Here is the theoretical arrangement of 14 an 88 millimetre long T40 coupler with reinforcement 15 bars screwed into both ends. Theoretically, 16 44 millimetres of each rebar is screwed into the coupler 17 on each side, on a butt-to-butt basis. The spacing of 18 the threads is 4 millimetres, so each threaded end has 19 10/11 threads inside the coupler. That depends on the 20 discussion we had yesterday about how much of the 21 chamfer is present. 22 However, BOSA has confirmed that it usually adds 23 a tolerance to the threaded length up to a maximum of 24 4 millimetres. Thus the total threaded length could be 25 increased to a maximum of 48 millimetres.</p>

Page 109

1 Next slide, please. Normally, the coupler is fully
 2 screwed on to the parent bar, that is the bar in the
 3 D-wall that the coupler is first attached to prior to
 4 the D-wall construction, as we can see from BOSA's own
 5 illustration.
 6 Coupled with BOSA's description that a maximum of
 7 two visible threads outside a coupler is allowed for
 8 proper installation, this may result in the continuing
 9 rebar having an embedment length of 36 millimetres.
 10 Next slide, please. This slide shows, on the left
 11 side, a continuation bar with a 44 millimetre threaded
 12 end, screwed correctly into the coupler, with two
 13 visible threads outside. It shows that the bars are not
 14 butt-to-butt. In this sketch, the gap is 4 millimetres.
 15 But if the parent bar on the right had been threaded
 16 with a zero tolerance, then the gap would be
 17 8 millimetres.
 18 I am not showing this sketch with the intention of
 19 discussing the number of threads engaged inside the
 20 coupler. I refer solely to the embedded length, because
 21 we could use this as a comparison for the opening-up
 22 test results, which measure embedment length, not
 23 engagement threads.
 24 The upshot is that BOSA allowed two exposed threads
 25 in their tolerances, and because of that fact the

Page 110

1 minimum embedment length could not be greater than
 2 36 millimetres.
 3 Next slide, please. This is just a side issue but
 4 this shows the same sketch, redrawn, but the
 5 continuation bar now has a threaded length of
 6 48 millimetres, but is still embedded by 36. This shows
 7 how it's possible to have three exposed threads showing
 8 on the continuation bar in that situation. So seeing
 9 three exposed threads cannot by itself be a reason to
 10 condemn a coupler assembly, because it could still have
 11 a 36 millimetre embedment.
 12 Importantly, BOSA's specifications, their
 13 requirements, are not to be equated with the actual
 14 strength performance requirements.
 15 Next slide, please. We have seen these load test
 16 results a lot in the last few days. They show that
 17 60 per cent of the threads engaged in a coupler --
 18 sorry, I should say -- yes, 60 per cent of the threads
 19 engaged in a coupler is sufficient for structural
 20 safety, ie 26.4 millimetres, which is 60 per cent of 44.
 21 Prof Au expressed bewilderment, basically, that the
 22 test with 60 per cent thread engagement had the largest
 23 failure load. He said he couldn't understand why this
 24 failure load was the largest of the three tests where
 25 the bar broke. So the 60, 70 and 100 per cent tests.

Page 111

1 For me, looking at it from the perspective of the
 2 structural safety of the coupler assembly, I'm actually
 3 pleased to see that the largest failure load was with
 4 60 per cent thread engagement. I say this because it
 5 proves that screwing the bar into the coupler more than
 6 60 per cent has no effect on the strength of the coupler
 7 assembly. At 60 per cent engagement, the bar outside
 8 the coupler broke first. At 70 per cent engagement, the
 9 bar outside broke. At 100 per cent engagement, the bar
 10 outside broke first. So once the bar is screwed into
 11 the coupler by 60 per cent, the threads in that
 12 60 per cent embedment are stronger than the bar.
 13 This is evidenced quite clearly in calculation by
 14 the contents of appendix V of Prof McQuillan's report,
 15 which shows the BOSA thread strength calculation table.
 16 We have seen that table a lot as well.
 17 You can see in this table that the theoretical
 18 strength of the combined threads, as you increase -- as
 19 you add more and more threads to the calculation,
 20 between six number and tend threads, the combined
 21 strength increases linearly from 601MPa to 1,002MPa.
 22 That's just the strength of the threads. But that
 23 increase in threads does nothing for the bar, which has
 24 a lower tensile strength of 529MPa and is therefore
 25 doomed to failure as soon as the number of threads are

Page 112

1 six and above.
 2 We also discussed this this morning, when Prof Yeung
 3 was queried on his slide, and there was a discussion
 4 about the linear line of that graph, and if that chart
 5 was plotted correctly -- that one there -- then the
 6 experimental test results would be plotted above the
 7 line by a healthy margin. It's about 30 per cent.
 8 So Prof Yeung said, "Look, but if the calculation is
 9 redone for 500MPa, then the strength of the threads will
 10 increase", and that is correct. The linear line, the
 11 calculation line, will increase by 8 per cent, which is
 12 the ratio of the 500 grade rebar to the 460 grade rebar.
 13 But the tests of the bars, the failure loads of the
 14 bars, show the bars failing by -- well, I don't know the
 15 exact number, but it looks like about 30 per cent, from
 16 the graph. So there is still a very healthy margin
 17 between calculation and the experimental test results.
 18 There's also been discussion about the fatigue
 19 loading and cyclic loading on the bars and couplers
 20 under repetitive train loadings, and there's also been
 21 discussion about the 0.1 elongation and the cyclic
 22 testing of those couplers.
 23 Now, the variation in stress in the reinforcement
 24 bars, in the couplers, calculates to be of the order of
 25 15 to 20MPa. This is a calculation that has been

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 carried out by COWI and they have -- I asked them to 2 tell me, when the trains go on the platform slab, what's 3 the variation in stress in the reinforcement? The train 4 load is insignificant compared to the weight of the slab 5 and the pressures upon the soil and all the forces 6 acting on that joint. So the actual variation in stress 7 is only 15 to 20MPa.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sorry, just so we can understand 9 what you are saying, because we then talk about cyclic 10 loads. You are coming to that?</p> <p>11 A. I was just about to say, yes. So 15MPa, this is a low 12 stress. Therefore, I can't envisage that the effects of 13 fatigue or cyclic loading will be a problem.</p> <p>14 We also discussed this morning the BOSA letter dated 15 7 January, which is something that I've not seen until 16 this morning, but one of the counsel took Prof Yeung 17 through that and there was a comment on whether or not 18 the couplers would be able to withstand the cyclic 19 loading tests -- there was a comment about whether the 20 threads should be fully engaged or not for that test.</p> <p>21 Again, I've not studied that letter but I would just 22 like to point out that 15MPa is only about 3 per cent of 23 the design stress of the bar, where the cyclic testing 24 load is 60 per cent. So what's going to happen in 25 reality is quite different from any theoretical lab</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 behaviour that would necessitate the use of type II 2 couplers in this location.</p> <p>3 We have done some very basic calculations to 4 demonstrate this. These were performed in the last day, 5 in very limited time, and use the methods stated in the 6 New Zealand and Australian seismic design codes to 7 calculate the yield displacement capacity. The yield 8 displacement capacity of an element is that amount that 9 the structural component has to deform in order to 10 create yield stresses in the tension reinforcement. So 11 it's calculating the physical movement.</p> <p>12 This is the onset of when the section becomes 13 ductile and thus when ductility couplers are needed. 14 The yield displacement capacity is a function of the 15 dimensions of the element, its thickness, the span 16 between the restraints, and of course the strength of 17 the reinforcement inside.</p> <p>18 The New Zealand codes describe a method to do this, 19 and these are based on a reference work which is titled, 20 "Displacement-based seismic design of structures". This 21 was written and published in 2007 by Priestley, Calvi 22 and Kowalsky, and represent the state-of-the-art. The 23 yield displacement capacity of the slab calculates to be 24 2.3 times that of the D-wall. Dr Mike Glover comes to 25 pretty much the same conclusion in his report but in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 test.</p> <p>2 Next slide, please. There is significant structural 3 redundancy or robustness, or in simple terms spare 4 capacity, in the rebar connections. Based on the 5 calculation and assessments three of international, 6 extremely experienced and reputable consultants -- 7 Atkins, Arups and COWI -- there is at least 40 per cent 8 spare capacity in the top surface of the EWL D-wall 9 connection.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Do you mean the top mat?</p> <p>11 A. The top mat.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Okay.</p> <p>13 A. This means that 40 per cent of that rebar can be 14 completely removed and the structure would still satisfy 15 all relevant design codes and would still be safe.</p> <p>16 For the bottom surface, I agree that there is no 17 strength requirement for those bars, as the section will 18 always remain in compression. There has, however, been 19 much discussion with previous experts over the issue of 20 the requirement for type II ductility couplers. The 21 issue we discussed and agreed at the expert meeting in 22 December was that the seismic movement or performance of 23 the station structure would result in a situation of the 24 D-wall failing long before the slab had a chance to 25 develop a plastic hinge, that is exhibiting a ductile</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 a different way.</p> <p>2 Now, this is the start of an extremely complex 3 method in which to determine the seismic performance 4 characteristics of a structure. This method is not in 5 use here in Hong Kong due to the low seismicity in the 6 region. I am therefore not going to dwell on this any 7 longer. My point is simply to indicate some numbers to 8 give back into the statement that was agreed in the 9 expert meeting in December.</p> <p>10 But despite there being no strength requirement for 11 rebar or ductility couplers, I believe that continuing 12 to comply with the Hong Kong Code of Practice would be 13 a defensible outcome. As there is at least 50 per cent 14 spare capacity in the number of the bottom slab rebars 15 passing into the D-wall via couplers, we could consider 16 50 per cent of those couplers ineffective without any 17 implication on code compliance.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: What do you mean by "defensible 19 outcome"?</p> <p>20 A. I mean this would be a sensible idea; one that could be 21 defended quite easily, not taking any risks or anything.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So conservative?</p> <p>23 A. Conservative, yes.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. Sorry to interject.</p> <p>25 A. That's okay.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 So the joint. During Prof Au's evidence, much 2 discussion was given to the performance of the internal 3 actions inside the joint, between the D-wall, EWL and 4 OTE slabs. I had not included a checking of the joint 5 in my report because there is no difference between 6 change 1 and change 2, and I had already accepted the 7 fact that the change 1 was previously accepted for 8 construction by the Buildings Department. I have no 9 reason to doubt their view that the joint was 10 acceptable.</p> <p>11 Structural engineers have many different ways of 12 analysing and designing structural elements and details. 13 This particular joint could be designed using any of the 14 following methods shown.</p> <p>15 Next slide, please. There is the clamping theory 16 concept as discussed by Prof McQuillan. There is the 17 Atkins calculation method, which they submitted in 18 December, which in my opinion is extremely conservative. 19 There is Prof Au's specialist beam-column joint method, 20 which he did not describe to us. There is my preference 21 in practice of using finite element analysis, using 2D 22 plate elements or 3D solid brick elements.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Which, for the benefit of lay 24 people, is a computer modelling process? 25 A. This is a fairly sophisticated computer modelling</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 consider that shear force just acting on that wall. 2 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: And this manuscript here is from 3 Atkins? 4 A. This is their calculation which I extracted from the 5 submission they make. 6 So there are some aspects of this calculation that 7 I don't fully understand. It's handwritten and so 8 clearly it would be good to have a discussion with the 9 actual engineer by himself who wrote that. But if this 10 is the approach they have used, then this is very 11 conservative, and it would certainly demonstrate 12 compliance for both change 1 and for the issue of 13 horizontal shear stresses for change 2. 14 Next slide, please. 15 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sorry, I don't wish to labour the 16 point, Mr Southward -- can we go back to the slide? 17 There. All of that on the right-hand side is Atkins', 18 including the writing in red; is that correct? 19 A. Yes. 20 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 21 A. My bit is the graphic. 22 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Yes, understood. 23 A. I have considered the presentation yesterday from 24 Prof Au and his free body diagram, which is shown on 25 this slide. So I've just extracted that from his</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 process that calculates the internal stresses in 2 structures. 3 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Indeed. 4 A. In quite some detail. 5 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 6 A. And there is a strut-and-tie analysis. 7 The point is that there are many ways to skin a cat. 8 This applies equally well in structural engineering as 9 it does to any other application in life. All ways, 10 however, will result in a design that is safe and 11 serviceable. 12 Next slide, please. I have reviewed the Atkins 13 calculation which is shown on this slide. This is 14 an extremely conservative approach, whereby they have 15 considered the vertical element of the D-wall inside the 16 EWL slab to be isolated, on its own, and they have 17 checked that for an internal shear force that is 18 generated by the applied bending moment, and they have 19 divided that applied bending moment by the lever arm 20 between the compression zone and the steel 21 reinforcement. That has given them an internal shear 22 force. 23 That's a very conservative way, because there is 24 actually a lot more material there. There is the EWL 25 slab and the OTE slab. So it's very conservative to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 presentation. 2 It is easy to allay his concern. 3 Next slide, please. Looking at a close-up detail of 4 the yellow slice, we can see there are two layers of T50 5 vertical bars and two layers of T40 bars that cross this 6 interface. So these are the vertical bars drawn in 7 black. Two of those bars are T40 bars and two of those 8 bars are T50 bars. 9 There is so much reinforcement, in fact, that the 10 basic shear capacity of the steel bars in dowel action 11 alone is enough to resist the tension load developed in 12 the horizontal T40 bars at the top of the slab. So you 13 can see the red arrow which is -- that's the tension 14 force in the T40 bars, and that is pulling the yellow 15 slice to the left. That pulling is basically resisted 16 by the steel bars. The steel bars would have to be 17 sheared. The steel bars would have to break in order 18 for the yellow slice to move. 19 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: And again, for lay people, dowel 20 action? 21 A. Dowel action is exactly -- well, actually, I'll explain 22 that. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Very good. 24 A. So I say this, I can say it's safe, because the shear 25 capacity of a steel reinforcement bar in dowel action is</p>

Page 121

1 half of that of its tensile strength. There are four
 2 layers of vertical bars but there are only two layers of
 3 horizontal bars, and the vertical bars are bigger, they
 4 are T50, so the cross-sectional area of the vertical
 5 steel is much more than twice the cross-sectional area
 6 of the horizontal blue steel.
 7 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So they are resisting?
 8 A. They are resisting. That doesn't allow for the fact
 9 that there is 40 per cent spare capacity in this joint
 10 anyway.
 11 To answer your question about the dowel action,
 12 I can also refer here to the last slide, Prof Yeung's
 13 presentation yesterday. If you'll remember, this showed
 14 a bolt connecting two plates, and Prof Yeung explained
 15 that the purpose of the bolt is to stop the two plates
 16 sliding apart.
 17 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Was it Prof Yeung or Prof Au?
 18 A. Prof Yeung. He explained that the purpose of the bolt
 19 is to stop the two plates sliding apart.
 20 In our case here, the steel reinforcement bars are
 21 doing exactly that, exactly the same job as the bolts in
 22 Prof Yeung's slide. Thus the yellow free body securely
 23 anchored to the D-wall below, it cannot move or slip and
 24 there is no concern over the presence of a construction
 25 joint.

Page 122

1 Strut-and-tie method, which is the final method on
 2 my list, are simple ways to represent and analyse the
 3 transfer of forces from one structural element to
 4 another. They are especially useful at corner joints
 5 such as this. Indeed, use of such a method was
 6 suggested by Prof Au in his expert report. The method
 7 consists of diagrammatically representing the forces
 8 inside the joint and demonstrating a feasible load path
 9 to transfer the tension forces in the slabs to the
 10 tension forces in the D-wall.
 11 So, in the last day, we have had a look at
 12 a possible strut-and-tie representation, in order to do
 13 the simple checking calculations referred to by Prof Au.
 14 This slide shows the base data for checking of the
 15 joint. These are the ultimate limit state moments and
 16 shears on the joint, and they are extracted from the
 17 original Atkins design calculations for a typical panel,
 18 which in this instance is EH113.
 19 Next slide, please. This is one possible
 20 strut-and-tie system that provides equilibrium in the
 21 joint for the change 1 design. The red lines indicate
 22 zones of compression or struts. The blue lines indicate
 23 lines of tension or ties.
 24 I stress this is just one possible strut-and-tie
 25 system, but I have chosen this arrangement to represent

Page 123

1 the clamping action referred to by Prof McQuillan in his
 2 report.
 3 Next slide, please. Here, we have the strut-and-tie
 4 system that provides equilibrium in the joint for the
 5 change 2 design.
 6 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Isn't it the same?
 7 A. You will see, if we flick back and forth between the two
 8 slides -- if you could do that, please -- that there is
 9 no difference in the strut-and-tie arrangement between
 10 the two systems. By this I mean the manner in which the
 11 forces are transferred between the reinforcements in the
 12 slab and the wall.
 13 This is because -- I'm sorry, I've already said
 14 that.
 15 Next slide, please. So the results of this
 16 strut-and-tie analysis. Typically, these types of
 17 analysis should be done by hand, and when I learned
 18 engineering I had to do strut-and-tie calculations by
 19 hand. But it's much faster to do this by a computer.
 20 So on the right-hand side are the computed strut-and-tie
 21 forces. There are two main areas of blue tension within
 22 the D-wall. There's a vertical tension of approximately
 23 3,400 kilonewtons on the back face of the D-wall, which
 24 is easily resisted by the three vertical layers of
 25 reinforcement at this location.

Page 124

1 There is a diagonal tension of 450 kilonewtons in
 2 the D-wall within the depth of the OTE slab. This
 3 diagonal tension will be resisted by the horizontal
 4 shear links --
 5 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sorry, is that the 474?
 6 A. That's the 474, yes.
 7 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you.
 8 A. This diagonal tension is resisted by the horizontal
 9 shear links which are equally spaced at 150 millimetres
 10 up the D-wall.
 11 So after resolving for the fact that those
 12 horizontal shear links aren't diagonal, they are
 13 horizontal, there proves to be 100 per cent more
 14 reinforcement than required.
 15 Next slide, please. As of 14 January, 75 tests have
 16 been carried out. Of these 75 tests, 73 show embedment
 17 length which is greater than 26.4 millimetres, which is
 18 the number from the test, 60 per cent of 44 millimetre
 19 thread. That's 97 per cent. 51 show an embedment
 20 length which is greater than 36 millimetres, ie
 21 68 per cent.
 22 I am not an expert in statistics, so I can't
 23 extrapolate these results to cover the whole structure,
 24 but as the tests show that 97 per cent of the couplers
 25 can carry the design load, then we can be very confident

Page 125	Page 127
<p>1 that with the large margin of safety in the design of</p> <p>2 the structure, that the structure will remain adequate</p> <p>3 and will be safe.</p> <p>4 So, to summarise, in the course of construction of</p> <p>5 MTRCL's original design of the station, some changes in</p> <p>6 the D-wall reinforcement details were implemented for</p> <p>7 ease of practical construction. After construction of</p> <p>8 the D-walls, Leighton constructed the connection using</p> <p>9 an improved detail that provided superior strength and</p> <p>10 robustness but remained practical for them to construct.</p> <p>11 The change of detail was compliant with all relevant</p> <p>12 design codes used for the design of the station</p> <p>13 structure, and the resulting structure is now stronger</p> <p>14 and more robust than the original compliant detail. The</p> <p>15 structure continues to be safe design, suitable for its</p> <p>16 intended use. These changes were part of the normal</p> <p>17 construction process and did not represent any</p> <p>18 significant or material change in the design of the</p> <p>19 structure.</p> <p>20 The results of the testing of the bar couplers which</p> <p>21 have been opened up have shown that the significant</p> <p>22 majority have embedded lengths in excess of what's</p> <p>23 needed. Testing to destruction of the bar coupler</p> <p>24 assemblies has shown that this embedded length may be</p> <p>25 reduced to 26.4 millimetres. The independent design</p>	<p>1 yesterday, at page 119. It actually starts at the</p> <p>2 bottom of 118, where at line 21 Prof Yeung looked at</p> <p>3 a slide which he incorporated into his slides, where he</p> <p>4 said:</p> <p>5 "For the next slide, we are talking about the top of</p> <p>6 the connection between the diaphragm wall and the EWL</p> <p>7 slab, and for this picture I need to give credit to</p> <p>8 Mr Southward. I take this picture directly from his</p> <p>9 report. This report is very illustrative ..."</p> <p>10 Now, I understand that that slide is also a part of</p> <p>11 a slide that you have just presented. It would be slide</p> <p>12 number -- either 7 or 8. Can I just trouble the</p> <p>13 Secretariat to try to locate slide number 7 or -- it's</p> <p>14 number 8. Yes.</p> <p>15 I understand this to be what Prof Yeung was</p> <p>16 referring to, because this depicts the second change.</p> <p>17 He said, at the top of page 119:</p> <p>18 "... you can see three different types of bars.</p> <p>19 When I went to engineering school the first thing</p> <p>20 I learned is to do engineering drawing, and the first</p> <p>21 thing I was told by my professor is even though you try</p> <p>22 to do a sketch, try to do things in scale. So I think</p> <p>23 Mr Southward may think the same way.</p> <p>24 If you look at this one now, it's very interesting,</p> <p>25 if you look at the thickness of the diaphragm wall, it</p>
Page 126	Page 128
<p>1 reviews of the structure all show that there is at least</p> <p>2 40 per cent spare capacity in the design of the coupled</p> <p>3 reinforcement connection between the EWL slab and the</p> <p>4 D-wall.</p> <p>5 It follows, therefore, that at least 40 per cent of</p> <p>6 the bar couplers could be considered to be ineffective,</p> <p>7 but yet the structural integrity of the platform slab</p> <p>8 will remain intact and the structure will remain safe</p> <p>9 and suitable for use. The bar couplers at the bottom</p> <p>10 surface are not used as structural design elements, so</p> <p>11 it would be safe to allow 50 per cent of these to be</p> <p>12 considered ineffective.</p> <p>13 However, the opening-up test results to date do not</p> <p>14 indicate that it would be necessary to disregard as</p> <p>15 large a percentage of bar couplers as mentioned above.</p> <p>16 In fact only a small percentage are below strength</p> <p>17 requirement and are no cause for concern in terms of</p> <p>18 structural safety. The structure is, in my opinion,</p> <p>19 safe.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR SHIEH: Thank you, Dr Southward.</p> <p>22 Perhaps I can just conclude by raising one question</p> <p>23 with you, by referring you to what was said about one of</p> <p>24 your sketches yesterday by Prof Yeung.</p> <p>25 Can I ask you to look at the transcript of</p>	<p>1 should be about 1.2 metres; we all know that. Then if</p> <p>2 you look at these bars now, they are probably a little</p> <p>3 bit more than 1 metre on one side and a little bit more</p> <p>4 than 1 metre on the other side. So one thing now I do</p> <p>5 not have evidence is: is this really the bar</p> <p>6 configuration? That means the bar is not really</p> <p>7 continuous but one bar with two lap lengths on the other</p> <p>8 side and then the steel from the EWL actually have a lap</p> <p>9 now with a bar sticking out from the diaphragm wall."</p> <p>10 Could I then ask you to look at the sketch again.</p> <p>11 Can I just ask you this very simple question. By this</p> <p>12 sketch, were you intending to demonstrate the use of any</p> <p>13 laps in the bars?</p> <p>14 A. No. The purpose of the sketch was just to show the bars</p> <p>15 going through the wall, but the lengths either side are</p> <p>16 immaterial, not part of the sketch.</p> <p>17 Q. Could you repeat that, please?</p> <p>18 A. The purpose of the sketch was just to show the bars</p> <p>19 going through the wall. It wasn't meant to represent</p> <p>20 the actual reinforcement arrangement in the slabs each</p> <p>21 side.</p> <p>22 Q. Thank you. So the magenta is one layer, the green is</p> <p>23 the other layer?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 MR SHIEH: Thank you. Thank you very much for your</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1 presentation.</p> <p>2 What happens next, as you might have seen from</p> <p>3 observing the proceedings, is that counsel for the other</p> <p>4 parties may have some questions for you. In the course</p> <p>5 of their doing so or afterwards, Mr Chairman and</p> <p>6 Prof Hansford may have their own questions for you also.</p> <p>7 After all that, I would have, if I think necessary,</p> <p>8 wrapping-up re-examination questions for you. So please</p> <p>9 remain seated while others ask you their questions.</p> <p>10 MR PENNICOTT: Sir, appreciating that we are finishing at</p> <p>11 quarter to five this evening, would you like to take the</p> <p>12 break now? I'm going to be very short, I can tell you,</p> <p>13 no more than about ten minutes.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN: Why don't you finish?</p> <p>15 MR PENNICOTT: Absolutely. I'm more than happy to do that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Examination by MR PENNICOTT</p> <p>16 Q. Mr Southward, good afternoon.</p> <p>17 A. Thank you.</p> <p>18 Q. Thank you very much for coming along to give evidence to</p> <p>19 the Commission, thank you for your reports, and thank</p> <p>20 you for your cooperation in the joint statement as well.</p> <p>21 As you know, I'm one of the counsel to the</p> <p>22 Commission and I just have a few questions really by way</p> <p>23 of clarification of a couple of matters that I would</p> <p>24 like to discuss with you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 standard, typical panel.</p> <p>2 Q. That's fine. I understand. That's pretty</p> <p>3 straightforward. Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 Then if you go to slide 16, which is the table of</p> <p>5 test results.</p> <p>6 You gave some evidence earlier on, during the course</p> <p>7 of your presentation, regarding the other types of</p> <p>8 tests. This we know is a static load test, and you've</p> <p>9 described it, if I may say so, very helpfully, the way</p> <p>10 in which the bar breaks at the 60 per cent, 70 per cent</p> <p>11 and 100 per cent.</p> <p>12 You mentioned, but perhaps did not deal with, one of</p> <p>13 the other tests called an elongation test; do you recall</p> <p>14 that?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p>16 Q. And that's one of, I think, the requirements of the</p> <p>17 Buildings Department.</p> <p>18 What's your view, if you have one, about the</p> <p>19 usefulness of that type of test in the situation we find</p> <p>20 ourselves?</p> <p>21 A. My brief has been to look at the strength side, the</p> <p>22 structural safety; is the structure safe? So that's</p> <p>23 where I've come from.</p> <p>24 The testing of couplers to compliance to BD rules is</p> <p>25 a kind of -- is a different thing. It's testing them</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 I think it's probably easiest to do that, certainly</p> <p>2 in the first instance, by reference to your slides,</p> <p>3 which are extremely helpful. Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 Can we look at slide 9, please. This really is just</p> <p>5 a point of clarification, as I say, Mr Southward.</p> <p>6 You refer to "Two layers of T40 bars at</p> <p>7 150 millimetre centres, total 24 bars per panel", and</p> <p>8 then in the next diagram you say:</p> <p>9 "Three layers of T40 bars in two groups, total</p> <p>10 24 bars per panel ..."</p> <p>11 That's the first change, and then the second change,</p> <p>12 to:</p> <p>13 "Two layers of T40 bars at 150 millimetre centres,</p> <p>14 total 36 bars per panel ..."</p> <p>15 When you say "per panel", as I understand this is</p> <p>16 just illustrative of a typical panel?</p> <p>17 A. That is a typical D-wall panel which is maybe 5 to</p> <p>18 6 metres long. It's drawn to scale, it's drawn from</p> <p>19 a real D-wall panel detail.</p> <p>20 Q. So it's just taken one of the panels for a typical</p> <p>21 panel?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. That's what I thought, because I think from recollection</p> <p>24 we know that the width of the panels varies.</p> <p>25 A. There are lots of variations but I've just taken the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 with respect to the specification requirements, so that</p> <p>2 those couplers can be used in any situation anywhere.</p> <p>3 Here we are looking at a very specific application, so</p> <p>4 I've just looked at it from the point of view of</p> <p>5 strength.</p> <p>6 Q. So, if I've understood it correctly then, the elongation</p> <p>7 test, is it your understanding, has nothing to do with</p> <p>8 strength?</p> <p>9 A. The elongation test is to do with how much the bar moves</p> <p>10 between the coupler. I don't think, to be honest, it</p> <p>11 would really affect the strength result, because it</p> <p>12 takes a certain load to break the bar. And, okay, there</p> <p>13 might be some movement, but you still get the strength</p> <p>14 in the bar. You still get the strength that you need.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 A. So you can do tests, the elongation tests, but they are</p> <p>17 to do with meeting specification requirements and not to</p> <p>18 do with the strength of the structure.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Sorry, Mr Southward -- so are you</p> <p>21 saying you don't believe elongation to be relevant to</p> <p>22 this project?</p> <p>23 A. Well -- no, no. If you are looking at it from the point</p> <p>24 of view that I was, "Is the structure safe?", then</p> <p>25 that's where I came from.</p>

Page 133	Page 135
<p>1 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: But it could be relevant for some 2 other purpose? 3 A. To provide a general -- to make a coupler that can meet 4 any use anywhere in the construction industry, I'm sure 5 there are tests that you would have to do. And 6 elongation and cyclic loading would be one of them, yes. 7 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I understand that, but I'm just 8 wondering, to be satisfied with a coupler for this 9 location, for this project -- maybe this is not 10 something you've looked at, but is the elongation 11 capability of these couplers of any relevance? 12 A. I don't believe it is because the structure has already 13 been built, it's there. The load on the couplers is 14 already there. 15 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Yes. 16 A. Okay? You've got massive forces on the wall, you've got 17 the weight of the slab. The structure has taken up its 18 shape. There is no sign of any distress. 19 So if something elongates -- if it elongates too 20 much, you would visibly see the distress, but there is 21 no -- 22 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: That distress would be visible now? 23 A. -- in terms of cracking. That distress would be 24 visible, yes, but -- if there was a problem with 25 elongation with these couplers, that distress would be</p>	<p>1 338. 2 CHAIRMAN: I think we saw that one last time, 339. 3 MR PENNICOTT: 352, how about that one? I don't know what's 4 happened to the numbering. 352. Thank you very much. 5 Just a general question first before we look at one 6 or two points, Mr Southward. The government have used, 7 it appears, a figure of 37 millimetres as a criteria. 8 Do you have any observations about that figure? 9 A. To be honest, I don't understand where it came from or 10 how they've reached it. I can't see -- I'm sure there's 11 a rationale to it but I don't know what it is, so 12 I can't really comment on it. 13 Q. Okay. I think -- I may be wrong but I think that it 14 comes about like this, that you take a BOSA threaded 15 rebar, you assume it has ten threads to it, to give you 16 40 millimetres. The phased array technology that's 17 being used to measure the engagement or the embedment 18 has a tolerance of 3 millimetres. And so 40 minus 3 is 19 37 millimetres. That's my understanding of how they get 20 at it. 21 But if you haven't looked at it, don't worry. 22 A. Yes, okay. I understand now. Yes, I see. So they've 23 just taken -- it's plus or minus 3 millimetres so 24 they've taken the very worst result, as what their 25 criteria would be?</p>
Page 134	Page 136
<p>1 visible now, but we've not seen any distress. 2 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 3 A. Maybe if I could just add that the future loading that's 4 going on to this structure now is really just the 5 trains, and the trains are a very small proportion. 6 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: As you have already told us, yes. 7 A. So the coupler has taken up its load, it's working, it's 8 there, there's no distress, and the future load is going 9 to be quite small. 10 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 11 MR PENNICOTT: But my understanding, Mr Southward, is that 12 the dead load is something of the order of 90 per cent 13 or so and the live load is the remaining 10 per cent. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Does that accord with your understanding? 16 A. Around there. 17 Q. All right. 18 Could I ask you, please, to look at -- not at your 19 slide because they are quite difficult to read from the 20 slide -- but can we look at the test results that you 21 have appended but I think are more easily read 22 elsewhere. Could we therefore look, please, at OU338. 23 A. Okay. That's a little bit difficult for my eyesight. 24 I'll wait until it's on the screen. 25 Q. They will pop it up on the screen as well. That's fine.</p>	<p>1 Q. That's my understanding. If one thinks about a couple 2 of these results, and one sort of has that figure of 3 37 millimetres in mind -- can we look at, for example, 4 number 50, item 50. 5 We can see that the engagement length as it's 6 described here -- which is at the top, don't worry about 7 it -- for 50 is 36.8 millimetres: do you see that? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. And on the right-hand side, on the right column, the 10 number of exposed threads is said to be one to two. So 11 let's suppose it's one thread showing. So one has, on 12 one view, a total length of thread of in excess of 40, 13 4 millimetres per thread? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. If you take the proposition that in fact it's two 16 threads, that would give you 8 millimetres, and so 17 you've got a thread of something like 44 millimetres. 18 With that brief analysis, again, how do you see the 19 relevance of the figure of 37 millimetres? 20 A. To be honest, I think they should all be being compared 21 to what strength do we actually need, and that strength 22 is -- so far, the tests have shown that strength is 26. 23 There may be more tests and that's fine, but on the 24 results of what's been tested so far, 26 is where you 25 should go.</p>

Page 137	Page 139
<p>1 MR PENNICOTT: Yes. All right. Thank you very much, 2 Mr Southward. I have nothing further. Thank you very 3 much. 4 CHAIRMAN: Good. We will have -- it's quarter of an hour 5 until 4 o'clock. You are reminded -- you have heard it 6 being said with others that once you are giving 7 evidence, you must keep your own counsel entirely and 8 not discuss your evidence until it is completed. 9 WITNESS: Sure. 10 CHAIRMAN: Good. Thank you very much. 11 (3.43 pm) 12 (A short adjournment) 13 (4.02 pm) 14 MR CONNOR: I have no questions for Mr Southward. Thank 15 you. 16 MR BOULDING: None from me, sir. 17 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. 18 MR CHOW: Mr Chairman and Prof Hansford, the government has 19 some questions, but before I start, can I put down 20 a marker here? You will no doubt appreciate that during 21 Mr Southward's explanation, by taking us through various 22 slides, in particular the later part of the slides about 23 the strut-and-tie models and also the New Zealand 24 state-of-the-art design and theory, all that -- my first 25 observation is these have not been put to Prof Au, so</p>	<p>1 effectively start again tomorrow, you know. I'm just 2 a bit concerned, if you feel that you need Prof Au with 3 you, that the questions you put before you have the 4 assistance and support of Prof Au may prove to be 5 without much value and that you'll need to effectively 6 start from square one tomorrow, or are you satisfied 7 that you've got some potent questions you can put 8 without the assistance of Prof Au? 9 MR CHOW: Sir, the problem is I'm not sure whether Prof Au 10 will be available to help me tonight, so I don't want to 11 delay the process, and perhaps it turns out to be 12 a wasteful exercise. Honestly, I myself, I don't think 13 it would be helpful to the Commission for me to enter 14 into a debate on the minute details to the forces and 15 stresses and all these values. 16 CHAIRMAN: No. 17 MR CHOW: So I have no intention to go into that. I would 18 prefer that I will just ask questions from a high level, 19 on a principle level, rather than to go into the 20 details. To that extent, I don't really need detailed 21 assistance from Prof Au. 22 CHAIRMAN: Good. Then I'm more than happy for you to begin. 23 But, sorry, help me here. You are saying the 24 diagrams prepared were not available to Prof Au? 25 MR CHOW: I'm referring to slides 23, 24 and 25, and</p>
Page 138	Page 140
<p>1 Prof Au has had no opportunity to deal with it. That's 2 point number one. 3 Point number two is I have had no opportunity to get 4 input from Prof Au. I have no intention to delay the 5 process, so what I have decided to do is to try to deal 6 with those matters the best I can while I'm on my feet 7 from a relatively high level of way, but in the event 8 that if later on I receive input from whatever sources, 9 I may need to come back on some of the details regarding 10 Mr Southward's evidence. So with that marker -- 11 CHAIRMAN: Could we perhaps -- I don't know if anybody else 12 wishes to ask questions of our witness -- on behalf of 13 China Technology? 14 MR SO: We have some questions, but obviously we will 15 appreciate if the government can go first because there 16 might be issues arising out of the cross-examination of 17 the government. 18 MR CHOW: Sir, I'm happy to do that. Actually, at the 19 moment, honestly, I don't anticipate that it will be 20 worthwhile to take the time for me to come back on some 21 of these matters, but I will just proceed on the basis 22 of what I can at the moment. So, with permission, 23 I will just plough on now. 24 CHAIRMAN: I'm just a little worried that you may feel, in 25 fact, that at the end of this afternoon you need to</p>	<p>1 although some of the slides before that, for example on 2 page 22, the diagram, that actually is existing in 3 somebody else's report, but while Mr Southward explained 4 what he has done to it, this is something new, as far as 5 I'm concerned. 6 CHAIRMAN: All right. I see the point you make. Well, 7 good. Why don't you commence, and obviously you can 8 reserve your position insofar as you may wish to 9 continue tomorrow with further questions. 10 MR CHOW: Thank you, sir. 11 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Can I just add one point, though, 12 Chairman? Of course, Mr Southward and Prof Au were both 13 at the joint meeting of structural experts where 14 presumably matters of this nature -- I know it's 15 a without-prejudice meeting so we can't know the 16 details -- but presumably matters of this nature were 17 discussed. 18 MR CHOW: Prof Hansford, I myself have no knowledge of what 19 has been discussed at the without-prejudice meeting. 20 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: No, none of us have. 21 MR CHOW: That's the reason why my observation is made based 22 on really what actually happened and what appears to me, 23 so I really don't know whether any of this has been 24 discussed in detail in the without-prejudice meeting. 25 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: All right.</p>

Page 141

1 MR CHOW: They may well be. I just have no information.
 2 CHAIRMAN: All right. Fine.
 3 MR SHIEH: If I may suggest, there are bound to be questions
 4 on areas that do not turn on the "new topics" raised
 5 orally by Mr Southward. So perhaps in order not to lose
 6 unnecessary time, I would endorse what was suggested by
 7 Mr Chairman. We on our part, insofar as is relevant,
 8 will obviously have no problem if, for example,
 9 overnight, instructions are taken, just as this morning
 10 Mr Boulding and myself, having taken instructions
 11 overnight, came back and sought leave to reopen. So we
 12 would absolutely have no problem with that.
 13 CHAIRMAN: That helps. Thank you very much.
 14 Cross-examination by MR CHOW
 15 MR CHOW: Good afternoon, Mr Southward.
 16 A. Good afternoon.
 17 Q. I represent the government and I have some questions.
 18 Now we are all fresh in our minds as to what you said in
 19 relation to those slides, I would prefer to start by
 20 taking you through some of the slides and I will try to
 21 get further clarification from you, if you don't mind.
 22 A. Sure.
 23 Q. When we were looking at slide 3, about the key areas,
 24 you mention that you base your view in relation to
 25 redundancy by reference to the fact that three separate

Page 142

1 consultants have carried out some checking. So you
 2 relied on the result of those checking in coming to your
 3 view that the structure has extensive redundancy or
 4 spare capacity. Do you recall that?
 5 A. I believe I said that, yes.
 6 Q. You also mentioned Atkins, OAP and COWI as the three
 7 consultants, their work you have relied on?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Am I right to say that as far as Atkins' exercise is
 10 concerned, what you have looked at is graphical
 11 representation at various locations along the diaphragm
 12 wall as the percentage reserve in terms of capacity; is
 13 that right?
 14 A. Yes. Yes.
 15 Q. Atkins have not provided any supporting calculation or
 16 details of the assessment?
 17 A. No.
 18 Q. And as far as OAP's work is concerned, what I have found
 19 from the hearing bundles are 30 or 40-odd pages of
 20 design checking which OAP described as spot-checks.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Is that also what you have looked at as well? Is that
 23 all the information you have looked at and relied on; is
 24 that right?
 25 A. And then the COWI analysis.

Page 143

1 Q. Now, COWI analysis, in your expert report, you mention
 2 to us that you have not checked COWI's calculation in
 3 detail. Does it remain the same position as far as that
 4 is concerned?
 5 A. Correct, yes.
 6 Q. So you -- we have also looked at, for myself briefly,
 7 COWI's supporting documents, which are contained in four
 8 big volumes, over 4,000 pages of documents.
 9 A. Okay.
 10 Q. From COWI's summary report, it also -- well, it simply
 11 lists out the percentage utilisation of bending moment
 12 and shear stress at some critical section, in particular
 13 the interface between the EWL slab and the diaphragm
 14 wall; right?
 15 In COWI's report, under various notes, it mentioned
 16 that there are sections in which the result shows that
 17 the percentage utilisation has gone up to 167 per cent.
 18 Do you recall that?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. And COWI takes the view that those results are
 21 unrealistic -- I think this is the word that COWI used?
 22 A. Yes, I believe that, yes.
 23 Q. And dismissed that being a problem, a problematic area,
 24 but COWI offered no explanation whatsoever. Is that
 25 what your understanding is as well?

Page 144

1 A. Yes. I believe they've done a finite element analysis
 2 of the slab. The interpretation of these results can be
 3 at times tricky. If the modelling is not 100 per cent,
 4 or sometimes even if it is 100 per cent, you will get
 5 discontinuities between changes in section, and those
 6 discontinuities can throw up isolated spots of very high
 7 or very low results which don't make any sense and which
 8 couldn't happen in reality, when you compare to the
 9 pieces of concrete immediately adjacent to that
 10 particular spot.
 11 So it's not uncommon to get areas of -- to get
 12 isolated areas that have results which are not
 13 meaningful. So if it's not a meaningful result, then
 14 it's not a result to use.
 15 Q. From my recollection, those stresses which according to
 16 the result of COWI's analysis, that amount to
 17 167 per cent utilisation, are shear stress; correct?
 18 A. I have to say I can't remember.
 19 Q. Perhaps I can take you to COWI's report. I believe it's
 20 in tab --
 21 MR PENNICOTT: 4.
 22 MR CHOW: -- 6.
 23 MR PENNICOTT: Tab 4.
 24 MR CHOW: Sorry, yes, tab 4, internal page -- for example,
 25 34.

Page 145	1 Yes, page 34 is a table showing the shear force 2 range of utilisation; do you see that? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And under notes 6 there is a note saying: 5 "Panel WH128 has a utilisation of 161 per cent. 6 However this shear is at the extremity of the model and 7 not considered realistic." 8 If we go to page 44, the last page of the main body 9 of the report, again it's a table setting out the shear 10 force range of utilisation. Under note 3, it is 11 recorded: 12 "The utilisation of 161 per cent occurs at 13 panel WH128." 14 This overstress, if I may use that term, according 15 to the result of the analysis, relates to shear stress, 16 not bending moment; right? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Do you agree that failure by shear is a brittle failure, 19 without any sign? 20 A. Yes, failure by shear would be a brittle failure, yes. 21 Q. Actually, one of -- we have prepared a list of questions 22 and I believe it has been sent off to COWI for COWI's 23 clarification. One of the questions, I hope -- I would 24 like you to tell us whether you have any view on that. 25 A. I have not read those questions, so I can't have a view.	Page 147	1 behaviour of the wall and the slab is not being 2 represented properly in the model, because there is no 3 other side, so the results could not be realistic. 4 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So, Mr Southward, obviously it's for 5 COWI to answer the government's questions. 6 A. Indeed. 7 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: However, that's an explanation, but 8 you're saying -- I think you're saying -- 9 A. I think they say -- yes, they've said that it's at 10 an end panel, so that would be my interpretation of the 11 reason why it's overstressed. 12 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So is it the case, Mr Southward, 13 that any computer model is only as good as the 14 assumptions in that model and they may or may not fully 15 represent reality? 16 A. Only as good as the assumptions made, how it's modelled, 17 how the results are interpreted. It's one big melting 18 pot and you've got to work through it very carefully to 19 get the results. 20 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: It's like a consultant interpreting 21 medical results. 22 A. Luckily, I've not had much experience of that. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I've had a little bit. 24 But, you know, these questions on this subject from 25 Mr Chow are very valid and important questions for COWI
Page 146	1 Q. I will let you know. One of these questions is this: 2 given the computer calculation has shown some what COWI 3 describe as irregular result or unrealistic result, and 4 it happens that those so-called unrealistic result seems 5 to suggest that there were overstress in the 6 structure -- now, COWI dismissed those as reliable 7 results. Our question to COWI is that if the same 8 computer calculation showed part of the result which are 9 unrealistic, how can we be assured that results for 10 other locations are reliable? Would it suggest that the 11 modelling itself has some problem? 12 A. Well, they've only modelled -- they've modelled three 13 discrete areas of the station, so in that, in those 14 three discrete areas, there are only going to be 15 specific parts of that model that are going to give 16 realistic answers. 17 You've seen it says that there was one failure which 18 was a shear failure in an end panel in their model. 19 Because it's an end panel, it's at the boundary, so the 20 results in that would be completely unreliable. 21 Q. Why is that? 22 A. Because there's a complete discontinuity in their model. 23 They've modelled this structure and then -- right at the 24 end (demonstrating), and there's no structure in their 25 model on the other side. So, at that point, the 3D	Page 148	1 to answer. 2 A. Indeed. 3 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: But they have actually given their 4 conclusions, I see, on page 39 of their report, and 5 indeed they address shear in items 2, 3 and 4. But that 6 doesn't invalidate Mr Chow's questions that they need to 7 address. 8 A. Yes. 9 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Would you agree with that? 10 A. Yes, sure. 11 MR CHOW: Thank you, Prof Hansford. 12 I would like to move on to another slide, page 16, 13 please, where you talk about the test result. 14 I recall what you said is -- at one point you said 15 there is only one sample tested; you would welcome that 16 if more samples should be tested, then the result may be 17 more reliable. Do you recall that? 18 A. I can't recall exactly what I said. I don't think 19 I said that. 20 MR PENNICOTT: I didn't hear that either. 21 A. I just said, "These are the tests." 22 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, where -- 23 MR CHOW: You said something like, "I'm pleased to see 24 a larger sample", something like that. 25 CHAIRMAN: Sorry, where did Mr Southward say this? Because

Page 149	Page 151
<p>1 I've missed it.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I didn't hear that.</p> <p>3 A. I can't recall.</p> <p>4 MR PENNICOTT: I didn't hear it either.</p> <p>5 MR CHOW: That's fine. Perhaps I have ...</p> <p>6 MR SHIEH: He might have said something like more tests can</p> <p>7 be done but it was not specifically as to whether or not</p> <p>8 they should be done. He was simply observing, "maybe</p> <p>9 you can always do more tests", something like that. I'm</p> <p>10 checking the transcript.</p> <p>11 MR CHOW: Sorry, my apologies. Something like that.</p> <p>12 Can I ask you, then. The fact is only one sample</p> <p>13 was tested for each percentage of engaged length; right?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you think it would be better and make the result much</p> <p>16 more reliable if more samples of the same percentage of</p> <p>17 engaged length are being tested?</p> <p>18 A. Well, I mean, of course, the more you test, the more</p> <p>19 confidence you get. Although I said I wasn't an expert</p> <p>20 in statistics, I think that's what statistics is about.</p> <p>21 But, you know, if you want to do more tests, you could.</p> <p>22 That's not a problem. That doesn't change the results</p> <p>23 of what we see.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. I appreciate that you are not an expert in</p> <p>25 statistics. Can I also ask whether you are an expert in</p>	<p>1 that we need in the design. So that indicates to me</p> <p>2 that that coupler assembly is adequate.</p> <p>3 Q. All right. Okay.</p> <p>4 Now, this morning, when I asked Prof Yeung questions</p> <p>5 on the test requirements set out in the American code,</p> <p>6 AC133, and also 2004 Concrete Code in Hong Kong, in</p> <p>7 particular the elongation test -- do you recall that?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. So you know that that is a requirement under our</p> <p>10 Hong Kong Concrete Code 2004, for elongation test, and</p> <p>11 it's about the maximum allowable residual elongation of</p> <p>12 not more than 0.1 millimetre after the coupling assembly</p> <p>13 is subject to a load up to 60 per cent of the yield</p> <p>14 strength; you are aware of that?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. In the American code, AC133, there are other tests,</p> <p>17 static compressive test, static tensile test, cyclic</p> <p>18 load test. You are also aware of those tests as well?</p> <p>19 A. (Nodded head).</p> <p>20 Q. Do you know the reason why those tests were required?</p> <p>21 A. I believe all these tests go towards making</p> <p>22 a specification that is watertight so that that product</p> <p>23 can be used in any application in the civil engineering</p> <p>24 industry. So you can use that coupler anywhere, I mean</p> <p>25 in any application.</p>
Page 150	Page 152
<p>1 the behaviour of couplers?</p> <p>2 A. I have used couplers in my structural design, so from</p> <p>3 the point of view of the structural design, the</p> <p>4 application of the use of couplers in infrastructure</p> <p>5 works, yes, of course. I'm not an expert in the</p> <p>6 metallurgy inside couplers, no.</p> <p>7 Q. When you say you use couplers in your design, am I right</p> <p>8 in understanding that by doing so, you relied on the</p> <p>9 catalogue or the strength data published by a particular</p> <p>10 coupler manufacturer, and you made use of those data in</p> <p>11 your design, and then you specified certain type of</p> <p>12 couplers to be used in the design drawing? That is how</p> <p>13 you so-called make use of couplers?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, that's how industry works.</p> <p>15 Q. So if the contractor fails to comply with, for example,</p> <p>16 the way a particular brand of coupler should be</p> <p>17 installed, then you are not -- you don't claim any</p> <p>18 expertise in trying to extrapolate and to form any</p> <p>19 opinion as to how, under those circumstances, the</p> <p>20 couplers would behave?</p> <p>21 A. No. I think that's kind of straying into the whole</p> <p>22 specification side and the project administration side.</p> <p>23 All I'm saying is that some tests have been done,</p> <p>24 and these tests demonstrate a significantly large spare</p> <p>25 capacity compared to the design strength of the bars</p>	<p>1 So I'm not saying that those tests are not relevant</p> <p>2 for a coupler that you want to take off the shelf and</p> <p>3 use anywhere.</p> <p>4 Q. So is that what you guess or you know as a matter of</p> <p>5 fact those are the reasons behind those requirements?</p> <p>6 A. I wasn't involved in drafting the AC133, I wasn't</p> <p>7 involved in drafting the Hong Kong Code, so the reasons</p> <p>8 for these tests -- I mean, they're all to do with</p> <p>9 ensuring and guaranteeing the performance of the</p> <p>10 coupler --</p> <p>11 Q. I see.</p> <p>12 A. -- for use anywhere.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. So you would not suggest to this Commission that</p> <p>14 the elongation test is wholly unnecessary?</p> <p>15 A. If I wanted to use the coupler, say, at the base of the</p> <p>16 Nina Tower, that coupler would be subjected to very,</p> <p>17 very high tension and compression stresses because of</p> <p>18 wind loading, earthquake loading, you know. So if</p> <p>19 I wanted to use a coupler there, I want to make sure</p> <p>20 that coupler can meet all of the criteria, all of the</p> <p>21 loading, that is put to it.</p> <p>22 So yes, those tests in that case, certainly I'm sure</p> <p>23 they are valid.</p> <p>24 Q. But how about in our structure in question. I'm</p> <p>25 interested in the platform slab, the box structure.</p>

Page 153

1 Now, the designer, Atkins, specifies the use of those
2 couplers. There is a requirement for elongation test in
3 the Concrete Code. Are you suggesting that for the
4 purpose of our structure that the Commission is
5 considering, it is wholly unnecessary to carry out those
6 elongation tests?
7 A. Well, I'm saying you've got to look at it from the
8 perspective of where are we now. We are in a situation
9 that the structure is in the ground, it's been built,
10 it's standing up, it's holding its load. The load has
11 been taken up by all of the couplers. The structure is
12 there. It's working. There's no sign of distress.
13 What is the future loading going to be on the coupler?
14 The future loading -- sorry, the future change in
15 loading, that change in loading is actually going to be
16 very small because it's only the live load of the trains
17 on the platform slab, which is almost on top of the
18 diaphragm wall, so the incremental stress change is very
19 small, which is a completely different situation to
20 a coupler at the base of the Nina Tower which is going
21 to experience very large stress reversals.
22 Q. Can I move on to the next slide, please, where you set
23 out various possible methods to determine the internal
24 stress inside the connection.
25 A. Sorry, which slide?

Page 154

1 Q. Slide 18, I think.
2 Now, you list out possible methods or acceptable
3 methods, and you also told us that the one you usually
4 use is a finite element analysis using two-dimensional
5 plate elements or three-dimensional solid brick
6 elements.
7 Am I right in thinking that for the joints that we
8 are interested in, you have not carried out any really
9 numerical checking to satisfy yourself that under the
10 most critical load cases, the connection as-built is
11 strong enough to take those loading?
12 A. Before yesterday, no, I had not done any calculations.
13 Q. And how about today?
14 A. Yesterday, after hearing the conversations on Monday
15 about how simple the joint calculation was, I thought
16 let me have a look at it, let me see if I can do
17 a simple calculation. So I asked for the representative
18 loads, and these were extracted from the calculations,
19 and I did a very simple, very quick, extremely quick,
20 strut-and-tie analysis to see if the joint could work.
21 So this was very, very quick. Clearly, I said my
22 preference, out of -- my preference in engineering
23 design is to do a finite element analysis, using 2D or
24 3D elements. If I'd had a few weeks, I would certainly
25 have done that, and -- you know, a finite element

Page 155

1 analysis is a good tool because if modelled correctly
2 and if you can understand the input and the output, you
3 can look at the flow of the stresses through the joint,
4 and that flow of stress, the lines of principal stress,
5 are very useful in determining how that joint behaves.
6 But I didn't have that time so --
7 Q. I appreciate that.
8 A. And I wasn't --
9 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Can I just ask, in your experience,
10 does the how does the output from a finite element
11 analysis correlate to the output from a simple
12 strut-and-tie analysis?
13 A. Okay. So if you took a bridge pier, you know, a bridge
14 column that had two bridge bearings on top and then the
15 load of the bridge above, so you've got two point loads
16 on the top of this column, and you did a 2D plate
17 analysis, finite element analysis, of that column, you
18 would see the lines of principal -- compressive test and
19 principal tensile stress. You know the graphics that
20 were in COWI's --
21 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Yes.
22 A. If you've seen those. So you would get similar graphics
23 showing the flow of compression and tension stresses,
24 and you could use something like that to verify
25 a strut-and-tie analysis, because the point of

Page 156

1 a strut-and-tie analysis is to show where the
2 compression struts are and where the tension ties are.
3 So you do your strut-and-tie and then you could check it
4 by doing a 2D finite element analysis.
5 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I understand that, but my question
6 is, in your experience, are the results usually similar?
7 A. Finite element analysis will give you a better result.
8 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: What's the order of magnitude of
9 "better"?
10 A. It depends. It depends vastly on the application and
11 the situation. I could say 10 per cent, maybe 20, maybe
12 30; it really depends on the situation, because
13 strut-and-tie analysis is just a 2D thing, whereas
14 finite element analysis can be completely
15 three-dimensional. So you are modelling the effect of
16 that force going everywhere.
17 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So, if you get sufficient confidence
18 from a strut-and-tie analysis, would it then be
19 unnecessary to do a finite element analysis?
20 A. I think a strut-and-tie analysis is more conservative.
21 I mean, I've been in situations where we have produced
22 a design of bridge piers and we've done nice
23 three-dimensional finite element analysis, and I've had
24 a checking engineer say, "That looks great but I want to
25 see the lines of force, I want to see a simple

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p> <p>1 strut-and-tie, to demonstrate that your computer 2 wizardry is correct." But that strut-and-tie analysis 3 does sometimes give you a more conservative answer -- 4 sorry, will give you a more conservative answer. 5 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: So therefore, if a strut-and-tie 6 analysis gives you confidence or proves, to your 7 satisfaction, that the structure is adequate, the finite 8 element analysis would give you -- 9 A. It would improve the result. 10 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: It would improve the result? 11 A. Yes. 12 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: And in improving the result, it 13 would give you even further confidence? 14 A. Correct. 15 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 16 CHAIRMAN: So, in other words, the two are on a plane 17 together? It's not as if you are going to have the 18 strut-and-tie saying, "No, this is going to fail", and 19 you're going to have the other one saying, "Yes, it's 20 going to be fine"? It will be the question of the 21 strut-and-tie will give you a result, quite 22 conservative, and the other test, the computer test I'll 23 call it, will give you a more refined test, but 24 essentially on the same -- a rising plane? 25 A. That does depend on where you've started. If you've</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p> <p>1 the structure. It will show you the first way that the 2 structure wants to behave. And if that structure 3 then -- because it's made of reinforced concrete, that 4 structure might then crack a bit, and it cracks, which 5 is perfectly okay -- reinforced concrete cracks, that's 6 okay -- the structure cracks and then the load will 7 redistribute inside the section, and it will then go 8 into its second response, the second way it's taken up 9 its load. 10 So when you do a strut-and-tie, if your 11 strut-and-tie is the same as the first order of 12 response, then it's exactly -- it models exactly how the 13 structure will behave first. But if it's not, if it's 14 a different strut-and-tie, the structure might have to 15 crack a bit and the load redistribute, and then the load 16 goes into the second response. 17 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Okay. 18 A. Do you follow? 19 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I do follow, but in order -- 20 A. So that's why there are many different ways of doing 21 strut-and-ties. So I'm not saying this is "the way". 22 I'm just saying it is one way that was, as you said, 23 quick and dirty. 24 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: That's very helpful. In order not 25 to alarm anyone that might be listening to this</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p> <p>1 started from a finite element analysis, and you have 2 designed it very efficiently and very tight and, you 3 know, you really have made it meet all the rules 4 exactly, then if you use a strut-and-tie, you might find 5 the tension force is a little bit larger than the 6 tension stresses in the computer analysis. 7 CHAIRMAN: Put it this way, a better way than the rather 8 clumsy way I put it earlier -- my apologies -- they 9 complement each other, the tests? 10 A. Yes. 11 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: In some areas, in some professions, 12 I might suggest, reference is made to a quick and dirty 13 analysis, if you can excuse that term. 14 A. That's fine. 15 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Therefore, would an overnight 16 strut-and-tie analysis constitute a quick and dirty? 17 A. It would be, yes. 18 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 19 A. And I have to stress that there are lots of different 20 ways you can draw out a strut-and-tie. You know, what 21 I drew, I don't say that's the absolute -- the way it 22 works. It's just a representation. And the point is 23 that in a finite element analysis, it's elastic -- 24 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Yes. 25 A. -- and it will show you the first order of response to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p> <p>1 conversation, those initial cracks are not cracks of 2 concern? 3 A. No, absolutely not. No, no, no, of course not. 4 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: Thank you. 5 MR CHOW: Thank you, Prof Hansford. 6 Mr Southward, just now you told us that yesterday 7 you have carried out your checking for the first time. 8 Is it the 23rd slide -- or the 25th slide, is that 9 right, where you set out the result? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Now, I have a few questions on this. 12 First of all, the bending moment that you use for 13 your strut-and-tie analysis, if you look at the bending 14 moment on the left side, left-hand side, it's 15 10,406 kilonewtons/metre width; right? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. If you look at Atkins, the section -- the Atkins 18 calculation, on the manuscript page, page 19, the 19 bending moment used by Atkins is 14,000. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Then why don't you use Atkins' bending moment for your 22 strut-and-tie analysis? 23 A. Because I guess those are for two different panels. 24 I was just trying to do an illustrative -- I was just 25 trying to do a quick calculation in the time that I had.</p>

Page 161	Page 163
<p>1 I asked for the typical bending moment and it came to 2 me. There wasn't really time for me to go back and say, 3 "This is different to what Atkins had." 4 So that is the bending moments for panel EH113, so 5 I have checked panel EH113. 6 Q. Okay. So you are only -- well, on the assumption that 7 your calculation is correct, all that you can say is the 8 panel that you have checked is safe? 9 A. Well, that's correct, yes. 10 Q. I see. Okay. 11 A. Prof Au did say that there were lots of different 12 panels. 13 Q. Yes. 14 A. So there are. I don't dispute that. 15 Q. The force diagram that you show, have you checked 16 whether the resistance inside the connection is able to 17 take up those forces? For example, the inclined force, 18 the tension force which runs diagonal between -- from 19 the top, on the left-hand side, down to the right of the 20 lower part, the blue line with arrows, that represents 21 the tension; is that right? 22 A. It does, yes. 23 Q. I can't find any reinforcement to resist that tension? 24 A. There are horizontal shear links. There are horizontal 25 shear links in the diaphragm wall that are referred to</p>	<p>1 CHAIRMAN: That's excellent. Thank you very much. Then we 2 will adjourn for the day, a quarter of an hour earlier, 3 for the reasons I gave earlier. 4 Tomorrow morning, 10 o'clock. Thank you. 5 You are reminded again, Mr Southward -- thank you 6 very much -- about keeping your own counsel now until 7 the completion of your evidence. 8 WITNESS: Yes. 9 MR SHIEH: Can I just clarify that Mr Southward is supposed 10 to do the calculation and produce it on a piece of paper 11 tomorrow, because I don't want people to get confused as 12 to when he's going to produce the calculation? 13 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: If that's something he could readily 14 do, it might be useful. 15 MR SHIEH: I just want to clarify, in order not to waste 16 time tomorrow, not to have any misunderstanding as to 17 what Mr Chow is asking for. 18 CHAIRMAN: I'm not sure exactly what was being asked for. 19 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I'm not sure we need it, actually. 20 I'm not sure we need it. You asked Mr Southward whether 21 he had done that calculation. 22 MR CHOW: That's right, yes. 23 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: He has said he has. 24 CHAIRMAN: Good. Thank you very much. 25 (4.48 pm)</p>
Page 162	Page 164
<p>1 in the Atkins calculation of December. In the back of 2 that, there are diagrams showing the diaphragm wall 3 panels and there are shear links. 4 Q. Have you checked the dimension or the cross-sectional 5 area of the shear links to satisfy yourself that -- 6 A. I believe the shear links are T16. 7 Q. Have you checked? This is my question. 8 A. Yes, I looked at the drawing and I saw that the shear 9 links were T16. 10 Q. Have you checked numerically, determined the 11 cross-section of the shear link and then compared it 12 with the tension force that you have found, to satisfy 13 yourself that there are sufficient shear links to resist 14 the tension force? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Can you produce the details of your calculation? 17 A. Well, to be honest, I have done -- yes, of course I can, 18 if you want. 19 COMMISSIONER HANSFORD: I just make the comment at this 20 point that I think it unwise that lawyers get too much 21 into structural calculations, but that's just 22 an observation. 23 MR CHOW: Thank you, Prof Hansford. 24 Mr Chairman, I note the time. According to my 25 watch, it is 4.45.</p>	<p>1 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am the following day) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>

	INDEX	PAGE
1		
2		
3	PROF YEUNG TAK CHUNG, ALBERT (on former affirmation)	1
4	Further cross-examination by MR SHIEH	2
5	Further cross-examination by MR BOULDING	17
6	Questioning by THE COMMISSIONERS	31
7	Cross-examination by MR CHOW	38
8	Re-examination by MR SO	78
9	(The witness was released)	85
10	MR NICHOLAS JOHAN SOUTHWARD (sworn)	97
11	Examination-in-chief by MR SHIEH	97
12	Examination by MR PENNICOTT	129
13	Cross-examination by MR CHOW	141
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		