

Message

From: Alwen Lyons [GRO]
on behalf of Alwen Lyons [GRO]
Sent: 05/12/2014 17:17:46
To: Alice Perkins [GRO]; Neil McCausland [GRO]; virginia.holmes.t21 [GRO]; timfranklin1 [GRO]; Alasdair Marnoch [GRO]; Callard Richard (ShEx) [GRO]; Paula Vennells [GRO]; Chris M Day [GRO]
CC: Mark R Davies [GRO]; Belinda Crowe [GRO]; Alwen Lyons [GRO]
Subject: Sparrow update note

Dear all
Please see below an update from Mark

Thanks
Alwen

>>>>
>>>> Dear all
>>>>
>>>> Just a note to update you on the potential for some media activity relating to the Mediation Scheme over the next few days. It relates to the update we gave you about the meeting with MPs about the Mediation Scheme.
>>>>
>>>> Essentially the MPs had put forward a proposition that there should be a general presumption that Post Office would agree to mediate all cases where Second Sight recommend mediation regardless of their merits and specific circumstances. The MPs suggested that should Post Office not agree, they may have no alternative, in the face of what they described as pressure from the media, to grant interview requests.
>>>>
>>>> Paula wrote to the MPs to say that she could not agree to their proposition and said that should they wish to share her letter with the media, which set out in detail all that Post Office had done to investigate the original concerns, she would have no objection.
>>>>
>>>> We have now been approached by the BBC about a possible story about Horizon for BBC News/One Show. They have been made aware of Paula's response to the MPs and the BBC reporter suggested that the MPs are expected to release a response over the coming days "which will bring a large degree of information on scheme into the public domain". He has not seen the letter but hopes to shortly. The thrust of the story appears to be the integrity of the system and the claims of the subpostmasters.
>>>>
>>>> The increased media attention is entirely in line with our expectations and we are well prepared to deal with it. Insofar as it is possible we will not respond to avoid giving the story oxygen but we are ready to respond (including legally) should the circumstances require a response.
>>>>
>>>> However I just wanted to make sure you are aware in the event that there is some coverage over the weekend.
>>>>
>>>> Best wishes
>>>> Mark
>>>>
>>>> Mark Davies
>>>> Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
>>>> Mobile: [GRO]