



[Redacted]

Date
04 September 2024

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [Redacted],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00027

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 5 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:

“1. Between 1 January 1999 and today's date how much in fees has been paid to Womble Bond Dickinson (inc Bond Pearce and Bond Dickinson) for their role in the Post Office Horizon IT scandal?”

2. How much has WBD returned either to the taxpayer or to be paid to the postmasters as compensation?”

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

Please note that we only hold records within our finance system from August 2013.

“1. Between 1 January 1999 and today's date how much in fees has been paid to Womble Bond Dickinson (inc Bond Pearce and Bond Dickinson) for their role in the Post Office Horizon IT scandal?”

We have interpreted the “Horizon IT scandal” as matters relating to the Group Litigation, the subsequent establishment of the compensation schemes, compliance with the Horizon and Common Issues Judgments and the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry. We can confirm the total amount paid to Womble Bond Dickinson (“WBD”), including any name variations of this law firm, from August 2013 up to 31 December 2023 (the closest complete data set we can provide), in relation to the Horizon scandal, is £24,748,000. This includes 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 includes irrecoverable VAT at the appropriate rate.

2. How much has WBD returned either to the taxpayer or to be paid to the postmasters as compensation?”

Post Office does not hold this information, you may wish to contact WBD directly on the following website and email address:

<https://www.womblebonddickinson.com/uk/get-in-touch>

info@wbd-uk.com

Post Office make compensation payments to postmasters, and these are noted in the Annual Reports & Accounts (“ARA”).

The 2022/23 ARA can be found on our website at the link below:

<https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/en/governance/key-reports-statements/post-office-annual-report-accounts-2022-23/>

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/>

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