
From: Sophie Bialaszewski [/O=MMS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=SOPHIE BIALAS2CEDC720-E52F-453B-B67E-81536EC8DF7E049]
Sent: Tue 18/03/2014 3:07:23 PM (UTC)
To: David Oliver [GRO] Belinda Crowe [GRO]
Subject: FW: Briefing Paper for Paula
Attachment: Paula Briefing MP Meeting 24th March V6.docx
Attachment: Media QA Initial Complaint Review and Mediation Scheme 17 03 2014 V6.doc
Attachment: Prosecutions Policy Reactive Briefing 13.03.2014 V3.docx

Hi David – this is what went out (I did have you on the copy lost ☺)

The questions included are as follows:

Will you comment on the Second Sight review / report? / Have you seen the Second Sight review/report?

Post Office can confirm that Second Sight has sent a draft of their first case review report to the Working Group overseeing the Scheme. As a member of the Working Group Post Office has received a copy of the report. It is not appropriate for us to comment on individual cases as the process is confidential and we wish to respect the privacy of the subpostmasters involved

Why is it taking so long to resolve subpostmaster issues?

The Working Group needs to balance the need to progress cases through the scheme with pace with the need to be thorough. The Post Office is a member of the Working Group as is Second Sight, JFSA and the Chair of the Working Group is Sir Anthony Hooper. We are working with all members of the Working Group to progress cases as quickly as possible.

How might cases be resolved?

The Post Office is committed to addressing the concerns raised by subpostmasters. Post Office is keeping an open mind to all possibilities for resolution and mediation enables the parties to explore any type of settlement which reflects the parties' realistic positions.

Only if pressed on Compensation add: Compensation is one possible solution that could be agreed by the parties. However, this will depend on what happened in each individual case. Post Office is keeping an open mind to all possibilities for resolution.

Will all cases go to mediation?

The Scheme was established to help resolve the concerns raised by some subpostmasters. If cases do not go to mediation the parties may still try to resolve their disputed outside of the Scheme [if pushed....including bringing a claim through the courts].

What happens if there is no agreed outcome at the end of mediation?

The Scheme was established to help resolve the concerns raised by some subpostmasters. If cases do not go to mediation the parties may still try to resolve their disputed outside of the Scheme [if pushed....including bringing a claim through the courts].

How does the Post Office decide whether to prosecute?

The Post Office treats all suspected cases of possible criminal conduct very seriously, and will consider each case on the facts of the individual case. In deciding whether a case should proceed to criminal prosecution the Post Office must be satisfied that it meets the two stages of the test set out in The Code for Crown Prosecutors. The first is whether there is sufficient evidence to justify a prosecution and the second is whether the prosecution would be in the public interest. A criminal prosecution will only be pursued by the Post Office if both stages are satisfied in the specific circumstances of the individual case.

Have you changed your approach to prosecutions?/I've heard you've changed them as a result of the investigation into the Horizon system?

As a responsible business we fed in to our review of our approach to prosecution the issues raised about prosecutions by some stakeholders. We have taken a number of steps as a business to ensure that we get the balance right in the way we work with all our people - so we are also improving processes, training and support for subpostmasters, for instance, and providing more forums to hear the views of all those working in the business

You dropped a number of cases recently. Why is this?

As is prudent we continue to review the facts and circumstances of individual cases to ensure they continue to satisfy the Code's test. If at any time we consider that the 'test' is no longer met we will not proceed with the case – this is something that we have always done and, indeed required to do.

Are criminal cases in the Scheme being handled differently?

The scheme was open to current and former subpostmasters and those that have been prosecuted. We have adopted a consistent approach to all cases. It is not appropriate for us to comment on individual cases as the process is confidential and we wish to respect the privacy of the subpostmasters involved

Sophie Bialaszewski | Public Affairs Manager

GRO

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POST
OFFICE

From: Sophie Bialaszewski
Sent: 17 March 2014 16:02
To: Mark R Davies
Cc: Jane Hill; Ruth X Barker; Simon E Burton
Subject: Briefing Paper for Paula

Hi Mark – please find attached docs and note below for Paula and Alice. Please do have one last read through before you send off.

Thanks, Sophie

To: Paula and Alice

CC: Martin Edwards, Belinda Crowe, David Oliver, Chris Aujard, Angela Van Den Bogerd

Dear Paula and Alice,

In preparation for your meeting on the 19th March please find attached a draft briefing for the James Arbuthnot and MP meeting on the 24th March (this has been reviewed by Belinda, David, Rodric and Angela has reviewed her section).

We are in contact with James' office, once we know the names of attendees we will also include a short summary of the MPs engagement with the Post Office in the last year (including correspondence into Paula).

We have included the most relevant Q&As in the briefing paper.

Best wishes

Mark

Sophie Bialaszewski | Public Affairs Manager



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