



Date  
25 June 2024

Post Office  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

**Classification:**  
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00055

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 9 January 2024, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We sincerely apologise for the delay in responding.

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

**“Under the FOI act, please confirm the number of successful convictions of subpostmasters between 1980 and 2023, split by year.”**

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

We have interpreted “conviction” as any case about which Post Office is aware which resulted in a charge and conviction in court of a postmaster (by which we include sub-postmasters as well as other individuals whose roles at the time were unknown), regardless of the alleged offence and the prosecuting authority.

Therefore, the information presented in the table below includes varying nature of alleged offences (e.g., robberies, burglaries as well those involving fraud, theft, and false accounting) prosecuted by Post Office, Royal Mail Group Limited, the Crown Prosecution Service, Department for Work and Pensions, and the Northern Irish and Scottish prosecutors.

Please note that the vast majority of post-2014 convictions were secured by prosecutors other than Post Office.

Year	Number of Convictions
1980	No data
1981	No data
1982	No data
1983	No data
1984	No data
1985	No data
1986	0
1987	2
1988	1
1989	0
1990s*	4
1990	1
1991	4
1992	0
1993	1
1994	3
1995	2
1996	11
1997	22
1998	43
1999	55
2000s*	5
2000	54
2001	43
2002	58
2003	48
2004	44
2005	38
2006	39
2007	29
2008	44

2009	54
2010s*	1
2010	33
2011	40
2012	48
2013	8
2014	4
2015	4
2016	9
2017	8
2018	4
2019	1
2020	No data
2021	No data
2022	No data

*\*This data includes information for that decade, but where the exact year cannot be established.*

In dealing with this request, we have been guided by the considerations below.

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

Overall, given the historical nature of the data concerned, with some dating back 44 years, we cannot be certain about the accuracy or completeness of the information we have provided, especially regarding pre-1999 cases.

Please note that there were other individuals who held roles other than sub-postmasters (e.g. assistants; clerks) who were also prosecuted within this period, who are not included in the figures above, as your request is limited to postmasters.

Post Office continues to receive material from third parties regarding prosecutions and convictions. Consequently, the numbers provided in response to this request are

subject to change and are correct only as of 18 June 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](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/>

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