



[Redacted]

Date
28 May 2024

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [Redacted]

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00539

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 29 March, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We sincerely apologise for the delay in our response.

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

“I am writing to submit a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the payment for legal representation of Paula Vennells by Mishcon de Reya.

As a concerned citizen, I am seeking transparency and accountability regarding the financial arrangements made for legal counsel on behalf of Ms. Paula Vennells. Given the public interest surrounding this matter, I believe it is important to understand the nature and extent of any payments made to Mishcon de Reya for their services and whether the Post Office Ltd is making these payments or Ms Vennells herself is making them.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

- 1. Any records, documents, or correspondence related to the engagement of Mishcon de Reya as legal representatives for Paula Vennells.**
- 2. Details of any financial transactions, including invoices, payments, or reimbursements made to Mishcon de Reya in connection with their representation of Paula Vennells.**

3. Any agreements, contracts, or terms of engagement outlining the scope of services provided by Mishcon de Reya for Ms Vennells and the associated costs incurred.”

We can confirm that Post Office does not hold the information you have requested. The engagement of Mishcon de Reya LLP as Paula Vennells' legal representatives is a matter between the two parties. Post Office have been unable to locate any payments made directly to Ms Vennells since 2020, and we have no records of any payments having been made to Mishcon de Reya LLP.

However, under our section 16 FOIA duty to provide advice and assistance, please be aware that as an ex-Director of Post Office, Ms Vennells is covered under the standard Directors and Officers insurance policy. Therefore, a payment was made to Post Office's insurers in 2021 to cover ongoing legal costs incurred by Ms Vennells relating to the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry. No further payments are currently planned or being considered by Post Office at this time.

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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