

Message

From: Alice Perkins [GRO]
on behalf of Alice Perkins [GRO]
Sent: 02/07/2013 08:01:44
To: Paula Vennells [GRO]
Subject: Re: Latest on SS

Thanks Paula. I am looking forward to seeing you too.

I see we have 2 hours. Fine by me but if you need to shorten it in the circs, I would completely understand.

2 thoughts on this subject.

Do you need a refresh of media training? At any rate, someone should put you through your paces on the issues (I think incidentally, you will do this very well but it will be hostile - a different experience from hitherto). Also do we need to bring in a PR company eg Brunswick to help us handle Monday and the aftermath - absolutely not an implied criticism of Mark, just wanting us to have the best resources on the case.

Finally, I do think we need to think very carefully about who is there for us on Monday. At the very least we must have someone to take a note and I still lean towards having our own (silent) lawyer there. See you later.

Alice

----- Original Message -----

From: Paula Vennells [GRO]
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2013 10:07 PM
To: Alice Perkins
Subject: Latest on SS

Hi Alice, I'm looking forward to catching up properly tomorrow. I thought the Board were generous in their patience tonight over the SS discussion. It is helpful to know that they are supportive of the need to be robust. That said, I thought Alasdair's intervention was good - it is why we haven't been completely heavy handed yet. We can discuss nuances and next steps tomorrow.

I caught up with Susan this evening after we finished. She had finished her meeting with SS and waded of the view that they do now understand the risk of being caught up in something bigger and more sensitive. She is hoping their report should be more balanced, should say they have found no evidence of systemic Horizon (computer) issues but will confirm shortcomings in support processes and systems, and that Post Office has already identified and corrected a number of these. I hope when they speak to James tomorrow that they will confirm all this. They will also want to say their work is not finished and therefore still not conclusive.

Not a final position by any means nor one that controls what they might say rather than write but sounding slightly better.

Rest assured there will be a thorough lessons learnt exercise, which if you are comfortable, I'd like to suggest reports to the ARC. As you said tonight, we need to get through this first though.

Paula

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