

Message

From: Patrick Bourke [mailto: [REDACTED] GRO]
on behalf of Patrick Bourke < [REDACTED] GRO >
Sent: 16/12/2014 14:43:14
To: Callard Richard \ (ShEx) [[REDACTED] GRO]; Belinda Crowe [[REDACTED] GRO]
Subject: RE: Sparrow actions
Importance: High

Richard

We'd like to use this from Second Sight's Interim Report, which is their overriding conclusion on the central point of this exercise:

"We have so far found no evidence of a system wide (systemic) problems with the Horizon software"

And this from PO's press release following receipt of that report:

Post Office Chief Executive, Paula Vennells, said:

"It does...raise questions about the training and support we have offered to some sub-postmasters and we are determined to address these issues."

On this last point, we already have, as the Q&A/Speech record.

Best wishes

Patrick

From: Callard Richard (ShEx) [mailto: [REDACTED] GRO]
Sent: 16 December 2014 13:21
To: Patrick Bourke; Belinda Crowe
Subject: RE: Sparrow actions

Thanks

Sorry, one more question - where we say there were no system wide problems with the system, can we add a couple of quotes from the July 2013 report?

R

From: Patrick Bourke [mailto: [REDACTED] GRO]
Sent: 16 December 2014 13:13
To: Callard Richard (ShEx); Belinda Crowe
Subject: RE: Sparrow actions
Importance: High

Dear Richard

Answers herewith in red.

Could I ask again that, should Jo get sight of James Arbuthnot's speech in advance, you could either share this with us or, if that's not possible, share with us the broad thrust of it so that we might put Jo in the best possible place to answer and helpfully and accurately as possible ?

As to tomorrow's arrangements – I can meet you wherever/whenever is convenient – just let me know. I do think it's important I am there, if only to gauge the atmospherics. My personal mobile is [GRO] and it's (almost) never off.

Best wishes

Patrick

From: Callard Richard (ShEx) [mailto:[GRO]]
Sent: 16 December 2014 12:09
To: Belinda Crowe; Patrick Bourke
Subject: Sparrow actions

Belinda / Patrick

Once again thanks for coming over. I have noted down the actions for you / me following the meeting, and I think there are as follows:

- Belinda to get in touch with Sir Anthony to request making the letter available to Parliament (and to share with JA?)

Belinda is on the case – email sent and follow up call soon

- Can you provide a line or two which I can add to the questions around POL's level of commitment to the scheme, "if pressed", regarding costs paid to SPMs?

If pressed:

- PO has made £1500 + VAT contribution to any SPM in the Scheme who wishes to engage the services of a professional adviser to assist them in preparing their complaint
- I understand that almost all SPMs in the Scheme have availed themselves of this offer
- In addition, PO provides an additional contribution for professional advice of £1250 + VAT for a full day mediation and £750 + VAT for a half day mediation
- SPMs are not required to pay anything toward the mediation venue costs and their travel is also paid for by PO
- Could you provide the number of cases within the 24 where you have not voted for mediation, but will nevertheless mediate?

As Belinda explained on the phone, very few, if any cases, have gone to formal vote – James Arbuthnot has tried to make a statistic (the infamous 90%) out of the fact that PO may have raised questions in Working Group discussions of certain cases which is, frankly, only what you might expect them to do – it is not a statistic and says nothing. The fact remains that 24 cases have been recommended by the WG for mediation and in only 2 has PO declined to actually mediate (somewhat less than 10%).

- I will find out what Jo was happy to share with Ian Murray (outstanding Mark D request)

Thank you.

- I will change the numbers in the q&a regarding the number of cases, so it adds to 24

Thank you again

Any others from your end?

Thanks

R

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www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-shareholder-executive

PA: Karen Smith

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