POL00098782

Message

**From:** Paula Vennells
on behalf of Paula Vennells GRO
**Sent:** 28/06/2013 10:57:30
**To:** Alice Perkins CB GRO
**Subject:** Fwd: JA?

Alice, the team are currently reviewing all options and Alwen has a meeting (for as long as she needs) with Janet on Monday - J has a GRO today.

The note below from Martin is also helpful - just to reassure we have the best brains on it.

We will get a note from Alwen later today on who is doing what/next steps.

Susan has cancelled the last day of her holiday and is coming in on Monday as soon as she lands, to meet SS.

All very tricky but I am happy at least that the team are working closely and with pace.

Paula
Ps. Ignore the cryptic comments re transient data etc. You don't want to go there! (I am.)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Martin Edwards GRO
**Date:** 27 June 2013 21:55:39 BST
**To:** Paula Vennells GRO
**Subject: Re: JA?**

I'm glad you thought I looked thoughtful - in truth it was primarily a look of bafflement and slight concern at Lesley's explanation of "transient data" and "archiving processes"! (I think we got there in the end on that one - we obviously need a plain English explanation of why no wider implications can be extrapolated from the 14 cases).

My only other concern at the meeting was around the feasibility of some of the options/levers that were raised. As discussed we need to think about a Plan B given the likelihood that James won't agree to delay the meeting/report. We also need to be very careful not to overplay our hand with SS - they could turn out to be quite dangerous if we threaten them with legal action or attempt to replace them with another firm. Easy for this to be portrayed in the media as heavy handed tactics because we don't like their findings (it plays directly into the existing perceptions we're trying to counteract).

So I think we're stuck with the softer option of explaining to JA calmly but firmly why he cannot allow SS to disseminate a misleading interim report - it either needs to be delayed or repositioned as a very neutral status update (with more detail on the one case that has been resolved).

And backing this up with a robust plan to get our messages out to the media (Mark, Alwen and I are catching up on is tomorrow).

We can think through a more detailed handling plan and lines to take once we've seen the draft report on Monday.

POL00098782

Will give this more thought and staying closely involved over the next week.

Thanks,
Martin

Martin Edwards
Chief of Staff to the Chief Executive
Post Office
GRO

On 27 Jun 2013, at 20:02, "Paula Vennells" <GRO> wrote:

> Martin, I wondered if you had any further thoughts on JA?
>
> You were looking thoughtful throughout the meeting. Although I didn't get the sense you were holding back - you asked some good questions.
>
> Don't hesitate to flag anything you think we have missed!
>
> Thanks for your support as always,
>
> Paula
>
> Sent from my iPhone