

Message

From: Jane MacLeod [GRO]
Sent: 25/07/2016 06:27:47
To: Paula Vennells [GRO]
CC: Thomas P Moran [GRO]; Rodric Williams [GRO]; Parsons, Andrew [GRO]; Tom Wechsler [GRO]; Melanie Corfield [GRO]; Mark R Davies [GRO]; Patrick Bourke [GRO]
Subject: Re: Postmaster Litigation - CONFIDENTIAL AND SUBJECT TO LEGAL PRIVILEGE

Paula

We haven't previously addressed super-users and the phrasing of some previous statements as to who can access and edit branch data is quite narrow. We are collating previous statements made, as well as referencing what we have been provided by Fujitsu historically, so that's we can assess the extent of the communications gap. However it is clear that this is an area where we could face adverse media commentary.

Jane MacLeod
General Counsel
The Post Office
[GRO]

Sent from my iPad

On 25 Jul 2016, at 07:19, Paula Vennells [GRO] wrote:

Thanks Jane. This is clear - my inly query is we FJ super-users. What did we say previously?

Sent from my iPhone

On 24 Jul 2016, at 20:44, Jane MacLeod [GRO] wrote:

Paula

As you will recall, Post Office has committed to responding to the Letter of Claim received from Freeths, by this Friday (29 July). We have a briefing set up with you on Tuesday morning to take you through the approach to that letter, and I also propose to raise this at the GE on Tuesday, and issue an update to the Board on Friday as we respond to the Freeths' letter. The main factor to be aware of is the possibility of further (adverse) publicity following our reply, as we expect that our reply will be circulated among the group of postmasters in whose name the litigation is brought.

None of the underlying arguments set out in the Freeths claim are new. However as a result of the work undertaken by Deloitte in relation to Horizon, we will be flagging that within Fujitsu there are a limited number of individuals who have super-user rights which can only be used in very limited and controlled circumstances. We do not believe that this causes us any concerns from a legal perspective, however it is a different positioning to the public statements that we have previously made, and therefore we should be prepared for adverse comments from the usual commentators.

Given the Board tomorrow, you may wish to advise them that we will be responding to the Freeths claim towards the end of the week (which we are still finalising), and that we will issue a briefing to the Board at that point. Nevertheless, and as flagged in my

briefing to them in May, there is a risk of adverse publicity arising from the responses contained in that letter. Our position (as discussed with Comms) is that we do not propose to comment publicly and any response (if required) will be limited to a statement along the lines of "*We are aware of a claim and will be defending our position through the legal processes*".

I'm around in the morning if you have any questions.

Jane

<image001.png>

Jane MacLeod

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