

From: CALLANAN, Lord [GRO]
Sent: 07 December 2020 10:49
To: James Arbuthnot [GRO] Callanan, Minister (Private Office)
[GRO]
Cc: Scully, Minister (Private Office) [GRO]; nick.read1 [GRO]; The
Rt Hon The Lord Charles Falconer QC [GRO]; FELLOWS, Marion
[GRO]; Alan Bates [GRO] JONES, Kevan
[GRO]

Subject: Re: The Clarke Advice to the Post Office

Dear James,

Apologies for my delay in responding but UKIM bill is occupying a lot of my time at the moment.

I want to be as helpful to you as I can on this matter and have pushed repeatedly with BEIS lawyers and officials, I can assure you that we do not have the Clarke Advice. After your most recent email, I asked BEIS and UKGI officials to check the files again, including for copies, and neither BEIS nor UKGI have found a copy of it on BEIS/UKGI systems.

Even if we did have it, the sharing of this document is now a matter for the courts - the strong advice to me is that any sharing of it without the court's agreement (even by Post Office) could result in a charge of contempt of court. So I'm afraid there's nothing more I can do at this stage.

As you are aware, whilst I am accountable for BEIS matters in the Lords, the Post Office is not directly within my Ministerial portfolio and rests with Paul Scully, hence it may be more helpful for you to address any further queries to his office.

Regards

Martin.