

Message

From: Michael Norman [GRO] [GRO]
on behalf of Michael Norman [GRO]
Sent: 22/01/2020 13:27:33
To: Melanie Corfield [GRO]; Mark Underwood1 [GRO]
 Chris Russell [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]; Kerry F Moodie [GRO]
CC: Alice Cookson [GRO]; Claire Bishop [GRO]
Subject: RE: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

Good afternoon Mark/Chris

Would it be possible to have a response by COP today please?

Kind regards

Mike



Michael Norman
Briefing Consultant
 Group Communications & Corporate Affairs
 Post Office Limited
 Finsbury Dials
 London EC2Y 9AQ
T: [GRO]

From: Melanie Corfield
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Michael Norman [GRO]; Mark Underwood1 [GRO]
 Chris Russell [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]; Kerry F Moodie [GRO]
Cc: Alice Cookson [GRO]; Claire Bishop [GRO]
Subject: RE: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

@Mark Underwood

Re responding please be aware if you are not already that the Second Sight Part 2 report is on the JFSA website and has been for some time.

https://www.jfsa.org.uk/uploads/5/4/3/1/54312921/report_9th_april_2016.pdf

Mel

From: Michael Norman
Sent: 22 January 2020 09:40
To: Mark Underwood1 [GRO]; Chris Russell [GRO]; Melanie Corfield [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]; Kerry F Moodie [GRO]
Cc: Alice Cookson [GRO]; Claire Bishop [GRO]
Subject: FW: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

Good morning all

Please see below further email from BEIS relating to their FOI request.

As for the first part of their email would I be correct in giving your name Mark as the representative?

Secondly I would appreciate your clarification relating to the documents classed confidential.

Kind regards

Mike



Michael Norman
Briefing Consultant
Group Communications & Corporate Affairs
Post Office Limited
Finsbury Dials
London EC2Y 9AQ

T: GRO

From: Swales, Shanice (BEIS) GRO
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Michael Norman GRO
Subject: RE: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

Hi Michael,

We are just putting together the final documents here to send for you to review.

My Deputy Director (the person clearing this on our side) has asked who the representative on your side has given the go ahead for these documents to be released for the FOI request.

We also want to double check anything sensitive in the Second Sight report and response, as we understand that at least at the time there were confidential nature of details within it. It's clear from the correspondence that participants in the mediation and their legal advisors had access to the second sight report. Some brief googling suggest lots of people have read them but they are not in the public domain as they have been treated as 'confidential'. I'm not clear why it was deemed confidential and whether that still applies eg. was it because of issues relating to POL or that the reports covered personal issues relating to those in the mediation -are you able to confirm on your side?

Appreciate in advance and your help with this matter. If you are able to respond as soon as possible that would be much appreciated and we will get the full draft across to you shortly.

Thanks,
Shanice



Shanice Swales
Policy Adviser, Post Office Policy
Tel: GRO
GRO
Floor 4, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
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From: Michael Norman GRO
Sent: 17 January 2020 15:56
To: Swales, Shanice (BEIS) GRO
Subject: RE: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

Good afternoon Shanice

I hope you are well.

I can confirm that currently Post Office Limited do not have any particular issues or considerations relevant to the question of disclosure of this information we wish to raise at this point.

However, as previously mentioned, we would request the opportunity to take a further view on your proposed disclosure once we have seen your draft response including any suggested redactions.

Many thanks for your assistance with this matter.

Kind regards

Mike



Michael Norman
Briefing Consultant
Group Communications & Corporate Affairs
Post Office Limited
Finsbury Dials
London EC2Y 9AQ
T: **GRO**

From: Swales, Shanice (BEIS) **GRO**
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Michael Norman **GRO** >
Subject: RE: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

Hi Mike,

Yes looking at the request I would be referring to all the documents attached, although understand that on review POL may have reason to not want to release. We are looking for any reasoning or redaction requests related to these. I can use this information for the draft response, and would be happy to share this before it is sent.

Hope this makes sense and let me know if you need further clarification.

Thanks,
Shanice



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Shanice Swales
Policy Adviser, Post Office Policy
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From: Michael Norman **GRO**
Sent: 16 January 2020 14:45
To: Swales, Shanice (BEIS) < **GRO** >; Alice Cookson < **GRO** >; Claire Bishop < **GRO** >
Subject: RE: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

Good afternoon Shanice

Thanks again for sending this through.

The team have come back to me requesting some clarification:

1. They would like confirmation that you are referring to all 3 documents being released under your FOI request.
2. Would it be possible to see your final draft response for this case before it is sent?

Many thanks for your help with this.

Kind regards

Mike



Michael Norman
Briefing Consultant
Group Communications & Corporate Affairs
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London EC2Y 9AQ

T: **GRO**

From: Swales, Shanice (BEIS) **GRO**
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Alice Cookson <**GRO**>; Claire Bishop <**GRO**>; Michael Norman
<**GRO**>
Subject: FOI2019/24488 - Post Office mediation and Horizon Computer system

Good afternoon all,

I am writing to you in connection with a request for information received by the BEIS which is being considered under the Freedom of Information Act (see attachment 1 from Dr Minh Alexander). Part of the information requested references POL (see attached the relevant correspondence our search found which relates to the Post Office).

The Act requires the Department to disclose information in response to a request unless an exemption applies. There are two types of exemption in the Act.

The first type is an 'absolute' exemption, whereby disclosure may be withheld if the information falls within the terms of the exemption in question. However, where the exemption in question is only covered by a 'qualified' exemption, we can only withhold the information if the balance of the public interest, in all the circumstances of the case, favours non-disclosure of the information.

In light of your association with this information, we are informing you of this request. If you wish to notify us of any particular issues or considerations that you consider relevant to the question of disclosure of this information, please let me have written details of how, in your view, disclosure of the information would be harmful by **Monday 20th January**.

The information includes names and contact details which might allow an individual to be identified. We would be grateful if you would please pay particular attention to this and let me know if you have any concerns about this information being released. You should note any release of information under the Act is viewed as disclosure to the public – **I would expect that apart from Paula Vennells (as a senior member of staff) other names would be redacted.**

This is to enable the Department to consider all relevant factors in taking a decision on whether the Act requires this information to be disclosed.

Please let me know if you have any questions/concerns with this request.

Many thanks,
Shanice



Shanice Swales
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