Harvey,

With jitter turned on then
When DFE >=3 taps then there is no statistical improvement in the eye opening between 2dB and 3dB de-emphasis.
When DFE <=2 then 3dB is more open than 2dB

If we turn jitter off then
When DFE = 3 there is a slight improvement from 2dB to 3dB. (see included).

This is explainable because of the relative short run length of 8b10b. When we have 3 taps then this is already correcting the 8b10b ISI that would otherwise be corrected using the de-emphasis.

There is also a similar effect we see also with scrambled data, but usually above 5 taps.

Cheers,
Anthony
We commit.
We innovate.
We partner.
We create value.