

Message

From: Rodric Williams [GRO]
Sent: 16/11/2017 11:38:53
To: Andrew Parsons [GRO]
Subject: RE: Horizon article

Looks good.

I'll pick up with her the BEIS piece.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Andrew Parsons
Sent: 16/11/2017 11:27
To: Rodric Williams
Subject: RE: Horizon article

Rodric

Response to Jane – what do you think?

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Jane

The Legal Gazette loves to sensationalise any vaguely interesting judgment by the Courts. I doubt this came from Freeths but is just par for the course reporting by the Gazette. They write one these stories every week. If you read the comments below the article, you'll see that the general reaction is that the judge's position is unreasonable, rather than criticism of us / Post Office.

In terms of penalties, this was a shot across the bow by the judge and nothing more. The judge's only power is to refuse to give Post Office its costs or to order Post Office to pay Freeths costs.

My and Tony's view is that the substantive positions we are taking are reasonable. This is a question of optics. We are not getting credit for the reasonable stances we are taking and so need to work harder in getting our proposals out to Freeths at an early stage. This is unusual for a Defendant, but it's what the judge wants.

Kind regards
Andy

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Andrew Parsons
Partner
Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP

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From: Jane MacLeod [GRO]
Sent: 16 November 2017 11:02

To: Andrew Parsons; Rodric Williams; Melanie Corfield; Mark R Davies; Mark Underwood1
Subject: Fwd: Horizon article

All

Please see email and link below. Clearly briefed by Freeths. I need a response to go back to BEIS, but I'm concerned we didn't get a heads up on this from the Legal Gazette, so we need to think about the best way to challenge them on balanced reporting.

Jane MacLeod
Group Director Legal, Risk & Governance
Post Office
GRO

From: Callard, Richard - UKGI <GRO>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 10:56:07 AM
To: Jane MacLeod
Cc: Patrick Bourke
Subject: Horizon article

Hi Jane – I was rather concerned when reading the article below. Clearly one shouldn't believe everything one reads in the press, but how real is the threat of draconian penalties, and how big could they be?

<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/law/change-your-attitude-judge-threatens-litigators-with-draconian-costs-penalties/5063694.article>

R

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