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Briefing Note on Status of Testing - 20th November 1998

The MOR3 cycle finished on schedule on Friday 13th November and End-to-End 2 is expected to complete on schedule today. Over the last week a full review has been undertaken of the quality and robustness of the Pathway system and the end-to-end processes in the light of these test cycles.

This has resulted in the conclusions that while counter activity is showing progressive improvements in quality we have not demonstrated the end-to-end data and financial integrity of the system to the extent that is required for entry to the final MOT and E2E run.

The primary reason for this is that the POCL TIP system has identified and rejected many files with *validation and integrity failures* and therefore the scope and volume of data it has processed has been insufficient to give confidence in the POCL 'back office' reconciliation and cash accounting processes.

These failures can be attributed to the following problems:
- *functional errors in cash account production* (where there are 9 outstanding PinICLs)
- *reference data inconsistencies in the testing environments* (which are being addressed for live versions of reference data but which are having to be individually resolved in testing)
- *validation checking in TIP which is now recognised as too rigorous* given the need to provide some level of tolerance on the synchronisation of reference data changes even in the live environment. (However these are not checks which affect the financial integrity of the data but the timing of product-related changes in outlets)
- operational problems which were experienced in MOR3 and E2E 2, due to both *operator error and specific faults identified in the file transmission software*
- a specific number of errors arising from the *office migration process* where it was identified that the current software and process does not correctly handle certain 'local' product types.

A second area of difficulty is that errors are still outstanding on a significant number of the *counter reports and client summaries* which are preventing effective internal reconciliation of data within the outlet.

Finally there are two areas where, although the number of reported faults is relatively low, the significance of the errors in terms of key reconciliation activities between POCL and clients (including BA) means that these have to be cleared prior to MOT. These are:
- *BES reporting and reconciliation including fallback processing*
- *HAPS reporting and reconciliation*

The Horizon Team therefore recommend that the problems in the above areas need to be corrected and that some *specific, targetted retesting activity should be undertaken*

Andrew have a meeting with Pany /Mick cands add next.

prior to entry to MOT. This work is currently being assessed and planned and a formal proposal should be ready by Wednesday 25th November. It is expected to include for example a partial run of the end-to-end cycle of around 8 days to validate end-to-end integrity based on a selection of scripts for some of the offices. It will also include a retest of the office migration process to cover the known problem areas. Before these tests can be run it will be necessary to *fix the outstanding PinICLs and make some relatively small changes to TIP.*

This work will mean that MOT cannot start on 14th December. It is not yet possible to predict a start date with confidence. The scale of the problem suggests that a January start date may be achievable but this will be clarified next week.

Given the recent decision to move the planned date for data centre migration to after Easter, which potentially creates some additional time for testing pre-Easter, it is also not yet clear whether and by how much the above work will delay the start of live trial and national rollout. The follow up work on the Treasury review had resulted in the view that the start of national rollout could be brought forward 3 weeks from mid-August to the end of July. The problems now identified in testing make the August date more likely. These key dates will also be assessed next week.

Clear statement of what is essential prior to start of MOT, + final pass E2E.

Andrew Simpkins
Horizon Release Management
20th November 1998

Andrew is seeking a detailed meeting with Parry/Mole next week. Simpkins.

Simon R. is being phased out of the programme at the end of the calendar year.