

From: Andrew Parsons <[REDACTED]>
To: Owain Draper <[REDACTED]>, David Neuberger <[REDACTED]>, Gideon Cohen <[REDACTED]>, "Anthony Grabiner" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: David Cavender <[REDACTED]>, Stephanie Wood <[REDACTED]>, Amy Prime <[REDACTED]>, Tom Beezer <[REDACTED]>, Rob Smith <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 2019 18:53:20 +0000
Importance: Normal
Inline-Images: image38eacd.PNG; imagef13e68.PNG; imagedaee7c.PNG

All

I've spoken to the client. In order to move forward with the proposed plan of writing to the listing office this week, the client needs clarity on exactly what is to be communicated. Please could someone on the Counsel team prepare a draft letter for consideration?

The difficulty for Post Office is that its shareholder (ie. the government) wants approval of the decision on whether to appeal and, if so, what and how to appeal. That limits what we can say to the Court until that approval is given, which is not likely to happen for at least two weeks. A letter that has conditional and caveated language ("PO expects to appeal" rather than "PO will appeal") is more likely to get approved but of course carries less weight, and so there may be a tension between what we would like to say and what the client can approve at this stage.

Please could you therefore prepare two letters: one that is written as the legal team would like and a second one that is limited to what is necessary and in non-committal language. I suspect the second one may be unsatisfactory for our purposes but we can then present both options to the client for their instructions. Of course if there is a way to achieve all objectives in one letter then that would be perfect! Owain / Gideon – I suspect one of you will be holding the pen, so please do feel free to call me to discuss before drafting anything if that would help.

Please can we also pencil in a call for 5pm tomorrow for 30 minutes if that fits everyone's diaries? I will circulate conference call details. This will be with the Counsel team, Jane MacLeod and me to discuss the letter. It would be good to have the draft letter(s) in advance of the call.

Kind regards

Andy

Andrew Parsons
Partner
Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

d: [REDACTED]
m: [REDACTED]

t: [GRO]
e: [GRO]

[Manage your e-alert preferences](#)



womblebond dickinson.com



From: Owain Draper <[GRO]>
Sent: 14 April 2019 13:59
To: Andrew Parsons <[GRO]>; David Neuberger <[GRO]>; Gideon Cohen <[GRO]>; Anthony Grabiner <[GRO]>
Cc: David Cavender <[GRO]>; Stephanie Wood <[GRO]>; Amy Prime <[GRO]>; Tom Beezer <[GRO]>
Subject: Re: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Thanks, Andy.

The plan is to produce a shorter Grounds and to prepare a Skeleton Argument that takes from both the existing draft Grounds and the Written Closing.

We will have a better feel for the timing once I get properly into the drafting. I expect to have a good idea by the end of tomorrow.

Kind Regards,

Owain

Owain Draper

One Essex Court, Temple

EC4Y 9AR

Switchboard: [GRO]

www.oeclaw.co.uk<<http://www.oeclaw.co.uk>>

The content of this email is confidential and may subject to legal professional privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it permanently and inform the sender.

From: Andrew Parsons <[GRO]>
Date: Sunday, 14 April 2019 at 13:18
To: David Neuberger <[GRO]>; Gideon Cohen <[GRO]>; Anthony Grabiner <[GRO]>
Cc: Owain Draper <[GRO]>; David Cavender <[GRO]>; Stephanie Wood <[GRO]>; Amy Prime <[GRO]>; Tom Beezer <[GRO]>
Subject: RE: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS [WBDUK-AC.FID26896945]

Thank you David and Tony.

The plan laid out in your emails is helpful and clear. The challenge will be getting the client lined up with it. I will speak to the client and confirm asap as to whether they would like to speak / meet with you on Monday.

Although we will need to work through Post Office's governance processes to get decisions, the other key obstacle to progress is preparation of the Skeleton Argument for the main appeal. Do we have a target date for this? This is probably more a question for David Cavender, Gideon and / or Owain.

Once we have this target date, I can then work backwards to build a plan for how to get this signed off at PO. It may also help the C of A if we confirm that the main appeal will be lodged by a firm date.

Kind regards
Andy

Andrew Parsons
Partner
Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

d:
m:
t:
e:

GRO
GRO
GRO

[andrew.parsons](mailto:andrew.parsons@wbd.co.uk) <GRO> <GRO>

Manage your e-alert preferences <<https://www.womblebond dickinson.com/uk/preferences>>

[Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP] <<http://www.womblebond dickinson.com>>

womblebond dickinson.com <<https://www.womblebond dickinson.com>>

[Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP Twitter] <https://www.twitter.com/wbd_uk>

[Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP LinkedIn] <<https://www.linkedin.com/company/womble-bond-dickinson-uk-llp/>>

From: David Neuberger <GRO>
Sent: 14 April 2019 11:56
To: Andrew Parsons <GRO>; Gideon Cohen <GRO>; Anthony Grabiner <GRO>
Cc: Owain Draper <GRO>; David Cavender <GRO>; Stephanie Wood <GRO>; Amy Prime <GRO>; Tom Beezer <GRO>
Subject: RE: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS

Dear Andrew,

I confirm that I would be available to talk tomorrow: I shall be working at home in the morning until 12.30

and shall be in chambers from about 3.00 until about 5.30.

As Tony says, he and I have discussed the position, and we see things very much the same way.

An appeal on the common issues aspect raises points which are legally very significant and, I believe, commercially very important to the clients, and on which I believe that the judge has gone badly wrong in a number of ways. An appeal on recusal aspect raises what I appreciate is a particularly sensitive issue for the clients both tactically and in terms of possible public perception.

As Tony says, I consider that the two aspects are, at least potentially, connected, and, for that reason, as well as on the individual merits of each of the two aspects, permission to appeal should in my view be given on both aspects. However, it would be perfectly possible to appeal on the common issues and not on the recusal – and indeed vice versa. I think that it would be quite remarkable if the PO did not get permission to appeal on the common issues aspect (or at least most of the points we are proposing to raise on that aspect); it would be less surprising, but in my view wrong, if permission to appeal on the recusal aspect was refused.

As to Tony's point 4, I think that there is a danger that our justified belief, and consequent sense of grievance, that the Judge has gone badly wrong may have made us over-suspicious of some sort of inappropriate collusion between the Judge and the CA. It would be perfectly proper, indeed sensible, for the Judge to have warned the CA of a possible forthcoming application which someone should look at urgently, although I cannot of course rule out the possibility that more was said (but even if it was, that is not by any means necessarily sinister). Coulson LJ is the LJ responsible for civil procedure, so it is not very surprising that the application ended up before him. The fact that he made an instant decision with regard to a stay is also unsurprising because that was urgent, and the fact that he has asked for the claimant's response is a pretty good indication that he is considering the application on its merits, as one would expect. My one point of concern is that he has ruled in effect that the common issues and recusal application are separate: again, at least on the face of it, that is a perfectly rational view, although it is questionable whether he should have expressed a firm view on that without raising it with us (but I have not seen our application, so that may be unfair). At any rate, I think that that is a point which we should challenge in the reasonably near future if we are proceeding with the recusal aspect.

Yours sincerely,
David Neuberger

From: Andrew Parsons <GRO>
Sent: 13 April 2019 08:50
To: Gideon Cohen <GRO>; Anthony Grabiner <GRO>
Cc: Owain Draper <GRO>; David Cavender <GRO>; Stephanie Wood
<GRO>; Amy Prime <GRO>; Tom Beezer <GRO>
<GRO>; David Neuberger <GRO>
Subject: Re: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS

Tony. Thank you for your email.

I agree with the proposed strategy and flag a few further points to consider below.

1. Jane MacLeod, General Counsel at Post Office, has asked whether it is worth us speaking to the Cs about whether they want the appeals heard together or separately. I can see pros (eg. cost saving) and cons (eg. better chance to oppose permission on the recusal) for them taking either approach but if they do support the appeals moving together that would, I presume, put more pressure on the C of A.
2. There is some reluctance inside PO to putting the appeals together and skipping over Fraser J for permission on the main appeal. They are keen to avoid any step that looks aggressive or heavy handed. I believe that we should be able to persuade them on both points, but we would need instructions before taking either step.

With the above in mind, are you and David Neuberger (copied) around on Monday to discuss this with Jane and me? If so, please let me know what time would suit you and whether a call or meeting is easier.

David Cavender - you are welcome to join us but I appreciate you are on holiday.

Kind regards
Andy

From: Anthony Grabiner
Sent: Friday 12 April, 17:50
Subject: Re: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS
To: Gideon Cohen

Cc: Owain Draper, Andrew Parsons, David Cavender, Stephanie Wood, Amy Prime, Tom Beezer, David Neuberger

Dear all,

I've been following the emails and have discussed them with David Neuberger.

1. The order made by Coulson LJ means that we have some breathing space because it asks for a response from the other side on 25/4.
2. We think a letter should go from our solicitors to the CofA listing office asking the Court to take into account the fact that an appeal application is being prepared in respect of the Common Issues judgment and that the Court should deal with both matters together.
3. The preparation of the grounds of that appeal and the production of the supporting skeleton argument is extremely urgent and needs to be done ASAP. There's no point in bothering to ask Fraser J for permission to appeal. He's bound to refuse it and these days we're entitled to go straight to the CofA.
4. We share the concerns expressed in the flurry of emails. It looks as if Fraser J has been speaking either to the listing office or even to Coulson LJ. Otherwise it would be a remarkable coincidence that of all the LJ's presented with the papers they ended up by chance in front of the former TCC Judge although this is not a TCC case. I've asked Owain to dig out the references from the transcripts of the recusal arguments and the judgment day because my recollection is that Fraser J said on both occasions that the CofA was expecting an appeal application. Owain will circulate the extracts.
5. If we make no progress we will have to consider communicating with the listing office and the Master of the Rolls as to what has been going on here. In principle conversations about the merits as between the first instance Judge and the Lord Justice who ends up ruling on the leave to appeal point would, I think, be most inappropriate but that's a serious allegation to be making. Also we couldn't take that step without a detailed discussion with and instructions from Post Office. This is a very delicate matter.
6. David N and I plan to meet on Sunday to draft a suitable letter to be addressed to the listing office on Monday.
7. All suggestions welcome either on the contents of the draft or the suggested strategy.

Regards,

Tony

Lord Grabiner QC

One Essex Court,

Temple,

London, EC4Y 9AR

Tel **GRO**

Mob **GRO**

On 12 Apr 2019, at 16:44, Gideon Cohen

<**GRO** <**GRO** <**GRO**
GRO >>> wrote:

Must be the same one. Not sure there is anything we can do about it now, though. Even assuming that his approach to the appeal will be guided strictly by legal principle.

On 12 Apr 2019, at 18:39, Owain Draper

<**GRO** <**GRO** <**GRO**
GRO >>> wrote:

If there is only one Peter Coulson, we should get our hands on Coulson on Construction Adjudication. It has a chapter on bias.

From: Andrew Parsons <**GRO**
GRO >>>

Date: Friday, 12 April 2019 at 16:19

To: Gideon Cohen

<**GRO** <**GRO** <**GRO**
GRO >>>, David Cavender
<**GRO** <**GRO** <**GRO**

GRO >>>
Cc: Anthony Grabiner
< GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>>, Owain Draper
< GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>>, Stephanie Wood
< GRO GRO
GRO >>>, Amy Prime < GRO
GRO < GRO >>>, Tom Beezer
< GRO
GRO >>>
Subject: RE: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS

I agree.

Can we also think about our plan for submitting draft grounds of appeal on the main appeal in light of para 2? This now doesn't seem possible.

A

Andrew Parsons

Partner

Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

d:

m:

t:

e:

GRO
GRO
GRO
[andrew.parsons](mailto:andrew.parsons@wbd.co.uk) GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>

Manage your e-alert preferences<<https://www.womblebond Dickinson.com/uk/preferences>>

<image001.png><http://>

womblebond Dickinson.com<<https://www.womblebond Dickinson.com>>

<image002.png><https://www.twitter.com/wbd_uk>

<image003.png><<https://www.linkedin.com/company/womble-bond-dickinson-uk-llp/>>

From: Gideon Cohen

< GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>>

Sent: 12 April 2019 16:10

To: David Cavender

< GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>>

Cc: Andrew Parsons < GRO GRO
GRO < GRO >>>; Anthony
Grabiner

< GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>>; Owain Draper

< GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>>; Stephanie Wood

< GRO GRO GRO
GRO >>>; Amy Prime < GRO GRO

GRO < GRO >>>; Tom Beezer
< GRO GRO GRO

GRO >>>

Subject: Re: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS [WBODUK-AC.FID123887118]

I'd think the chances of us not getting permission just went from negligible to rather high.

> On 12 Apr 2019, at 18:04, David Cavender

< GRO GRO GRO >

GRO >>> wrote:

>

> Yes !

>

> It looks very much like this is what Fraser J set up in advance - with his mate the former head of the TCC - unless you believe in co-incidences. This is very bad news.

>

> Best

>

> D.

>

>

Andrew Parsons

Partner

Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

d:

m:

t:

e:

GRO
GRO
GRO

andrew.parsons GRO GRO >

Manage your e-alert preferences<<https://www.womblebond Dickinson.com/uk/preferences>>

[Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP]<<http://>>

womblebond Dickinson.com<<https://www.womblebond Dickinson.com>>

[Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP Twitter]<https://www.twitter.com/wbd_uk>

[Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP LinkedIn]<<https://www.linkedin.com/company/womble-bond-dickinson-uk-llp/>>

Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On 12 Apr 2019, at 16:01, Gideon Cohen

< GRO GRO GRO >

GRO >>> wrote:

>>

>> Does this indicate that Coulson will decide the permission application? Ex-construction lawyer, TCC

judge...

>>

>>> On 12 Apr 2019, at 17:45, Andrew Parsons <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] wrote:

>>>

>>> FYI

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> Andrew Parsons

>>> Partner

>>> Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

>>>

>>> d: [REDACTED]

>>> m: [REDACTED]

>>> t: [REDACTED]

>>>

>>> www.womblebond Dickinson.com <<http://www.womblebond Dickinson.com>>
<<http://www.womblebond Dickinson.com>>

>>>

>>> -----Original Message-----

>>> From: Civil Appeals - Associates

[REDACTED]

>>> Sent: 12 April 2019 15:25

>>> To: Andrew Parsons <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

>>> Cc: 'james.hartley' <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED]

>>> Subject: A1/2019/0855 POST OFFICE LIMITED V BATES AND OTHERS

>>> Importance: High

>>>

>>>

>>> Good Afternoon

>>>

>>> Please see attached order for your attention

>>>

>>> Kind Regards

>>>

>>> Ann-Marie Smith

>>> Associates' Office

>>> Civil Appeals Office Room E311

>>> Royal Court of Justice

>>> Strand

>>> London

>>> WC2A 2LL

>>> DX 44450 STRAND

>>> Tel: [REDACTED]

>>> Fax: [REDACTED]

>>>

civilappeals.associates [REDACTED]

>>> www.gov.uk/hmcts <[REDACTED]>

>>>

>>> For information on how HMCTS uses personal data about you please see:

>>> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service/about/personal->

[information-charter](#)

>>> This e-mail and any attachments is intended only for the attention of the addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return e-mail. Internet e-mail is not a secure medium. Any reply to this message could be intercepted and read by someone else. Please bear that in mind when deciding whether to send material in response to this message by e-mail. This e-mail (whether you are the sender or the recipient) may be monitored, recorded and retained by the Ministry of Justice. Monitoring / Blocking software may be used, and e-mail content may be read at any time. You have a responsibility to ensure laws are not broken when composing or forwarding e-mails and their contents.

>>>

>>>

>>> Please consider the environment! Do you need to print this email?

>>>

>>>

>>> The information in this e-mail and any attachments is confidential and may be legally privileged and protected by law.

[gcohen](#) GRO < > GRO < > GRO
GRO >> only is authorised to access this e-mail and any attachments. If you are not
[gcohen](#) GRO < > GRO < > GRO
GRO >>, please notify [andrew.parsons](#) GRO < > GRO
[uk.com](#)< > GRO >> as soon as

possible and delete any copies. Unauthorised use, dissemination, distribution, publication or copying of this communication or attachments is prohibited and may be unlawful.

>>> Any files attached to this e-mail will have been checked by us with virus detection software before transmission. Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP accepts no liability for any loss or damage which may be caused by software viruses and you should carry out your own virus checks before opening any attachment.

>>> Content of this email which does not relate to the official business of Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP, is neither given nor endorsed by it.

>>> This email is sent by Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP which is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales under number OC317661. Our registered office is 4 More London Riverside, London, SE1 2AU, where a list of members' names is open to inspection. We use the term partner to refer to a member of the LLP, or an employee or consultant who is of equivalent standing. Our VAT registration number is GB123393627.

>>> Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

>>> For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

>>>

>>> <DOC.PDF>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>
