
From: Alice Perkins [GRO]
Sent: Sat 23/06/2012 8:14:39 AM (UTC)
To: Paula Vennells [GRO]
Subject: Re: NL

Thanks Paula. I'm v glad you did this. Right thing to do and he responded in the right way. I thought he would. I've no idea whether we will get any flak about Mark but if we do, we are in a perfect place to handle it.

I hadn't expected you to mention Tom - altogether different and lower profile.

I too am looking forward to breakfast. I can't now remember what your next commitment is - it was v tortuous getting to this point! - but if you could do longer than 9am that would be very good - I have until at least 9 30. But if not we must just be organised. I think the crucial thing will be our plans for the summer mainly geared to preparation and resource for the Spending Review, mutualisation, and other strands of work following the awayday including what we stop/slow down.

I hope you get some weekend.

Alice

From: Paula Vennells [GRO]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:17 PM
To: Alice Perkins
Subject: Re: NL

Dear Alice,

first of all, I'm so sorry for you that you have had so many mails from me today - there is just a lot on! Thank you for suggesting breakfast on Tuesday; I did ask several times to do that - much easier F2F. If you have an agenda, pls forward at some stage.

Re Mark, yes, NL was grateful that I mentioned it. I explained the proper process that had been followed and the calibre of candidates he had been competing with for the role. I had to leave a message but he texted back and said something like: 'I appreciate the information, thank you, that all sounds fine'. And we had a great time over supper - the minister is good company. Plus, Richard Kemp (Cll Leader L'pool) persuaded NL to agree to try for a Cabinet presentation and also one at the Perm Secs awayday. This was followed up by mail as well. So we'll keep the pressure up.

Offer letter has gone to Tom btw. He decided on the Crown role - which is good - we should put our best people on the important work. (There is rather a lot of that of course!) I shan't mention Tom to NL specifically, as he came via a search consultant..

Bon weekend. Paula

Sent from my iPad

On 22 Jun 2012, at 12:39, "Alice Perkins" [GRO] wrote:

Good.

My query re NL was in relation to Mark's arrival. Was he OK about that?

A

From: Paula Vennells [GRO]
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Alice Perkins
Subject: Re: External Review of subpm cases

Yep. I agree.

Just to keep you in the loop, there are very good internal comms/briefing of stakeholders this morning.

The only thing I couldn't see was what happens if a Subpostmaster calls the NBSC and asks to be part of the review; same re ad hoc MP enquiries. (The answer has to be that we look into it; but what I'm looking for is how the call centre answers the query.)

I haven't mentioned specifically this week to NL. But have done previously and he was relaxed. However, I am sure the Shex team will have done so, as we have been liaising very closely with them all week. (They are always v good at this but i shall check:)

The rest of the process is underway, which I think you know? James is meeting Ron next week. He has written to all MPs that were originally invited. And after he has met Ron, we will contact those who attended. James and Oliver cases will be reviewed first.

Paula

Sent from my iPad

On 22 Jun 2012, at 09:21, "Alice Perkins" <[redacted] GRO> wrote:

Thanks. It will be great to have him on board. (Btw was NL OK about it?)
On press, quite right not to to give it oxygen and to put lid on idea of s/o else paying asap.
I met Ron yesterday briefly and thought he looked the part! Excellent.
Alice

From: Paula Vennells <[redacted] GRO>
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 08:45 AM
To: Alice Perkins
Subject: Fwd: External Review of subpm cases

Thought you'd like to see this from Mark - supportive and excited at joining.

The only coverage this am is the Telegraph which is balanced. It does give a fair amount of space to Andrew Brigden's comments re Cabinet Office picking up the bill.

Paula

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Davies [GRO]
Date: 22 June 2012 03:45:03 GMT+01:00
To: Paula Vennells [GRO]
Subject: Re: External Review of subpm cases

Paula, sorry to pick this up so late. But I agree - absolutely nothing to be gained in giving the story legs. Best course of action is to hold the (strong) lines and stick with them.
All well - last day at Rethink. Really looking forward to July 9!
Best wishes
Mark

Sent from my iPad

On 21 Jun 2012, at 19:05, Paula Vennells [GRO] wrote:

Mark, Alana was going to call you but is in Downing st.

My sense is we are doing the right thing in not offering interviews, as that puts us on the defensive and also gives it more airspace.

Do you agree - you must say so if not pls!

Hope all is well.
Paula

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ronan Kelleher [GRO]
Date: 21 June 2012 18:41:36 GMT+01:00
To: Angela Van-Den-Bogerd [GRO], Simon Baker [GRO], Alwen Lyons [GRO], Chris M Day [GRO], Kevin Gilliland [GRO], Lesley J Sewell [GRO], Martin Moran [GRO], Nicholas Kennett [GRO], Paula Vennells [GRO], Pauline Holroyd [GRO], Susan

Crichton [GRO]
Cc: Alana Renner
[GRO], Mike
Granville [GRO]
Subject: FW: External Review of subpm cases

Hello All,

Following on from Alana's earlier e-mail, please find below latest update on media interest in this story.

Matt Prodger at the BBC has also done a piece to camera on this story on a couple of occasions during the day on the BBC News 24 channel as well as posting the story on bbc.co.uk. We have no indication if this interview will make tonight's national BBC news programmes but it would seem likely.

Channel 4 currently has the story, straight from the James Arbuthnot feed, on their website. Again, we have no indication whether or not it will make the Channel 4 News tonight but would seem likely particularly as they have a case study.

The Press Association have the story running on their wire service.

BBC Radio 5 Live is running a piece tonight with a case study

I have also taken calls from James Hall at the Daily Telegraph (story currently on the Telegraph website), BBC Radio Wales and Surrey.

Ronan

Ronan Kelleher
Head of PR and Media
Post Office Ltd

[GRO]
[GRO]

From: Alana Renner
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 03:10 PM
To: Angela Van-Den-Bogerd; Simon Baker; Alwen Lyons; Chris M Day; Kevin Gilliland; Lesley J Sewell; Martin Moran; Nicholas Kennett; Paula Vennells; Pauline Holroyd; susan crichton

[GRO]

Cc: Mike Granville
Subject: External Review of subpm cases

All, the appointment of the external reviewer to look at the cases brought to us by James and other MP's has been picked up.

The BBC are running it as ticker on their News

channel after Matt Prodger the BBC correspondent, who has run pieces previously on Horizon, has been on to our Press Office, he had been give a copy of the TOR. Matt has also been on to BIS and to the external forensic accountant who is doing the preliminary work on the cases.

Alan Jones from PA has also been in touch which means it will almost certainly go wider. Channel 4 have also been through to James Arbuthnott's office who have given them our agreed statement.

We have let the NFSP Press Office know (we had alerted them to the possibility of this earlier in the week).

We will keep you up to date as this develops.

Alana

Alana Renner
Communications Director
Post Office Ltd
148 Old St London EC1V 9HQ

M: GRO
E: GRO

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