

File note of a meeting with Heather Brooke 8 December 2009

Present: Andrew McDonald; Heather Brooke; [REDACTED] (briefly: HB objected to the presence of a "PR")

1. An introductory meeting to take HB's mind on the new scheme, IPSA and openness. HB not enthusiastic about doing so: "it's all in my evidence [to Kelly]". HB opposed to IPSA; the Fees Office should have remained in charge, but with greater openness. Says [REDACTED] maintained that in 2008 only 5 people worked on expenses in the Fees Office.
2. Questions scale and cost of IPSA; asks re estimate and I give her the figures. Wants to know the administrative element of our VOA. I explain the way a VOA works but she would like more on our administrative costs.
3. HB: key thing is that the public should be able to analyse data on expenses: it must all be open source. The [REDACTED] note reflects her views.

Actions:

- IPSA to look again at the [REDACTED] note
- HB/AJMc to call to complete conversation, AJMc giving more information re approval to IT contract.
- AJMc to ask [REDACTED] if can say anything more re admin costs in 2010/11

Andrew McDonald
09.12.09

Postscript

HB wrote a critical article for the Guardian later that week without waiting for answers. [REDACTED] contacted IPSA and we met him. A further call with HB did not seem productive at this stage.

AJMc