

Message

From: Sharon Merryweather [GRO]
Sent: 15/03/2019 16:42:45
To: Bharat Visani [GRO]; David Sanghera [GRO]; Jim Nott [GRO]; Kevin Hogarth [GRO]; Nilesch Joshi [GRO]; Paul McBain [GRO]; Saj Hussain [GRO]; Stuart Rogers [GRO]; Sue Edgar [GRO]; Sue Jude [GRO]; Tim Boothman [GRO]; Uel Houston [GRO]; Yvonne Fennell [GRO]
CC: Calum Greenhow [GRO]; Peter Hall [GRO]; Troy Gardner [GRO]; Paul Simmonds [GRO]; Ian Park [GRO]; Keith Richards [GRO]; Lynda Willoughby [GRO]
Subject: Court Case

Dear Colleague

As you may be aware, the judgement in the first trial of the group litigation Bates vs Post Office Ltd has been delivered.

The NFSP has not seen the full judgement document, but based on early reports, Post Office Ltd (PO) has lost the majority – if not all – the material points of the trial. Certainly, the judge has been highly critical of PO's actions and behaviour, including the witness statements given by PO representatives during the trial.

The early reports also indicate that the judge is critical of the NFSP's independence from PO. We will of course have a better understanding of these criticisms once we have read the judgement in detail – but it is important to remember that the NFSP was not involved in the trial and was neither invited to provide evidence nor called as a witness.

My view as CEO is that this is a time for considered deliberation, rather than knee-jerk reaction – but we will be seeking legal advice about the judge's specific criticisms of the NFSP.

If you are contacted about the trial verdict by a member of the press or by any other third party (including members) – please do not provide any form of comment. Instead, please direct the enquiry to Peter Hall, Head of Policy and Research on [GRO] or [peter.hall](mailto:peter.hall@nfsp.org.uk) [GRO]

PO's statement on the trial verdict can be found here: <https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/post-office/news/post-office-response-to-judgment-in-the-first-trial-of-group-litigation-order-362232>

Yours sincerely

GRO

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