

From: Neville-Rolfe MPST[/O=BIS PRODUCTION/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6F2B04F873D84BADB6A80D880A549FC3-ROLFEMPST]
Sent: Thur 16/07/2015 4:24:11 PM (UTC)
To: Javid MPST[GRO]
Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx)[GRO]; Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)[GRO]
Subject: RE: Quick update on Post Office Horizon issue
Attachment: Note of meeting following Adjournment debate on Post Office Horizon IT System LT (1).docx

George,

Please find attached a short readout of yesterday's meeting.

Kind regards



Andrew Smith

Private Secretary to Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Intellectual Property

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Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 1 Victoria Street, SW1H 0ET

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From: Javid MPST
Sent: 15 July 2015 12:25
To: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive); Neville-Rolfe MPST
Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx)
Subject: RE: Quick update on Post Office Horizon issue

Laura,

I've discussed this with Andrew and I'm minded not to send any note to No 10 before the meeting. I think there is a risk that in so proactively engaging with them on this and continuously reiterating our line on not needing a review we may push them into wondering why BIS seems so defensive?

My view is we should just make a point of sending No 10 a good readout of today's meeting asap afterwards to show willing – grateful if you can liaise with Andrew about that.

Happy to discuss.

George



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

George Thomson

Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, MPST

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GRO

1 Victoria St, London, SW1H 0ET

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From: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)
Sent: 15 July 2015 10:57
To: Neville-Rolfe MPST
Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx); Javid MPST
Subject: RE: Quick update on Post Office Horizon issue

I think George usually speaks to Dan York-Smith, the PS there? I would suggest one of you sends something along the lines of the following:

We have previously updated you on the issues relating to complaints about the Post Office's Horizon IT system. Andrew Bridgen MP is calling for a judicial inquiry, and raised this at PMQs on 1 July. The PM responded that he hoped a judicial inquiry would not be necessary, and repeated the offer made by George Freeman MP in an adjournment debate earlier that week for Government to convene a meeting between MPs and Post Office.

That meeting is taking place today (Wednesday) – Baroness Neville-Rolfe is chairing the meeting, as the Minister responsible. Andrew Bridgen MP is attending and we understand he has invited three other MPs: Kevan Jones MP (Lab), Ranil Jayawardena MP (Con) and Iain Wright MP (Lab) (BIS Select Committee Chair). We do not know if all will attend. Post Office will also be present.

We will provide a further update following the meeting. I would just reiterate that officials advise that we maintain the position that the mediation scheme (set up to look at complaints) is independent of Government, and that there remains no need for a judicial inquiry as there is no evidence of fault in the system and legal routes available for those who have concerns.

Laura Thompson | Assistant Director | Shareholder Executive

GRO

GRO

From: Neville-Rolfe MPST
Sent: 15 July 2015 10:51
To: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive); Creer Simon (Communications); French Claire (Communications)
Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx); SpAd Javid MPST; Javid MPST; Freeman MPST; O'Driscoll, Katie; Neville-Rolfe MPST
Subject: RE: Quick update on Post Office Horizon issue

Laura,

That would be great – I am stuck in meetings this morning. Who is your No10 contact?

Kind regards

Andrew Smith

From: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)

Sent: 15 July 2015 10:29

To: Creer Simon (Communications); French Claire (Communications)

Cc: Callard Richard (ShEx); Neville-Rolfe MPST; SpAd Javid MPST; Javid MPST; Freeman MPST; O'Driscoll, Katie

Subject: Quick update on Post Office Horizon issue

Simon, Claire

cc. Ministers' offices

Just a very quick update on the Post Office Horizon issue:

- Baroness Neville-Rolfe is meeting a few MPs today (lunchtime) with Post Office – Andrew Bridgen MP and up to 3 others
- Separately, Post Office have informed me that they are writing to a small number of applicants who have asked to “defer” or “suspend” their mediation until a “new Government scheme” is launched – Post Office will tell them that they will need to agree a date for mediation before 4 September (as in, the date must be agreed by then, the mediation does not have to take place by then). If they do not do so, then they will have given up their chance to mediate. Post Office feel it is important to do this as otherwise the mediation scheme will run on for far longer than is necessary.
- I do not expect we will get any enquiries on either point today, but if we do please let me know. As ever, we should refer queries to Post Office in the first instance.

Andrew – I will explain the second point to the Minister during our pre-brief later today.

Andrew/George – I think we need to update No 10 at some point that this meeting has happened. Perhaps a quick email to the PS to say it will be taking place today and we will provide an update afterwards? Happy to prepare something for you to send over.

Thanks

Laura

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

BIS, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET

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