

Message

From: Callard, Richard - UKGI [/O=HMT/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6988FBA346C64632AA2C6DDACEAC7D18-CALLARD, RICHARD (RC)]
Sent: 16/02/2018 11:06:19
To: Patrick Bourke; [REDACTED] GRO
CC: Mark R Davies; [REDACTED] GRO; Jane MacLeod; [REDACTED] GRO
Subject: FW: Project Sparrow meeting

Patrick – just to unpack this, following another case which the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority / BEIS lost unexpectedly, costing c£100m, there is heightened interest in legal cases which involve big numbers and reputational risk (even if we consider that we have a good case).

Our GC here, Elizabeth O'Neill, would like to meet Jane to put in place some more formal protocols to ensure that UKGI / BEIS are sufficiently patched in to what's going on, and to ensure that as POL's accounting officer, the Perm Sec is content (with no inference whatsoever that POL has not been keeping us informed so far). On that basis we are pulling together a sub to bring him up to speed on the case (he is aware of it, but actually the case has been pretty quiet during his tenure). In preparing that advice, there are a couple of questions I wouldn't mind an answer to please:

- I want to put the estimated claims of the litigants in the context of the recovery of funds POL made from them over the years. Is there an average or total I can quote, which would serve to demonstrate the rather inflated expectations from the litigants compared to the losses actually recovered by POL? I realise you don't have a firm figure for the size of the claim.
- Am I right in saying that you are currently appealing against a temp postmaster who won a case claiming that s/he should have had employee status? This is relevant because a) it might have a bearing on the case, or vice versa, but b) as you are aware BEIS is the Department with responsibility for employment and "contractor" law so there are wider ramifications for the Department here.
- And am I right in saying that once an spm joins the litigation you can't recover any missing funds from them?
- Finally, at the last Board AI or Jane referred to a perceived uptick in fraud or other cases because SPMs realised it was harder for POL to seek to recover funds or prosecute due to sparrow issues. Is there any objective evidence of that that I can quote (presumably its harder to compare like with like because you now have better management information and are performing more targeted audits).

Many thanks, and apologies if I should be asking someone else these questions, but I'd be copying you in anyway.

Richard

From: Callard, Richard - UKGI
Sent: 16 February 2018 10:53
To: McAlister, Marcus - UKGI; [REDACTED] GRO
Cc: 'Jane MacLeod'; [REDACTED] GRO; O'Neill, Elizabeth - UKGI; [REDACTED] GRO
Lambert, Helen - UKGI; [REDACTED] GRO; Cooper, Tom - UKGI; [REDACTED] GRO; Patrick Bourke
[REDACTED] GRO
Subject: Project Sparrow meeting

Hi Marcus

Further to a discussion I have just had with Jane just now, please could you arrange a meeting between Jane MacLeod of POL, and Elizabeth, Helen and I on "project sparrow". Ideally we'd get this in next week if we could, and Tom may want to join us. Happy to go to POL if that's easier for Jane, and we probably need an hour.

Kind regards

Richard

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