



Date
9 May 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00248

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**"Post Office"**) on 27 March, 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:

"Please can you disclose the email sent by UKGI's Tom Cooper to Charles Donald and Sarah Munby of 26 August 2020 [Inquiry ref: UKGI00045960] without the redaction which has been applied to the bullet point on page 3/4, after: 'Since last we spoke'.

I am advised by UKGI, via FOI, that the Post Office has applied this redaction on the grounds of Legal Professional Privilege:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/redaction_of_tom_coopers_email_o/r/esponse/2963590/attach/3/2025%20FOI%20Eleanor%20Shaikh%207.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

It is unclear how an email, sent by UKGI's Tom Cooper to other UKGI officials and not, it would appear to the Post Office, can be claimed by the Post Office retrospectively to be protected by its Legal Privilege.

Moreover when this document was originally disclosed via FOI in 2022 the grounds of Out of Scope, not LPP, were cited for the bullet point being redacted:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/201516_review_into_post_offices/response/2099404/attach/6/Information%20for%20release%2023.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

The UKGI General Counsel, Richard Watson, who was party to the 2020 email exchange was not offering advice either to UKGI or to the Post Office in connection with existing or reasonably contemplated litigation. Instead the email exchange concerns discussions around Tim Parker's role in commissioning the Swift Review. Legal Privilege under which the Swift Review itself was originally protected (and extensive material pertaining to the Swift Review) has already been waived by the Post Office.

There can also be no reasonable justification for this bullet point still to be withheld under LPP when the body of the rest of the email remains unredacted."

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested, please refer to the attached document titled, "FOI2025_00248 - Annex A.pdf".

A small portion of information in the attached is being withheld under sections 40(2) and 40(3A) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to other persons. These sections exempt personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR").

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of personal data.

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