

Message

From: Melanie Corfield [GRO]
on behalf of [GRO]
Sent: 27/11/2014 12:24:59
To: Gavin Lambert [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]; Rodric Williams [GRO]; Mark R Davies [GRO]
CC: Tom Wechsler [GRO]; Mark Underwood [GRO]; Chris Aujard [GRO]; Belinda Crowe [GRO]
Subject: RE: URGENT - SPARROW - ADVICE TO CEO
Attachments: CEO - JA - Annex A - MD - PB.docx

Just some typo tweaks in case not already picked up.

Mel

NB Following on from Patrick's reminder re JA's news release quote. He also put this on a BBC blog back in summer of 2013 (re challenges over independence of investigation, given POL was paying for it). Could be useful at some point.

Good stuff, and I know you will keep your eye on this extremely important issue. But one thing I would challenge you on, namely the payment by the Post Office for the investigation by Second Sight. The very fact that they were prepared to do that suggested to me that they did want, perhaps against their own apparent interest, to resolve the matter for the good of everyone, themselves included. I thought that was creditable.

And someone had to pay for it. I wasn't going to, the Government wouldn't have forked out money from somewhere else to do so, and the Post Office offered to do so despite the risk involved to their reputation. That does contrast (well, IMHO) with the cover ups we've seen elsewhere in the public sector.

James Arbuthnot

From: Gavin Lambert
Sent: 27 November 2014 12:20
To: Patrick Bourke; Rodric Williams; Mark R Davies
Cc: Tom Wechsler; Mark Underwood [GRO]; Chris Aujard; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe
Subject: RE: URGENT - SPARROW - ADVICE TO CEO

Thanks all. Looks good.

One very minor tweak: third para from the end – in 'a' manner which is fair to all...

Gavin Lambert
[GRO]

From: Patrick Bourke
Sent: 27 November 2014 12:14
To: Rodric Williams; Mark R Davies; Gavin Lambert
Cc: Tom Wechsler; Mark Underwood [GRO]; Chris Aujard; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe
Subject: RE: URGENT - SPARROW - ADVICE TO CEO

Rod – included in my mark up.

As a matter of interest, you may all wish to see what JA MP had to say about the Scheme/Working Group in our press release of 27 August 2013:

Commenting on the announcement, James Arbuthnot MP, who is spearheading interest at Parliament said " I am very pleased indeed with the working group's proposed process. To my mind, it represents the very best chance of all parties -- individual Subpostmaster's and mistresses, and Post Office have of ensuring the best outcome for everyone. It is fair, thorough, and independent"

Patrick

From: Rodric Williams
Sent: 27 November 2014 12:11
To: Mark R Davies; Patrick Bourke; Gavin Lambert
Cc: Tom Wechsler; Mark Underwood^{GRO}; Chris Aujard; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe
Subject: RE: URGENT - SPARROW - ADVICE TO CEO

Thanks Mark. I think this still reads really well.

I would make one tweak in the fourth para (removing a "the") to reflect that (rightly or wrongly) POL was pretty heavily involved in the Scheme's design too, i.e.:

"Second Sight and JFSA were ~~the~~ principal drivers of its design, the establishment of the Working Group and the appointment of its independent Chair..."

Sorry to be a lawyer!
Rod

Rodric Williams | Litigation Lawyer



148 Old Street, LONDON, EC1V 9HQ

GRO

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From: Mark R Davies
Sent: 27 November 2014 11:58
To: Patrick Bourke; Gavin Lambert
Cc: Tom Wechsler; Mark Underwood^{GRO}; Rodric Williams; Chris Aujard; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe
Subject: RE: URGENT - SPARROW - ADVICE TO CEO

All
Here is an updated letter following feedback from Paula.
Grateful for v quick views before it goes to her.
Mark

Mark Davies I Communications and Corporate Affairs Director

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

GRO



From: Patrick Bourke
Sent: 26 November 2014 14:38
To: Gavin Lambert
Cc: Tom Wechsler; Mark Underwood  Rodric Williams; Mark R Davies; Chris Aujard; Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe
Subject: URGENT - SPARROW - ADVICE TO CEO
Importance: High

Gavin

I attach advice on the immediate next step on Sparrow, together with a draft letter, for Paula's consideration.

The changes Mark refers to have been made and copy recipients are content.

Kind regards

Patrick

From: Mark R Davies
Sent: 26 November 2014 14:21
To: Patrick Bourke; Chris Aujard; Melanie Corfield
Cc: Tom Wechsler; Mark Underwood  Rodric Williams
Subject: RE: Draft Advice and Letter from PV to JA

All

Have discussed this at length with Patrick and am happy with advice going forward, and attach my suggested changes to the letter.

In view of the timing, we need to get this to Paula now.

Mark

Mark Davies I Communications and Corporate Affairs Director

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GRO

GRO

