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Cc: Mark R Davies[GRO] Chris Aujard[GRO] Alwen Lyons[GRO]
From: Alwen Lyons[GRO]
Sent: Thur 11/12/2014 9:25:34 AM (UTC)
Subject: FW: Sparrow update

Please find below an update from Mark and Chris Aujard

Thanks
Alwen

Dear All

We just wanted to give a quick update on the latest developments. We previously alerted you to the potential for some media coverage about the Scheme which materialised as expected. The coverage was generally limited and revolved around individual cases and was fronted by James Arbuthnot. The issue quickly moved down the day's news agenda.

Today we have heard that there is to be a parliamentary debate about the Scheme on 17 December and we are working with BIS to ensure the Minister is properly briefed.

We also discovered that JFSA has instructed a legal firm, Edwin Coe, to "pursue the rights" of subpostmasters whose claims Post Office is currently seeking to address through the Scheme. JFSA has not informed us of this (we learned about it through social media) and the nature of the instruction is not clear. We have this evening written to JFSA and Edwin Coe for more information about their intention in relation to the Scheme and the Working Group. Our next steps will be informed by their response. As a precautionary measure we have temporarily suspended JFSA's access to scheme information. We are also writing to Second Sight to suspend any activity on the Scheme and ask them to have no contact with applicants until we have more information. We also have a media handling plan in place and intend to communicate with applicants remaining in the Scheme. In the meantime we are continuing to investigate the few remaining cases.

We will, as ever, keep you informed of developments

Regards

Mark and Chris