

Message

From: Ron Warmington [GRO]
Sent: 03/03/2015 17:11:41
To: 'Ian Henderson' [GRO]; 'WALKER, Janet' [GRO]
Subject: RE: Post Office Legal Issues
Sensitivity: Company Confidential

Thursday's good for me too Janet. And fear not, we'll not let the SPMRs, JFSA, James and his colleagues (and you) down. But the situation has become ludicrously untenable. It's clear that the legal team in Post Office no longer accepts (if indeed it ever did) that its employer (as regards its in-house lawyers) or its client (as regards Bond Pearce) is one of the SUBJECTS of this investigation. It is equally clear that the Post Office legal team does not accept that any influence that it exerts on us should be, as it were, 'light touch' unless ratified by the Working Group and by the other stakeholders (including, of course, James). Instead, it is clear to us that Post Office's attitude has hardened (from the Crichton era) to one where we (Second Sight) are viewed as being under contract/instruction to obediently follow our client's (i.e. Post Office's) instructions as to what we are to do - or what we are to refrain from doing. It remains unclear - certainly to me - whether the 'lawyer tail is wagging the Post Office dog' here or whether the in-house and external legal teams are doing the bidding of the Board/Chairman/CEO. It may even be a combination of the two. In either case, it has resulted in a wholly inappropriate 'Defend the brand at all costs' stance (as reflected in comments made by Paula Vennells in response to Question 170 by the Select Committee and also much referred to by George Thompson in his response to Question 14) that seems to have completely overwhelmed any intention (if ever there really was such an intention) to 'seek the truth'.

Best regards, Ron.

From: Ian Henderson [GRO]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 3:29 PM
To: 'WALKER, Janet'
Cc: 'Ron Warmington'
Subject: RE: Post Office Legal Issues
Sensitivity: Confidential

Janet

I'll still be at POL with their new legal person on Wednesday, so Thursday is best for me.

I'll check with Ron as well.

BTW, Tony Hooper has also said he doesn't want us to resign!

With best wishes

Ian R Henderson CCE CISA FCA
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From: WALKER, Janet

GRO

Sent: 03 March 2015 11:21

To: 'Ian Henderson'

Cc: Ron Warmington

Subject: FW: Post Office Legal Issues

Sensitivity: Confidential

Good morning Ian

James is seeing the CCRC chairman and head of cases on Wednesday. Might you (and Ron?) be free for a phone call either:

3pm Wednesday 4 March – he's got votes so may be interrupted

4.45 pm Thursday 5 March?

I passed on your thoughts on how things were going and he has said to please let you know that he is profoundly alarmed at the thought of Second Sight's offering to resign. Profoundly. Whereas he had to resign, because the time was coming for him to hand over anyway, your position is different. If you do resign there will be absolutely nobody between the subpostmasters and the wolves.

Let's take this further in the phone call.

Kind regards
Janet

Janet Walker
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From: Ian Henderson [REDACTED] GRO
Sent: 27 February 2015 10:40
To: WALKER, Janet
Cc: ARBUTHNOT, James
Subject: Post Office Legal Issues
Sensitivity: Confidential

Janet

I'm not sure that Aujard's replacement is any better than her predecessor. They are both antipodean after all...

I attach a letter which incidentally was not marked Private and Confidential, that shows that Post Office are continuing to take a very robust line on our requests for access to legal files, included a thinly veiled threat that we are damaging the business by continuing to look at this issue.

I also attach a copy of an email showing that Belinda Crowe, the secretary to the Working Group, is also challenging our longstanding requests for access to the email evidence.

They are a few other issues I need to brief you on, so I will call you later.

With best wishes

Ian R Henderson CCE CISA FCA
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