

Message

From: Reid, Tom [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED] [Tom.Reid@GRO]
on behalf of Reid, Tom [REDACTED] **GRO** [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/12/2014 16:16:35
To: Rodric Williams [rodric.williams@GRO]; Tom Wechsler [tom.wechsler@GRO]; Melanie Corfield [melanie.corfield@GRO]; Mark R Davies [mark.r.davies@GRO]; BARTY, Susan [Susan.BARTY@GRO]
CC: Belinda Crowe [belinda.crowe@GRO]; Ruth X Barker [ruth.x.barker@GRO]; Patrick Bourke [patrick.bourke@GRO]; Helmer, Stuart [Stuart.Helmer@GRO]
Subject: RE: One Show
Attachments: Letter to BBC - 16 December 2014(202734206_1).PDF

All,

For your records, please find attached a copy of the letter as sent this afternoon.

Kind regards,

Tom

**Tom Reid
Associate**

GRO

C/M/S/

Law.Tax

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From: Reid, Tom
Sent: 16 December 2014 16:09
To: 'Rodric Williams'; Tom Wechsler; Melanie Corfield; Mark R Davies; BARTY, Susan
Cc: Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Patrick Bourke; Helmer, Stuart
Subject: RE: One Show

Thank you all. I will send this out now and circulate a signed copy once sent.

**Tom Reid
Associate**

GRO

C/M/S/

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From: Rodric Williams [mailto:rodric.williams] **GRO**
Sent: 16 December 2014 16:04
To: Tom Wechsler; Melanie Corfield; Mark R Davies; Reid, Tom; BARTY, Susan
Cc: Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Patrick Bourke; Helmer, Stuart
Subject: RE: One Show

Good to go.
Thanks CMS.

Rodric Williams | Litigation Lawyer



From: Tom Wechsler
Sent: 16 December 2014 16:00
To: Melanie Corfield; Mark R Davies; Reid, Tom; BARTY, Susan
Cc: Rodric Williams; Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Patrick Bourke; Helmer, Stuart
Subject: RE: One Show

As am I

Tom Wechsler
GRO

From: Melanie Corfield
Sent: 16 December 2014 15:53
To: Mark R Davies; Reid, Tom; BARTY, Susan
Cc: Rodric Williams; Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Tom Wechsler; Patrick Bourke; Helmer, Stuart
Subject: RE: One Show

Certainly content with this.
Mel

From: Mark R Davies
Sent: 16 December 2014 15:51
To: Reid, Tom; BARTY, Susan
Cc: Rodric Williams; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Tom Wechsler; Patrick Bourke; Helmer, Stuart
Subject: RE: One Show

I am content if others can confirm they are.

Mark

Mark Davies I Communications and Corporate Affairs Director

1st Floor, Banner Wing, 148 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HQ

GRO



From: Reid, Tom [mailto:Tom.Reid@GRO]
Sent: 16 December 2014 15:40
To: Mark R Davies; BARTY, Susan
Cc: Rodric Williams; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Tom Wechsler; Patrick Bourke; Helmer, Stuart
Subject: RE: One Show

Mark,

Further to Susan's email below, we have drafted the attached legal letter to address the issue of Mr Patel QC's opinion and lack of supporting evidence provided by the BBC (both on respect of Mr Patel's comments and the BBC's allegations of miscarriages of justice more generally).

Please do let us know if you have any comments.

Kind regards,

Tom

Tom Reid
Associate

GRO

C/M/S/

Law, Tax

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From: Mark R Davies [mailto:mark.r.davies@GRO]
Sent: 16 December 2014 13:15
To: BARTY, Susan
Cc: Rodric Williams; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Reid, Tom; Tom Wechsler; Patrick Bourke
Subject: Re: One Show

I agree!

Mark Davies
Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
Mobile **GRO**

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Dec 2014, at 13:13, "BARTY, Susan" <Susan.BARTY> **GRO** wrote:

Mark

Having spoken just now to Rodric, it is also worth making the point that if they have any evidence to justify allegations of miscarriages of justice, they should provide this to us. If they are going ahead to broadcast any allegations that there have been miscarriages of justice, they should make it clear in the broadcast that Post Office has asked for sight of this evidence, but that the BBC has refused to provide this.

If all agree, we can also send a further legal letter.

Best wishes

Susan

From: BARTY, Susan
Sent: 16 December 2014 12:41
To: 'Mark R Davies'; Rodric Williams; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Reid, Tom; Tom Wechsler; Patrick Bourke
Subject: RE: One Show

Mark

I agree. They are including Mr Patel QC's opinions to try to add credibility to what they say. By including him, the clear suggestion for viewers will be that he has some basis for his opinions, but they are not explaining to us the basis for his opinions, if there is any (and we are pretty clear he won't have any real basis).

Best wishes

Susan

From: Mark R Davies [mailto:mark.r.davies] **GRO**
Sent: 16 December 2014 12:25
To: BARTY, Susan; Rodric Williams; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe; Ruth X Barker; Reid, Tom; Tom Wechsler; Patrick Bourke
Subject: Fwd: One Show

All

To see my latest exchange with BBC. Grateful for any thoughts on next step. I'm thinking a final email with an offer to appear in pre-recorded film but a decline of sofa slot given the grave seriousness of the allegations.

M

Mark Davies
Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
Mobile: **GRO**

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark R Davies <mark.r.davies> **GRO**
Date: 16 December 2014 12:19:10 GMT

To: Jane French <jane.french@
Cc: Clare Hoban <clare.hoban@
<melanie.corfield@
Subject: Re: One Show

GRO

Melanie Corfield

Hi Jane

Thanks for this. What evidence will you be putting forward to support the serious suggestion that there "might" have been miscarriages of justice? You will be aware that should there be evidence of that Post Office has a legal duty to disclose that evidence. It therefore follows that to make such a serious allegation there must also be some evidence to support it, and if so I would urge you to please let me know what it is so that we could discharge our responsibilities.

Given that this appears to be the main thrust of your programme I think it very important that you provide us as soon as possible with evidence to support the suggestion, particularly as we are not being accommodated to appear in your film. I look forward to hearing from you ASAP please given the seriousness of this matter.

Best wishes

Mark

Mark Davies
Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
Mobile: **GRO**

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Dec 2014, at 12:09, "Jane French" <jane.french@
GRO> wrote:

Hi Mark,

As explained the reason for the film is the MPs adjournment debate. The programme explores the concerns of subpostmasters as laid out in our letter of last week. I'm not sure how I can add to this. Mr Patel's opinion that innocent people 'might have been convicted' is not unfamiliar to the post-office and remains the view as I'm sure you are aware of a number of MPs. It would be negligent of us not to reflect this in the item and to carry your response.

Jane French

Editor, Current Affairs

BBC South

GRO

From: Mark R Davies [mailto:mark.r.davies@
Sent: 16 December 2014 11:48
To: Jane French
Cc: Clare Hoban; Melanie Corfield
Subject: Re: One Show

Hi Jane

Thanks for this. If everything is laid out in your communications of last week, there is no real substance to any of the serious allegations you seem to be making, or at least not that you have shared with us.

Please therefore can you let me know ASAP what your central allegation - the reason for this second film in a week - will be?

Although we have concerns as to the basis for any of the allegations you seem to be making, as I said yesterday, I have particular concerns about the comments of Mr Patel QC. He seems to be speculating on a very serious matter (alleged miscarriages of justice) and without any real basis, but in such a way that it is likely to be very damaging to Post Office and likely to cause serious harm.

This in itself is an extremely serious allegation around which to speculate in the absence of any evidence. It is hard to see how we could adequately respond to that in a sofa slot. We have offered you a pre-recorded interview but you have not been prepared to accommodate this.

Best wishes

Mark

Mark Davies
Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
Mobile: GRO

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Dec 2014, at 10:58, "Jane French" <jane.french@bbc.co.uk> GRO wrote:

Dear Mark,

I think you have everything else laid out in our communication of last week. Thank you for your help to date. Are you taking up The One Show offer of the studio chat?

Jane

Jane French
Editor, Current Affairs

BBC South

GRO

From: Mark R Davies
[mailto:mark.r.davies@bbc.co.uk] **GRO**
Sent: 15 December 2014 19:52
To: Jane French
Cc: Melanie Corfield; Clare Hoban
Subject: Re: One Show

Dear Jane

Thanks for letting me know. What then now forms the core allegation against us in your film? I note the comments from Mr Patel QC which at face value lack any evidence to support them.

Indeed, the selection from what Mr Patel might say in the quote as presented to us contains the following qualifications: "there may be" 'perhaps' and 'it could be argued'. This contribution therefore appears to amount to little more than speculation. Yet it is speculation on a very serious matter. Please can you let me know what further points Mr Patel may make to support his view?

Many thanks

Mark

Mark Davies
Communications and Corporate Affairs Director
Mobile: [REDACTED] **GRO**

Sent from my iPhone

On 15 Dec 2014, at 17:58, "Jane French"
<jane.french@bbc.co.uk> **GRO** wrote:

Thank you for your reply. I can confirm that because of the complexities surrounding how subpostmasters are interviewed when concerns are raised about missing funds this will not now be

covered in our One Show film. However this is an area that we would like to return to in future broadcasts as the mediation progresses and it would be helpful to discuss this at greater length once the Wednesday programming is complete.

Jane French
Editor, Current Affairs
BBC South
GRO

From: Melanie Corfield
[mailto:melanie.corfield@bbc.co.uk] **GRO**
GRO
Sent: 15 December 2014 17:25
To: Jane French; Clare Hoban; Ingrid Kelly
Cc: Mark R Davies; Ruth X Barker
Subject: One Show

I attach the answers to the questions you have raised with us and also a short statement, for use in full please, in the film.

Please let me know if you need clarification about any of the information.

Thanks

Mel Corfield
Communications Team

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