
From: Swinson MPST [/O=BIS PRODUCTION/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B5EA160380D24B92930A52D175C14178-WILLOTT M]
Sent: Wed 18/03/2015 12:10:55 PM (UTC)
To: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive) [GRO] Swinson MPST Correspondence [GRO]
Cc: Cable MPST [GRO] Callard Richard (ShEx) [GRO] McInnes Tim (ShEx) [GRO]
Subject: RE: Post Office: reply to Alan Bates
Attachment: 150317 reply to Alan Bates revised.docx

Thanks Laura – Jo has cleared with no further changes.

Corres team – could you please prep for this afternoon’s box so Jo can sign?

Thanks,

Claire

From: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)
Sent: 17 March 2015 12:01
To: Swinson MPST; Swinson MPST Correspondence
Cc: Cable MPST; Callard Richard (ShEx); McInnes Tim (ShEx)
Subject: RE: Post Office: reply to Alan Bates

Hi Claire

Here’s a revised draft, following our discussion earlier. I haven’t shown tracks as I also made a few extra tweaks to bring the language in line with the revised SoS-Arbuthnot letter.
Hope this helps.

L

Laura Thompson | Assistant Director | Shareholder Executive

[GRO]

From: Swinson MPST
Sent: 16 March 2015 18:31
To: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive); Swinson MPST Correspondence
Cc: Cable MPST; Callard Richard (ShEx); McInnes Tim (ShEx)
Subject: RE: Post Office: reply to Alan Bates

Laura,

Thanks again for turning this around so quickly and apologies for missing your call earlier. Jo has seen this revised version of the letter but unfortunately she still has some concerns that we have not directly addressed JFSA’s point around the nature of the relationship between Second Sight and POL.

JFSA assert that Jo’s letter of 22nd September 2013 gave them assurance that Second Sight’s independence should not be questioned because they were not employed by POL. The Minister acknowledges that it is a contractual, rather than an employment relationship but what the current letter does not address is why we believed that Second Sight’s independence was not in question but that it is also right that the decision to end the current contractual relationship was a decision for POL and not the working group.

I'm happy to discuss tomorrow if this is not clear or you'd like to talk through what we might be able to say to address the Minister's concerns on that drafting point.

Claire

From: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)
Sent: 16 March 2015 13:54
To: Swinson MPST; Swinson MPST Correspondence
Cc: Cable MPST; Callard Richard (ShEx); McInnes Tim (ShEx)
Subject: Post Office: reply to Alan Bates

Claire

As discussed earlier, please find attached a revised response for Jo to send to Alan Bates of JFSA regarding his email on Tuesday last week about the Post Office Horizon scheme. We have amended this in light of the comments Jo fed back – in track changes.

A bit of additional comment on the point about whether Second Sight were “employed” by POL. Technically, Second Sight were not employed by POL, they were engaged under contract by POL. This contract was to provide a number of services to the Working Group – and now that the Working Group has closed, it makes sense that POL are bringing to an end that arrangement which is now outdated (given how the role of the WG has moved since the scheme began). I appreciate that “engaged by” rather than “employed by” could sound a bit like semantics. As such, I haven't proposed a rebuttal of Mr Bates' point, but just set out the position instead (using similar language to that used by POL in their press responses and correspondence – although slightly more placatory than their line). It's also important, I think, to note that a lot of the arguments being waged around this issue rely a lot on wilful misinterpretation of language or statement – such as the accusation that Second Sight “have been sacked and forced to destroy documents”, for example.

I hope that's helpful, but do let me know if Jo has any additional questions.

Laura

Laura Thompson | Assistant Director, Post Office Network Team | Shareholder Executive

BIS, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET | **GRO**

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