
From: Mark R Davies [GRO]
Sent: Fri 01/03/2019 9:25:47 AM (UTC)
To: Aldred, Tom - UKGI [GRO] Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) [GRO] Melanie Corfield [GRO]
Cc: Clarke, Stephen - UKGI [GRO]
Subject: Re: Post Office announcement

Morning

It's very hard to answer given the range of possibilities ie particular cases, whether we appeal, timescale...etc

My advice would be to refer questions to the statements we will have made which will help to give context.

If there are criticisms around training I think one would refer to the (many) steps we've taken over the last six years to improve training.

More generally I would be stressing the steps we have taken to try to get to the bottom of issues raised:

- branch user forum
- mediation scheme
- independent review

I hope that helps. It's difficult to predict. But worth stressing we will have some time to work on position before judgement is public.

Mark

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From: Aldred, Tom - UKGI [GRO]
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 9:18 am
To: Mark R Davies; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services); Melanie Corfield
Cc: Clarke, Stephen - UKGI
Subject: RE: Post Office announcement

Mark / Melanie

Thanks for your help already. If the judge is critical of aspects of Post Office's handling of the case and behaviour towards the claimants (I understand this is a possibility), do you have any advice on handling a question to a minister about whether they condone this?

Tom

Tom Aldred, Post Office Shareholder Team, UKGI
T: [GRO] | M: [GRO]

From: Mark R Davies [GRO]
Sent: 28 February 2019 16:17

To: Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) **GRO** Melanie Corfield
GRO
Cc: Aldred, Tom - UKGI **GRO** Clarke, Stephen - UKGI **GRO**
Subject: Re: Post Office announcement

Hi Cecilia

Thanks for this. In terms of a line about why Paula stepped down I would suggest:

Paula Vennells' decision to step down as chief executive of Post Office had nothing to do with the High Court trial. After 12 years with PO and seven as chief executive, during which the business had a period of unprecedented success, Ms Vennells is moving to chair a high profile NHS trust and take on a non-executive role with the Cabinet Office, in addition to her non-exec directorship at Morrisons.

Having turned Post Office from a business losing £120m of taxpayers money to one making a profit while also improving services for customers, we are sorry she made the decision to move on and wish her well in her new, demanding roles.

In relation to the issues raised in the High Court it is worth noting that it was Ms Vennells who set up an independent review and a mediation scheme.

— —

Mel are you ok with this?

Mark

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From: Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services)
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 3:49 pm
To: Mark R Davies; Melanie Corfield
Cc: Aldred, Tom - UKGI; Clarke, Stephen - UKGI
Subject: Re: Post Office announcement

GRO

Hi Mark/Melanie,

Hope you are well. As you know, with the litigation judgement imminent, we are preparing a UQ pack for the Minister.

Might be a long shot but any chance you have some off the shelf lines to rebut claims that Paula stepped down as POL CEO due to the trial?

If not I'll draft something, yet I'd be grateful if you could have a look at what I come up with before we send it up to the Minister.

Thanks.
Cecilia

Cecilia Vandini (BEIS) | Post Office Policy Lead, AMS

GRO

On 18/02/2019, 15:23, "Mark R Davies" **GRO** wrote:

And here are the links

https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fcorporate.postoffice.co.uk%2Four-media-centre%23%2Fpressreleases%2Fpost-office-ceo-paula-vennells-leaving-to-chair-imperial-health-trust-2837526%3F_sm_byp%3DiVV5fj0kRRMHnnTq&data=02%7C01%7Ccecilia.vandini%40beis.gov.uk%7Cd5e5715819c84594c97608d695b4f912%7Ccbac700502c143ebb497e6492d1b2dd8%7C0%7C0%7C636861001877698783&sd_ata=IHQ6QCsERGK8pop4FuiMOAZelT%2Bh3sUx3fIn33B3Js%3D&reserved=0

And the announcement from the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is here:

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.imperial.nhs.uk%2Fabout-us%2Fnews%2Fimperial-college-healthcare-nhs-trust-names-new-chair&data=02%7C01%7Ccecilia.vandini%40beis.gov.uk%7Cd5e5715819c84594c97608d695b4f912%7Ccbac700502c143ebb497e6492d1b2dd8%7C0%7C0%7C636861001877698783&sdata=7wiwnd7ICFGIZK%2Fa3zJpAJip90egU5TnPFU6WlYxvPA%3D&reserved=0>

-----Original Message-----

From: Miles, Annabelle (Communications & Partnerships) [GRO]
Sent: 18 February 2019 09:27
To: Mark R Davies [GRO]; Aldred, Tom - UKGI [GRO]
Cc: Clarke, Stephen - UKGI [GRO]; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) [GRO]
Subject: RE: Post Office announcement

Hi Mark - can I just check what time you are due to make the announcement? Assume via a press notice?

Thanks

Annabelle

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark R Davies [GRO]
Sent: 18 February 2019 09:09
To: Aldred, Tom - UKGI [GRO]; Swoffer, Chris (Communications & Partnerships) [GRO]; Miles, Annabelle (Communications & Partnerships) [GRO]
Cc: Clarke, Stephen - UKGI [GRO]; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) [GRO]
Subject: RE: Post Office announcement

Thanks Tom -will do.

-----Original Message-----

From: Aldred, Tom - UKGI [GRO]
Sent: 17 February 2019 20:45
To: Chris Swoffer [GRO]; Annabelle Miles [GRO]; Mark R Davies [GRO]
Cc: Clarke, Stephen - UKGI [GRO]
Subject: Post Office announcement

Annabelle, Chris,

Mark Davies at Post Office (cc'd) has informed me that they will be announcing the departure of Paula Vennells as CEO tomorrow. They will NOT be announcing the identity of the interim CEO, which as you know has not yet been cleared by ministers.

Mark, would you be able to send materials direct to Chris and Annabelle?

I'm not in the office on Monday and am likely to be unreachable for much of the morning. Tom Cooper is also out tomorrow.

If you need to speak to the shareholder team, please contact Steve.

I will email separately to inform private offices

Tom

Sent from my iPhone

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