

Message

From: Jane MacLeod; [REDACTED] **GRO**
on behalf of Jane MacLeod; [REDACTED]
Sent: 08/03/2019 15:25:52
To: Tim Parker; [REDACTED] **GRO**; Ken McCall1; [REDACTED] **GRO**; Carla Stent1
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CC: Paula Vennells; [REDACTED] **GRO**; Alisdair Cameron; [REDACTED] **GRO**; Veronica
Branton; [REDACTED] **GRO**
Subject: Postmaster Litigation - CONFIDENTIAL AND SUBJECT TO LEGAL PRIVILEGE - DO NOT FORWARD

All

We received the judgment this morning in the Common Issues Trial. The judgment is 325 pages and very detailed, and as a result we have not yet read it completely or fully understood all the arguments. However a high level review indicates:

- We have lost on all material points
- The judge has criticised Post Office comprehensively – both as to our historic operations and behaviours and our conduct of the case
- The judge accepts the evidence of the Lead Claimants but is sceptical of our witnesses who he characterises as ‘extraordinarily partisan’
- He has struck out the key contractual provisions which require postmasters to account to Post Office, and
- He has stated that the Branch Trading Statement – which is the key document on which Post Office relies for postmasters to account for cash and stock in branches – cannot be relied on as a statement of account.

The judgment will be handed down formally either next Friday (15th) or on Monday 18th. In the meantime we are working on grounds for appeal.

We have activated our contingency planning in order that we have communications and detailed plans available and ready to launch at the point the judgment is formally handed down. In the meantime, the judgment is subject to embargo and cannot be shared or discussed outside of Post Office and its legal team. We are keeping the news to a tight team within Post Office.

There are many questions that we cannot yet answer and we need some time to fully digest the verdict. We will therefore be setting up a Board call probably on Tuesday. In the meantime, please call either myself or Al as needed.

Jane

**Jane MacLeod**

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