

From: Minister THOMAS (DBT) [GRO]
Sent: Wed 24/07/2024 5:00:13 PM (UTC)
To: Ciara LAWRENCE (DBT) [GRO] Carl CRESWELL (DBT) [GRO]
Cc: Charlotte HEYES (DBT) [GRO] Michael CARLING (DBT) [GRO] James LOVESEY (DBT) [GRO] Sam GRIFFITHS (DBT) [GRO] Emily SNOW (DBT) [GRO] Katie CARR (DBT) [GRO] DBT Ministerial Submissions [GRO]
Subject: READOUT - Minister Thomas meeting with Jo Hamilton - Weds 24 July

Hi all,

Thanks again for all your help facilitating today's meeting – Please see below a quick readout of Minister Thomas' meeting with Jo Hamilton.

Happy to discuss anything if needed.

Best,
Jamie



Department for
Business & Trade

Jamie Cunningham | Private Secretary to the Minister for Services, Small Business
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Attendees

- Minister Thomas (MT)
- Jo Hamilton, Former Subpostmistress (JH)
- Rachel Di Climente , legal representative (RC)
- Carl Creswell, Director for Postal Affairs, DBT (CC)
- Ciara Lawrence, Senior Policy Advisor - Overturned Convictions Scheme, DBT

---STARTS---

- MT opened the meeting thanking JH for taking the time to meet and was keen to emphasis his priority to improve confident about the future of POL and to meet with other Postmasters to discuss what more HMG can do to speed up overturning convictions.
- JH noted her representation of those who are part of the overturned conviction scheme but was keen to highlight the need to unblock the current log jam associated with quashing convictions and the process of compensation.

- MT agreed noting the need to prioritise simplicity and speed.
- JH noted the complex issues behind claiming compensation and the high costs associated with the process of mediation, emphasising that recipients are still suffering, and most are not in the best health.
- MT outlined Labours commitment to the 8th July deadline for the compensation scheme while they were in opposition and committed to following through on that. SoS has to be the one to announce the details of DBTs new scheme, with a focus on getting compensation to recipients quickly. **ACTION - MT invited JH for her thoughts once this announcement was made and to have further discussions where appropriate. @Ciara LAWRENCE (DBT) to be aware.**
- CC noted DBT is being prudent when determining the list of convictions to ensure letters are sent out properly, emphasising the need to manage expectations as letters will be sent in phased batches.
- RC highlighted the importance of comms to manage those expectations if DBT was to take that approach and was happy to discuss with CC offline. **ACTION - @Carl CRESWELL (DBT) to follow up.**
- CC agreed, with JH noting that applications have been difficult for some postmasters, but letters would be a lot more helpful to instruct lawyers.

---ENDS---