

Message

From: Martin Edwards

on behalf of Martin Edwards

GRO

Sent: 27/06/2013 20:55:39

To: Paula Vennells

GRO

Subject: Re: JA?

I'm glad you thought I looked thoughtful - in truth it was primarily a look of bafflement and slight concern at Lesley's explanation of "transient data" and "archiving processes"! (I think we got there in the end on that one - we obviously need a plain English explanation of why no wider implications can be extrapolated from the 14 cases).

My only other concern at the meeting was around the feasibility of some of the options/levers that were raised. As discussed we need to think about a Plan B given the likelihood that James won't agree to delay the meeting/report. We also need to be very careful not to overplay our hand with SS - they could turn out to be quite dangerous if we threaten them with legal action or attempt to replace them with another firm. Easy for this to be portrayed in the media as heavy handed tactics because we don't like their findings (it plays directly into the existing perceptions we're trying to counteract).

So I think we're stuck with the softer option of explaining to JA calmly but firmly why he cannot allow SS to disseminate a misleading interim report - it either needs to be delayed or repositioned as a very neutral status update (with more detail on the one case that has been resolved).

And backing this up with a robust plan to get our messages out to the media (Mark, Alwen and I are catching up on it tomorrow).

We can think through a more detailed handling plan and lines to take once we've seen the draft report on Monday.

Will give this more thought and staying closely involved over the next week.

Thanks,
Martin

Martin Edwards
Chief of Staff to the Chief Executive
Post Office

GRO

On 27 Jun 2013, at 20:02, "Paula Vennells" wrote:

GRO

> Martin, I wondered if you had any further thoughts on JA?
>
> You were looking thoughtful throughout the meeting. Although I didn't get the sense you were holding back - you asked some good questions.
>
> Don't hesitate to flag anything you think we have missed!
>
> Thanks for your support as always,
>
> Paula
>
> Sent from my iPhone