

RESTRICTED - POLICY

RWW/1/04

To: SECRETARY OF STATE ci

From: MARTYN BAKER
Head CB & CGBPS
Room GRO BPR**GRO**Mr McCartney
Mr Scholar
Mr Macdonald
Mr Hilton
Mrs Bri **GRO** DRT*
Mr Sibbick CGBPS1*
Mr Brebner PORT*
Mr Leese PORT*
Ms Syme COM*
Special Advisers

8 October 1998

*without attachment

POST OFFICE REVIEW: NEXT STEPSIssue

You have indicated in response to my minute of 6 October that you do want to see key players before the Interdepartmental Steering Group's Report is submitted in a final form.

Timing

2 Your office will be arranging key meetings in the week beginning 19 October. In the meantime we will continue to work up the draft Report so that it is ready to submit once you have reached a view on how best to take forward the policy options.

Recommendations

3 In discussing the Report's emerging conclusions there is a balance to be struck between seeing a broader range of interested parties (which would prolong the period when leaks could occur) and seeing those key players whose bottom line you need to know (bearing in mind the way previous reform attempts have been derailed).

4 I recommend concentrating on the latter group in a tight timetable which would mean your seeing during the week after your return from the USA in this order:-

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- 1 The PO Chairman and Chief Executive
- 2 The unions (CWU and CMA)
- 3 The Chancellor*

5 In the light of this last session you should be better able to judge how best to couch your own recommendations to the Prime Minister.

Background

6 Attached is an extract from the latest version of the draft Report covering implementation which I hope gives a clearer picture of the proposed timescale for step by step implementation of decisions if there were to be an early Ministerial meeting of minds.

GRO

MARTYN BAKER

*With the move of Mr Darling to DSS it is not clear which junior Treasury Minister is closest to the subject; it is not apparent from our Steering Group work that his officials yet know what is in the Chancellor's mind