POL00117511

From: Tom Wechsler GRO
Sent: Fri 09/10/2015 7:52:31 AM (UTC)
To: Paula Vennells GRO
Cc: Avene O'Farrell GRO
Subject: Re: Telephone call with BNR

Paula - I've been through Jane's note and the two are consistent.

Avene - I'll amend Jane's text and send to you so we can send the message to Tim. Should have something in 5 mins

There are signal problems outside London Bridge (again). I'll be there for the call but should have arrived by now. Apologies for that.

Tom

Sent from my iPad

On 9 Oct 2015, at 07:45, Paula Vennells <GRO> wrote:

> Great thx.
> Just double check any nuances with Jane's note.
> And I think I send the note to Tim before the BNR conversation. (Jane has drafted)
> Can you do this. BUT pls double check it and make sure you amend to say that I'll get back to him after the meeting with her view/ if I think it needs his further attention before Monday.
>
> Thanks P
>
> Paula Vennells
> Chief Executive
> Post Office Ltd
> GRO
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
> On 8 Oct 2015, at 17:47, Tom Wechsler <GRO> wrote:
>
> > Paula
> >
> > Attached is a one page aide memoire for your call with BNR tomorrow. Patrick drafted most of it but I have toned down some of the more legal language.
> >
> > I've also had quite a candid conversation with Laura. She assured me including by reading out elements of their advice that they put our case as strongly as we felt it. I also set out why the Tony Hooper suggestion was a bad one and they should have checked with us first.
> >
> > Laura's steer is that BNR is difficult to predict but may be responsive to a slightly different

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approach that does not seek to box her in. Laura will be on the call.

Key handling points for me are:

- Whilst we do not believe there is a case for BNR to meet SS / SAH (at all), we need to respect her decision in principle
- So we should not ask her to change her decision and tell JA etc that she won't meet them
- What we are asking for is time ie leave the decision open for now. Two reasons:
  - Having asked Tim Parker to review our approach, he has appointed a QC to assist him and is very likely to meet SS / SAH. He is aiming to have completed this by Christmas. For BNR to meet them at the same time risks undermining Tim's work before it has begun.
  - To roughly the same timescale we will have completed the majority of the mediations.
- We believe that an earlier meeting would be used by JFSA as evidence of an impending Government intervention and a catalyst for applicants to withdraw from mediation – entirely to their detriment.
- If BNR still wishes to meet them at a later date then so be it, but she would be better off having had the benefit of Tim's review, and applicants would be better off for having gone to mediation.

I have shared my view with Mark who agrees.

Hope that this is helpful. Very happy to discuss.

Tom
<CEO and BNR - TELCO - 091015 (2).docx>

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