

From: Andrew Parsons [GRO]
To: Paul F Williams [GRO]
Cc: Mandy Robertson [GRO], Victoria Brooks [GRO]

Subject: RE: Your statement [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Date: Thu, 16 Aug 2018 18:26:46 +0100

Importance: Normal

Attachments: _DOC_151405713(1)_Witness_statement_of_Paul_Williams_v4_16_August_2018.DOC
X

Inline-Images: image15b6cf.PNG; image003cd3.PNG; imageab9d68.PNG; image001.jpg;
image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.jpg

Paul

Thanks. Please find attached a further amended version of your statement, with new wording on the SERV 135 point.

If this is approved by you, we will add in the missing document references and send you a final version for signature tomorrow.

Kind regards
Andy

Andrew Parsons
Partner
Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

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t:
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[GRO]

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From: Paul F Williams [mailto: [GRO]]
Sent: 16 August 2018 13:44
To: Andrew Parsons
Cc: Mandy Robertson; Victoria Brooks
Subject: RE: Your statement [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Andy

When the single national agency recruitment team was created in 2000, it was based in Salford and the core team members – and team leader – were members of my old North Wales and North West team.

I am pretty sure that they carried my old team's process over into the new nationwide approach, and this would have included ensuring that SERV 135s were part of every transfer pack after 2000.

Although I am sure we shared the SERV 135 draft with the other 6 Regions in the mid 1990's I am really unsure as to how many adopted the same approach as party of the transfer process.

Hope this makes sense

Paul



Paul Williams

Restrictions Advisor
Agent Contracts & Services

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From: Andrew Parsons [mailto:[GRO]]
Sent: 16 August 2018 13:33
To: Paul F Williams
Cc: Mandy Robertson; Victoria Brooks
Subject: RE: Your statement [WBODUK-AC.FID26896945]

Paul

Thanks

On the SERV 135, this did become a standard document because we have signed copies of it in other cases during the period 2000 – 2010, which means it must have grown out of your region into other areas.

Is this your understanding? Or do you have no knowledge of using this document outside your region? This may well have happened after your time in agency recruitment.

Andy

Andrew Parsons

Partner
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From: Paul F Williams [mailto:[GRO]]
Sent: 16 August 2018 11:02
To: Andrew Parsons
Cc: Mandy Robertson; Victoria Brooks
Subject: RE: Your statement [WBODUK-AC.FID26896945]
Importance: High

Andy

Revised statement attached – a couple of points about changes I have made.

Para 27.1 – the SERV 135 wasn't one of the documents issued to us by POL HQ – it was a North Wales & North West regional initiative and so wouldn't have been a standard item in the Transfer Packs issued elsewhere in the UK.

I'm sure this was one of the bits of "best practice" we shared with the other Regional Agency Recruitment Teams and I think that at least some of the others did adopt it, but I'm unclear when this was and whether or not it was adopted by all regions.

Para 35 – I'm sure I checked the files and I recall there being a standard facing sheet attached to the vacancy file which I signed off – but having to find half a dozen files from that era yesterday, none of them had a facing sheet attached, so I'm uncomfortable saying that there was a definitive tick list.

Subrems / ACCs – Not wishing to be picky, but you DO have at least one Subrem regarding the appointment process – subrem 43/91 which you attached to the previous iteration of my statement. I do have some hard copy subrems from the 1990's which I will have a look through and I will send over anything I think is relevant later on.

Kind regards

Paul



Paul Williams

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From: Andrew Parsons [[mailto:](#) [GRO]]
Sent: 16 August 2018 09:16
To: Paul F Williams
Cc: Mandy Robertson; Victoria Brooks
Subject: RE: Your statement [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Paul

A revised version attached, which accepts all your changes and adds a few more changes from us. Would you mind reviewing this again? I think we're nearly there.

Also... do you have a copy of any Subrem or ACC from the 1990s about the appointment process for Subpostmasters. We've got a number of these from 2000 onwards but nothing from the 1990s.

Thanks
Andy

Andrew Parsons

Partner
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From: Paul F Williams [[mailto:](#) [GRO]]
Sent: 15 August 2018 13:55
To: Andrew Parsons
Cc: Mandy Robertson; Victoria Brooks
Subject: RE: Your statement [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Andy/Mandy

Revised witness stamen as promised – with alterations tracked for ease of reference I'm going to be travelling this afternoon, so if we need a chat before finalising, I'll be in the office tomorrow morning.

Regards

Paul



Paul Williams

Restrictions Advisor
Agent Contracts & Services

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From: Paul F Williams
Sent: 15 August 2018 12:39
To: 'Andrew Parsons'
Cc: Mandy Robertson; Victoria Brooks
Subject: RE: Your statement [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Andy /Mandy

I'll get back to you with my comments on the witness statement later on today.

Answers to your questions are below:

Regards

Paul



Paul Williams

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Agent Contracts & Services

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From: Andrew Parsons [mailto:[GRO]]
Sent: 14 August 2018 20:14
To: Paul F Williams
Cc: Mandy Robertson; Victoria Brooks
Subject: Your statement [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Paul

Thanks for your time earlier. Please find attached your draft statement for your comments. I've also attached a few documents referred to in the statement for you to consider.

I'd also be grateful for your thoughts on the Subrem attached. In particular...

Para 11 that reads... When the letter accepting appointment is returned, Sub Office Services should notify the outgoing SubPostmaster in writing of the date of

transfer, with a reminder to have the SubPostmaster contract document (Red book) ready for passing on to the incoming Subpostmaster. You should also notify all other interested parties (e.g. Payroll, National Savings Bank, Girobank etc.) confirming date of transfer.

What is the Red Book? – The first version of the Subpostmaster Contract document was a loose leaf document issued to branches in a red ring binder – hence the reference to the "Red Book" – which is the Subpostmaster Contract. As I explained when we spoke, the contract was, at first passed from postmaster to postmaster, so this line in the subrem is a sensible requirement that the outgoing subpostmaster is reminded of the need to have this ready to pass on to his/her successor.

Para 14 that reads.... At the transfer it is most important that signed copies are obtained of the form P.13 (Official Secrets Act), and acknowledgement of appointment. P250 and P272 should be completed for any new assistant which may be employed also for completeness of identification of Sub office assistants we would suggest a new P356 be raised. The officer responsible for the transfer should be careful to clearly show which operational equipment and Rules Book are on hand. Completed forms P301 are required from outgoing Subpostmasters and assistants.

What is the Rules Book? In the days before on-line systems like Horizon the Rules Book (actually a set of ring binders) contained all the detailed operational instructions that might be needed in a branch. So although the on-site and off-site training would teach an incoming postmaster how to conduct transactions, deal with collecting postmen etc, the rules would be left on site so that there was set of reference material that could be consulted should the need arise (e.g. a rare or uncommon transaction).

Thanks

Andy

Andrew Parsons
Partner
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