То:	Paula Vennells	GRO	; Chris Aujard	GRO	
From:	Alwen Lyons	GRO			
	Mon 10/02/2014 7:02				
-	Fwd: 2014 02 11 AR	C teleconference			
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Thanks Alwen					
Alwen Ly	/ons				
Company	Secretary				
GRO	)				
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Paula Vennells	(	GRO				
Date: 9 February 2014	22:57:37 GMT					
To: Alasdair Marnoch		GRO				
Cc: Alice Perkins	GRO	Larissa Wilso	n	GRO		
" <u>neil</u>	GRO		Tim Frankl	in	GRO	
Chris M Day	GRO	, Alwen Lyons		GRO	Chris	. Aujard
GRO		, Virginia Holmes - PO		GRO		
Susannah Storey	GRO		th Hooper	(	3RO	=:=:
Subject: Re: 2014 02 1	11 ARC telecon	ference	L			ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ

Hi Alasdair, I have already asked Chris to pick up these questions and Neil's; we will come well briefed, including detail on how the BIP has engendered the change. (Chris/Alwen, if we haven't already done so, it might be worth having Angela VdB on stand-by.)

I thought it would be worth sharing my thoughts on why we are different; in my mind it relates to the operational nature of PO rather than product or services, where there is more commonality:

The difference and perhaps not immediately obvious to our leading Counsel, is scale. None of the businesses Brian Altman compared us to has a network the size of ours (most will be much less than 10% of our size) and although some (few) may operate agencies, none will have the unique relationship that we do with Spmrs, nor the cash handling through individuals who are not employees, nor the spread of very different and in some cases not very successful adjacent businesses, which itself causes problems. We are more complex and operate without the ability to monitor our agents easily, (though the BIP is improving this); and most of the comparator businesses he referred to will have line management structures, which make conformance easier.

This is an important area for the business and so I am particularly grateful to our NEDs for your attention. We will do what we can to facilitate a good debate.

Paula

Sent from my iPad

On 9 Feb 2014, at 22:30, "Alasdair Marnoch" GRO wrote:

Thanks Alice.

I agree this is a tricky issue and we will explore all the options in our call. As you say it's difficult to understand why we should be different to others although the timing of a shift from our current policy will be key.

I'd also like to understand more about the BIP and what is driving the reduction in cases recently (more relaxed approach on prosecutions and/or BIP impact).

I hope you manage to join the debate but if not we will make sure your comments are taken into account.

**Best** 

Alasdair

From: aliceperkins	GRO				
To: <u>larissa.wilson</u>	GRO	; <u>neil</u>	GRO	; <u>timfranklin</u>	GRO
alasdairmarnoch[	GRO	paula.venne	ls GRO		
chris.m.day	GRO	Alwen.lyons	GRO		
CC: christopher.au	ard (	GRO ; <u>vir</u>	ginia.holmes.	GRO	]
susannah.storey	GRO	susannah	hooper GRO		

Subject: Re: 2014 02 11 ARC teleconference

Date: Sat, 8 Feb 2014 12:03:40 +0000

## Alasdair,

It is not yet clear whether it will be possible for me to participate in this teleconference. I will if I can. My reaction to this paper which is helpful and clear in many respects (and the BIP and its impact to date is very good indeed), is that it does not spell out clearly enough for me, why we think it is right in principle for us to maintain a different policy from other organisations (the Brian Altman point) ie option C is dismissed too summarily.

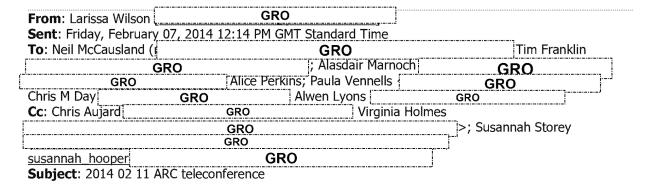
I do of course, understand that we couldn't just throw our cases at the CPS and walk away at a moment's notice. And I appreciate that we might find the CPS route less satisfactory in cases where we were convinced we should be prosecuting. But if it is the case that the banks and other financial institutions are content to live with this, why are we different? And what would our public justification for being different be? In considering this, I would like to understand better how much money would potentially be at risk if we were to go for option C? And what are the relative costs of giving the work to external lawyers rather than doing it in-house under option B?

I accept that option C could not be adopted immediately even if we did think it right. And I absolutely agree we should have a financial cut off of between £20k and £30k and take other factors into consideration before proceeding whoever is conducting the prosecutions.

If you'd like a word, do let me know.

All the best

Alice



All

Please find attached the agenda and paper for the ARC teleconference 5pm – 6pm 11 February. The teleconference will focus specifically on Post Office as a prosecuting authority. An update on Project Sparrow will come to the February Board.

In line with the decision at the last Board meeting, these papers have been circulated to the whole Board. Papers are also available on BoardPad.

Room 501 has been booked for the meeting if you wish to attend in person and teleconference details are:

Dial in from mobile: GRO

UK Freephone: GRO

Chairperson passcode
Participant passcode: GRO

Kind regards

Larissa

Larissa

Larissa Wilson I Company Secretarial Assistant

<image 001.png>
1st Floor, Banner Street Wing, 148 Old Street, London, EC1V 9HQ

<image002.png>

**GRO** 

larissa.wilson

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