

From: Permanent Secretaries [GRO]
Sent: Fri 30/12/2022 5:13:23 PM (UTC)
To: "Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office)" [GRO] "Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI" [GRO]
"Cooper, Tom - UKGI" [GRO]
"Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS)" [GRO] "Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate)" [GRO]
"Brooks-White (Jobshare)" [GRO]
"Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI" [GRO]
"Gourlay, James - UKGI" [GRO]
"Brightwell, Rob (Business Sectors - Services Directorate)" [GRO]
"Daffu, Bal - UKGI" [GRO] "Putt, Lily - UKGI" [GRO]
"Parsons, Joe (Energy Security)" [GRO] "Barnett, David - UKGI" [GRO]
"Scott, Joshua - UKGI" [GRO]
Cc: "Skilbeck, Jessica (Energy Security)" [GRO] Permanent Secretaries [GRO]
Subject: RE: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Hi Siv, all,

Thanks for the work on this. I boxed the letter before Christmas – will let you know Sarah's thoughts when I have them. On attendees we are planning to keep this to just Sarah/Henry given nature of some of the discussion.

Thanks,

Nicol

Nicol Brydon | Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretaries [GRO]

From: Permanent Secretaries [GRO]

Sent: 23 December 2022 17:33

To: Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [GRO] Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI [GRO]
Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO] Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) [GRO]
Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [GRO]
Brooks-White (Jobshare) [GRO] Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [GRO]
Gourlay, James - UKGI [GRO] Brightwell, Rob (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [GRO]
Daffu, Bal - UKGI [GRO]
Putt, Lily - UKGI [GRO] Parsons, Joe (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [GRO]
Barnett, David - UKGI [GRO] Scott, Joshua - UKGI [GRO]
Permanent Secretaries [GRO]

Cc: Skilbeck, Jessica (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [GRO]

Subject: RE: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Hi Siv

Thank you for sending over the briefing for Sarah. To note- the meeting has moved to Thursday 5 Jan. I've updated the briefing accordingly.

In terms of attendees, I'm unsure as am covering for Nicol while he is on leave. Nicol is back on the 30th- I will ask him to confirm then.

@Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) Many thanks for the additional comments David. I've added them to the briefing.

Hope you all have a great Christmas!

Thanks

Will

From: Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [GRO]

Sent: 23 December 2022 12:54

To: Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI [GRO] Permanent Secretaries [GRO]
Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO] Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) [GRO]
Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [GRO]
Brooks-White (Jobshare) [GRO] Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [GRO]
Gourlay, James - UKGI [GRO] Brightwell, Rob (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [GRO]
Daffu, Bal - UKGI [GRO]

Putt, Lily - UKGI [GRO] Parsons, Joe (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability)
[GRO] Barnett, David - UKGI [GRO] Scott, Joshua - UKGI
[GRO]

Cc: Skilbeck, Jessica (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [GRO]

Subject: RE: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

There are a couple of further things I think Sarah needs to be aware of (and probably address):

- POL Review – SoS has said no to a review. He is content however for there to be an internal (to HMG, not just BEIS) review of policies. HMT's requirement in SR allocation was that there should be a review. From conversations with HMT officials, an internal only review is likely to be sufficient but their line is that, without a review giving a clear plan, more funding is not available. So, for POL Chair, we need to agree to work together on the review and further funding will be a real challenge until we have real progress on this.
- Inquiry fracas over HSS – at the statutory inquiry compensation hearing, BEIS counsel rather unfortunately contrasted BEIS's ambition (though he used the word target) of 100% HSS offers made by 31 December with POL's target of 95% and expressed the department's disappointment that the 100% "target" had not been hit. This created an eruption from POL, right up to Nick Read, on the grounds that 100% was never an agreed target and POL had achieved the agreed 95% target. We have apologised to POL leadership and the inquiry, but have reiterated our (and POL's) ambition for all postmasters to receive offers asap. I suspect we have not heard (and may never hear) the end of this. The line to take is that Counsel used the word target when he should have said ambition (and had generally created an unfair impression), we have apologised, reiterating the shared ambition to compensate swiftly and need to move on. (If Sarah feels like being a bit more punchy and isn't feeling as charitable as the season dictates, she might observe that if the application to extracting an apology is shown across the compensation board, POL will crack through the cases speedily).

Merry Christmas everyone!

Kind regards

David Bickerton



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

David Bickerton (he/him)

Director General, Business Sectors Group

Telephone: [GRO]

Email: [GRO]

1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

www.gov.uk/beis | Twitter: @beisgovuk

For diary queries and availability please contact my PA, [GRO]

From: Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI [GRO]

Sent: 23 December 2022 11:22

To: Permanent Secretaries [GRO] Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO]
Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) [GRO] Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services
Directorate) [GRO] Brooks-White (Jobshare) [GRO] Bickerton, David
(Business Sectors DG Office) [GRO] Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI
[GRO] Gourlay, James - UKGI [GRO] Brightwell, Rob
(Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [GRO] Daffu, Bal - UKGI [GRO]
Putt, Lily - UKGI [GRO] Parsons, Joe (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability)
[GRO] Barnett, David - UKGI [GRO] Scott, Joshua - UKGI
[GRO]

Cc: Skillbeck, Jessica (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [GRO]

Subject: RE: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Hi Nicol,

With thanks to BEIS and UKGI Colleagues for their inputs, please find attached the briefing note for Perm Sec's Meeting with the POL Chair on January 3.

Could you please confirm if you would like officials from UKGI and BEIS to attend, or if it will be just a one-to-one meeting. If the former, we will ensure a suitable UKGI and BEIS Official will be present.

Please let me know if any questions on the attached. Thanks again for all your help.

Best,
Siv
Siv Rajeswaran | Manager

UK Government Investments

1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET

M: [REDACTED] GRO

www.ukgi.org.uk

Follow on 

From: Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI

Sent: 20 December 2022 16:54

To: Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] GRO Cooper, Tom - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO
Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) [REDACTED] GRO Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED] GRO Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [REDACTED] GRO
Gourlay, James - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO Putt, Lily - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO Parsons, Joe (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO Barnett, David - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO

Cc: Skilbeck, Jessica (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [REDACTED] GRO

Subject: RE: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman
OS COMMERCIAL

Hi Nicol,

Thanks for the following steers.

To set the backdrop for Agenda Item 4, we have prepared the attached letter for Permanent Secretary to send through to Henry asap in advance of the meeting noting Perm Sec's receipt of the previous Chair's letter on Historical Matters and flagging immediate next steps, which includes discussion at the January 3 meeting.

Please let me know if any questions on the attached. We are separately preparing the broader briefing note for the meeting which we are on track to get to you by Friday morning.

Thanks again for all your help.

Best,

Siv

Siv Rajeswaran | Manager

UK Government Investments

1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET

M: [REDACTED] GRO

www.ukgi.org.uk

Follow on 

From: Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] GRO

Sent: 19 December 2022 13:51

To: Cooper, Tom - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO Gourlay, James - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO Rob Brightwell [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO Daffu, Bal - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO Putt, Lily - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO
Parsons, Joe (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [REDACTED] GRO Barnett, David - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO

Cc: Skilbeck, Jessica (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) [REDACTED] GRO Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] GRO

Subject: RE: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman
Hi Tom

I think so on split - though a lot of crossover between teams on each item. Only question is no.4 – I think Siv/James have tended to support our correspondence w/Pol so might be best placed? Think it's a fairly minor point but relates to previous convo on how we respond to Tim P's original historical matters letter, which has been separately discussed w/Rebecca & James. It may just need a line on where we are in responding to this and plans for addressing issues raised – as opposed to anything too detailed.

Don't mind who holds the overall lead on the briefing doc – but given split suggest it's still UKGI? Though if BEIS policy team have more capacity to lead then that's fine with me!

Thanks,

Nicol

Nicol Brydon | Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretaries **GRO**

From: Cooper, Tom - UKGI **GRO**

Sent: 19 December 2022 13:04

To: Permanent Secretaries < **GRO** Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS)

GRO Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate)

GRO Brooks-White (Jobshare) **GRO** Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) **GRO** Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI

GRO Gourlay, James - UKGI **GRO** Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI

GRO Brightwell, Rob (Business Sectors - Services Directorate)

GRO Daffu, Bal - UKGI **GRO** Putt, Lily - UKGI **GRO**

Parsons, Joe (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) **GRO** Barnett, David - UKGI

GRO

Cc: Skilbeck, Jessica (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) **GRO**

Subject: RE: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Thanks Nicol

A number of key members of the UKGI team are out this week.

I've asked Bal to discuss the letter on Funding received on Friday with the BEIS team and BEIS Finance. A sub will need to be prepared of the back of that and will cover points 2 and 3.

We can also cover 1. The agenda should also include an update from Henry on NED appointments. We will cover that too.

The other agenda points are for the BEIS team to draft aren't they?

Tom

From: Permanent Secretaries **GRO**

Sent: 19 December 2022 10:58

To: Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) **GRO** Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) **GRO** brooks-white **GRO** Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office)

GRO Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI **GRO**

Gourlay, James - UKGI **GRO** Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI **GRO** Cooper,

Tom - UKGI **GRO** Rob Brightwell **GRO** Parsons, Joe (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability) **GRO**

Cc: Permanent Secretaries **GRO** Skilbeck, Jessica (NZBI - Portfolio & Affordability)

GRO

Subject: [Briefing Request - midday Friday 23/12] RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Hi all,

Sarah's meeting with Henry S has gone in for 3 Jan. Apologies this makes things rather tight for briefing as it's the first work day post-new year. Is it possible to receive **briefing by midday Friday**? My starter for 10 on what likely needs covered is below - but will defer to colleagues on the chain (Nb: not suggesting Sarah proactively raises everything below, though am keen she is well placed to cover if needed):

1. CEO Pay (Sarah is close to this so doesn't need to be extensive)
2. POL short term finances
3. POL 3 yr plan
4. Recent exchange of letters (anything needing covered/acknowledged?)
5. Any other live issues (eg relating to Inquiry/Compensation)
6. NI EBSS – line on latest around POLs involvement

Grateful if UKGI can hold the pen, with relevant input from BEIS policy teams.

Many thanks,

Nicol

Nicol Brydon | Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretaries | 07843 828168

From: Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] **GRO**

Sent: 16 December 2022 11:57

To: Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) [REDACTED] **GRO** Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [REDACTED] **GRO** Brooks-White (Jobshare) [REDACTED] **GRO** Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [REDACTED] **GRO** Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [REDACTED] **GRO** Gourlay, James - UKGI [REDACTED] **GRO** Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI [REDACTED] **GRO** Cooper, Tom - UKGI [REDACTED] **GRO**

Cc: Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] **GRO**

Subject: RE: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Apologies – now with the correct Tom in copy...

Nicol

From: Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] **GRO**

Sent: 16 December 2022 11:35

To: Stockbridge, Rebecca (BEIS) [REDACTED] **GRO** Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [REDACTED] **GRO** Brooks-White (Jobshare) [REDACTED] **GRO** Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [REDACTED] **GRO** Taylor, Tom (Corporate Services - Finance) [REDACTED] **GRO** Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [REDACTED] **GRO** Gourlay, James - UKGI [REDACTED] **GRO** Rajeswaran, Siv - UKGI [REDACTED] **GRO**

Cc: Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] **GRO**

Subject: FW: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Hi all – tba response from Henry following the intro letter.

Best,

Nicol

Nicol Brydon | Private Secretary to the Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] **GRO**

From: Diane Blanchard <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED] **GRO**

Sent: 15 December 2022 17:37

To: Permanent Secretaries [REDACTED] **GRO**

Cc: Henry Staunton [REDACTED] **GRO**

Subject: Attached Letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Dear Permanent Under-Secretary of State

Please see attached letter from Henry Staunton, Chairman

Kind regards

Diane

Diane Blanchard (She/Her)

Executive Assistant to Post Office Chairman,

Post Office Non-Executive Directors &

Ben Foat, Group General Counsel

[REDACTED] **GRO**

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