



[Redacted]

Date  
20 August 2024

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Post Office  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:  
Public

Dear [Redacted],

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00047

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 9 January, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

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

**“I am requesting information according to Post Office Limited’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information that I request is as follows:**

**To the end of 2023, the full amount spent by Post Office Limited or its subsidiaries on legal services in relation to the faulty Horizon IT computer system, including but not limited to, the sub-postmasters’ Group Litigation, the three compensation schemes, and the Horizon IT Public Inquiry, but excluding any prosecutions brought by Post Office Limited.**

**The law firms and barristers the Post Office Limited or its subsidiaries have instructed in relation to the legal services provided at 1, and what each firm or barrister was paid.**

**I sincerely hope that you will be able to provide the information requested according to Post Office Limited’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and hope for a prompt response.”**

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested.

Please see below table showing the total cost for the time period of September 2014 to 26 March 2024 (Post Office year ends is 26 March 2024). The information is in relation to the Group Litigation, the subsequent establishment of the compensation schemes, legal advice relating to compliance with the Horizon Issues Judgment and the representation at the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry. The costs incurred in the introduction of Horizon and its subsequent replacement(s) are not included, nor is the cost of in-house lawyers working on any of the above-listed matters. These are the costs to Post Office so include the law firm's own fees, disbursements (i.e., fees paid to counsel and/or any other external expert or service provider in relation to the advice) and include irrecoverable VAT at the appropriate rate:

| <b>Law Firms</b>            | <b>Total amount (£'000)</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Crown Office Row          | 18                          |
| 4 Pump Court                | 22                          |
| Ashfords LLP                | 7                           |
| DAC Beachcroft LLP          | 1,332                       |
| Brodies LLP                 | 147                         |
| BTO Solicitors LLP          | 1                           |
| Burges Salmon LLP           | 19,935                      |
| Cartwright King             | 638                         |
| Farrer & Co LLP             | 7                           |
| Herbert Smith Freehills LLP | 163,567                     |
| Innovo Law Ltd              | 202                         |
| Kennedys Law LLP            | 25                          |
| Linklaters                  | 1,196                       |
| Norton Rose Fulbright LLP   | 1,410                       |
| Peters & Peters LLP         | 43,346                      |
| Pinsent Masons              | 345                         |
| Womble Bond Dickinson       | 24,748                      |

It is worth noting that any individual barristers involved in the work detailed above, are paid via disbursements through the law firms, rather than directly by Post Office. To gather the total amount each barrister was paid would involve a manual review of all individual invoices and, therefore, for transparency reasons, we have provided the total amounts paid to each law firm or Chambers, rather than cite the cost of compliance limit under section 12 of the FOIA.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints)

Yours sincerely,

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

**Post Office Limited is committed to protecting your privacy, information about how we do this can be found on our website at [www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy)**

