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**From:** Callard Richard (ShEx); GRO  
GRO

**Sent:** Thur 11/12/2014 11:07:02 AM (UTC)

**To:** Batten Peter (ShEx); GRO; Belinda Crowe; GRO

**Cc:** Chris Aujard; GRO; Gavin Lambert; GRO; Mark R Davies; GRO

**Subject:** Sparrow Questions

**Attachment:** Sparrow Questions for Parliamentary Debate 17th December 2014.docx

Belinda

As discussed, sorry I couldn't join the call last night. Peter and I are working on the briefing jointly, particularly as he is soon to depart and so it helps me get up to speed. In that light I have considered the sorts of questions that Jo will face, which I have listed in the attached, and I would be grateful if you and the team could start preparing the answers given that you are best placed to do so – we just don't have some of the background required.

I would be happy to discuss these, but these are by their nature quite uncomfortable or unreasonable questions, but that is what we will be asked of Jo. Even if we don't speak publically of some of the questions needed in here, we still need the answers to provide Jo privately with the confidence to rebut James Arbutnot's claims. Although we have kept her sighted on the scheme, there has clearly been a limit to what we could tell her given confidentiality reasons to date.

It would be helpful if answers are short and punchy – Jo has to remember them ideally rather than scrabbling around for them.

Finally, I would be grateful for responses asap, but otherwise by close Friday so I have the weekend to look at them and turn them around (our deadline here is 2pm Monday which is a rather tight). I will separately establish what time any verbal briefing might be.

Many thanks

Richard

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**From:** Batten Peter (ShEx)  
**Sent:** 10 December 2014 18:26  
**To:** Belinda Crowe  
**Cc:** Callard Richard (ShEx)  
**Subject:** Sparrow catch-up

Belinda

Many thanks for your time. As discussed, can you please send copies of:

- PV letter to Arbutnot of 5 November
- The angels and devils briefing (I think that was the name ascribed to it)
- Mark's rebuttals for the Today programme
- Key facts sheet (i.e. # resolved cases, etc)

We also discussed the cost of the WG point. Recognising the risk that any number could be twisted against POL, this is a number that Jo will need to be aware of numerically and from a handling risk.

Best wishes

Peter

Peter Batten | Shareholder Executive | Department for Business, Innovation & Skills |

GRO

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