

Message

From: Jane MacLeod [GRO]
on behalf of [GRO]
Sent: 22/10/2015 17:20:44
To: Tim Parker [GRO]
Subject: Post Office - meeting with Jonathan Swift QC

Tim,

I trust you found the meeting with Jonathan useful and believe that he will be able to support you appropriately?

I have summarised the outputs of the meeting (see below) and have tasked my team with setting up the plan to deliver this, and to action the various items. As you will see, we expect to have regular updates with Jonathan and Christopher Knight (the junior who will support him) to ensure that we are delivering against the plan.

I propose to provide you with a fortnightly email update on progress against the plan. Please let me know if you would prefer a different format/frequency. From time to time we will also need to brief you in more detail on specific issues.

I hope this will work for you.

Kind regards,

Jane

Summary of meeting between Tim Parker and Jonathan Swift QC on 20/10/2015

Both are concerned that in order to address the issues 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 those few 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; 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 Chris through the investigation process. Jonathan may attend.
- we to set up regular review meetings (weekly/fortnightly) to review progress

Documents/information to be provided to Jonathan now:

- copies of CCRC requests
- examples of prosecution reports summarising the recommended prosecution and supporting evidence.
- what documentation do we have that describes the investigation processes that we went through under the scheme?

Meetings to arrange

- Lord Arbuthnot
- Second Sight
- Alan Bates from JFSA

We will aim to schedule these meetings for Tuesday mornings and will liaise with Di Blanchard to this end.. We will need to prepare briefing documents for each such interview. Sir Anthony Hooper should be interviewed later in the process – towards December?



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