

Message

From: Parsons, Andrew [GRO]
 on behalf of Parsons, Andrew [GRO] [GRO]
Sent: 14/09/2015 16:59:48
To: Rodric Williams [GRO]
Subject: RE: BBC Panorama [CMCK-UK.FID8673510]

Rod

Yes. This goes too far.

Although in practice POL's procedure is to only make remote changes with SPMR consent, it is technically possible to make changes without consent.

Given that remote access could also include transaction corrections, I also don't believe we can make the statement about what happened in the three prosecutions. Further, we no longer have the transaction data for these branches so cannot say for certain that a balancing transaction was not conducted in those branches without the SPMR's consent.

In short, I would delete the addition.

A

Andrew Parsons
 Managing Associate
 Bond Dickinson LLP
 Tel: [GRO]

From: Rodric Williams
Sent: 14/09/2015 17:42
To: Parsons, Andrew
Subject: FW: BBC Panorama [CMCK-UK.FID8673510]

Hi – CMS have folded in one of Mark Davies's comments on what the "whistleblower" said about remote access (see attached and highlighted text below). Am I right that it goes too far?:

The Programme further states by reference to statements made by Richard Roll who had worked at Fujitsu, that financial records were sometimes changed remotely without the postmaster knowing. Mr Sweeney goes on to state that *"Post Office has always said that simply can't happen"* and invites the conclusion that what Post Office has said in relation to remote access is "untrue", a particularly damaging allegation. This is not an accurate or fair reporting of Post Office's formal statement to Panorama. As made clear in the statement, Post Office can correct errors in and/or update a branches accounts by inputting a new transaction (not editing or removing any previous transactions). It is also possible to update the software remotely. However, any such changes made are completely transparent and would be done with the postmaster's knowledge. Post Office categorically denies any allegation that remote access to the Horizon system had any involvement in the losses which were the subject of the prosecutions featured in the Programme. Although Mr Sweeney included Post Office's statement that it is not possible to edit the transactions as recorded by branches, in the context of the other statements made, Post Office's response was not fairly represented in the Programme. Had Post Office's response been fairly represented, this would have provided appropriate context for the comments made by Mr Sweeney and Mr Roll.



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GRO

GRO

From: Rodric Williams

Sent: 11 September 2015 14:01

To: Susan BARTY (GRO); Tom Reid (GRO)

Subject: FW: BBC Panorama [CMCK-UK.FID8673510]

Thanks Susan – I've now been through this and it looks good.

Could you or Tom please give me a quick call so we can tidy up a couple of points before I circulate it internally. It won't take long....



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GRO

GRO

From: BARTY, Susan [mailto:GRO]

Sent: 10 September 2015 19:40

To: Rodric Williams

Cc: Reid, Tom

Subject: BBC Panorama [CMCK-UK.FID8673510]

Rodric

Thanks for spending time on the phone on this earlier. I attach an amended letter to the BBC. The first pdf is a comparison against the version I sent yesterday, and the second pdf is this version against the earlier draft. (I have, however, just amended the date to read "September".)

I did not include a paragraph about the programme portraying the events as current, as they do refer to this being in the past, although it is not clear how long ago. But, for example, it says "There's been a bit of a crime wave sweeping middle England".

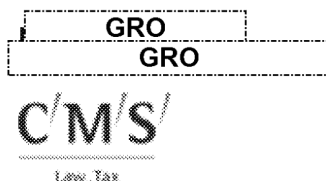
Do let me know if there are any more comments or if you would like to discuss this further?

Best wishes

Susan

Susan Barty
Partner

GRO



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