
From: Reeve W (Bill)
Sent: 21 February 2011 17:01
To: Middleton DF (David); McLaughlin AC (Ainslie)
Cc: Johnstone RR (Raymund) (TRANS); Hannaway K (Kenneth); Docherty C (Campbell); Ramsay J (John)
Subject: RE: PAC Tram
Attachments: PAC-transcript-draft1a.doc

Dear David and Ainslie,

Please see my comments as tracked changes in the attached. We had previously prepared a timeline dealing with contract dates, submissions etc. I understand that John Ramsay is updating same, which should answer the “what happened when” questions.

Regards,

Bill R.

From: Middleton DF (David)
Sent: 18 February 2011 15:01
To: McLaughlin AC (Ainslie)
Cc: Johnstone RR (Raymund) (TRANS); Hannaway K (Kenneth); Docherty C (Campbell); Ramsay J (John); Reeve W (Bill)
Subject: FW: PAC Tram

Ainslie

Very good, thank you. Extremely helpful. I have marked some comments/questions on the text.

Given that John’s presence at monthly meetings has been the subject of press comment it might be as well to craft a question and answer around that – to explain what he was there to do and not to do. I think I am right in saying that whatever advice we gave to Ministers in the general run of issues, we also provided a regular report following each progress meeting. Is that right? I know that AS did not for this report study all our files but one day they will and I want whatever we say now to be consistent with what they would see if they did look at those papers. Might be helpful for example to be specific about precise dates when we were aware of particular problems – the utilities movement, the Princes Street tracks etc.

You’ll see from my comments that I’d be quite keen to be able to say that whilst it is entirely proper we relied on CEC, we would have been able to spot something going astray in terms of amounts spent – assuming that is the case.

Since the contract is clearly the nub of all this we had better have a Q&A about when the contract was signed, did we see it? (no I think is the answer) and what our role was at the time it was signed.

Although the contractual dispute is clearly the issue, cost escalation was always, given the £500m cap, going to cause the scope of the project to be examined at some stage. What, if anything, are we recorded as saying to CEC/tie about that? “Up to you when the £500m runs out”, leave it part built or whatever?

Finally as I mentioned to you, I am copying to Bill at this stage for any observations he may wish to offer, and for which we’ll no doubt be very grateful.

We should aim to send off a version to Cab Sec on Tuesday for discussion with him on Thursday.

David

From: McLaughlin AC (Ainslie)
Sent: 17 February 2011 12:58
To: Middleton DF (David)
Cc: Johnstone RR (Raymund) (TRANS); Ramsay J (John); Hannaway K (Kenneth); Docherty C (Campbell)
Subject: PAC Tram

David

Here is my first go at what might form part of your opening statement to PAC. I've tried to cover the main points that came out of the Committee's questioning of AS last week. Some of it may be better kept in reserve as supplementary Q&A, and the ordering of the issues may need to be considered.

In addition to this Raymund and John are pulling together more detailed briefing on facts, figures, quotes and timelines.

You have set up a meeting next week to go over our lines. In the meantime happy to have any comments on this first draft.

Ainslie