POL00308179

From: Patrick Bourke[/O=MMS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PATRICK BOURKBE7DB8D6-53EC-4534-922B-495877001727E11]

Sent: Tue 25/11/2014 8:45:06 AM (UTC)

To: Mark R Davies GRO

Subject: RE: Paula notes

Attachment: PV-Board-AP.docx

Morning Mark

As promised, I attach a word doc (so you can see what I have done) of your draft note to PV

Shall we meet early today, so that you can get it out of the way ? I have a view on the way forward I'd like to test.

Best wishes

Patrick

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark R Davies
Sent: 24 November 2014 21:36
To: Patrick Bourke
Subject: Re: Paula notes

No worries at all. Yep, I enjoyed it and great to see my mate!

Cheers
Mark

Mark Davies
Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
Mobile: GRO

Sent from my iPad

On 24 Nov 2014, at 21:33, "Patrick Bourke" GRO wrote:

> Hi Mark
>
> No probs - I will include a couple of lines on the legal side and suggest one or two tweaks but this looks pretty much exactly right to me.
>
> Can I do that though from the office where I will have a laptop to work from ? It'll be done and with you by 0900.
>
> Ok ?
>
> Thanks again for coming this pm - was quite fun in a way.
>
> Best wishes
>
> Patrick
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Mark R Davies
> Sent: Monday, November 24, 2014 09:25 PM
> To: Patrick Bourke
> Subject: Paula notes
>
> Hi Patrick
> Paula has asked for some bullet points for her meeting with Alice at 10 tomorrow and for the Board. Please see below.

POL00308179

Can you let me know whether you happy by 9am Tuesday (sorry)?
>
> M
>
> - the meeting with MPs was difficult and at times unpleasant. The behaviour of JA, Andrew Bridgen and Mike Wood was at times rude and certainly inappropriate. Oliver Letwin was more measured and constructive
>
> - I was therefore very proud of Angela van den Bogard in particular. She had a good answer for every question and conducted herself in a way which befitted the values of the Post Office
>
> - the fundamental question being asked of us at the meeting was whether we would agree to a "general assumption" that we would agree to mediate in every case where Second Sight recommended this course of action
>
> - we were asked to respond in a manner which I found threatening: MPs said that if we did not respond quickly, they would not be able to hold off the media: this came across in a very unfortunate manner
>
> - we agreed however to consider the point and get back to the MPs as soon as possible
>
> - I know that you met Belinda, Mark and Alwen last week to discuss this. Exco also had a full discussion on the issue last week.
>
> - the team has considered the position, and has come to the conclusion that we should not agree to the "general assumption"
>
> - there are several reasons for this. It would make the working group, which was set up with TOR agreed by the JFSA, redundant as we would simply be waving cases through. This would be outwith the balancing nature of the working group. It would also force us to mediate in criminal cases where the legal processes have not been exhausted. We have strong legal advice suggesting we should not take this course.
>
> - this is unlikely to be welcomed by the MPs so we are preparing for every eventuality. We could expect media coverage, at a low level but are well prepared for this. We are also proposing that our letter setting out our position to the MPs could be released to the media, given the MPs point about media pressure. This gives us a chance to set out our position and the "Clapham Omnibus" position.
>
> - we are also making contact separately with Oliver Letwin to impress upon him the nature of our position. We have a number of channels open to us here.
>
> - given the potential collapse of the working group, we have also taken the precaution of seeking further legal advice from a leading QC at Blackstone Chambers. While we know that as a public body, we are susceptible to judicial review, we wanted to test the position further around the nature of the Scheme and the cases submitted to it
>
> - this is important as unlike in the summer, where we were considering closing the scheme ourselves, the Scheme could collapse through the actions of others, who might then seek JR
>
> - the view is that (Patrick to fill in)
>
> - this is clearly important and good news. We are well positioned. The strategy we set out in the summer is working. We have a strong media position and public narrative, while the legal backstop suggests that our risk of JR is low (perhaps lower than we thought)
>
> - so the recommendation of the Exco is that we hold our nerve on this. We will complete all the investigations by Christmas and continue to work as part of the Working Group.
>
> Mark Davies
> Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
> Mobile: GRO
>
> Sent from my iPad