

Message

From: Calum Greenhow [GRO]
Sent: 11/10/2023 11:02:27
To: Calum Greenhow [GRO]
Subject: FW: Press and other enquiries RE Post Office trial

From: Peter Hall

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:22 PM

To: Andrew Watts [GRO]; Lisa Harmsworth [GRO]; Julia Goatcher [GRO]; Amanda Cox [GRO]; Sarah Yardley [GRO]; George Turner [GRO]; Sharon Merryweather [GRO]; Lynda Willoughby [GRO]; Paul Simmonds [GRO]; Troy Gardner [GRO]; David Gold [GRO]; barry.frost [GRO]; Harry Goraya [GRO]; James Doran [GRO]; Amanda Pedley [GRO]; Mark Jacobs [GRO]; Wendy Burke [GRO]; Robert Clack [GRO]; Upendra Patel [GRO]; Naina Ardeshana [GRO]; Helen Richardson [GRO]; Deirdre Drumm [GRO]; Alan White [GRO]; Richard Darby [GRO]; Vijay Lakhanpal [GRO]; Stewart Swabey [GRO]; Rita Palmer [GRO]; Keith Richards [GRO]; Ian Park [GRO]; Jon Follenfant [GRO]; 'Christine Donnelly [GRO]; [GRO]
Cc: Calum Greenhow [GRO]
Subject: RE: Press and other enquiries RE Post Office trial

Dear all,

Further to my previous email, please find below some key information covering the NFSP's position in relation to the judge's decision on the "Common Issues" trial.

The NFSP was not involved in the trial and was neither asked to provide a statement nor called as a witness.

The NFSP is disappointed to have been criticised in the manner we have in Justice Fraser's judgement. Should Justice Fraser have sought our input we have no doubt these criticisms would not have been made. Unfortunately, a balanced view was not taken and the comments made about the NFSP are distorted, one-sided and based on supposition.

It is worth stating that – where the judgement has found issues with Post Office Ltd's approach to dealing with subpostmasters where a shortage has been identified – the NFSP has challenged PO on many of these same issues in the past. Broadly speaking, we wouldn't necessarily disagree with many of the criticisms levelled at PO.

The NFSP is a member-focused organisation with a long history of supporting and representing subpostmasters. Through our Head Office team, our national Mails Segregation and Retail teams, and our Board of Directors and Branch Network, we are out there supporting subpostmasters every single day – and we will continue to do so in future.

All colleagues can be assured that we are working to emerge from this situation stronger than before, and we will update you as and when there are any further developments.

One such development, which I been made aware of within the last few minutes, is that PO are seeking for Justice Fraser to be recused from the ongoing and future trials on the basis that his judgement on the "Common Issues" trial indicates hostility towards PO and that he appears to have already formed an opinion of future matters. As a result, the current trial

has been suspended and PO's recusal application will be heard on 2 April 2019. This is a highly significant development which we will follow closely. Please note that this is not the same as an appeal against the "common issues" trial verdict – no such appeal has (yet) been launched.

Please feel free to use any of this information in conversation with members. If you receive any press/media enquiries, please refer them to me directly.

And please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

Thank you
Peter

From: Peter Hall

Sent: 15 March 2019 13:28

To: Andrew Watts [GRO]; Lisa Harmsworth [GRO]; Julia Goatcher [GRO]; Amanda Cox [GRO]; Sarah Yardley [GRO]; George Turner [GRO]; Sharon Merryweather [GRO]; Lynda Willoughby [GRO]; Paul Simmonds [GRO]; Troy Gardner [GRO]; David Gold [GRO]; 'barry.frost' [GRO]; Harry Goraya [GRO]; James Doran [GRO]; Amanda Pedley [GRO]; Mark Jacobs [GRO]; Wendy Burke [GRO]; Robert Clack [GRO]; Upendra Patel [GRO]; Naina Ardesana [GRO]; Helen Richardson [GRO]; Deirdre Drumm [GRO]; Alan White [GRO]; Richard Darby [GRO]; Vijay Lakhanpal [GRO]; Stewart Swabey [GRO]; Rita Palmer [GRO]; Keith Richards [GRO]; Ian Park [GRO]; 'Jon Follenfant' [GRO]; 'Christine Donnelly' [GRO]; [GRO]

Cc: Calum Greenhow [GRO]

Subject: Press and other enquiries RE Post Office trial

Importance: High

Dear all,

As you may be aware, the judgement for the first stage of the Bates vs Post Office Ltd trial has been delivered.

If you are contacted by a member of the press or any individual who is not an employee of the NFSP or a non-executive Director of the NFSP regarding the trial verdict, please direct them to me. Under no circumstances should you offer any comment on the verdict or the ongoing second stage of the wider court case.

More information on the NFSP's position will follow in due course.

Many thanks,
Peter

Peter Hall
Head of Policy and Research
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