

Briefing for Paula / James Arbuthnot meeting

1. When we began the investigation, it was founded on the following principles:
 - 1.1. **Independent** to “**get to the truth**” about the allegations raised against Horizon
 - 1.2. Post Office would **respond to any learnings** found
 - 1.3. We would ensure that it would be a good use of **public money**
2. Current position:
 - 2.1. **No systemic issues** found (ie no major software flaws found)
 - 2.2. **Timescales** significantly overrun (originally expected to complete Autumn 2012)
 - 2.3. Concerned that there might be **mission creep** (eg started with 6 cases, now have 29 MP cases and 20 JFSA cases)
 - 2.4. We are still receiving cases from MPs (two arrived this week)
 - 2.5. Concerned about the spiraling costs in light of our **duty to protect public money**
3. Proposal
 - 3.1. We need to ensure we focus the investigation on the key question: **are there systemic defects in Horizon?**
 - 3.2. Limit to **two to three MPs cases** [need to confirm with second sight]
 - 3.3. We don't accept any more new MP cases. Instead they get feed into the normal Post Office review process (and do not go to Second Sight)
 - 3.4. Second Sight to report back **before summer recess** [need to confirm with second sight]
 - 3.5. If that report shows that there are no systemic problems, we **close down the investigation**
 - 3.6. Post Office will address any improvement areas that are identified
4. Stakeholders
 - 4.1. Some stakeholders may be not be satisfied
 - 4.2. Face to face meeting with you to discuss how we can help on this:

Stakeholder	Response	Recommended Approach
MPs	May not be satisfied that their cases were not included in the review	Meeting with each MP, Second Sight and Post Office to take them through the details of their case.

		Note: not all cases have provided enough detail to enable a thorough review, however we could talk about findings in similar cases
JFSA	JFSA may respond negatively and could withdraw support. They could take their views to the media.	Maybe we have to accept that no matter what we do they will not be happy unless systemic issues are found, nonetheless I would like to see if we can positively engage with JFSA: Post Office could invite JFSA to become part of a Horizon user group. We could ask JFSA on an on-going basis to help us identify which new cases warrant further investigation as sub postmasters report issues in the future.
Media	Any findings will generate media interest, we have to be prepared with our proactive messages before the report is published	We should work together to ensure our communication messages are aligned and reflect the good work that has gone into this investigation.