

From: Simon I Hutchinson <[REDACTED] GRO>
To: Ben Beabey <[REDACTED] GRO>
Cc: Helen Dickinson <[REDACTED] GRO>, Mark Raymond <[REDACTED] GRO>

Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL FW: Solicitors Enquiry - Pond Park Investigation - legal privilege/confidential/do not share

Date: Tue, 8 Oct 2019 12:27:17 +0000

Importance: Normal

Attachments: Post_Office_Ltd_Letter.docx

Inline-Images: image006.png; image007.jpg; image008.png; image001.png

Ben

Reference questions 3 & 4 below - The PPS have not asked for a "legal team" contact at this time and I am happy at this stage to be the business conduit and if necessary deponent. In terms of what I verbally disclosed to the PSNI - we have a generic letter from Mark Raymond (attached) that I pass on to all Police investigating officers connected with a POL criminal investigation and I verbally inform, normally at our first meeting, that there is ongoing civil litigation which involves Horizon and other business matters.

In terms of timing, this court case was adjourned again on 5th September 2019 pending further enquiries being made including a response to this letter from the defence solicitor.

I hope this assists.

Regards

Simon



Simon I Hutchinson
Security & Investigations Manager

Brent House

15 Heron Road
Belfast BT3 9LE

GRO

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GRO

From: Ben Beabey

Sent: 04 October 2019 11:01

To: Helen Dickinson <GRO>; Simon I Hutchinson

<GRO>; Mark Raymond <GRO>

Cc: andrew.parsons <GRO>; Victoria Brooks <GRO>

Rodric Williams <GRO>; Ben Beabey <GRO>

Subject: FW: CONFIDENTIAL FW: Solicitors Enquiry - Pond Park Investigation - legal

privilege/confidential/do not share

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Confidential

legal privilege/confidential/do not share

Dear Helen

Morning.

Thanks for your email; it won't be me drafting a response to this attached letter given the sensitivities and significance of these questions posed around Horizon, as you will be well aware. I am however, by this email, engaging with Rod and Andy (the partner at WBD and his colleague Victoria) for their guidance as to starting thinking about the answers to be provided to the attached in the context of the criminal case to which you refer below – and *who* should be preparing these for the business to provide to the PPS.

It would be good to know your prediction, whoever provides these answers at this stage in correspondence, are they likely thereafter to be asked to put such information into a witness statement and ultimately, potentially, be called to give evidence criminal case? Perhaps it is too early to predict, but is that possible?

As for the PPS – have they asked for a “legal team” contact? Or is it not more simple for contact to continue through Security and you can seek legal advice as we go along? I only say that because I'm not a criminal lawyer and is it not better to keep the lines of communication direct ? Otherwise, Rod may have a view on usual process – or whether we direct them through WBD or CartwrightKing for example.

As for Simon reverting to PPS *to ensure that they are aware of the GLO* – is that response required today? What does Simon have in mind to say/email? I just think also this is something that WBD should advise on to ensure whatever is being said to PPS is accurate and sufficient and fully up to date. Can you/Simon also

share more detail around this: *Simon verbally disclosed at the outset and it was confirmed that the PSNI were fully aware of the GLO.*

No doubt WBD will also check to see if this Branch/assistant has any connection to the GLO itself or Starling.

Please let me have your thoughts before Simon takes any next steps and by this I'm asking WBD to give it their helpful immediate attention and cc/ing Rod in case he has a different view on process. It would help if you can advise on timing requirements re the above so WBD know the urgency (or not) in terms at least of today.

Regards

Ben



Ben Beabey
Senior Legal Counsel, Dispute Resolution and Brand
Finsbury Dials

20 Finsbury Street
London EC2Y 9AQ

M: [REDACTED] GRO

From: Helen Dickinson

Sent: 04 October 2019 10:34

To: Ben Beabey [REDACTED] GRO

Cc: Simon I Hutchinson [REDACTED] GRO; Mark Raymond [REDACTED] GRO; Post Office Security [REDACTED] GRO

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL FW: Solicitors Enquiry - Pond Park Investigation

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Confidential

Morning Ben,

Please see below and attached from Simon in NI.

The case relates to a suspicious transaction identified around August 2018 conducted at Pond Park PO, operated by Russell's Food & Drink Multiple. It was established that assistant, Andrea GOURLEY had paid £6,500 into her own Instant Saver account prior to [GRO] PSNI Constable Thomas Ross made contact with Simon Hutchinson regarding case liaison. Police Ref - CC2018091100450. Form 81 (DPA) also received. Simon verbally disclosed at the outset and it was confirmed that the PSNI were fully aware of the GLO.

GOURLEY, has undergone two Police interviews and has denied theft from the PO. PPS recommended to prosecute for Fraud by abuse of position to the approx. value of £6,500.

The case was presented at court on the 5th September 2019, but was adjourned. At this stage, there is no indication at this time whether she will plead guilty or not.

Simon is contacting the PPS today to ensure that they are aware of the GLO and to pass on contact details of our legal team.

Could you please prepare a response to the attached letter and are you happy that Simon shares your contact details with the PPS, if required?

Kind regards

Helen Dickinson
Security & Investigations

Team Leader North
Accredited Financial Investigator
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Future Walk, West Bars

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Mobile: [GRO]

[GRO]



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Advanced Notice of Leave –

From: Simon I Hutchinson
Sent: 04 October 2019 09:28
To: Post Office Security <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Helen Dickinson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Solicitors Enquiry - Pond Park Investigation

Good morning

Please see attached a letter from the solicitor representing the suspect offender in my Pond Park investigation; I imagine this is not the first communication of this type that has come to our attention. Do we have a standard corporate response to such requests?

The letter was sent to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and passed onto me via the PSNI IO and requires a response back through the same channel.

Regards

Simon



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