

Message

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Sent: 21/10/2015 16:35:40
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Subject: Sparrow - download from my meeting with Tim Parker and Jonathan Swift
Attachments: ATT75625
Flag: Follow up

The meeting went well yesterday with agreement between Jonathan and Tim on the objectives and timing. However, they are both concerned that in order to address the concerns that have been publicly raised, we need to get whatever assurance is possible in relation to the challenge as to whether Horizon faults are behind the underlying claims. In addition, they believe that we should do 'deeper dives' on the [3] cases that regularly receive the media attention (Jo Hamilton, Seema Misra, etc) .

To summarise the other matters discussed:

Focus of the investigation:

- criminal cases - did we have sufficient evidence to support the charges brought?
- IT system - what can we do to establish that the system was not the underlying cause of the claims (eg remote access etc; changes can't be made without leaving an audit trail etc)
- Helpdesk - was the general approach appropriate? (Concern is around the allegation that postmasters were advised to take actions which resulted in them committing false accounting)
- other cases - were they investigated properly; was anything not covered which should reasonably have been addressed; is there anything obviously not done; if so, could it be done now?

Ways of working:

- we to find a room at FD or BD's offices where we can store files
- we to set up meeting with Chris Knight (Junior Counsel) to discuss how best to give access to required documents . Jonathan will attend if possible
- we to set up meeting between Chris & one of the investigators to take him through the investigation process. My suggestion - can we take him through one of the high profile cases? Jonathan may attend.
- we to set up regular review meetings (weekly/fortnightly) to review progress

Documents/information required now:

- copies of CCRC requests
- examples of prosecution reports summarising the recommended prosecution and supporting evidence (I suspect these may not always be 'reports' - email chains or equivalent may have to suffice). My suggestion: if possible we use the 'reports' (if available) for the 3 cases referred to in Panorama. If not available, then find others.
- what documentation do we have that describes the investigation processes that we went through under the scheme?

Meetings to arrange

- Arbutnot
- Second Sight
- Alan Bates from JFSA

Aim for Tuesday mornings for these as this is Tim's PO day. We will need to prepare briefing documents for each such interview. Sir Anthony Hooper should be interviewed later in the process – December?

Other issues

- need to agree fee rates and billing arrangements for both Jonathan and Chris. We'll need monthly updates on costs. Can we consider getting them to do this for a fixed fee?

Let's discuss tomorrow.

Jane



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