

**From:** [REDACTED] (Media)

**Sent:** 04 October 2016 13:22

**To:** James, Jeff; Ottaway-Searle, Caroline; Tullo, Carol; Davies, Paul (Operations Director); Sheridan, John; Johnson, Valerie

**Cc:** Corver, Rachael; [REDACTED]; Jackson, Marcia

**Subject:** David Laws story

All,

You may have seen the story is some media outlets last weekend and in our media monitoring report yesterday regarding the status of the note Liam Byrne left in 2010 for his successor as Chief Secretary to the Treasury. (*Dear Chief Secretary, I'm afraid there is no money. Kind regards - and good luck! Liam*)

Having spoken to IMD colleagues, it transpires that in the normal course of IMC work in June / July 2013, TNA discussed the status of the above note with HMT. It was felt that the note was a public record and that it should be transferred to TNA. The initial suggestion that the record should be transferred to TNA seems to have come from Oliver Morley with [REDACTED] (HMT IMC) working with HMT to achieve this. There isn't anything in Objective to suggest we wrote directly to David Laws – just that we were asking HMT to pursue. From one of [REDACTED] emails ([REDACTED] predecessor at HMT as Departmental Record Officer) to [REDACTED] it sounds like HMT were doing this through the Cabinet Office.

The last communication in Objective is from Aug 2014, from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. It's a response to an email from [REDACTED] asking about progress. [REDACTED] just says he'll look into it.

I will keep you updated of any more interest - press of otherwise.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Media Manager

Press Office: [REDACTED]

Out of hours no: [REDACTED]

The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU

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