

COUNTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 22ND JULY 1999

Present: Stuart Sweetman (chair)
David Morphey
Basil Larkins
Scott Duncan
Peter Turgoose
Tony Baxter (notes)

Apologies: Roger Tabor
Richard Close
Dave Miller
Eric Logan
Caroline Labadie

ACTION

Item 2 Horizon Project Feedback From Post Office Board

- 2.1 Stuart Sweetman updated CEC on the presentation and discussion from the Post Office Board on 19th/20th July regarding the Horizon automation project. Stuart confirmed the presentation was virtually unchanged to that delivered to CEC previously by Tim Brown.
- 2.2 The Board provided support for the strategic implications of the review and the future work to be undertaken. Anthea Bourne has been asked to produce an action plan on strategic activity by Friday 23rd July. Scott Duncan
- 2.3 The Board gave support for the proposal to employ external lobbyists over the next 2-3 years. Dave Miller and Keith Hardie have initiated discussions with Alan Williams on issues which required communication.
- 2.4 Concern was raised that POCL was not working closely enough with NFSP and keeping them fully informed. Stuart Sweetman will speak with Colin Baker to update him on the latest position. Stuart Sweetman
- 2.5 It was noted that the Board had empowered Neville Bain and John Roberts to make the final decision on whether to sign the agreement with ICL Pathway.

- 2.6 Stuart Sweetman advised there were two remaining areas of concern:-
- The level of incidents occurring in trial offices was still too high for technical acceptance, although improvements should be confirmed over the next few days to allow acceptance to take place.
 - Negotiations with the Benefits Agency to recover increases in POCL's cost base have still to be resolved.
- 2.7 It was noted that the intention is to sign the contract on Wednesday 28th July 1999 prior to the Heads of Agreement coming into force on 1st August 1999.
- 2.8 Technical acceptance is now anticipated on 18th August.
- 2.9 Scott Duncan will check with Keith Baines the nature of the 'Fujitsu Guarantee' and whether this should be signed in advance of the main contract. Scott Duncan
- 2.10 CEC discussed the impact the decision would have on future financial results of business units across the Post Office and the options to allow the Horizon impact to be clearly reported.
- Item 3 CMA Pay Review
- 3.1 Peter Turgoose updated CEC on the present status of pay negotiations with the CMA.
- Item 4 Communications
- The following communications opportunities were agreed:-
- Stuart Sweetman to speak to Colin Baker as outlined in Item 2.6. Stuart Sweetman
 - An internal Newsbrief would be issued when the ICL agreement had been signed.
 - Further communications would be required regarding technical acceptance and rollout. Keith Hardie is currently working on the plan.

Item 5 Recognition

- 5.1 The following were recognised for their recent contributions:-
- All involved in the passport extension agreement which has seen 100,000 plus processed to date. Stuart Sweetman advised that Jack Straw had written directly to John Roberts expressing thanks.
 - Tim Brown and Anthea Bourne for their Horizon review work.
 - Sue Donaldson for successfully completing the CMA pay negotiations.

Item 6 Forward Agenda

- 6.1 Stuart Sweetman advised he would be writing out prior to his annual leave on interim roles and responsibilities. These principally included:-
- Responsibility for the Commercial Portfolio moving from David Morphey to Basil Larkins.
 - Dave Miller to assume wider responsibility for the network.
 - Dave Morphey to concentrate on the Cash Handling & Distribution unit.
- 6.2 The way forward for future CEC meetings was agreed:-
- Monday 2nd August 1999 to continue in Stuart Sweetman's absence.
 - Future CEC dates to be kept in diaries and used by Dave Miller and Basil Larkins with their new teams as appropriate.
 - Wednesday 29th September to be held for final CEC/ recognition.
 - BUPR meetings to continue as arranged.