



Government Legal Department

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15 November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Announcement from Sir Wyn Williams on Legal Professional Privilege – BEIS response

Following the hearing on 8 November 2021, the Inquiry published an announcement made by Sir Wyn Williams. In that announcement, he requested that BEIS waive its privilege in respect of legally privileged material relevant to the Terms of Reference, as carried into effect by the Provisional List of Issues and as supplemented by the four themes considered at the hearing of 8 November 2021, dated from the date of the first pilot of the Horizon IT System to the Prime Minister's announcement to hold an inquiry on 26 February 2020. He made similar requests of POL, Fujitsu and UKGI. We understand that the request made is specific to this Inquiry.

BEIS confirms that it does not seek and has never sought to assert privilege over any such documents and is happy to formally waive privilege it holds in relation to them. This accords with BEIS's firm position that the Inquiry should not be obstructed by the assertion of legal privilege in its important work to discover the truth and make recommendations so that the Government, and the public, can be assured that nothing like the Horizon scandal can ever happen again.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

James Barry
For the Treasury Solicitor

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