

Message

From: Tim Parker [GRO]
on behalf of Tim Parker [GRO]
Sent: 07/02/2020 08:49:09
To: Watts, Alan [GRO]; Emanuel, Catherine [GRO]
CC: Thomas Cooper [GRO]; Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO]; Lord, William [GRO]; Ben Foat [GRO]
Subject: Re: GLO: Meeting yesterday

Post Office Limited - Document Classification: INTERNAL

Alan,

I'm happy to circulate the draft. On another subject, how much info do we have on the circumstances of each of the claimants in the GLO?

Best

Tim

Tim Parker

Chairman
National Trust
20 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH
[GRO]

Chairman
Post Office Limited
Finsbury Dials, 20 Finsbury Street, London, EC2Y 9AQ
[GRO]

Chairman
Samsonite International SA
Westerring 17, B-9700 Oudenaarde, Belgium
[GRO]

From: Watts, Alan [GRO]
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:28:03 PM
To: Emanuel, Catherine [GRO]
Cc: Tim Parker [GRO]; Thomas Cooper [GRO]; Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO]; Lord, William [GRO]; Ben Foat [GRO]
Subject: Re: GLO: Meeting yesterday

Tim/Tom

Are you both happy for us to circulate this revised draft?

Regards

Alan

On 6 Feb 2020, at 11:03 am, Emanuel, Catherine [GRO] wrote:

Tom – of course – see bullet added in blue below.

Timings for the meeting are proving a challenge but we are liaising with Di and will get there.

From: Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO]
Sent: 06 February 2020 10:21
To: Emanuel, Catherine [GRO]
Cc: Thomas Cooper [GRO], Tim Parker [GRO], Watts, Alan [GRO], Lord, William [GRO]
Subject: Re: GLO: Meeting yesterday

Thanks Kate

Would it be possible to add the discussion we had about the need to review individual cases before deciding on the approach to disclosure? Also the timing of the session you're setting up to do that.

Tom

Sent from my iPhone

On 6 Feb 2020, at 09:05, Emanuel, Catherine [GRO] wrote:

Tim, Tom,

Thank you for your time yesterday.

I was planning to send the below to the subcommittee members to report back on yesterday's meeting and the agreed way forward but wanted first to check if you had any comments.

Following our meeting, I did explore with Sir David the scope of his ability to engage in a general advisory capacity and there is no difficulty with that. Happy to discuss this further if you would like.

Do let me know if you have any comments on the draft. Otherwise I will send to the remaining subcommittee members.

Kind regards
Kate

Draft email to GLO Subcommittee

All

Further to the ad hoc GLO Subcommittee meeting this week, we yesterday attended a Conference with Sir David Calvert-Smith (a retired Court of Appeal judge and former DPP) with Tom Cooper and Tim Parker to discuss Post Office's historic criminal prosecutions, in particular in relation to the points raised and discussed concerning oversight of the review. Post Office's criminal solicitor (Nick Vamos of Peters and Peters) also attended.

The position arrived at by Tom and Tim, with our full support, was that:

- Post Office would retain Sir David to act in a capacity as special advisor to the Board to assist it in its task of scrutinising and testing the criminal advice it receives, including in relation to key strategic decisions that need to be made, the approach to be taken on the disclosure review and issues relating to the CCRC and the Court of Appeal. In addition, Sir David will be instructed to consider and approve Post Office's approach to the ongoing disclosure review. For example, Sir David will not be involved in the review's day to day process but will be asked to comment on and approve the disclosure review guidelines which will specify the circumstances in which disclosures should and should not be made. This would have obvious optical benefits including demonstrating that the disclosure review processes have been independently overseen and approved. In order to maintain a degree of separation from the criminal lawyers, it is proposed that HSF will instruct Sir David on behalf of the Board.
- In addition to Sir David's appointment, Post Office would also appoint a criminal QC with extensive defence experience to work alongside Brian Altman QC. This would complement Brian's prosecution experience and ensure Post Office is able to demonstrate optically its commitment to consider the review from both the prosecution and the defence perspective. Working alongside Brian would ensure that there are no delays to the review timeframe, which is important given the CCRC's indication that they are to take their recommendations to the commissioners at the end of March, which could result in some referrals to the Court of Appeal. The appointment of an additional criminal QC along with oversight from Sir David, we serve to limit any public criticism of Post Office's handling of the review. We are currently identifying suitable silks with sufficient experience.
- Sir David impressed us in our meeting by showing a willingness to challenge points made on all sides, and also an appreciation of the non-legal (public perception) points. As such, we think he will be well suited to the role the Board needs on these issues going forward.
- In terms of the review going forward, the team are making good progress with the review and we are looking to finalise dates for a detailed session on the individual cases. It is envisaged that the precise parameters of the disclosure exercised will be finalised after that session, which will give Sir David an opportunity to get up to speed and allow us to follow the lead of the CCRC, if and to the extent that any references are made in the second half of March.

I am obviously happy to discuss the above in more detail.

Kind regards

Kate

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