

## Message

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**From:** Martin Edwards [GRO]  
on behalf of Martin Edwards  
**Sent:** 13/02/2014 09:04:29  
**To:** Paula Vennells [GRO]; Theresa Iles [GRO]  
**CC:** Sarah Paddison [GRO]  
**Subject:** RE: Post Office - proposed meeting

Paula, Theresa – I discussed with Belinda yesterday. Agree we need to get the meeting with TH booked asap, but there are a number of steps which need to be carefully choreographed before you see him:

- Reaching a clear internal view (probably with ExCo and the Board) on how we want to handle SS – and in particular whether now is the time to move to 'plan c'
- Working with BIS to ensure we have ministerial cover for this approach
- You speaking to James Arbuthnot to bring him on board
- Then the meeting with TH

Of course, that's not to say that we can't schedule these steps in advance, and I'm meeting with Belinda, Mark and David again tomorrow afternoon to agree a firm plan of attack, taking into account the ExCo discussion this morning.

So that's a long way of saying that I'll confirm the preferred target date for the TH meeting tomorrow afternoon, if that's ok. Given that he's in Tanzania until the end of this week in any case we don't lose anything by waiting a further day.

Thanks,  
Martin

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**From:** Paula Vennells  
**Sent:** 13 February 2014 08:26  
**To:** Theresa Iles  
**Cc:** Martin Edwards; Sarah Paddison  
**Subject:** Re: Post Office - proposed meeting

Thx - needs to be asap P

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Feb 2014, at 08:14, "Theresa Iles" [GRO] wrote:

Hi Martin

Please can you advise on where we are with a date re Sir Tony Hooper – please see Paula's email of this morning (below). I've copied in her original email regarding this, for info, and let her know we discussed it on Monday.

Thanks  
Theresa

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Paula Vennells  
**Sent:** 13 February 2014 07:40  
**To:** Theresa Iles  
**Subject:** Sir Tony Hooper

Hi. I have asked for a date in Tony Hooper's diary for a catch up. I can't remember if it was you or Chris A, but when I mentioned to him last night he thought it might not have happened as Tony is away.

Have you booked anything? And if not, I'd like one asap he is available - happy to move my diary. He's in Africa I think at present.

Could you advise as I need to reassure Alice. Thx p

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Paula Vennells  
**Sent:** 09 February 2014 22:06  
**To:** Belinda Crowe  
**Cc:** Belinda Crowe; Martin Edwards; David Oliver; Chris Aujard; Theresa Iles  
**Subject:** Re: Post Office - proposed meeting

Thanks for this Belinda and for your very clear note to Alice.  
Let me know when you need more from me.

Martin/Theresa, we need a date with Sir Tony Hooper please - Martin, can you liaise with Belinda re a good time? Thx P

Sent from my iPad

On 7 Feb 2014, at 14:28, "Belinda Crowe" <GRO> wrote:

Hi Paula

You asked for a copy of the note that James Arbuthnot's office sent out to MPs, Second Sight and JFSA. This was done without consulting or informing us.  
David and I have subsequently spoken to JA's office and agreed that we need to have an agreed note of the meeting you had with JA (David has drafted and cleared through you) and also that we do a first draft of the actual letter of invitation to MPs. JA's office agreed to both and David has done a draft which is being cleared internally at present. The aim is to get something to JA's office this pm.

I will do a note to Alice explaining the steps to the MPs meeting.  
Best wishes  
Belinda

**Belinda Crowe**

148 Old Street, LONDON, EC1V 9HQ

GRO Postline: GRO  
GRO  
GRO

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**From:** David Oliver  
**Sent:** 04 February 2014 10:59  
**To:** Chris Aujard; Belinda Crowe  
**Subject:** FW: Post Office - proposed meeting

To see. Can we discuss with Paula under AOB.

D

David Oliver  
Programme Manager  
Initial Complaint and Mediation Scheme

GRO  
Mobile GRO

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**From:** WALKER, Janet [mailto:GRO]  
**Sent:** 04 February 2014 10:53  
**To:** David Oliver  
**Subject:** FW: Post Office - proposed meeting

Dear David,

Further to my message earlier, please find the following, which James sent to all relevant MPs, Second Sight, Alan Bates and Kay Linnell, this morning.

Kind regards,  
Janet

Janet Walker  
Office of the Rt Hon James Arbuthnot  
MP for North East Hampshire  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

T: GRO  
E: GRO  
[www.jamesarbuthnot.com](http://www.jamesarbuthnot.com)

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**From:** ARBUTHNOT, James  
**Sent:** 04 February 2014 10:46  
**Subject:** Post Office - proposed meeting

Dear Colleague,

I know that some of you are very keen to meet soon to discuss how the matter of SubPostmaster investigations is progressing. I had originally envisaged calling a meeting in January but this has not been possible. The reason for the delay is because the mediation process by which accepted cases are now being investigated has taken a while to get up and running formally. I sent you a message last year describing this process, with its formal working party, chairman, and procedures.

Last week, I had discussions with Second Sight, the independent investigators, with the JFSA, and with senior management at the Post Office to establish how things were going. I am now in a position to advise that a meeting will be called near the beginning of March. I am trying to confirm possible dates, something not made easy by the fact that I would like all those mentioned above to attend.

I am sorry to have to ask you to be patient a little while longer. The mediation process remains, to my mind, the very best chance our constituents have for redressing their situation. I believe it is working, I understand it is necessarily taking longer than we would all like, but I would be sorry if haste were to ruin its chances of success.

I will be in touch within the next week with a suggested date.

Yours ever,  
James

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House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

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