
From: Mark Underwood1[GRO]
Sent: Wed 02/03/2016 8:47:25 PM (UTC)
To: Diane Blanchard[GRO]; Rodric Williams[GRO]
Cc: Jane MacLeod[GRO]; Patrick Bourke[GRO]
Subject: RE: FW: Post Office - Chairman's Enquiry
Attachment: 160302 Chairman to Minister - Review Update - 29 February 2016v2 ROD's Tracks.docx

Hi Patrick & Jane,

I have track changed Rod's tweaks in the attached.

I think our new computers are set not to show all track changes unless, when in the word doc, you:

- Click on the 'review' pane at the top of the page;
- Next to 'track changes', change 'simple markup' to 'all markup'

Let me know which ones you are happy to accept / feel are unnecessary – I will then liaise with Di to get it Tim tomorrow am.

Thanks

Mark

From: Diane Blanchard
Sent: 02 March 2016 10:41
To: Rodric Williams
Cc: Jane MacLeod; Mark Underwood1; Patrick Bourke
Subject: FW: FW: Post Office - Chairman's Enquiry

Hi Rod

Please see email from Tim – this is probably because of the time difference with him being in Hong Kong. If this isn't going to be today, can you please let me know so I can advise Tim as soon as possible.

Many thanks

GRO



GRO
PA to Tim Parker, Chairman &
Alwen Lyons, Company Secretary

Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
London
EC2Y 9AQ

GRO

From: Tim Parker
Sent: 02 March 2016 10:24
To: Diane Blanchard
Subject: RE: FW: Post Office - Chairman's Enquiry

Hi Di,

In next hour would be useful....

Thanks,

Tim

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On Wed, Mar 2, 2016 at 2:21 AM -0800, "Diane Blanchard" <[GRO]> wrote:

Excellent, thanks Tim I will get over to you as soon as I have received the final version as I'm led to believe a couple of amendments are still to be made.

Many thanks

[GRO]



[GRO]

PA to Tim Parker, Chairman &
Alwen Lyons, Company Secretary

Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
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EC2Y 9AQ

[GRO]

From: Tim Parker
Sent: 02 March 2016 10:16
To: [GRO]
Subject: Re: FW: Post Office - Chairman's Enquiry

That will be fine, [GRO]

Thanks,

Tim

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On Wed, Mar 2, 2016 at 2:04 AM -0800, "Diane Blanchard" <GRO> wrote:

Hi Tim

This letter will be prepared today, when formatted and printed on headed paper, if I send to you are you able to print, sign and scan it back to me?

Many thanks

GRO



GRO

PA to Tim Parker, Chairman &
Alwen Lyons, Company Secretary

Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
London
EC2Y 9AQ

GRO

From: Tim Parker
Sent: 01 March 2016 12:40
To: Jane MacLeod
Subject: Re: Post Office - Chairman's Enquiry

Jane

I am happy with this letter as drafted: could you arrange for version on Post Office paper and I will sign.

Thanks,

Tim

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On Tue, Mar 1, 2016 at 4:16 AM -0800, "Jane MacLeod" <GRO> wrote:

Tim

Further to our telephone discussion this morning, I attach the revised draft letter for you to consider. This now reflects minor comments received from Jonathan Swift QC on Friday. We have also discussed the positioning of the letter with Laura Thompson from the Minister's office to ensure that we are not inadvertently creating disclosure issues for BIS or the Minister.

Please let me know if you would like any changes, or would otherwise like to discuss the approach or contents. Once

you are happy with it, we can arrange for it to be put on Post Office letterhead.

We continue to make progress on the further lines of enquiry and I will send you a fortnightly update on Friday.

Kind regards,

Jane



Jane MacLeod

General Counsel

Ground Floor

20 Finsbury Street

LONDON

EC2Y 9AQ

Mobile number: GRO

From: Jane MacLeod

Sent: 19 February 2016 17:47

To: Tim Parker; Tim Parker (GRO)

Subject: Post Office - Chairman's Enquiry

Tim

As discussed last week, we have considered the best way for you to brief the Minister on the outcome of your enquiry to date. As you will recall, I expressed concerns that were we to provide the Minister with a copy of the legal advice you have received from Jonathan Swift, there was a risk that privilege could be lost and that the report could become disclosable by BIS through FOI requests or similar. We have also received a call from the Minister's office in which they sought to understand how the reporting would be undertaken. During that call it became apparent that BIS officials are also concerned as to the legal status and positioning of any report received from you.

Accordingly we have sought to construct a report from you to the Minister which carries fewer risks should it ultimately (have to) be made public by BIS, and which therefore balances a description of the scope of work that has been done and the resulting key findings, with the need to retain privilege.

To this end, please find attached for your consideration a draft letter from you to the Minister. It describes the questions addressed in the review work, as well as the high level findings, and it summarises the further work that is being undertaken. We have discussed this approach with BIS, and believe that it will be acceptable to the Minister. We have sent the draft letter to Jonathan Swift for him to advise whether he is satisfied as to how his findings are represented.

We have also progressed the recommendations for further enquiry:

- We have held several meetings with Deloitte to agree the scope of the work and we should have a final version of the scope by early next week. We have sought to structure their work on a phased basis so that we have checkpoints after each phase to assess findings to date, and the cost and timings of moving to each successive phase.
- We have sent instructions to Brian Altman QC on the specific legal questions that were identified. Unfortunately he is in a major trial over the next 3 weeks, so it may be mid-March before he is able to provide us with the formal advice that we have requested.

- We have also been working with Bond Dickinson (our external lawyers) to identify those call centre staff whose records should be reviewed. We have now identified these records and are waiting for these to be recalled from storage so we should be able to complete this line of enquiry within the next 2 weeks.

I hope that the form and content of the letter works for you. I will let you know of any changes or comments made by Jonathan. As ever, please let me know if you would like to discuss this.

Kind regards,

Jane



Jane MacLeod

General Counsel

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20 Finsbury Street

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Mobile number: GRO