

Message

From: Angela Van-Den-Bogerd [GRO]
Sent: 17/08/2012 05:53:43
To: Simon Baker [GRO]
Subject: RE: Post Office cases

Hi Simon,

Could I see the letter regarding Mr Popov's case please.

Thanks,
Angela

Angela Van Den Bogerd
Head of Network Services
Post Office Ltd

1st Floor Admin, Swansea Mail Centre,
Siemens Way, SWANSEA, SA1 1AA
Mobile: [GRO] [Mobex] [GRO]
Email: [GRO]

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From: Simon Baker
Sent: 16 August 2012 14:22
To: Alwen Lyons; Angela Van-Den-Bogerd; Chris Darvill; Jarnail A Singh; Lesley J Sewell; Rod Ismay; Simon Baker; Susan Crichton
Cc: Chris Bhandari
Subject: FW: Post Office cases

All

Please note that the Mr. Popov's case has been added into scope. I believe this might be the one concerning the comms lines.

Chris, would you mind adding it to our spread sheet.

Thanks

Simon

From: WALKER, Janet [GRO]
Sent: 16 August 2012 13:12
To: Simon Baker
Cc: Ian Henderson; 'Ron Warmington'
Subject: Post Office cases

Dear Simon,

Please find attached a scan of a letter we have received from Stephen Hammond MP, enclosing details of his constituent, Mr Popov's case.

I will add this to my list, and would be grateful if you would do the same.

Kind regards
Janet

Janet Walker
Office of the Rt Hon James Arbuthnot
MP for North East Hampshire
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

T: GRO
E: GRO
www.jamesarbuthnot.com

From: Simon Baker GRO
Sent: 12 August 2012 14:10
To: ARBUTHNOT, James
Subject: RE: Post Office cases

Janet

Thank you for the details on the case below.

In terms of copying Second Sight, I am happy for you to copy Ron and Ian into these messages.

Kind Regards,
Simon

From: ARBUTHNOT, James GRO
Sent: 08 August 2012 08:47
To: Simon Baker
Subject: FW: Post Office cases

Hi Simon,

I am not sure whether you have these details, but here is another case for you.

Would you like me to copy Ron and Ian from 2nd Sight in on these emails regarding cases, or do you prefer that they are streamed via your office?

Kind regards
Janet

Janet Walker

Office of the Rt Hon James Arbuthnot
MP for North East Hampshire
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Tel: [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO
www.jamesarbuthnot.com

From: LORD, Jonathan
Sent: 07 August 2012 15:02
To: ARBUTHNOT, James
Subject: RE: Post Office cases

Dear James,

I think I first contacted you about her case in October 2010, but my constituent Mrs Seema Misra was convicted by Guildford Crown Court of theft on 21st October 2010. She was Sub Postmistress at the West Byfleet Post Office.

Mrs Misra's contact details have since changed and she now lives at [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] She is happy for her details to be passed on to the Post Office for investigation. I'd be very grateful if you could let me know whether you are happy to do this.

I'd like to express, once again, my gratitude for your efforts in getting this matter investigated.

Yours ever,

Jonathan

Jonathan Lord MP
Member of Parliament for Woking

Tel: [REDACTED] GRO
[REDACTED] GRO

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From: ARBUTHNOT, James
Sent: 18 July 2012 12:24
To: MEALE, Alan; DUNCAN, Alan; BRIDGEN, Andrew; BROOKE, Annette; BURNS, Simon; CAMPBELL, Menzies; DJANOGLY, Jonathan; DJANOGLY, Jonathan (2nd Mailbox); DRAX, Richard; GARNIER, Edward; HAVARD, Dai; HEPBURN, Stephen; JONES, David; KNIGHT, Gregory; LETWIN, Oliver; LORD, Jonathan; LUMLEY, Karen; MILTON, Anne; MUNT, Tessa; BARRON, Kevin; MUNT, Tessa (2nd Mailbox); OSBORNE, George; RUTLEY, David; STUART, Graham; TYRIE, Andrew; WALLACE, Ben; WOOD, Mike; WOLLASTON, Sarah; WOLLASTON, Sarah (2nd Mailbox); PATEL, Priti; SIMPSON, Keith; STEWART, Iain; WILLOTT, Jenny; WRIGHT, Iain; FLYNN, Paul; BROWN, Nick; BYLES, Dan; CLARK, Greg; CRAUSBY, David; ELLMAN, Louise; JACKSON, Glenda; HERBERT, Nick; GLINDON, Mary; NEWMARK, Brooks; FREEMAN, George; FREEMAN, George (2nd Mailbox); LEIGH, Edward
Cc: BUCKLAND, Lisa
Subject: Post Office cases

Dear Colleague,

I would like to update you with regard to the SubPostmasters issue about which you have previously contacted me. The last time I was in touch we were discussing how the matter might be resolved with senior management at the Post Office. I suggested to them that they should put in place forensic accountants who would investigate the cases.

Recently, MPs Andrew Bridgen, Tessa Munt, Mike Wood, Mary Glendon, a representative from Edward Garnier's office, and I met two consultants from 2nd Sight, a forensic accountancy company. We were satisfied that they were objective and had the required experience to take these cases on.

Nevertheless we felt it important to gain the trust and endorsement of SubPostmasters, and one way of doing that was through the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance. Whilst we did not believe that the Alliance should have a power of veto, their acceptance of the way the investigations would be conducted, and of the people who would conduct them, would be of considerable value. I therefore held a subsequent meeting with the two consultants from 2nd Sight, with the head of the Alliance, and with a further forensic accountant whom the head of the Alliance brought with him.

I believe we are approaching a consensus. The consultants from 2nd Sight offered that their investigations should be checked by a forensic accountant to be nominated by the Alliance; the Post Office has agreed not just to this, but to funding it. I believe this tends to confirm that the Post Office is genuinely keen to resolve this matter in an open and transparent way.

The process is therefore that 2nd Sight will conduct an initial investigation of a selected number of cases, from which they will see if conclusions can be drawn that lead to further work being required.

But it is important that we do not get ahead of ourselves at this stage. It is already clear that some individuals are expecting that a very wide-ranging and expensive investigation into the computer code behind the Horizon system will take place. This is not at the moment what is envisaged. It may turn out to be necessary, but the initial investigations will show whether this is so.

I am taking a very cautious approach when discussing this with any of my constituents. I do not know what the investigations will show, nor can I promise them that the errors they tell me lie solely with the Horizon system necessarily do. We must wait and see what initial cases reveal, and so I am counselling patience, and seeking their trust.

I have said that I will pass on details of cases to the Post Office, as and when they come to me from other MPs. It is essential that if you wish to pass me details, you ensure that your constituent knows that their details will be revealed to the Post Office. There is no anonymity offered. It may be that in the future, we ask the Post Office in specific cases to offer immunity, but I suggest we cross that bridge when we come to it. I prefer at the moment to take things step by step.

I hope all this sounds satisfactory to you. My office will be happy to help if any queries arise at this stage.

Yours ever
James

Office of the Rt Hon James Arbuthnot, MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

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