
From: Ruth Phillips [GRO]
Sent: Wed 22/03/2017 10:23:40 AM (UTC)
To: Kay Wilson [GRO]; Paul I Smith [GRO]; Michelle Stevens [GRO]; Mark A Wood [GRO]; Gillian Hoyland [GRO]; Allison Walton [GRO]; Carol King [GRO]; Dawn L Colclough [GRO]; Dawn Wall [GRO]; Jacqueline Whitham [GRO]; Tracy Mather [GRO]; Tracy Middleton [GRO]
Cc: Alisdair Cameron [GRO]; Amanda Radford [GRO]; Jane MacLeod [GRO]; Mark Underwood1 [GRO]; Stuart Nesbit [GRO]
Subject: Suspense Accounts - Private & Confidential - Subject to Legal Privilege

All,

As you may know, a group of current and former postmasters have brought a claim against Post Office and the gist of the claim is that Horizon is defective and the accounting processes associated with it are inadequate.

One of the allegations made by the claimants is that:-

- The suspense accounts operated by Post Office are used to hold unattributed surpluses including those generated from branch accounts.
- After a period of time, such unattributed surpluses were credited to Post Office's profits.
- Post Office thereby stood to benefit and/or did benefit from apparent shortfalls wrongly attributed to the Claimants which did not represent real losses to Post Office.

For the avoidance of doubt, we do not think that anyone has been doing anything inappropriate or improper. Getting this review done independently across a very complex area of the business is simply us making sure that we can prove that's the case. No one therefore needs to feel defensive and you should simply be open and available.

Deloitte have been engaged to assist Post Office's solicitors, Bond Dickinson, to prepare Post Office's defence to this allegation. Deloitte have carried out an initial piece of work which has identified several different "suspense" accounts and certain controls that are in place to ensure that they are used properly, but further work is required in order to complete Post Office defence. It is likely that Deloitte will need input from you as part of this process.

All of the communications between Post Office and/or Deloitte and/or Bond Dickinson in relation to this work will attract legal privilege, which means that Post Office will not be obliged to provide copies of the communications to the claimants as part of the group litigation. However, legal privilege can be lost. In order to ensure that this does not happen, please adhere to the following practices:-

- The subject line of all emails in relation to this matter should always contain "Private & Confidential - Subject to Legal Privilege".
- Only those copied to this email should be included in further emails.
- If input is needed from someone that is not on the circulation list, please speak first to Jonny Gribben at Bond

Dickinson

Kind Regards

Al



Alisdair Cameron

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