

Message

From: Harris, Matthew [GRO]
on behalf of Harris, Matthew [GRO]
Sent: 02/04/2014 18:23:04
To: Rodric Williams [GRO]; Jonny Gribben [GRO]
CC: Kathryn Alexander [GRO]; Shirley Hailstones [GRO]
Subject: M046 - POL for GC approval (Incorporating CK's comments) (criminal) [BD-4A.FID25887183]
Attachments: POL Response - M046 - CK Amended.doc

Dear Rodric,

Please find attached M046's legal investigation report (criminal). Your comments would be appreciated.

CK's proposed amendments are in the attached document.

Further to CK's completion of the attached report CK requested sight of "*documents 4 and 5, namely the interim investigation report*" and added the comments noted in the e-mail below. No further amendments were made to the report.

Kind regards,

Matt.

Matt Harris

Trainee Solicitor

for and on behalf of Bond Dickinson LLP

Bond Dickinson

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From: Andrew Bolc [GRO]
Sent: 02 April 2014 16:18
To: Harris, Matthew
Cc: 'Jarnail A Singh'
Subject: M046 - CK Amended Report

Dear Matt,

We sent you our draft report in this matter last Wednesday, requesting two further documents be sent to us which we received this Monday. These have now been considered by Counsel Harry Bowyer, and whilst he does not seek to further amend the content of the report, he makes the following observations with regard to the inclusion of the two documents referred to being disclosed as part of the mediation process:

"They are effectively the Officer's reports and in this case are relatively anodyne. In a normal criminal case these would not be disclosable as they are working documents and may contain opinion/conjecture, working/investigation methods or sensitive information which POL would not want in the Public Domain.

It is plainly a matter for POL as to whether they wish to disclose these documents, either in their entirety or in a redacted form in each case but they should be aware that they will face certain dangers if they do.

In this case if these documents are served without being redacted then we disclose the Officer's telephone numbers to a disgruntled applicant. (a data protection issue) In future cases we may well serve documents which might hurt our investigation techniques and put in the public domain information that would allow dishonest postmasters to conceal their tracks.

If these documents are served as a matter of course in each case then it will become rather obvious when we choose to sit on those that we cannot, or do not choose to, disclose."

My view is that these documents should not be served or if they must be served then they should be heavily redacted."

In light of these comments I wonder whether further consideration ought to be given to the disclosure of prosecution working documents in this and future cases.

Andrew Bolc



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