
From: Ministerial Advice Team[/O=BIS PRODUCTION/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3759732953E24C9B9C5F1DE41AAA3D38-MINISTERI]
Sent: Tue 10/03/2015 1:07:56 PM (UTC)
To: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive) GRO
Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx) GRO
Subject: RE: Post Office core brief for PMQs tomorrow

This is lovely, thanks. I will alert No.10.

LL

From: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)
Sent: 10 March 2015 13:00
To: Ministerial Advice Team
Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx)
Subject: RE: Post Office core brief for PMQs tomorrow

Hey – will this do? Shout if too long and I will try to trim. It is VERY hard to explain this briefly!

PMQ line

- The Hon Member will appreciate that details of disputes between Post Office and its subpostmasters are confidential to those involved and not a matter for Government. The most important thing is that Post Office are committed to helping resolve those disputes through mediation.
- People who run and work in Post Offices up and down the country can be confident that independent investigations have found no systemic issues with the Horizon IT system, meaning they can go on performing their vital role in our communities.

Background

- Following allegations by a small number (c.150) of former subpostmasters about defects in the Horizon IT system which runs in all Post Office branches, Post Office commissioned a report by independent investigators who found there are no systemic issues with the system. This was published in July 2013.
- Post Office then set up a complaint review and mediation scheme so that these subpostmasters could have their claim investigated, and proceed to mediation if that were appropriate. The scheme has been running for 18 months. It is independent of Government.
- Of those cases, around 56 have already been closed through mediation or other means. Post Office have now announced they will mediate all the remaining cases not involving a Court ruling, and consider the remainder on a case by case basis.
- Several MPs have shown an interest in this issue, with people saying they have been wrongfully charged of false accounting or made to make up losses they did not create. James Arbuthnot MP has led the group of MPs with an interest in this issue. The BIS Select Committee took evidence from various witnesses including Post Office on 3 February 2015.

Laura Thompson | Assistant Director | Shareholder Executive

GRO

From: Ministerial Advice Team
Sent: 10 March 2015 10:52
To: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)
Subject: RE: Post Office core brief for PMQs tomorrow

Hello my lovely

It's me (Leonie) not Abdurrahman! Short defensive lines and a short background para would be great. Thanks very much!

LL

From: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)
Sent: 10 March 2015 10:25
To: Ministerial Advice Team
Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx); Baugh James (ShEx)
Subject: Post Office core brief for PMQs tomorrow

Hi Abdurrahman

There will be an announcement made by Post Office later today which a fair few MPs may be interested in, and as such there's a slim chance it could be raised at PMQs tomorrow.

Is it best to just update the usual POL core brief, or provide you with some short defensive lines instead? We should get a better idea later this afternoon of the level of interest / reaction from Parliament. I have checked the list of MPs down to ask questions and none of them are known to us on this issue, but you never know.

Let me know what works best

Cheers

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

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GRO

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