

To: Gratton, Lorna - UKGI [GRO]
From: Amanda Burton [GRO]
Sent: 2024-01-19T13:47:43Z
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Investigation
Received: 2024-01-19T13:47:57Z

As discussed, Amanda
Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Henry Staunton [GRO]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:38:53 PM
To: Nick Read [GRO]
Cc: Benjamin Tidswell <[GRO]>; Amanda Burton ([GRO])
Subject: Investigation

Nick ,

Have only now started to look at the charges levelled at me tonight as the Committee was not prepared to delay the hearing . I have said I will be woefully unprepared but it was of no avail . It impacts you as I do not have the time to research and do justice to the unfairness of the charges against you I am afraid . My apologies . However , I have agreed that the scale of the review should be considerably reduced as Jane is clearly negotiating and Ben has promised to get a sense of proportion into this . You should know that I have heard nothing further .

It had dawned on me that you copying Foat with the file note of the views of our Post Master NEDs would cause him to take against me . This I think applies even though I was recording the views of Post Masters who wanted our conversation to be relayed to our Independent Directors . It is difficult to see how I would get a fair hearing in these circumstances . He wields enormous power as the PM NEDs indicate :

- " Fed up with the power wielded by Foat "
- " People are guilty until proved innocent "
- " Whilst Foat is at the helm nothing will change "
- " He uses his leadership of the Inquiry Teamas an instrument of his power " .

I think the copying of the note to him puts me in a grave situation . PO investigations do not have a history of justice to start with so we should both be aware . There seems to be a determination to trash reputations despite being completely innocent . People will say Foat will kept out of the loop but I do believe that for a second .

Please let me know tomorrow how on earth this confidential note to Independent NEDs came to be distributed to Foat .

Henry

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