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**From:** Paula Vennells[/O=MMS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PAULA.VENNELLS8C63D283-A511-46C3-A93E-DC6F2AE7A78D]  
**Sent:** Thur 29/09/2011 2:32:05 PM (UTC)  
**To:** 'les.owen'; [GRO]; Matthew Leste; [GRO]; 'nmccausland'; [GRO]  
**Cc:** 'Aliceperkins'; [GRO]; Chris M Day; [GRO]; Susan Crichton; [GRO]; Mike Young; [GRO]  
**Subject:** Fw: Private Eye/Horizon

Fyi. Susan will provide a background brief.

Any queries in the meantime, don't hesitate to ask Susan, Mike or me.

Paula

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**From:** Paula Vennells  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 04:26 PM  
**To:** 'Donald.Brydon'; [GRO]  
**Cc:** Moya Greene; 'paulcmurray'; [GRO]; 'alice'; [GRO]  
**Subject:** Re: Class Action

Donald, you may remember this has reared its head before. I'll get a brief circulated for the new board members.

In summary, each time any cases have gone to court, POL's position has been upheld. And from memory, in at least 2 cases fraud was proven with subsequent imprisonment.

However, to avoid to avoid future doubt, POL took a decision several months ago to have Horizon and the newer HNGx (Horizon online) independently verified by an external systems auditor. This is currently in process and we should have the results at the end of next month.

Paula

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**From:** BRYDON Donald [GRO]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 12:32 PM  
**To:** Paula Vennells  
**Cc:** Moya Greene; Paul Murray [GRO]; Alice Perkins [GRO]  
**Subject:** Class Action

Paula,

I was a bit surprised to see the article in Private Eye this week about a class action by subpostmasters. It may be a bit after the horse has bolted but it may be appropriate to have an explicit litigation/legal report in the POL board papers for the future - obviously Alice's call.

The article raises some questions about Horizon. I suspect the ARC ought to take an interest. Have we ever had an independent audit of Horizon?

Donald