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**From:** Secretary Of State (Private Office)[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7B811168695846498CA8997D65 F09BCE-SH\_BEIS\_SEC]

**Sent:** Wed 20/11/2019 5:22:05 PM (UTC)

**To:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI[GRO]; Permanent Secretary[GRO]; Grant, Calum (BEIS)[GRO]; Tolhurst (Private Office)[GRO]; SpAds Office (Private Office)[GRO]

**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI[GRO]; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate)[GRO]; Aldred, Tom - UKGI[GRO]; Watson, Richard - UKGI[GRO]; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS)[GRO]; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment)[GRO]; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services)[GRO]; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio)[GRO]; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI[GRO]; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate)[GRO]; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio)[GRO]; Jackson, Louise (Legal)[GRO]; Corera, Jane (Legal)[GRO]; Kilgarriff, Patrick (Legal)[GRO]; Manson, Justin (UKGI)[GRO]; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio)[GRO]; Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio)[GRO]; Morrison, Emer (Legal)[GRO]; Cole, Alex - UKGI[GRO]; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI[GRO]; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio)[GRO]; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS)[GRO]; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships)[GRO]

**Subject:** Re: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Carl,

Thanks for the quick call just now. As discussed, Secretary of State has reviewed the advice and remains concerned about the optics of mediation occurring during the pre-election period. She is minded to explore with POL whether they would be willing to ask the Court/Claimants to move the date of the mediation to post election. If they are not minded to do so, and I think this would be the expected response, she would like this as a formal response. Grateful if you could discuss with Perm Sec the best approach to contacting POL and let me know what you think is best. I think it would be useful for Alex C to discuss with her in his 1-1 tomorrow morning.

Hannah, we discussed as well. Grateful if you can flag to Alex.  
Best,

Bex

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**From:** Secretary Of State (Private Office)

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 2:56:22 PM

**To:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Permanent Secretary <[REDACTED]>; Grant, Calum (BEIS) <[REDACTED]>; Tolhurst (Private Office) <[REDACTED]>; SpAds Office (Private Office) <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED]>; Aldred, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Watson, Richard - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <[REDACTED]>; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment) <[REDACTED]>; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <[REDACTED]>; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]>; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED]>; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]>; Jackson, Louise (Legal) <[REDACTED]>; Corera, Jane (Legal) <[REDACTED]>; Kilgarriff, Patrick (Legal) <[REDACTED]>; Manson, Justin (UKGI) <[REDACTED]>; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]>; Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]>; Morrison, Emer (Legal) <[REDACTED]>; Cole, Alex - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]>; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) <[REDACTED]>; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Thanks Josh,

I'll let you know if any further questions.

Best,

Bex

**Rebecca Lowe**, Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Tel: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 20 November 2019 14:53

**To:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) <[REDACTED]>; Permanent Secretary <[REDACTED]>; Grant, Calum (BEIS) <[REDACTED]>; Tolhurst (Private Office) <[REDACTED]>; SpAds Office (Private Office) <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED]>; Aldred, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Watson, Richard - UKGI <[REDACTED]>; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <[REDACTED]>; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment) <[REDACTED]>; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <[REDACTED]>

[REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED]  
 Culshaw, Robin - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services,  
 Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio)  
 [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Jackson, Louise (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Corera, Jane (Legal)  
 [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Kilgariff, Patrick (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Manson, Justin  
 (UKGI) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio)  
 [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED]  
 Morrison, Emer (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Cole, Alex - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED]  
 Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio)  
 [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED] Yeomans,  
 Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) [REDACTED] GRO [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL)  
 Litigation

Hi Bex,

Further to SoS's request for specific advice in relation to moving the POL GLO mediation date please see the below. This has been cleared by UKGI, BEIS POL Policy and respective UKGI/BEIS legal teams.

- The Secretary of State has no legal power to intervene to move the mediation date, and Cabinet Office have confirmed that it is essential business that can proceed during the pre-election period. The only way in which we believe we could influence the date would be to say that we are unwilling to approve the settlement range and request that POL therefore considers postponing the mediation.
- But Ministers should be aware of the significant risks of doing so. The date has been agreed between the parties to the litigation. The Court has ordered the parties (of which Government is not one) to consider alternative ways to resolve the dispute and is aware this mediation is taking place. If POL were to withdraw at this very late state they would have to make clear that it was because the Department would not give them authority to offer any sum in settlement. As far as we are aware it would be unprecedented for Government to seek to intervene in a mediation in this way.
- There would be a significant risk of drawing BEIS Ministers into public criticism of POL's approach to the litigation if we were to take this step. It would be wholly counter to the Department's position that this litigation is an operational matter for POL and – because it would probably become public quickly – would raise questions about why Government is not willing to sanction a mediation. It is very likely to lead to adverse press coverage, damage our relationship with POL and risk any further participation by the claimants in POL's attempts to settle the litigation at a future stage.
- POL's external legal advisors have advised that that there is a high likelihood of losing on most of the claims which could expose POL, and therefore the taxpayer, to a higher overall payment than would occur through a successful mediation process.

If you have any questions please do feel free to contact me.

Cheers,

Josh

Joshua Scott | Analyst  
Post Office Shareholder Team  
**UK Government Investments**  
1 Victoria Street | London | SW1H 0ET  
T: [GRO] | M: [GRO]  
E: [GRO] W: [www.ukgi.org.uk/](http://www.ukgi.org.uk/)

**From:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI

**Sent:** 20 November 2019 13:39

**To:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) [GRO] Permanent Secretary  
[GRO] Grant, Calum (BEIS) [GRO] Tolhurst  
(Private Office) [GRO] SpAds Office (Private Office)  
[GRO]  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO]; White, Beth (Professional Business Services,  
Retail & Post Directorate) [GRO] Aldred, Tom - UKGI  
[GRO]; Watson, Richard - UKGI [GRO] Bhargava,  
Pranita (BEIS) [GRO]; Hugo Robson [GRO] Vandini,  
Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) [GRO]; Richards, Nigel  
(Finance & Portfolio) [GRO] Culshaw, Robin - UKGI  
[GRO]; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post  
Directorate) [GRO]; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) [GRO];  
Jackson, Louise (Legal) [GRO]; Corera, Jane (Legal)  
[GRO]; Kilgarraiff, Patrick (Legal) [GRO]; Manson, Justin -  
UKGI [GRO]; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio)  
[GRO]; Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio) [GRO]  
Morrison, Emer (Legal) [GRO] Cole, Alex - UKGI [GRO]  
Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI [GRO]; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio)  
[GRO]; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) [GRO]; Yeomans,  
Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) [GRO]  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL)  
Litigation

Hi Bex,

Yes this has been picked up and we are just discussing with officials.

Cheers,

Josh

Joshua Scott | Analyst  
Post Office Shareholder Team  
**UK Government Investments**  
1 Victoria Street | London | SW1H 0ET

T: GRO | M: GRO  
E: GRO | W: [www.ukgi.org.uk/](http://www.ukgi.org.uk/)

**From:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) <GRO>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 13:37  
**To:** Permanent Secretary <GRO> Scott, Joshua - UKGI  
<GRO>; Grant, Calum (BEIS) <GRO>; Tolhurst (Private Office) <GRO>; SpAds Office (Private Office) <GRO>  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <GRO>; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <GRO>; Aldred, Tom - UKGI <GRO>; Watson, Richard - UKGI <GRO>; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <GRO>; Hugo Robson <GRO>; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <GRO>; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) <GRO>; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI <GRO>; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <GRO>; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) <GRO>; Jackson, Louise (Legal) <GRO>; Corera, Jane (Legal) <GRO>; Kilgariff, Patrick (Legal) <GRO>; Manson, Justin - UKGI <GRO>; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) <GRO>; Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio) <GRO>; Morrison, Emer (Legal) <GRO>; Cole, Alex - UKGI <GRO>; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI <GRO>; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) <GRO>; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) <GRO>; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) <GRO>  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Grateful if someone can confirm his has been picked up

Bex

**Rebecca Lowe**, Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Tel: GRO | Mobile: GRO  
Email: GRO

**From:** Secretary Of State (Private Office)  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 13:16  
**To:** Permanent Secretary <GRO>; Scott, Joshua - UKGI  
<GRO>; Grant, Calum (BEIS) <GRO>; Tolhurst (Private Office) <GRO>; SpAds Office (Private Office) <GRO>  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <GRO>; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <GRO>; Aldred, Tom - UKGI <GRO>; Watson, Richard - UKGI <GRO>; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <GRO>; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment) <GRO>; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <GRO>; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) <GRO>



Culshaw, Robin - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED] GRO; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Jackson, Louise (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Corera, Jane (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Kilgarriff, Patrick (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Manson, Justin (UKGI) [REDACTED] GRO; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Morrison, Emer (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Cole, Alex - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) [REDACTED] GRO; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) [REDACTED] GRO

**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi all,

SoS has reviewed the note you shared and asked for specific advice on how we can try to move the date if we were minded to do so. Please note this is not yet decisions

Grateful if someone can outline the process we could use in this instance. Is it possible to get this by 3pm?

Thanks,

Bex

**Rebecca Lowe**, Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Tel: [REDACTED] GRO Mobile: [REDACTED] GRO  
Email: [REDACTED] GRO

**From:** Permanent Secretary [REDACTED] GRO  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 11:14  
**To:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Secretary Of State (Private Office) [REDACTED] GRO; Grant, Calum (BEIS) [REDACTED] GRO; Tolhurst (Private Office) [REDACTED] GRO; SpAds Office (Private Office) [REDACTED] GRO  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED] GRO; Aldred, Tom - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Watson, Richard - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) [REDACTED] GRO; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment) [REDACTED] GRO; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) [REDACTED] GRO; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED] GRO; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Jackson, Louise (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Corera, Jane (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Kilgarriff, Patrick (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Manson, Justin (UKGI) [REDACTED] GRO; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO; Morrison, Emer (Legal) [REDACTED] GRO; Cole, Alex - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI [REDACTED] GRO; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED] GRO

<[REDACTED] GRO >; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Permanent Secretary

<[REDACTED] GRO >

**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Josh,

Thanks for sending this up and for your patience while I've tried to get this in front of Perm Sec! He managed to review overnight and came back with the following comments:

Many thanks to you and team for this. I have read the whole thing and I agree with the proposed range for settlement and the conditions around that, adding only to para 11 of the sub that I would expect given the high sums involved that Carl would consult me, and noting at para 12 that the subsidy cannot be treated 'entirely separately' given the letter from AI Cameron explicitly links POL ability to self-fund to their expectation that the subsidy would continue. On the substantive analysis and reasoned recommendations I find the HSF advice notably high quality and persuasive in all respects. However, as they say, the situation will develop and we must keep our best options under active consideration.

Hope this is clear but do give me a shout if you'd like to chat through.

Best wishes,

Oliver

**Oliver Page** | Private Secretary to Alex Chisholm, Permanent Secretary

E: [REDACTED] GRO T: [REDACTED] GRO M: [REDACTED] GRO  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

**From:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI <[REDACTED] GRO >

**Sent:** 19 November 2019 16:44

**To:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Grant, Calum (BEIS) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Tolhurst (Private Office) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Permanent Secretary <[REDACTED] GRO >; SpAds Office (Private Office)

<[REDACTED] GRO >

**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED] GRO >; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Aldred, Tom - UKGI

<[REDACTED] GRO >; Watson, Richard - UKGI <[REDACTED] GRO >; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment)

<[REDACTED] GRO >; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED] GRO >;

Culshaw, Robin - UKGI <[REDACTED] GRO >; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio)

<[REDACTED] GRO >; Jackson, Louise (Legal) <[REDACTED] GRO >; Corera, Jane (Legal)

< [REDACTED] >; Kilgariff, Patrick (Legal) < [REDACTED] >; Manson, Justin (UKGI) < [REDACTED] >; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] >; Patel, Vanisha (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] >; Morrison, Emer (Legal) < [REDACTED] >; Cole, Alex - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] >; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) < [REDACTED] >; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) < [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Bex

It is worth noting that normal protocol for mediation is that it is meant to be confidential so anything coming out of it would be constituted as a leak, and normal practice would be that HMG does not comment on leaks. However, given previous experience throughout the trial with this many claimants it is unlikely that the details of the mediation will stay confidential for long.

This isn't in the note but should be flagged to No10.

It's difficult to say at this stage re media coverage however our best estimate would be to base expected media coverage on who covered the first judgment in March.

Here is a short summary below:

- The judgment was covered by the Daily Mail, FT and Daily Telegraph (all of whom attended court during the trial). There was no coverage in the Sun, Times, Guardian, Independent or Mirror;
- Channel 4, ITN and Sky also covered the judgment on TV. BBC did not cover the story.
- There was also coverage in various regional and trade titles, all picking up POLs statement and depicting a fair assessment of the judgment.
- POL received some direct questions/comments from postmasters and POL colleagues that they dealt with as a priority.

In addition to this you can expect Nick Wallis, a crowd-funded journalist following the trial on behalf of the Justice for Subpostmaster Alliance (JFSA), to also post.

Hope this helps,

Josh

Joshua Scott | Analyst  
 Post Office Shareholder Team  
**UK Government Investments**  
 1 Victoria Street | London | SW1H 0ET  
 T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]  
 E: [REDACTED] W: [www.ukgi.org.uk/](http://www.ukgi.org.uk/)

**From:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) < [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 19 November 2019 16:24



**To:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Grant, Calum (BEIS) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Tolhurst (Private Office) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Permanent Secretary <[REDACTED]> GRO; SpAds Office (Private Office) <[REDACTED]> GRO

**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Aldred, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Watson, Richard - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Hugo Robson <[REDACTED]> GRO; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Jackson, Louise (Legal) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Corera, Jane (Legal) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Kilgarrieff, Patrick (Legal) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Manson, Justin - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Morrison, Emer (Legal) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Cole, Alex - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) <[REDACTED]> GRO

**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Josh,

Thanks for this – would it be possible to include what media coverage we expect if the mediation ran its course during purdah?

Would you be able to add this in by 5pm?

Best,

Bex

**Rebecca Lowe**, Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Tel: [REDACTED] GRO Mobile: [REDACTED] GRO  
Email: [REDACTED] GRO

**From:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO

**Sent:** 19 November 2019 14:00

**To:** Grant, Calum (BEIS) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Secretary Of State (Private Office) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Tolhurst (Private Office) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Permanent Secretary <[REDACTED]> GRO; SpAds Office (Private Office) <[REDACTED]> GRO

**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Aldred, Tom - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Watson, Richard - UKGI <[REDACTED]> GRO; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <[REDACTED]> GRO; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) <[REDACTED]> GRO

Culshaw, Robin - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Jackson, Louise (Legal) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Corera, Jane (Legal) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Kilgarriff, Patrick (Legal) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Manson, Justin (UKGI) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Morrison, Emer (Legal) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Cole, Alex - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Yeomans, Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) < [REDACTED] GRO >

**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Bex,

Thanks for sending these and talking them through with me earlier.

Please see attached a revised document addressing the questions below.

Any further questions please feel free to drop me a line.

Cheers,

Josh

Joshua Scott I Analyst  
Post Office Shareholder Team  
**UK Government Investments**  
1 Victoria Street I London I SW1H 0ET  
T: [REDACTED] GRO M: [REDACTED] GRO  
E: [REDACTED] GRO W: [www.ukgi.org.uk/](http://www.ukgi.org.uk/)

**From:** Grant, Calum (BEIS) < [REDACTED] GRO >  
**Sent:** 19 November 2019 11:53  
**To:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Scott, Joshua - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; Tolhurst (Private Office) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Permanent Secretary < [REDACTED] GRO >; SpAds Office (Private Office) < [REDACTED] GRO >  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Aldred, Tom - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; Watson, Richard - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Hugo Robson < [REDACTED] GRO >; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI < [REDACTED] GRO >; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Jackson, Louise (Legal) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Corera, Jane (Legal) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Kilgarriff, Patrick (Legal) < [REDACTED] GRO >; Manson, Justin -

UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio)  
 < [REDACTED] >; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS) < [REDACTED] >; Morrison, Emer  
 (Legal) < [REDACTED] >; Cole, Alex - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Adegun,  
 Oluwatosin - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio)  
 < [REDACTED] >; Southerton, Sarah (BEIS) < [REDACTED] >; Yeomans,  
 Rachel (Communications & Partnerships) < [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL)  
 Litigation

Copying Sarah and Rachel from Press Office in to the chain.

**From:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) < [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 19 November 2019 10:41  
**To:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Tolhurst (Private Office)  
 < [REDACTED] >; Permanent Secretary < [REDACTED] >; SpAds  
 Office (Private Office) < [REDACTED] >  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; White, Beth (Professional Business Services,  
 Retail & Post Directorate) < [REDACTED] >; Aldred, Tom - UKGI  
 < [REDACTED] >; Watson, Richard - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Bhargava,  
 Pranita (BEIS) < [REDACTED] >; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment)  
 < [REDACTED] >; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services)  
 < [REDACTED] >; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] >;  
 Culshaw, Robin - UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services,  
 Retail & Post Directorate) < [REDACTED] >; Grant, Calum (BEIS)  
 < [REDACTED] >; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] >; Jackson, Louise  
 (Legal) < [REDACTED] >; Corera, Jane (Legal) < [REDACTED] >; Kilgarriff,  
 Patrick (Legal) < [REDACTED] >; Manson, Justin (UKGI) < [REDACTED] >;  
 Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] >; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS)  
 < [REDACTED] >; Morrison, Emer (Legal) < [REDACTED] >; Cole, Alex -  
 UKGI < [REDACTED] >; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI < [REDACTED] >;  
 Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) < [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL)  
 Litigation

Hi Josh,

Thanks for sending this up. I think we need to strengthen the section on why the decision needs to be made during purdah before this is shared with No10. A few things I think helpful to address more specifically would be:

- How within our power is it to move the mediation date to after purdah?
- What specific risks would moving the mediation date have on POL's strategy – ie. Increased cost of final settlement, poor media coverage etc?
- Would there be more of a media reaction if the mediation was moved than if the mediation happened?
- How much media coverage is expected if the mediation were to go ahead and what form of announcement would be necessary if the mediation was successful?
- If mediation was unsuccessful when would the 2<sup>nd</sup> session be?

Overall the note needs to show a clear benefit for mediation occurring in purdah, against delaying it to afterwards. Would it be possible to have a revised note with the above addressed for 2pm today?

More than happy to discuss,

Bex

**Rebecca Lowe**, Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Tel: **GRO** | Mobile: **GRO**  
Email: **GRO**

---

**From:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI <**GRO**>  
**Sent:** 18 November 2019 15:34  
**To:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) <**GRO**>; Tolhurst (Private Office) <**GRO**>; Permanent Secretary <**GRO**>; SpAds Office (Private Office) <**GRO**>  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI <**GRO**>; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <**GRO**>; Aldred, Tom - UKGI <**GRO**>; Watson, Richard - UKGI <**GRO**>; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) <**GRO**>; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment) <**GRO**>; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) <**GRO**>; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) <**GRO**>; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI <**GRO**>; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) <**GRO**>; Grant, Calum (BEIS) <**GRO**>; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) <**GRO**>; Jackson, Louise (Legal) <**GRO**>; Corera, Jane (Legal) <**GRO**>; Kilgariff, Patrick (Legal) <**GRO**>; Manson, Justin (UKGI) <**GRO**>; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) <**GRO**>; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS) <**GRO**>; Morrison, Emer (Legal) <**GRO**>; Cole, Alex - UKGI <**GRO**>; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI <**GRO**>; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) <**GRO**>  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Charlotte,

Further to the below please see attached the requested background note for No.10. I have also attached the previous read-out from Shanice re the earlier call between officials and Kelly.

Our understanding is that we are not being asked to seek approval from SoS or No 10. As discussed earlier we have an information sharing protocol in place with POL so if No10 request anything more detailed please do let us know and we can discuss.

We are also awaiting sign-off from the Perm Sec and HMT Chief Secretary.

Cheers,

Josh

Joshua Scott | Analyst  
Post Office Shareholder Team  
**UK Government Investments**  
1 Victoria Street | London | SW1H 0ET  
T: [REDACTED] M: [REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED] W: [www.ukgi.org.uk/](http://www.ukgi.org.uk/)

**From:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI

**Sent:** 18 November 2019 10:36

**To:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) [REDACTED]; Tolhurst (Private Office) [REDACTED]; Permanent Secretary [REDACTED]; SpAds Office (Private Office) [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI [REDACTED]; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED]; Aldred, Tom - UKGI [REDACTED]; Watson, Richard - UKGI [REDACTED]; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) [REDACTED]; Hugo Robson [REDACTED]; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) [REDACTED]; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED]; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI [REDACTED]; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [REDACTED]; Grant, Calum (BEIS) [REDACTED]; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED]; Jackson, Louise (Legal) [REDACTED]; Corera, Jane (Legal) [REDACTED]; Kilgarrieff, Patrick (Legal) [REDACTED]; Manson, Justin - UKGI [REDACTED]; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED]; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS) [REDACTED]; Morrison, Emer (Legal) [REDACTED]; Cole, Alex - UKGI [REDACTED]; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI [REDACTED]; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Charlotte,

Thanks for the quick response and no problem.

I'll pick this up and issue a 1-pager to you this afternoon.

Cheers,

Josh

Joshua Scott | Analyst  
Post Office Shareholder Team  
**UK Government Investments**  
1 Victoria Street | London | SW1H 0ET



T: [GRO] I.M. [GRO]  
E: [GRO] I W: [www.ukgi.org.uk/](http://www.ukgi.org.uk/)

**From:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) [GRO]  
**Sent:** 18 November 2019 10:26  
**To:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI [GRO]; Tolhurst (Private Office) [GRO]; Permanent Secretary [GRO]; SpAds Office (Private Office) [GRO]  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI [GRO]; White, Beth (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [GRO]; Aldred, Tom - UKGI [GRO]; Watson, Richard - UKGI [GRO]; Bhargava, Pranita (BEIS) [GRO]; Hugo Robson [GRO]; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services) [GRO]; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) [GRO]; Culshaw, Robin - UKGI [GRO]; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services, Retail & Post Directorate) [GRO]; Grant, Calum (BEIS) [GRO]; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) [GRO]; Jackson, Louise (Legal) [GRO]; Corera, Jane (Legal) [GRO]; Kilgariff, Patrick (Legal) [GRO]; Manson, Justin - UKGI [GRO]; Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) [GRO]; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS) [GRO]; Morrison, Emer (Legal) [GRO]; Cole, Alex - UKGI [GRO]; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI [GRO]; Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) [GRO]  
**Subject:** RE: [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

Hi Joshua,

Thank you for sending up – the Secretary of State has viewed over the weekend and has asked for a one pager on this decision that we can share with the PM's office, if necessary. This only needs to be top lines– i.e. what the decision is, key facts, why it needs to be made in purdah, implications of delaying etc

As far as I am aware, this decision hasn't yet been made by Minister Tolhurst – but if I could have this one pager by **4pm today**, that would be great.

Please could you confirm receipt that somebody has picked this up – and shout if this deadline is not feasible.

Happy to chat through on the phone,  
Thanks

Charlotte



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**Charlotte Weston**

Private Secretary (cover) to the Secretary of State  
for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Tel: **GRO** Mobile **GRO**

**GRO**

1 Victoria Street, SW1H 0ET

[www.gov.uk/beis](http://www.gov.uk/beis) | [twitter.com/beisgovuk](https://twitter.com/beisgovuk)

**From:** Scott, Joshua - UKGI **GRO**  
**Sent:** 15 November 2019 12:56  
**To:** Secretary Of State (Private Office) **GRO**; Tolhurst (Private Office)  
**GRO**; Permanent Secretary **GRO**; SpAds  
Office (Private Office) **GRO**  
**Cc:** Cooper, Tom - UKGI **GRO**; White, Beth (Professional Business Services,  
Retail & Post Directorate) **GRO**; Aldred, Tom - UKGI  
**GRO**; Watson, Richard - UKGI **GRO**; Bhargava,  
Pranita (BEIS) **GRO**; Robson, Hugo (Business Investment)  
**GRO**; Vandini, Cecilia (Advanced Manufacturing and Services)  
**GRO**; Richards, Nigel (Finance & Portfolio) **GRO**  
Culshaw, Robin - UKGI **GRO**; Creswell, Carl (Professional Business Services,  
Retail & Post Directorate) **GRO**; Grant, Calum (BEIS)  
**GRO**; Hill, Kate (Finance & Portfolio) **GRO**; Jackson, Louise  
(Legal) **GRO**; Corera, Jane (Legal) **GRO**; Kilgariff,  
Patrick (Legal) **GRO**; Manson, Justin (UKGI) **GRO**  
Beckett, Richard (Finance & Portfolio) **GRO**; Patel, Vanisha (BEIS)  
**GRO**; Morrison, Emer (Legal) **GRO**; Cole, Alex -  
UKGI **GRO**; Adegun, Oluwatosin - UKGI **GRO**  
Taylor, Tom (Finance & Portfolio) **GRO**  
**Subject:** [OFF:SEN - LEGAL] Advice - Approval For Settlement Offer in Post Office Ltd. (POL) Litigation

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - LEGAL

Shanice, Oliver, Jefferson and Bex,

Advice for approval.

### Purpose

Following advice submitted 8 November (attached as Annex A) this advice requests Minister Tolhurst's approval for the settlement range proposed by POL (and their external legal advisors Herbert Smith Freehills (HSF)) in preparation for their mediation meeting with Claimants in the Group Litigation Order on 27/28 November.

This note seeks your approval to a proposal from the POL Board to authorise settlement at a figure up to £65m. CST approval is being sought in parallel. The settlement working group of BEIS/UKGI/HMT officials met on 14 November and agreed to support the POL board's proposal for settlement at a figure up to £65m.

In line with the decision of the POL Board, any offer above £48m could be made only if it ensures a settlement takes place and would require POL [CEO and Chair] approval, as well as the approval of officials from BEIS and HMT.

Minister Tolhurst has a phone call with officials on 18 November to discuss the advice and justifications for the settlement range proposed.

### Timing

Urgent – a decision is required by 22 November.

We have discussed this advice with Perm Sec's Office in light of the pre-election period and can confirm it is classed as 'essential business' and should be allowed to continue during this time.

### Special Advisers

This has been sent to SpAds office in parallel.

### Annexes

Annex A – *POL Approach to GLO Mediation* Written Advice submitted 8 November.

Annex B – *Advice on Settlement (Draft)* provided by HSF and discussed at 14 November settlement working group meeting.

Annex C – *Advice on Convicted Claimants* provided by HSF and discussed at 14 November settlement working group meeting.

Annex D – POL CFO Confirmation Letter

### Contacts

Director General – Justin Manson, GRO

Lead Official – Joshua Scott, GRO

Director Responsible – Tom Cooper, GRO

Any questions please let me know.

Cheers,

Josh

Joshua Scott | Analyst

Post Office Shareholder Team

**UK Government Investments**

1 Victoria Street | London | SW1H 0ET

T: GRO | M: GRO

E: GRO | W: [www.ukgi.org.uk/](http://www.ukgi.org.uk/)

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