CASE NUMBER: BR-2023-007062 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
INSOLVENCY AND COMPANIES LIST (ChD)

BR-2023-001062

Before HHJ CAWSON KC sitting as a judge of the High Court

DATED: 5 JULY 2024

IN THE MATTER OF SUZANNE LESLEY PALMER
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUSINESS AND TRADE

Applicant

AND

MUSTAFA HASSANALI ABDULALI and NEIL JAMES DINGLEY (Joint Trustees In Bankruptcy of Suzanne Lesley Palmer)

Respondents

UPON the hearing of the Application of the Applicant ("the Secretary of State") dated 16 October 2023 under sections 303(1) and 363(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 ("the Act") having taken place on 18 June 2024

AND UPON HEARING Gareth Tilley, Counsel for the Secretary of State and Thomas Grant KC, Counsel for the Respondents

AND UPON the individuals identified in Schedule 1 to the Order of Chief ICC Judge Briggs of 7 March 2024 having been notified of the terms of the said order and of the date fixed for the hearing, and not having filed or made any statements or submissions

AND UPON READING the evidence

AND UPON the Respondents not objecting to the Secretary of State's Application under section 303(1) of the Act as a person dissatisfied with acts, omissions or decisions of the Respondents, and under section 363(1) of the Act

AND UPON written judgment having been handed down on 5 July 2024 ("the Judgment")

IT IS DECLARED THAT

- In relation to the compensation scheme ("the GLO Scheme") announced by the Government on 22 March 2022 in favour of the claimants in the action Alan Bates and Others v Post Office Limited (Claim Nos HQ16X01238; HQ17X02365 and HQ17X04248) and following the settlement of those claims:-
 - (i) any interest of Suzanne Palmer in or entitlement of Suzanne Palmer to apply for or receive compensation under the GLO Scheme:-
 - did not, at the commencement of her bankruptcy, exist as and does not constitute 'property' within the meaning of section 436 of the Act:
 - b) did not form part of the 'bankrupt's estate' within the meaning of section 283(1) of the Act; and
 - c) did not vest in the Joint Trustees in Bankruptcy pursuant to section 306 of the Act.
 - (ii) any Ex Gratia payment to be made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the GLO Scheme after the date of this Order will be after-acquired property within the meaning of section 307(2)(c) of the Act and will not form part of the 'bankrupt's estate' of Suzanne Palmer within the meaning of section 283(1) of the Act.
 - (iii) Suzanne Palmer is under no liability pursuant to recital 5 to, or clause 3 of the Assignment (as defined in the Judgment), or otherwise, to account to the Respondents for any part of any compensation that she might receive pursuant to the GLO Scheme

AND THE RESPONDENTS ARE DIRECTED:

2) To take no steps to recover for the bankruptcy estate any payments which may in future be made under the GLO Scheme to Suzanne Palmer or any other person on her behalf, except they may recover monies to the extent required to enable Suzanne Palmer on any application for an annulment to comply with the requirements of s.282(1)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986.

AND BY CONSENT IT IS ORDERED THAT

- 3) There be no order as to costs of the application.
- 4) The Applicant shall serve a sealed copy of this order on the Respondents.

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Government Legal Department at 102 Petty France, Westminster, London SW1H 9GL					
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