

18-MAY-99 04:40

SWEETMAN

GRO

P.01

FAX TO COLIN BAKER
NFSP

THE ROYAL HOTEL - Rm.107

Dear Colin

It is now 4.15am and I have just arrived home having been at the Treasury with Steve Robson (2nd Permanent Secretary) and then a meeting with Stephen Byers and Alan Milburn at the House of Commons. Things continue to move forward (but slowly). It is clear there will be further meetings during the day preparing for another meeting of Ministers tomorrow afternoon.

I now need some sleep and to be in London tomorrow. I feel really guilty not coming to your conference and bringing you Executive and delegates up to date with progress - but I need to be in London. Please pass on my apologies to the Conference.

18-MAY-99 04:41

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My message is that there has not yet been a decision by Ministers, matters remain finely balanced. I can confirm that the Ministers involved with the decision making are very aware of the concern that exists in the minds of sub postmasters up and down the country. The Post Office Board and my team in POCH remain steadfast in our aims to secure a deal that is in the interests of all those in the business.

My commitment is that within 24 hours of a decision on the way forward I will meet with the NFSP Executive Committee to explain ^{to} you what has been decided and the implications for all concerned.

Please ring me at lunch time and I will bring you up to speed.

Regards

GRO