

RESTRICTED - POLICY AND COMMERCIAL

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

FAX HEADER

FOR THE ATTENTION OF: Peter Schofield HMT

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MESSAGE

Sarah, Peter

**BA/POCL AUTOMATION PROJECT: DRAFT LETTERS FOR THE
PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO THE POST OFFICE CHAIRMAN
AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ICL**

Jeremy Heywood's letter of 1 March to Paul Williams recorded the Prime Minister's invitation to my Secretary of State to see the Post Office Chairman on the future of the Horizon project, and indicated that the Prime Minister would subsequently wish to write to Neville Bain. My Secretary of State's minute to the Prime Minister on Friday (5 March), copied to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Social Security, reported that he had now seen Neville Bain, and promised draft letters for the Prime Minister to send both to Bain and to Keith Todd of ICL.

I should be grateful for quick comments on either text. I can see some merit in the Prime Minister writing to ICL at this stage, though the letter from Jeremy Heywood did not commit the PM to doing so.

David