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**From:** Mark R Davies [GRO]  
**Sent:** Tue 24/09/2013 7:20:57 AM (UTC)  
**To:** Paula Vennells [GRO]  
**Cc:** Susan Crichton [GRO]; Angela Van-Den-Bogerd [GRO];  
[GRO]; Kevin Gilliland [GRO]; Alwen  
Lyons [GRO]; Martin Edwards [GRO]; Nina  
Arnott [GRO]  
**Subject:** Re:

Hi Paula

Quick update for you;

- as you know Susan has spoken to Alan Bates and also contacted Janet in JA's office
- both Susan and I have been in touch with Will Gibson and I will speak to him this morning to update
- in reference to your question about Mr Griffiths, his contract adviser was in touch with his family once he heard about this to express our sympathy and concern. I have suggested he contacts again today to ask after him. No suggestion in those calls this was a suicide attempt.
- we haven't had any media calls. Susan has arranged for specialist media law cover to be in place given the complexity of this case
- if we were to get a media call we would issue a holding line - "our thoughts are with Mr Griffiths and his family. We are urgently investigating the background to this case."
- we would at the same time look for legal guidance around advice to any media organisation in relation to the background to the issue

I will update you this morning.

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

On 23 Sep 2013, at 22:12, "Paula Vennells" [GRO] wrote:

- > Thanks Susan. Really good of you to speak to Alan. Two points for me tonight:
- >
- > Firstly but most importantly, in the exchanges, I haven't seen anything re how Martin Griffiths is? Do we know/are we in the loop?
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- > And if it is an attempted suicide, as we sadly know, there are usually several contributory factors. Are the Police involved? And are we in direct contact with the family?
- >
- > Secondly, and very definitely in that order, Alan Bates' mail is worrying; especially as we hoped we had a working relationship. He clearly doesn't (or doesn't want to) trust us. Who is closest to him do you think?
- >
- > It would be unfortunate if we 'lost' him at this stage but equally we need to be straight about how unhelpful this kind of exchange is, as we move to mediation and trying to build trust in that process for his members.
- >
- > Let's catch up tomorrow.
- >
- > Paula
- >
- > Sent from my iPhone
- >

> On 23 Sep 2013, at 21:38, "Susan Crichton" [GRO] wrote:

- >> Hi just to confirm that I have spoken to Alan Bates, explained that the family had been in touch today and asked for help in branch as the sub postmaster had been involved in an car accident. I explained that Angela is looking into this and that we will catch

up with him tomorrow.

>> Alan has just rung back to say that the message re car accident was a mis-communication from a family member and that it was definitely a suicide attempt.

>> Angela and I will agree how to handle this tomorrow, as the facts re the sub postmaster are not as represented by the email.

>> Susan