

From: Mandelson MPST [/O=DTI/OU=DTIHQ/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=MANDEL]
Sent: Mon 18/05/2009 4:54:01 PM (UTC)
To: Shanmugalingam Joanna (ShE) GRO
 Russell Mark (ShE) GRO Whitehead Mike
 (ShE) GRO McFadden
 MPST GRO SPAD
 MPST GRO Norris Geoffrey (MPST
 MIN GRO Loughran Patrick (MPST
 MIN GRO Upton Joe
 (COMMS) GRO Lovegrove Stephen
 (ShE) GRO; Hannant Ruth
 (ShE) GRO Booth Jonathan
 (BR2) GRO Jones Craig
 (BR2) GRO Gibson Will
 (ShE) GRO Glass Jerome
 (ShE) GRO Robling Stephen
 (ShE) GRO Freedman Maya
 (ShE) GRO
Subject: PROTECT: Note of Secretary of State's meeting with the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters 06.05.09

PROTECT

Note of Secretary of State's meeting with the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters

Wednesday 06 May 2009 17.00-17.45

In attendance: Pat McFadden, George Thomson (General Secretary), Marilyn Stoddart (Assistant General Secretary), Mervyn Jones, Keith Richards, Ian Park, Andrew Gilhooly, David Milner (all NFSP), Jo Shanmugalingam and Mike Whitehead.

- GT thanked the SoS for his role in ensuring that Post Office Limited retained the POCA contract. The SoS commented that it would be important for other areas of Government to also use the service.
- The SoS explained that it was important for POL to embrace its role as a provider of financial services, adding that POL had the capability and was a trusted brand. The SoS noted that the relationship between POL and Royal Mail would be preserved in legislation, the social network would be funded until 2011 and further closure programme would not be announced.
- The SoS commented that it was important for the Bill to reach Royal Assent in order for structural and regulatory changes to be made and for the pension fund to be dealt with. The SoS stressed the importance of a strong relationship between POL and HMG.
- GT explained that the NFSP supported the proposals for the pension fund deficit, regulation and partnership / capital. GT added that the "real issue" was the

interbusiness agreement between Royal Mail Group and POL, which should be for ten years. GT acknowledges that this may be less attractive than a five year agreement for a possible external partner, however the NFSP would value the stability of a ten year agreement. JS explained that the agreement was currently one year and that the five year option was on the table. The SoS commented that he did not want a fragmented Royal Mail and stressed the importance of having a stabilised, transformed organisation.

- GT asked the SoS how the work of the Business and Enterprise Select Committee and the MISC 33 Committee on Postal Services fed into work being done to ensure a sustainable post office network. PMc commented that the ID cards working group was one example of how HMG was "battling" for the Post Office network as was the work being done with DVLA.
- MY asked how the interbusiness agreement between Royal Mail Group and POL could be extended beyond five years. JS explained that the situation would currently revert back to the original one year contract as Royal Mail Group could not agree to something beyond five years which takes account of POL without Royal Mail Holdings.
- GT commented that there was a need to bring National Savings and Investments (NS&I) into POL to address the balance between savings and consumption. GT noted that the state aid requirements may be complicated but this should not rule out the development. GT asked the SoS how easy / costly it would be for POL to obtain a banking licence. JS explained that it would require an injection of several billion pounds for POL to meet FSA requirements and obtain a banking licence. The SoS added that there was a possibility of HMT asking for funding of this sort to be offset against funding for the social network, as there may not be enough for both. GT added that the social payment may not be needed if POL had a strong network and clear banking role as it would be preferable to have the banking work than any subsidy. The SoS commented that HMG would need to be satisfied that POL could be sustained without any subsidy.
- The SoS and GT discussed the Joint Venture between POL and the Bank of Ireland, with GT commenting that it may cost around £1 billion to end the contract. The SoS commented that the two key issues were (1) obtaining a possible banking licence and (2) the contract with the Bank of Ireland. JS commented that Alan Cook of POL would like to see more transactions put through Post Office branches, including current accounts. The SoS commented that another issue was the investment required to create a banking platform.
- GT commented that there was a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to create a Postbank. The SoS explained that an announcement of current accounts may be part of a way forward, however debate over the robustness of the Bank of Ireland may affect the Post Office brand.

- GT suggested that a fund targeted at the refurbishment of Post Office branches would be helpful. The SoS explained that this was something which could possibly be negotiated towards the end of the year. GT commented that he thought there was "some role" for the smaller branches known as Post Office Essentials.
- GT commented that the relationship between POL and the NFSP was not working due to a lack of commitment from POL, and added that money was made at the expense of the network. GT stressed that the network should be protected, and ring-fenced funds should be available to help sub-postmasters

Paul McCaffrey
Private Secretary to Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

GRO / GRO

Check box times at: <http://mandrin/mpst/index.html>

All emails and attachments containing comments from the Secretary of State should be filed in Matrix by the policy team.

From: Shanmugalingam Joanna (ShE)
Sent: 05 May 2009 13:26
To: Mandelson MPST
Cc: Whitehead Mike (ShE); McFadden MPST; SPAD MPST; Norris Geoffrey (MPST MIN); Loughran Patrick (MPST MIN); Upton Joe (COMMS); Lovegrove Stephen (ShE); Hannant Ruth (ShE); Booth Jonathan (BR2); Jones Craig (BR2); Gibson Will (ShE); Glass Jerome (ShE); Robling Stephen (ShE); Freedman Maya (ShE)
Subject: RE: BRIEFING REQUEST: Meeting with the National Federation of Sub-Postmaster

Jackie

Please find attached briefing from Mike Whitehead for tomorrow's meeting with the NFSP. Mike is back in the office tomorrow - please let me know if you have any queries in the meantime.

Jo

Jo Shanmugalingam
Director, Shareholder Executive

Office: GRO
Mobile: GRO
GRO

From: Mandelson MPST
Sent: 27 April 2009 10:00
To: Whitehead Mike (ShE)
Cc: SPAD MPST; Norris Geoffrey (MPST MIN); Loughran Patrick (MPST MIN); McFadden MPST; Power Peter (New Accounts); Boughen Aileen (COMMS); McCaffrey Paul (MPST MIN)

Subject: BRIEFING REQUEST: Meeting with the National Federation of Sub-Postmaster

Mike

the Secretary of State has agreed to meet George Thomson on Wednesday 6 May between 17.00 and 17.45 in SOS's office IRRELEVANT. Please see the below emailing confirming names.

The private secretaries are always happy to discuss SoS's briefing requirements and/or comment on draft briefing if this would be helpful. The Secretary of State would like concise briefing containing:

1. Agenda and attendees

The agenda should be agreed with external organisations and cleared with special advisors and junior Ministers where appropriate.

List of all attendees and their job titles

2. Purpose of meeting

Explain why we are having the meeting and what we want the outcome to be (it may help to think what would happen if the meeting didn't go ahead, or if a junior Minister took it on instead)

Set out any handling advice for SoS - are there any particular sensitivities he should avoid/recent developments he should address?

3. Lines to take

One side maximum of lines to take in bullet point form.

These must be short, clear and easy to use verbatim. Try reading them aloud to your colleagues. If they sound strange, or you have to draw breath mid-sentence, they need redrafting. Avoid acronyms that won't be understood by SoS or those at the meeting.

Prioritise and put the most important messages first, in case the meeting gets curtailed by a fire alarm/voting in the House

Remember to add defensive lines as well as proactive ones, if necessary. Is there anything SoS should avoid saying?

4. Context and analysis

SoS only needs brief, factual background for most items. He will only need the very latest information for any subject areas with which he is already familiar, and has taken meetings on before.

In addition to background, he also needs a short analysis of BERR's actions, stakeholder reactions and any criticisms by OGDs, stakeholders and media.

Please consider whether the Special Advisors, the junior Minister's office, the Permanent Secretary, FRM or Press Office need to be consulted on the draft of your briefing. Always ensure that the Special Advisers, Permanent Secretary's office, junior Minister's office and Press Office are copied in when submitting the electronic briefing.

The briefing should be in Arial 14 font. Please could you email the briefing to Mandelson MPST by 2pm on Tuesday 5 May unless you have agreed an alternative deadline with the private secretary. If

the briefing is more than 5 sides long, I'd be grateful if you would provide 2 flagged hard copies.

Attendees

As a rule, no more than 2 officials should attend - please let me know if you would like to discuss this or change those attending. Please confirm which external attendees are coming - I need to ensure they have passes at reception.

Happy to discuss further. Many thanks.

Jackie Cameron

Diary Manager to the Secretary of State

T: [redacted] GRO

F: [redacted] GRO

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All emails and attachments containing comments from the Secretary of State should be filed in Matrix by the policy team.

From: [redacted] GRO
Sent: 23 April 2009 11:37
To: Mandelson MPST
Cc: George Thomson; [redacted] GRO Keith Richards;
[redacted] GRO ianpark [redacted] GRO mervyn jones; Marilyn Stoddart
Subject: RE: Meeting

Hi [redacted] GRO

Further to our conversation today and the meeting with Lord Mandelson arranged for 5pm on Wednesday, 6 May at 1 Victoria Street, I can confirm that the attendees will be as follows:

- * George Thomson, General Secretary
- * Marilyn Stoddart, Assistant General Secretary
- * Mervyn Jones, National President, Chairman of Negotiating Committee, and subpostmaster at Sandbed Post Office, Hawick
- * Keith Richards, member of Negotiating Committee, and subpostmaster at Glynneath Post Office, Neath
- * Ian Park, member of Negotiating Committee, and subpostmaster at Marldon Hill

Post Office, Paignton

* Andrew Gilhooly, member of Negotiating Committee, and subpostmaster at
Haydrive Post Office, Edinburgh

* David Milner, member of Negotiating Committee, and subpostmaster at
Grimethorpe Post Office, Barnsley

Regards

GRO

xxx

GRO

PA to General Secretary
National Federation of Subpostmasters
Evelyn House
22 Windlesham Gardens
Shoreham by Sea
West Sussex
BN43 5AZ

Telephone: GRO

Fax: GRO

Website: www.nfsp.org.uk <<http://www.nfsp.org.uk/>>

email: GRO

From: Mandelson MPST GRO

Sent: 22 April 2009 17:54

To: GRO

Subject: Meeting

Hi GRO

Been a while since we have been in contact. Grateful if you would give me a call tomorrow to arrange a meeting between the Secretary of State and George Thomson. I am looking for a suitable slot between Tuesday 5 May and Thursday 7 May.

Look forward to speaking to you very soon.

Kind regards.

GRO

Diary Manager to The Rt Hon Lord Mandelson Secretary of State
Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T: GRO

F: GRO

email: GRO

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