

## Message

**From:** Louise Chatfield [GRO]  
**on behalf of** Louise Chatfield [GRO]  
**Sent:** 26/09/2014 11:46:03  
**To:** Mark R Davies [GRO]  
**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.

L

-----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" [GRO] 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" [GRO] 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" [GRO] wrote:

>>> Thanks - what's BBC Newsgathering?

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>> On 9 Sep 2014, at 18:46, "Mark R Davies" [GRO] 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  
>>>> 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  
>>>> 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;  
>>>> alasdairmarnoch@ 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;  
>>>> alasdairmarnoch@ 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: alasdairmarnoch@ GRO; aliceperkins@ GRO  
>>>>>> alwen.lyons@ GRO; chris.m.day@ GRO  
>>>>>> nmccausland@ GRO; paula.vennell@ GRO  
>>>>>> richard.callard@ GRO; timfranklin1@ GRO  
>>>>>> virginia.holmes@ GRO

>>>>> CC: mark.r.davies [GRO]  
>>>>> christopher.ajjar [GRO]  
>>>>> gavin.lambert [GRO]; martin.edwards1 [GRO]  
>>>>> belinda.crowe [GRO]  
>>>>> Subject: Sparrow update  
>>>>> Date: Fri, 5 Sep 2014 15:43:18 +0000  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Hi all  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> 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.  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> 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.  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> 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.  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> I will monitor the situation closely and update you if the  
>>>>> position  
>>>>> changes.  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> Best wishes,  
>>>>>  
>>>>>  
>>>>> 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]  
>>>>> [GRO]  
>>>>> [Footer 5]  
>>>>>  
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>>>>>  
>>>>> \*\*\*\*\*

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