

Success Criteria

- Complete mediation by the end of the calendar year
- Production of a final report to provide closure
- Second Sight do not act against Post Office

Functions needed to deliver success criteria

- Independent Review of the mediation cases
- Write a final report
- Binding contractual agreement with Second Sight

OPTION ONE – Clean Break

- End engagement of Second Sight,
- Engage an alternate forensic accountant mediate all the cases,
- Commission the accountancy firm to produce a final report

Pros

- ✓ Safeguards public money
- ✓ Clean break with Second Sight
- ✓ More resource available to conclude the Scheme
- ✓ Long term reduction in drain on senior management time
- ✓ Post Office ability to manage the Scheme established

Cons

- × Will draw media attention and MP attention
- × May lead to a focus in Parliament
- × Difficult to sell to BIS and Minister
- × May lead to loss of trust in the Scheme
- × No binding contract with Second Sight in place

OPTION TWO – Support and Manage Second Sight

- Move Second Sight to a fixed price contract for reviewing cases and a fixed price for producing a final report
- Agree a no compete clause
- Agree that Second Sight will be reinforced with an independent firm of Post Office's choice if Post Office deem necessary.

Pros

- ✓ Post Office ability to manage the Scheme increased
- ✓ Public money partially safeguarded

- ✓ Avoids conflict

Cons

- × Risks delaying the issue rather than tackling it
- × Continued long term drain on senior management time
- × Successful delivery of the Scheme is not assured
- × Will eventually lead to adverse media coverage and reputational damage
- × Will be difficult to agree with Second Sight

OPTION THREE – Manage Second Sight with narrower scope

- Move Second Sight to a fixed price contract for producing a final report
- Introduce an independent firm of accountants to take on the mediation case review
- Retain Second Sight on the Working Group – with working group ToRs clarified to oversee scheme only

Pros

- ✓ Post Office ability to manage the Scheme increased
- ✓ Public money partially safeguarded
- ✓ Scheme more likely to complete on time
- ✓ Satisfies ministerial commitment

Cons

- × Continued long term drain on senior management time albeit reduced
- × Will eventually lead to adverse media coverage and reputational damage
- × Will be difficult to agree with Second Sight