

Business Sectors (3)

22 January 2024 13:35

IRRELEVANT

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MUST DO		
BOX ITEM - JC023	Title:	Urgent Advice on Post Office Chair
	Status:	For info
	Private secretary:	Jason
	Date boxed by SoS PS:	24/01/2024
	Box note:	This is a submission recommending the removal of Mr Henry Staunton (current Chairman of the Post Office Board) from the

		<p>Board.</p> <p>This recommendation came from the Senior Independent Director and the RemCo chair (two most senior Non-Execs on the Board), both of which expressed serious concerns about Mr Staunton to DBT. Note also RemCo chair has stated she will step down from the Board if the Chair stays in post. Concerns include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Multiple allegations concerning his conduct, including allegations of misogyny and racism; 2) His repeated attempts to close down investigation into his conduct, which included pressuring staff and Board members to end the investigation repeatedly; 3) Aggressive, intimidating and disrespectful behaviour to other Board members and members of the Exec Team. There has been multiple written complaints from Execs to the CEO concerning Mr Staunton's conduct; 4) Continued poor understanding of the public sector operating environment and poor judgment of appropriate actions given the particular scrutiny that Post Office operates under, and; 5) Disregard for due process, including announcing a new SID to the Board and seeking to close ongoing public appointment process without formal consultation with the Board nor seeking Shareholder approval. <p>Officials agree that Mr Staunton's conduct and judgement make him unsuitable to continue as Chair, as their view is that Mr Staunton:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Has not offered the leadership and cultural change the Post Office needs; 2) Has been acting increasingly erratic and disruptive for the business, including several outbursts in the office and other incidents; 3) Acted in an unacceptable manner by seeking to stop the investigations against himself. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px; text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <h2>Legal Privilege</h2> </div>
	SpAd comments:	<p>Victoria:</p> <p>Dylan:</p>
	Minister comments:	<p>Minister Hollinrake and Perm Sec both recommend removing him without inviting him to resign. This is due to the seriousness of the allegations. Perm Sec is also apprehensive about a future where the allegations come out and DBT is seen to have given him the easy way out.</p>

	PPS / DPPS cleared:	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Questions:	1. Are you content to dismiss Mr Staunton as Chair? 2. If so, do you wish to offer him the opportunity to resign, or to remove him from Post without offering?
	Attachments:	1. [JC024] Post Office Chair.docx 2. [JC024] Annex A - Grounds.docx
Readout		Remove asap - do not offer opportunity to resign