

The Right Honourable
G Osborne. MP
11 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Kirk towers
Elmwood Lane
Barwick in Elmet
Leeds LS15 4JS
0113 2813941

24 April 2016

Dear Mr Osborne,

The Nationalisation of Bradford & Bingley (B&B)
Expropriation without Explanation

I write to you from my home address as chairman of the B&B Action Group (BBAG), a voluntary not for profit company limited by guarantee whose management do not receive emoluments or personal expenses. Its main objectives are to discover how and why B&B was nationalised and destroyed as an ongoing business and then how best to re-establish it as a viable bank. Despite thousands of freedom of information requests (FOIA) for information from B&B share and bondholders, successive governments have failed to provide the information requested by resorting to a mixture of obfuscation and subterfuge for over seven years.

Successive governments have also blamed the 2008 banking crisis on a worldwide failure emanating from the USA. This could not be further from the truth as the main causes of the crisis in the UK was first the introduction of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in 2005 by the Government and the European Commission (EU), which enabled greedy bankers to declare false profits. Second, the total failure of the tripartite regulatory authorities in their duty of care to ordinary investors. Third, a Government engineered credit bubble the taxes from which enabled Gordon Brown to spray vote manure at his favourites.

The nil valuation by the independent valuer Peter Clokey resulted from flawed 'in administration' terms of reference, he is on record as stating that different terms of reference could have resulted in a more positive valuation. Various informed sources confirmed to BBAG soon after the nationalisation that there would be a substantial surplus when B&B was finally wound down, we understand that the current estimated surplus is now well in excess of £20 billion.

BBAG would appreciate the following information under the FOIA 2000:-

1. Why did the UK Government destroy B&B as an ongoing business by selling its savings book and retail network?
2. There have been reports in the Press that a substantial proportion of B&B assets are to be sold in the coming months, please confirm whether this is correct?
3. BBAG understands that the UK Government requires the EU's permission to re-establish B&B as an ongoing business – is that correct?

The B&B nationalisation was a flawed decision, made in haste and neither equitable nor consistent with the support given to other banks with far weaker balance sheets. (Local Authority Pension Fund Forum – Post Mortem. September 2011). The majority of nearly one million B&B shareholders were retail investors who were entitled to a duty of care from the UK government and the tripartite who, when the whole truth is uncovered, may well prove to be guilty of gross misfeasance.

In the past you have spoken eloquently of your ambition to develop a Northern Power House, restoring B&B as a viable business would be a major step forward in achieving this goal whilst increasing competition in the banking sector and ensuring Bingley would again become the thriving and prosperous community it once was.

Yours Sincerely

DW Blundell
Chairman BBAG
david.ward-blundell@sky.com