

Post Office Meeting – Tuesday 4 August 2015

Present:

Baroness Neville-Rolfe – Minister for Intellectual Property

Salma Shah – Special Advisor to the Secretary of State

Nick King – Special Advisor to the Secretary of State

Patrick Kilgarriff – BIS Legal

Anthony Odgers – Shareholder Executive

Richard Callard – Shareholder Executive

Laura Thompson – Shareholder Executive

Ashley Rogers – BIS Press Office

Claire French – BIS Press Office

Harriet Smith – Senior Private Secretary

Andrew Smith – Private Secretary

Officials outlined the background to the issues raised by MPs and Second Sight in relation to the Horizon IT system, the prior prosecution and conviction of some sub postmasters, and the mediation scheme established to resolved differences which now appears to have stalled.

There was a discussion about these points which focused on how things could now be moved forward especially with regards to the approximate 80 cases which are yet to go to mediation. There was also discussion about how Post Office might be encouraged to increase its engagement with those who are yet to go to mediation.

Thought also needed to be given about the public messaging and updating No10 so they are fully sighted on the current issues.

The actions from the meeting were as follows:

- 1) Officials from the Shareholder Executive to draft a briefing note for No10 and other Departments which covers the current position.
- 2) Baroness Neville-Rolfe to speak with incoming Post Office Limited Chairman Tim Parker, to encourage him to take a fresh look at these issues and engage with those who are still raising concerns.
- 3) Officials from the Shareholder Executive to draft a letter to Andrew Bridgen and Kevan Jones which points to the current direction of travel.
- 4) Officials from the Shareholder Executive to provide annotated agenda for meeting with Paula Vennells which encourages Post Office to engage further with sub postmasters about the value of the mediation process.