

From: Alisdair Cameron [GRO]
Sent: Thur 21/03/2019 9:57:23 AM (UTC)
To: Mark R Davies [GRO]; Jane MacLeod [GRO]
Cc: Mark Underwood1 [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]; Melanie Corfield [GRO]
Subject: RE: Statement: legally privileged and strictly confidential

Mark, gut feel we have down dialled too much on the "we are still changing" and it looks like we were just saying that. I think the recognition that we need to change and will change needs to be at least as strong as it was in the original statement to preserve it in the face of a move that appears contrary.

I would rather not comment on the strength of our defence. Not sure it is true or helpful.

I think we would like to say. "Advice from our existing and new legal advisors is that recusal is both justified but also necessary to protect Post Offices."

I'll be in by 10.30 but I am not happy as is. Thanks Al



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[GRO]

From: Mark R Davies [GRO]
Sent: 21 March 2019 09:43
To: Jane MacLeod [GRO]; Alisdair Cameron [GRO]
Cc: Mark Underwood1 [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]; Melanie Corfield [GRO]
Subject: Statement: legally privileged and strictly confidential
Importance: High

All

As the application for recusal will be made this morning and likely to be public by lunchtime, we have prepared the statement below with input from Portland and legal team.

I would like to send to the Board and BEIS/UKGI for information and we will also prepare [limited] internal and stakeholder comms.

Are all content? Will have to send by 10 I think so apologies for short turnaround.

Mark

“We have reflected in great depth on the proceedings and detailed judgment from the first trial and will continue to consider all options.

“As part of this, we have decided to make an application for the sitting Judge to be recused from the ongoing and upcoming trials. We are acutely aware of the significance of this application, but we have serious reservations about the Judge’s ability to remain impartial in these proceedings.

“We firmly believe that this application is in the best interests of a stable and sustainable Post Office network and the communities who rely on our services every single day.

“We will continue to make operational and other improvements in the interests of our customers and postmasters, including those raised by the judgment. The applications we will be making [have made] reflects, however, our overall confidence in the legal position relating to our defence of this group litigation.”