

RESTRICTED - POLICY

1/04

To:

Secretary of State

ci Mr McCartney
PS/Sir Michael Scholar
Mr Baker CGBPS
Mr Sibbick CGBPS1
Mr Brebner PORT
Mr Leese PORT
Mr Whitehead CGBPS1
Mrs Churchyard PORT

From:

Judy Britton
Director
PORT

Room ^{IRRELEVANT} BPR

GRO

3 March 1999

Mr Corry Sp Ad

**SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH NEVILLE BAIN,
CHAIRMAN OF THE POST OFFICE AT 1640 ON THURSDAY 4 MARCH**

1. You are meeting with Neville Bain, Chairman, and John Roberts, Chief Executive of the Post Office at 1640 on Thursday 4 March. Martyn Baker, Judy Britton and David Sibbick will attend the meeting.

Objective of Meeting

2. To assure the Post Office that you are committed to the reform programme and to discuss any concerns the Post Office have on the overall reform package and on the White Paper in particular.

Background

3. There has been ongoing dialogue between Ian McCartney, Neville Bain and John Roberts. On 21 January they met to discuss major issues including progress on implementing the review reform package. Ian McCartney also recently met the new non-Executive Board members and the Board of the Post Office on 15 February. Officials have also been working up the White Paper in close consultation with Post Office senior management.

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4. The key issues likely to be raised are:

Horizon
Timing of the White Paper
Liberalisation
Strategic Plan
Pay
Targets

Horizon and the White Paper timetable

5. You will wish to use the meeting to give effect to the response from Number 10 on the way forward on Horizon (Jeremy Hayward's letter of 1 March) Additional briefing on this will follow later today (after meetings with Treasury officials).
6. We are having a meeting with Mr McCartney on Horizon and the White Paper this afternoon (Wednesday). The additional briefing will cover any advice arising from that meeting.
7. Leaving aside these items, line to take briefing is attached.

Judy Britton