

Post Office Meeting 9/2/2016

- 1) The Team provided an update on the consultation of views on the Post Office. A shorter draft incorporating the views of the SoS SpAds is currently being prepared. BNR suggested that the draft should mention that the consultation is necessary because of state aid rules at the beginning.
- 2) It was suggested that the Minister should meet with the representatives of Unite and CWU together. The suggested line to take was that the decisions about the future funding of the Crown Branch network were a commercial matter for Post Office.

Action: BNR Office to investigate the viability of a joint meeting and inform the SoS office about meeting the unions

- 3) The Meeting with the SoS on future ownership options was interesting and helpful. The Team are currently reflecting on the feedback and are looking to put advice forward in the next 4-6 weeks. BNR suggested that it would be good to have a key issues document (similar to the one developed by the IPO) to track the progress of this and the other issues raised at the catch up.

Action: BNR Office to send key issues document to Shex Team.

- 4) The reissued Post Office accounts to account for the provisioning issue were issued last week. There has been no interest in the new accounts from any source.
- 5) Following on from BNR's Meeting with Tim Parker where the issue of a cost overrun on IT had been discussed the contract with IBM had now been cancelled and Fujitsu retained. This would save Post Office Limited around £60 million overall.
- 6) Around 300 sub-postmasters would receive letters notifying them of the withdrawal of the network subsidy. This is the end of a long process of negotiation and arbitration, there may be a slight rise in correspondence sent to the Minister.
- 7) BNR would be giving a short talk to the Post Office Women in Leadership event and the Team are aiming to get a speech to her as soon as possible
- 8) The QC engaged by Tim Parker to look into the HORIZON IT system is due to deliver their report soon. He has indicated that there is no systemic problem. The Team mentioned that there was a possibility of a group action and this had been trailed in Computer Weekly but had not been picked up more widely.
- 9) The SoS was visiting a newly modernised Post Office branch in Bromsgrove and BNR suggested that it might be helpful announce the Post Office apprenticeship scheme at the same time as he is very supportive of this