
From: Melanie Corfield: [GRO]
Sent: Wed 18/12/2019 11:49:39 AM (UTC)
To: Patrick Bourke: [GRO]
Subject: RE: Horizon verdict v3 (003)

It absolutely has to be challenged in strongest terms because it is factually incorrect throughout about what the Judgment actually says. It would be libellous to both PO and FJ to publish this.
Extremely unhelpful – ultimately more to Fed though.
Last para is where he needs to go much more quickly in this – with some vision of their direction of travel.
Otherwise this essentially says: Bad PO, Fed were duped and are hopeless. Judge was right in Common Issues.

Mel

From: Patrick Bourke
Sent: 18 December 2019 11:29
To: Melanie Corfield: [GRO]
Subject: FW: Horizon verdict v3 (003)

Would like your views...

From: Calum Greenhow [GRO]
Sent: 18 December 2019 11:06
To: Nick Beal [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]
Subject: Horizon verdict v3 (003)

Hi Nick/Patrick,

Please find attached version 3 of our statement.

Thank you both for your telephone calls. I appreciate the sentiment behind the calls very much.

As you will both understand, the NFSP has not been involved in either case, nor had the ability to defend ourselves against some of the accusation put against us in court. This has left us in a very, very difficult place. As such our response to the verdicts, our opponents and most importantly the message we send to our members has to be balanced very carefully.

It cannot be downplayed, that from the two court cases, the culture in the Post Office at that time, misled the NFSP in relation to Horizon. As much as I wasn't party to the decisions of Colin Baker nor George Thomson over the last 20 years and the decisions they made, either way, the NFSP has taken the stance publicly that Horizon is robust as a result of the information received from the Post Office.

There are three aspects that came out of the members survey in February that members want from the NFSP. These are; challenge the Post Office, increase remuneration and engage with members. In light of both trials, as an individual who was exposed to the culture and flaws in the Horizon system and as the voice now of my colleagues, I have to challenge the Post Office on this. I cannot be seen to be in the pocket of the Post Office, as our critics would suggest, on such an important aspect.

However, I am very conscious of the work that the Post Office and NFSP need to do collaboratively moving forward to, as Nick Read has so eloquently put it, reset the relationship between the Post Office and Subpostmasters. To do this correctly it cannot be from a dominant/subservient position that the culture of the past led to where we are now.

I don't intend to release anything till later in the day so open to discuss this further the content before then and also

on to how far and wide the release goes.

Yours,

Calum