



Date
25 July 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00463

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**"Post Office"**) on 30 June, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (**"FOIA"**).

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

"I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like to request the following information relating to criminal convictions brought by the Post Office that occurred prior to the introduction of the Horizon computer system in 1999:

1. Number of Applications:

How many applications has your organisation received relating to pre-Horizon Post Office prosecutions (i.e. prior to 1999)?

2. Status of Applications:

Of these pre-Horizon applications:

- * How many have been accepted for review?
- * How many have been referred to the Court of Appeal?
- * How many have resulted in convictions being quashed?

3. Additional breakdown (if available):

- * **General offence types involved (e.g. theft, false accounting)**

- * **Date range of the convictions**

- * **Whether any pre-Horizon Post Office cases are currently under review**

I fully understand that personal data will be exempt under Section 40 of the Act. I am requesting only anonymised, statistical or process-related information. If the request exceeds the cost limits, I would be happy to narrow the scope."

Given the context to your information request, where you refer to "applications" that have been received by Post Office, we have interpreted this to mean applications relating to appeals of conviction. Post Office do not receive applications to appeal convictions, and, as such, we do not hold information within scope of your request.

However, under our section 16 FOIA duty to provide advice and assistance, we can advise that Post Office is aware of three (3) pre-horizon appeals; two Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) appeals are still awaiting an outcome. Post Office is also aware that pre-horizon applications have been made to the Criminal Cases Review Commission ("CCRC"), who recently wrote to the Business and Trade Select Committee on this issue, and their letter can be found here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/48858/documents/256513/default/>

To be helpful further, and in response to question 3, whilst the parameters of your request, i.e., "prior to 1999", does not provide an 'end date' and, therefore is extremely wide ranging, the data we hold is incredibly limited and mostly held in paper copy files. From the limited data we hold, the following investigations have been identified in the 1990's: 'false accounting', 'fraud', 'handling stolen goods', 'money laundering' and 'theft'; this list is not exhaustive. It should be noted that some of these investigations pre-date current legislation such as the Fraud Act and the Proceeds of Crime Act.

The date range of the three cases known to have applied to appeal their convictions before the Horizon IT system was installed, is between 1983 and 2000.

You may wish to contact the CCRC for further information to see if they hold any of the requested information. You can contact the CCRC at the following link:

<https://ccrc.gov.uk/contact-us/>

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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