
From: Mark R Davies[GRO]
Sent: Thur 10/07/2014 1:21:12 PM (UTC)
To: Martin Edwards[GRO]; Melanie Corfield[GRO]; Belinda Crowe[GRO]; Avene O'Farrell[GRO]; David Oliver1[GRO]; Chris Aujard[GRO]; Sophie Bialaszewski[GRO]
Subject: RE: Urgent; Letter from james Arbuthnot

Looks good to me

Mark Davies | Communications and Corporate Affairs Director

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From: Martin Edwards
Sent: 10 July 2014 14:18
To: Melanie Corfield; Belinda Crowe; Avene O'Farrell; David Oliver[GRO]; Chris Aujard; Sophie Bialaszewski; Mark R Davies
Subject: RE: Urgent; Letter from james Arbuthnot
Importance: High

Hi all – some amendments to the email below having discussed this with Paula. The main one was that she was keen to include the second point below – she thought JA's letter was too negative about progress. Paula is leaving in 15 mins so I'd be grateful for urgent confirmation that you're happy with these changes.

Thanks,
Martin

Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 2014 and the opportunity to comment on the update you will be sending to MPs. I have two main thoughts and a couple of minor comments.

Firstly, whilst I understand the desire for details on individual cases, as we have previously discussed and agreed, it would not be in the interests of applicants or the integrity of the Scheme to disclose this. The terms of the Scheme provide an assurance of confidentiality to applicants. We will of course be pleased to continue to update on the overall progress of the Scheme but individual case details cannot be shared at any point, including at the end of the Scheme. I do think it is important that this is set out in your note to colleagues, and that the third paragraph is amended accordingly.

Secondly, while I agree entirely that the overall process is taking longer than any of us

originally anticipated, I do think this message should be balanced with the fact that progress is now being made with the first two cases commencing mediation this week and a number of other cases resolved with the applicants in advance of mediation.

Finally, there is a small typo in my name in the first paragraph.

If it would be helpful to discuss these issues directly I would be very happy to arrange a phone call.

Kind regards,
Paula

From: Melanie Corfield
Sent: 10 July 2014 10:16
To: Belinda Crowe; Avene O'Farrell; David Oliver; Chris Aujard; Sophie Bialaszewski; Mark R Davies
Cc: Martin Edwards
Subject: RE: Urgent; Letter from james Arbuthnot

Suggested draft below:

Dear James,

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 2014 and the opportunity to comment on the update you will be sending to MPs.

Whilst I understand the desire for details on individual cases, as we have previously discussed and agreed, it would not be in the interests of applicants or the integrity of the Scheme to go into these or supply a running commentary. The Scheme provides, in its terms, an assurance to applicants of confidentiality.

We will of course be pleased to continue to update on the overall Scheme progress but individual case details cannot be shared at any point. I do think it is important that this is set out in your note to colleagues.

A final, minor comment – there is a small typo in my name in the first paragraph.

From: Belinda Crowe
Sent: 10 July 2014 08:11
To: Avene O'Farrell; David Oliver; Chris Aujard; Sophie Bialaszewski; Mark R Davies; Melanie Corfield
Cc: Martin Edwards; Belinda Crowe
Subject: RE: Urgent; Letter from james Arbuthnot

My view of this is that, if we are to respond we should simply refer to what we have said previously, and is referenced in the Scheme documentation in that details of the cases will be kept confidential. Also, the meeting note between Paula, Alice and JA says:

JA questioned whether this report could not be published earlier and suggested that Second Sight could produce a report for the end of February. PV explained that that would not be possible and that Second Sight needed to keep matters internal while the mediation was ongoing but that there could be a report at the end. AP made the point that it was not helpful to provide a running commentary and that there was a need now to focus on delivering the Scheme. JA accepted these points.

This note was signed off by JA's office. What I am not sure about is the extent to which we want to say that it would be disappointing if he were to make the point about it is possible, but he has not been told so, that PO don't want to say anything about individual cases until something can be said about all of them, as he agreed at the meeting with Paula and Alice that a running commentary would be unhelpful and it has always been the case that individual cases will remain confidential. The Scheme documentation makes that point.

Mark, do you have a view, and was there anything we can refer back to from the meeting of MPs – I wasn't there.

Sophie/Mel, are you drafting the response?

We need to comment today and I have WG all day.

Best wishes

Belinda

Belinda Crowe

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From: Avene O'Farrell

Sent: 09 July 2014 09:52

To: Belinda Crowe; David Oliver; Chris Aujard; Sophie Bialaszewski; Mark R Davies

Cc: Martin Edwards

Subject: Urgent; Letter from james Arbuthnot

Importance: High

Hi all

Please find attached a letter from James Arbuthnot that was received this morning. James has asked for any amendments/comments by tomorrow – please could we have a draft reply as soon as possible?

Many Thanks

Sarah, covering for Avene

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