

Kelly Tolhurst call with Tim Parker, Al Cameron and Jane MacLeod

Suggested speaking points:

- Obviously a very disappointing judgment, but reassured to see POL are taking this very seriously and will be taking action
- Whilst these are operational matters, as the Minister responsible I need to ensure the findings in terms of both the contracts with postmasters, and also the criticism of POL's culture and practices, are addressed. What action are POL taking as a result of the judgment and how will you keep me informed of progress to provide assurance this action is effective? Who will lead this work now Paula has stepped back and how will you (Tim) ensure strong leadership is shown on this?
- Parliament will rightly hold me to account, I expect this to be raised in BEIS Oral Questions next week and in meetings I regularly have with MPs. Therefore, important POL are sharing information with BEIS on this on a regular basis.
- Concern I often hear from MPs is that being a postmaster is becoming less attractive with changes to remuneration – this judgment will add to that concern. What comms are POL doing with postmasters on the judgment and how will you address their concerns?
- Concerned that the legal advice POL received appears to have been wide of the mark on the likely outcome of this trial, are you considering any changes to your strategy for the remaining trials? As you discussed with Alex Chisholm recently, we have learned from previous experience that it's very important to have independent legal advice in relation to strategy from now on to guard against the existing legal team being wedded to the existing approach.
- I understand POL will consult BEIS on any intention to appeal prior to doing so