

Message

**From:** Louise Chatfield [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED]  
**on behalf of** Louise Chatfield [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26/09/2014 11:46:03  
**To:** Mark R Davies [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Sparrow update - Nina to give full rundown of wider rebuttal activity with BBC

In case you haven't already - I'm sure you've been holding off because Nina hasn't been around for the last few days - here is a reminder to ask Nina to give you a full rundown of wider rebuttal activity with the BBC.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark R Davies  
Sent: 14 September 2014 20:15  
To: Paula Vennells  
Subject: Re: Sparrow update

Hi Paula

I had a long discussion with the editor of the programme which made the error: she apologised and we discussed how to handle - her offer was for us to provide a full briefing on the issue when it suits us rather than broadcast a clarification. This feels like a good result for us - I wasn't really keen on a clarification as it risks further attention on the SS report.

I'm going to ask Nina to give me a full rundown of wider rebuttal activity with the BBC.

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Sep 2014, at 11:41, "Paula Vennells" [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED] > wrote:

> Did we get anywhere with BBC Newsgathering? Our chairman is also keen  
> we don't let them off the hook :)

>  
> Sent from my iPhone

>> On 9 Sep 2014, at 19:27, "Mark R Davies" [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED] > wrote:

>>  
>> Sorry - the news desk: so the staff who oversee what is going out on air and who should (notionally) ensure fairness, impartiality and accuracy.

>>  
>> Sent from my iPhone

>>> On 9 Sep 2014, at 19:15, "Paula Vennells" [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED] > wrote:

>>>  
>>> Thanks - what's BBC Newsgathering?

>>>  
>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>> On 9 Sep 2014, at 18:46, "Mark R Davies" [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED] > wrote:

>>>>  
>>>> Hi Paula

>>>>  
>>>> The coverage is essentially suggesting that we now accept through the report that there are issues with Horizon. It is sloppy journalism in the extreme. I have spoken direct to the journalist to (robustly) correct the impression he is creating and we are talking also to BBC newsgathering. I've had a huddle with Chris and the lawyers and we hold that in our back pocket as a potential action if coverage doesn't change.

>>>>  
>>>> They have broadcast old interviews with subpostmasters - they clearly cannot get any current applicants or JFSA to comment publicly.

>>>>  
>>>> There is no comment from MPs.

>>>>  
>>>> I will send transcript asap.

>>>>  
>>>> Best wishes

>>>> Mark

>>>  
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>>>  
>>> Mark Davies I Communications and Corporate Affairs Director  
>>>  
>>> 1st Floor, Banner Wing, 148 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HQ  
>>> **GRO** Postline **GRO**  
>>> **GRO** Mobex **GRO**  
>>> mark.r.davies **GRO**  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> -----Original Message-----  
>>> From: Paula Vennells  
>>> Sent: 09 September 2014 18:42  
>>> To: Mark R Davies  
>>> Subject: Re: Sparrow update  
>>>  
>>> Mark, what is the essence of the coverage?  
>>> - (pls don't send link, doesn't work on iPad) thx P  
>>>  
>>> Sent from my iPad  
>>>  
>>> On 9 Sep 2014, at 18:24, "Mark R Davies" <**GRO**> wrote:  
>>>  
>>> Dear all  
>>>  
>>> The report has also been carried on Radio Five. We are having robust conversations with the BBC on accuracy issues, and holding on our lines.  
>>>  
>>> Mark  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> Mark Davies I Communications and Corporate Affairs Director  
>>>  
>>> 1st Floor, Banner Wing, 148 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HQ  
>>> **GRO** Postline **GRO**  
>>> **GRO** Mobex **GRO**  
>>> mark.r.davies **GRO**  
>>>  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> -----Original Message-----  
>>> From: Neil McCausland **GRO**  
>>> Sent: 09 September 2014 17:56  
>>> To: Mark R Davies; 'Alice Perkins'; Paula Vennells;  
>>> **GRO** Alwen Lyons; Chris M Day;  
>>> virginia.holmes **GRO** timfranklin1 **GRO**  
>>> Subject: RE: Sparrow update  
>>>  
>>> Also on BBC Radio 2 news at 5  
>>>  
>>> -----Original Message-----  
>>> From: Mark R Davies **GRO**  
>>> Sent: 09 September 2014 17:33  
>>> To: Alice Perkins **GRO**; Paula Vennells;  
>>> **GRO** Alwen Lyons; Chris M Day;  
>>> virginia.holmes **GRO**; nmccausland **GRO**;  
>>> timfranklin1 **GRO**  
>>> Subject: FW: Sparrow update  
>>>  
>>> Dear all  
>>> Further to my note on Friday, a report on the leak has been broadcast within the last few minutes on BBC Radio 4. It is inaccurate and clearly we will be challenging these inaccuracies.  
>>> We will circulate a fuller update.  
>>> Best wishes  
>>> Mark  
>>>  
>>>  
>>> From: mark.r.davies **GRO**  
>>> To: alasdairmarnochi **GRO**; aliceperkins **GRO**  
>>> alwen.lyons **GRO**; chris.m.day **GRO**  
>>> nmccausland **GRO**; paula.vennells **GRO**  
>>> richard.callard **GRO**; timfranklin1 **GRO**  
>>> virginia.holmes **GRO**

>>>> CC: mark.r.davies [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>> christopher.ajjar [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>> gavin.lambert [REDACTED] GRO martin.edwards1 [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>> belinda.crowe [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>> Subject: Sparrow update  
>>>> Date: Fri, 5 Sep 2014 15:43:18 +0000  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> Hi all  
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>>>>  
>>>> Further to Chris' update last week about Second Sight's "Part Two" report,  
>>>> we have today been approached by a BBC North reporter who has clearly seen a copy of the Report and Post Office's subsequent letter to applicants. As Chris explained last week, we are well prepared for this eventuality.  
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>>>>  
>>>> I understand that BBC North plan to run a story on Monday about the  
>>>> Report. We have a short but firm line on which we will hold. This will state that leak is highly regrettable and not in interests of applicants, and confirm our position is that the report is inaccurate.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> We will not comment further and it is essential we hold on that position  
>>>> to avoid giving the story unnecessary oxygen. We will work hard to keep a lid on it, though clearly other outlets, including those who have previously reported on the issue, may follow up on anything run by BBC North.  
>>>>  
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>>>>  
>>>> We are informing the Working Group as a matter of courtesy and making it clear that Post Office will not be drawn into commenting on matters which are confidential to the Scheme.  
>>>>  
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>>>> I will monitor the situation closely and update you if the position changes.  
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>>>>  
>>>> Best wishes,  
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>>>>  
>>>> Mark  
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>>>>  
>>>> Mark Davies I Communications and Corporate Affairs Director  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> 1st Floor, Banner Wing, 148 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HQ  
>>>> [REDACTED] GRO Postline [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>> [REDACTED] GRO Mobex [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>>  
>>>> mark.r.davies [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>> [REDACTED] GRO  
>>>>  
>>>> [Footer 5]  
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