

Message

From: Ministerial Advice Team [/O=BIS PRODUCTION/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3759732953E24C9B9C5F1DE41AAA3D38-MINISTERI]
Sent: 3/12/2015 10:05:37 AM
To: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive); GRO; Cable MPST; GRO; Swinson MPST; GRO
CC: Hancock MPST; GRO; Clark MPST; GRO; Neville-Rolfe MPST; GRO; SPAD Cable MPST; GRO; SPAD Hancock MPST; SPAD Clark MPST; GRO; Perm Sec (BIS); GRO; Russell Mark (ShEx); GRO; Odgers Anthony (ShEx); GRO; Callard Richard (ShEx); GRO; McInnes Tim (ShEx); GRO; Baugh James (ShEx); GRO; Parly Unit - Others; GRO; Franklin-Wallis Hannah (Communications); GRO; Murphy Christina (Communications); GRO; Ministerial Advice Team; GRO
Subject: RE: Submission to Secretary of State and Jo Swinson on Post Office mediation scheme

Hi Laura,

As discussed (and pre-empted) No10 have indeed asked that the SofS write in response to James Arbuthnot's questions at PMQs yesterday. As you have already mentioned (below) that these should/could be copied to the PM, please can a copy be sent to the MAT which I can forward on to the PMQ team.

Mr James Arbuthnot (North East Hampshire) (Con):

Is my right hon. Friend aware that in connection with the Post Office mediation scheme, the Post Office has just sacked the independent investigator, Second Sight, and told it to destroy all its papers? Does he agree that it is essential that Second Sight's second report should not be suppressed, but should be supplied to sub-postmasters and MPs, starting with the hon. Member for West Bromwich West (Mr Bailey) and the Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee?

The Prime Minister:

My right hon. Friend makes an important point. I know that he has consistently raised the concerns of some sub-postmasters about the operation of the Post Office IT system and the matter of the Post Office mediation scheme. The Business Committee is currently taking evidence on this issue, and it should be given all the relevant information. The Government should not interfere with the independent mediation process, but I will ask the Business Secretary to write to my right hon. Friend about his concern and to ensure that the Business Committee can do its job properly.

Kind regards,

Abdurrahman Tavernier.

Deputy Head, Ministerial Advice Team | Department for Business Innovation & Skills |

GRO

From: Thompson Laura (Shareholder Executive)
Sent: 11 March 2015 14:50
To: Cable MPST; Swinson MPST
Cc: Hancock MPST.; Clark MPST; Neville-Rolfe MPST; SPAD Cable MPST; SPAD Hancock MPST.; SPAD Clark MPST; Perm Sec (BIS); Russell Mark (ShEx); Odgers Anthony (ShEx); Callard Richard (ShEx); McInnes Tim (ShEx); Baugh James (ShEx); Parly Unit - Others; Franklin-Wallis Hannah (Communications); Murphy Christina (Communications); Ministerial Advice Team
Subject: Submission to Secretary of State and Jo Swinson on Post Office mediation scheme
Importance: High

Tara, Tracey

Please see attached submission and draft letters, which is being sent jointly to the Secretary of State and Jo Swinson. It concerns the Post Office mediation scheme and the intervention by James Arbuthnot MP at PMQs today. Thank you both for extending the box deadline.

I'd be grateful if this could go to both Ministers today. We recommend a prompt reply to Mr Arbuthnot (and to Alan Bates from Jo Swinson) – ideally these letters should issue tomorrow, Thursday, if possible please. I have attempted to provide some background in the submission for the Secretary of State's benefit, but do please let me know if he requires any additional information.

Abdurrahman, Georgie – I am recommending that we copy the letter from SoS to Mr Arbuthnot to the PM and DPM (given this was raised at PMQs) and also to Adrian Bailey. Please let me know if any concerns/questions on that.

Many thanks

Laura

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

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GRO

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