

From: Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE)[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3F131AB4A1E443368F392D196C626FAE-5B2AC667-8A]

Sent: Thur 09/03/2023 1:40:49 PM (UTC)

To: Secretary Of State INTERNATIONAL TRADE
 [GRO] Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office [GRO] Brooks-White (Jobshare) [GRO] [GRO] Minister INVESTMENT (TRADE) [GRO]; Minister HUDDLESTON (TRADE) [GRO]; Minister GHANI (TRADE) [GRO]; Perm SEC (TRADE) [GRO] Second PERM SEC (TRADE) [GRO]; Spad SOS (TRADE) [GRO] Strategy Unit [GRO]; MSD Director's Office [GRO]

Cc: Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [GRO]; Heath, Daniel (Corporate Services - Finance) [GRO] Raraty, Helena (BEIS) [GRO] Summers, Isabel (Corporate Services - Finance) [GRO] Wones, Eleri (BEIS) [GRO]; Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO] Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [GRO]; Barnett, David - UKGI [GRO]; Daffu, Bal - UKGI [GRO] FBS&S Director [GRO] Hughes, Lisa (Market Frameworks - Consumer & Competition Policy) [GRO] Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE) [GRO]

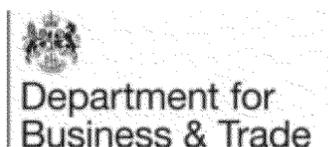
Subject: RE: Submission: Post Office financial issues

Hi all,

SpAds are yet to review this but given the submission is to note, I'm going to readout with Minister Hollinrake's views now and SpAds office can come back on the chain with any feedback.

Minister Hollinrake noted and agreed with this submission, and commented that at the recent network strategy meeting with POL, *'I was clear of the need a short, medium and long term plan to get the govt subsidy to a sustainable position, likely to be around £100m/annum compared to the current c£250m average. This will require some initial funding for redundancies etc, both at directly managed branch level and senior management tier'*.

Best wishes,
Cora



Cora Sweet | Private Secretary to Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business
Department for Business and Trade | Old Admiralty Building, London, SW1A 2DY

Tel: [GRO] | E-mail:
[GRO]
[Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [great.gov.uk](#)

From: Secretary Of State INTERNATIONAL TRADE (TRADE) <[GRO]>
Sent: 24 February 2023 13:16
To: Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office); [GRO] Brooks-White (Jobshare); [GRO]; Minister INVESTMENT (TRADE) [GRO] Minister HUDDLESTON (TRADE) [GRO] Minister GHANI (TRADE); [GRO] Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE) [GRO] Perm SEC (TRADE); [GRO]; Second PERM SEC (TRADE) [GRO]; Spad SOS (TRADE); [GRO] Strategy Unit [GRO] MSD Director's Office [GRO]
Cc: Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate); [GRO] Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE); [GRO] Heath, Daniel (Corporate Services - Finance) [GRO] Raraty, Helena (BEIS); [GRO] Summers, Isabel (Corporate Services - Finance); [GRO] Wones, Eleri (BEIS) [GRO] Cooper, Tom - UKG; [GRO]; Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKG; [GRO] Barnett, David - UKG; [GRO] Daffu, Bal - UKG; [GRO] FBS&S Director; [GRO]; Hughes, Lisa (Market Frameworks - Consumer & Competition Policy) [GRO]
Subject: RE: Submission: Post Office financial issues

Many thanks both.

SOS has now formally agreed to delegate Post Office business to Min Hollinrake, so I will hold off sending any further subs to her.

If there are decisions that require SOS steer, for procedural reasons or due to high importance, then of course very happy to take those, just let me know as needed.

Best,
Ed

Ed Moore | Private Secretary (interim) to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Department for Business and Trade | Old Admiralty Building | London SW1A 2DY
Tel: [GRO]

From: Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office); [GRO]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 5:04 PM
To: Brooks-White (Jobshare); [GRO] Secretary Of State INTERNATIONAL TRADE (TRADE) [GRO] Minister INVESTMENT (TRADE) [GRO] Minister HUDDLESTON (TRADE) [GRO] Minister GHANI (TRADE); [GRO] Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE) [GRO] Perm SEC (TRADE); [GRO]; Second PERM SEC (TRADE) [GRO]

[redacted] Spad SOS (TRADE) [redacted] Strategy Unit
 [redacted] MSD Director's Office [redacted]
Cc: Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [redacted] Heath, Daniel
 (Corporate Services - Finance) [redacted] Raraty, Helena (BEIS)
 [redacted] Summers, Isabel (Corporate Services - Finance)
 [redacted] Wones, Eleri (BEIS) [redacted] Cooper, Tom - UKGI
 [redacted] Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [redacted]
 Barnett, David - UKGI [redacted] Daffu, Bal - UKGI [redacted]
 FBS&S Director [redacted] >; Hughes, Lisa (Market Frameworks - Consumer &
 Competition Policy) [redacted]
Subject: RE: Submission: Post Office financial issues

I mentioned in my home meeting today. I think there needs to be a political discussion with CST to agree (or not) that HMT will provide more funding (in the immediate short term allowing DBT to use some ex-BEIS admin underspends the FY) in the absence of an agreed plan for the future of Post Office because Ministers' view is that now is not the time to be bringing the future of the Post Office into public arena.

SoS's initial view was "that's probably right". I also suggested she delegate to Kevin H. The timing pressure is that we need to sort out the money (when we can have ex-BEIS money rather than a pressure on DBT's budget) this FY so I would be very grateful if we could put it up to SoS please

Kind regards
David



David Bickerton
Director General, Business Sectors
 Tel: [redacted] | Mobile: [redacted]
 [redacted]
 1, Victoria St, London SW1H 0ET
www.gov.uk/beis | <https://twitter.com/beisgovuk>

For diary queries and availability please contact my EA [redacted]

From: Brooks-White (Jobshare) [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Secretary Of State INTERNATIONAL TRADE (TRADE) [redacted] Minister Grimstone (Trade) [redacted] Minister HUDDLESTON (TRADE) [redacted] Minister GHANI (TRADE) [redacted] Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE) [redacted] Perm SEC (TRADE) [redacted] >; Second PERM SEC (TRADE) [redacted] Spad SOS (TRADE) [redacted] Strategy Unit [redacted] MSD Director's Office [redacted] Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [redacted]
Cc: Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [redacted] Heath, Daniel (Corporate Services - Finance) [redacted] Raraty, Helena (BEIS) [redacted] Summers, Isabel (Corporate Services - Finance) [redacted]

[REDACTED] GRO Wones, Eleri (BEIS) [REDACTED] GRO Cooper, Tom - UKGI
[REDACTED] GRO; Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO
Barnett, David - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Daffu, Bal - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO
FBS&S Director [REDACTED] GRO; Hughes, Lisa (Market Frameworks - Consumer &
Competition Policy) [REDACTED] GRO
Subject: RE: Submission: Post Office financial issues

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: COMMERCIAL

Hi Ed

Fully understand that there isn't a clear/essential decision here. We wanted to make sure that SoS was aware of the issue given the potential impact into future years budgets, and risk to the company if a positive course of action isn't taken. We were also seeking confirmation that SoS is happy that we continue with the approach we are currently taking. I wouldn't be surprised if this didn't come up in Ministerial KITs and/or further meetings with seniors, so wanted to make sure she was aware and content with the steps being taken before that happens. I haven't seen a read out from the meeting that David Bickerton had with SoS, do you think she is sufficiently sighted for now? If you would prefer not to share with her now, could you confirm that you are happy that we continue the work, and that we will provide a more full note in March when we next hear from Post Office?

Kind regards

Beth

Beth White and Eleanor Brooks

Beth: [REDACTED] GRO

Eleanor: [REDACTED] GRO

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: COMMERCIAL

From: Secretary Of State INTERNATIONAL TRADE (TRADE) [REDACTED] GRO
Sent: 23 February 2023 15:17
To: Brooks-White (Jobshare) [REDACTED] GRO; Minister Grimstone (Trade)
[REDACTED] GRO; Minister HUDDLESTON (TRADE) [REDACTED] GRO
Minister GHANI (TRADE) [REDACTED] GRO; Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE)
[REDACTED] GRO; Perm SEC (TRADE) [REDACTED] GRO; Second PERM SEC (TRADE)
[REDACTED] GRO; Head SOS (TRADE) [REDACTED] GRO; Strategy Unit
[REDACTED] GRO; MSD Director's Office [REDACTED] GRO; Bickerton, David
(Business Sectors DG Office) [REDACTED] GRO
Cc: Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [REDACTED] GRO; Heath, Daniel
(Corporate Services - Finance) [REDACTED] GRO; Raraty, Helena (BEIS)
[REDACTED] GRO; Summers, Isabel (Corporate Services - Finance)

[redacted] GRO ; Wones, Eleri (BEIS) [redacted] GRO ; Cooper, Tom - UKGI
[redacted] GRO ; Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [redacted] GRO ;
Barnett, David - UKGI [redacted] GRO ; Daffu, Bal - UKGI [redacted] GRO
FBS&S Director [redacted] GRO ; Hughes, Lisa (Market Frameworks - Consumer &
Competition Policy) [redacted] GRO
Subject: RE: Submission: Post Office financial issues

Many thanks Beth. Can I check if it's essential SOS takes this now? We'd ideally prefer to take advice once there's a firm decision, rather than doing iterative advice. But do let me know if you can't progress without a decision now.

Many thanks,

Ed

Ed Moore | Private Secretary (interim) to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Department for Business and Trade | Old Admiralty Building | London SW1A 2DY
Tel: [redacted] GRO

From: Brooks-White (Jobshare) [redacted] GRO
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 1:58 PM
To: Secretary Of State INTERNATIONAL TRADE (TRADE) [redacted] GRO >; Minister INVESTMENT (TRADE) [redacted] GRO ; Minister HUDDLESTON (TRADE) [redacted] GRO >; Minister GHANI (TRADE) [redacted] GRO ; Minister HOLLINRAKE (TRADE) [redacted] GRO >; Perm SEC (TRADE) [redacted] GRO ; Second PERM SEC (TRADE) [redacted] GRO ; Spad SOS (TRADE) [redacted] GRO ; Strategy Unit [redacted] GRO ; MSD Director's Office [redacted] GRO <
Bickerton, David (Business Sectors DG Office) [redacted] GRO
Cc: Creswell, Carl (Business Sectors - Services Directorate) [redacted] GRO >; Heath, Daniel (Corporate Services - Finance) [redacted] GRO >; Raraty, Helena (BEIS) [redacted] GRO ; Summers, Isabel (Corporate Services - Finance) [redacted] GRO ; Wones, Eleri (BEIS) [redacted] GRO >; Cooper, Tom - UKGI [redacted] GRO ; Arasaratnam, Roshana - UKGI [redacted] GRO ; Barnett, David - UKGI [redacted] GRO ; Daffu, Bal - UKGI [redacted] GRO ; FBS&S Director [redacted] GRO ; Hughes, Lisa (Market Frameworks - Consumer & Competition Policy) [redacted] GRO
Subject: Submission: Post Office financial issues

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: COMMERCIAL

Ed, cc Cora in Minister Hollinrakes Offices, PS' in SPADS and Perm Secs office

As discussed when I called, please find attached a submission for the Secretary of State on Post Office's financial issues to provide her with detail on this issue. David Bickerton will likely raise in his meeting today with Secretary of State. We expect Post Office to shortly ask for a minimum of £160m support during this SR period. Subsidy control rules mean that if underspend were identified this FY, up to £38.5m could be funded, further funding would have to be identified for additional support for 23/24 and 24/25 FYs. We are in active conversation with HMT colleagues over this issue and further

advice will be provided after we have received the formal request from Post Office after its 9 March Board.

We are seeking that the Secretary of State is aware of this issue and agrees that we continue working on this issue and will provide further advice in due course.

We would like this by 28th Feb when we are next due to engage with HMT colleagues.

Kind regards

Beth

Beth White and Eleanor Brooks
Deputy Director (Jobshare), Post Office Policy and Compensation
Department for Business and Trade
Beth: **GRO** (Wednesday-Friday)
Eleanor: **GRO** (Monday-Wednesday)
4th Floor Spur 2, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
www.gov.uk/beis | <https://twitter.com/beisgovuk>

GRO

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE: COMMERCIAL