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**From:** Paula Vennells; [GRO]  
**Sent:** Thur 05/02/2015 7:34:51 AM (UTC)  
**To:** Richardson, Simon; [GRO]  
**Subject:** Re: Tuesday  
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**Attachment:** image002.jpg  
**Attachment:** image003.png

Simon, how kind of you to say so.

It was tough but I felt that other than the issue of withholding prosecution files, which caught us completely by surprise, we did as you said. Though I have to say, it didn't feel as though we had achieved anything like that at the time. I did lose momentarily my faith in democracy - partly the poor chairmanship and partly the behaviour of Mr Binley. Atrocious.

So thank you for adding to my ability to calm down afterwards!

The positive is we now have an understanding that it is not a PO wide or current issue. Although we have known that, it is important to have that perspective confirmed - as Paul Blomfield MP did.

The issue which I am discussing with a sub-set of the Group Exec tomorrow, is how we find a satisfactory way through the criminal cases; and as importantly, how I lessen the impact on the business: it has been all consuming for me and the Board at times. And that in itself is a risk.

Thanks again. It's good to hear from you - I hope all is well; and thank you for Andy's input to our rehearsal session last week.

Paula

Paula Vennells  
Chief Executive  
Post Office Ltd

T: [GRO]  
[Paula.vennells@\[GRO\]](mailto:Paula.vennells@[GRO])

Sent from my iPad

On 4 Feb 2015, at 23:43, Richardson, Simon [GRO] wrote:

Paula

I watched the proceedings, and yours and Angela's evidence. From my somewhat distant seat, if I may say so, it went very well. It is very easy to focus on replaying what happened and one might have said but the test is nothing really new emerged, you and Angela pushed back and challenged or corrected where necessary. Most importantly it was a strong finish at the end of a long session.

Some of the briefing, and some grandstanding, was pretty obvious but, the group to your right, in particular, struck me as measured even if questioning current or past practice. I think that did reflect the respect with which the Post Office is held. It has to be said George Thomson's stance phased a number of people there and he did well holding his ground.

I realise there is more to be done but this is just a personal note with my own reflections on what I believe was a testing but positive session.

Regards

Simon

**Simon Richardson**

Partner

for and on behalf of Bond Dickinson LLP

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