

Message

From: Belinda Crowe [GRO]
[GRO]
on behalf of [GRO]
Sent: 27/02/2015 08:59:52
To: Alisdair Cameron [GRO]; Mark R Davies [GRO]; Jane MacLeod [GRO]; Chris Aujard [GRO]
CC: Paula Vennells [GRO]; Gavin Lambert [GRO]; Mark Underwood [GRO]; Belinda Crowe [GRO]; Tom Wechsler [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]
Subject: Catch up call with Second Sight

All, just a quick note about catch-up call Tom, Mark and I had with Second Sight yesterday. This was just a regular weekly catch-up call about progress with cases and the Part Two response. I caught up with Al afterwards about the reference to the suspense account and he asked that I email round and copied Paula. I also updated others on our daily catch up call yesterday afternoon.

The headlines were:

- They were vague as to when they will have a draft for release to the Working Group but very unlikely it will be before they come in on 4 March to meet Al and Jane.
- They articulated the three big issues as far as they are concerned as:
 - full access to legal files (including legally privileged material):
 - previously they were allowed full access to all legal files including privileged information but that changed about a year ago with no explanation as to why
 - Jane's letter on M103 gets to the heart of this matter and they will pick this up with her on 4 March
 - regardless of what Tony said at the Working Group about what legal documents should be handed over (i.e. they should be able to access all the documents the defence would have had if they are still available), he had acknowledged that it was a matter for POL as to whether it chose to waive privilege
 - clear major breakdown in communications between legal and the CEO surfaced at the Select Committee on access to legal files
 - the matter of miscarriages of justice is at the heart of everyone's concerns as (they claim) articulated by Paula at the Select Committee
 - if access is denied they will not pull any punches in their Part Two report
 - access to the 2008 emails:
 - I had requested some articulation of the questions/concerns they are trying to answer. They suggest this over-complicates things. It is simple. They believe that they know the emails exist and they want them
 - it is for them to see source data and form their own view/conclusions
 - they think that as a result of a project that was going on in 2008 there may have been a small test area where access to live data and the ability to edit it was possible and only the emails will provide the answer to that.
 - suspense account:
 - they were grateful for Al's positive engagement on this
 - they were surprised and think Al is too, at what they now know to be large sums of unattributable/irreconcilable money in an unstructured account at the end of each month (Al, this was the gist of what they said, if not the actual wording as Ian and Ron were talking over one another)

- they are sure AI will agree, as a responsible CFO that this is bad practice
- They really did not seem very interested in all the other Horizon related issues i.e. 100+ questions they have posed and we have answered
- If they don't get what they want they will say so in their report and 'will not pull any punches' in terms of what they say in their report about it.

Colleagues who are due to meet with them may also wish to note a marked change in tone and behaviour in recent weeks, notably from Ian. He is much more aggressive, accusatory defensive and in tone than our previous experience. I would speculate that this is frustration because they are still struggling to find a smoking gun and feel the weight of expectation from others to do so, especially after the Select Committee. The change is marked and it is worth keeping in mind ahead of next week's meetings.

We are factoring the above into our planning.

Best wishes
Belinda

Belinda Crowe

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