



Date
12 September 2024

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00569

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 10 April, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to this request.

In your email you have requested the information shown verbatim in bold below:

“Is it possible for you to tell me how many sub postmasters were convicted of an offence in the 10 year or such other period of at least 3 years prior to 2002”

You later clarified your request, saying:

“I am interested in all sub postmasters who were prosecuted for an offence regardless of the outcome of such prosecution for a period of 10 years up to 2002.”

Based on your clarification, we have interpreted your request as asking for the number of sub-postmasters (“**postmasters**”) who were prosecuted in the period of 1992 to 2002 and can, therefore, confirm that Post Office does hold some information in scope of your request.

We have interpreted “prosecution” as any case about which Post Office is aware, which resulted in a decision to charge an individual for allegedly committing any one or more offences of varying natures (e.g., robberies, burglaries as well those

involving fraud, theft, and false accounting) and regardless of the prosecuting authority, that is, one of Post Office, Royal Mail Group Limited, the Crown Prosecution Service, Department for Work and Pensions, and the Northern Irish and Scottish prosecutors.

Based on the data available to us as of 21 August 2024, in the period of 1992 to 2002, a total of 357 cases involving postmasters (by which we include sub-postmasters as well as other individuals whose roles are unknown) were commenced that resulted in a prosecution. During the same period, there were 354 other individuals who were prosecuted who held non-postmaster roles.

All such cases have been included, regardless of their outcome, including acquittals, convictions, possible convictions, prosecutions that were discontinued or dropped for other reasons, as well as unknown post-charge outcomes. It excludes all cases that did not result in a decision to charge (e.g., investigations that resulted in no further action or that resulted in a caution).

The total figure is based on the date on which the investigation started, although the outcome of the case might have occurred in a later year. This is the simplest way to identify cases per year, as information as to the date of charge or the eventual outcome in those cases is not always known.

The total figure above includes 7 cases from the 1990s and 6 other cases from the 2000s in which investigations were certainly begun in those decades but we are not certain as to their dates of prosecution. We have included them because they might have been prosecuted within the requested period.

Overall, given the historical nature of the data concerned, with some dating back 32 years, we cannot be certain about the accuracy or completeness of the information we have provided, especially regarding pre-1999 cases. Please note that Post Office continues to receive material from third parties regarding cases. Consequently, the number provided in response to this request may change and is correct only as of 21 August 2024, based on current information known to Post Office.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this response, you do have a right to request an internal review. You can do this by writing to the address above within 40

working days of receipt of this response stating your reasons for your internal review request or alternatively, by emailing information.rights@postoffice.co.uk.
If, having requested an internal review by Post Office, you are still not satisfied with our response you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Team
information.rights@postoffice.co.uk
<https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/en/governance/access-to-information/access-to-information/>

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