

**From:** [Nick Read](#)  
**To:** [ps.lordchancellor@justice.gov.uk](mailto:ps.lordchancellor@justice.gov.uk); [Secretary Of State INTERNATIONAL TRADE \(TRADE\)](#); [Minister HOLLINRAKE \(DBT\)](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent Letter for Lord Chancellor from Nick Read Post Office Ltd  
**Date:** 09 January 2024 16:52:49  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[240109 Nick Read to Lord Chancellor - FINAL.pdf](#)  
[Lord Chancellor - attachment.pdf](#)

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Please find attached a letter for the urgent attention of the Lord Chancellor

**Nick Read**  
Group CEO

EA: [REDACTED] [@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@postoffice.co.uk)

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**From:** [Ministerial Correspondence](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]@postoffice.co.uk  
**Subject:** Response from the Lord Chancellor  
**Date:** 30 January 2024 16:41:35  
**Attachments:** [Signed Response to Nick Read correspondence - LC Edits.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon

FAO: Mr Nick Read

Please find attached the response from the Minister.

We are sending replies electronically and will not send a hard copy unless you specifically request one.

Thank you for your understanding.

### **Ministerial Correspondence Team**

**Did you know that we have a dedicated email account for MPs and constituency offices? It is [REDACTED]@justice.gov.uk and you can use it to send us electronic queries and constituent concerns. You can forward emails from your constituents and do not need to send us a letter signed by your MP, providing that you use your @parliament.uk account. We just ask that you do not share this dedicated email address with constituents or the public please.**

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Ministry  
of Justice

The Right Honourable  
**Alex Chalk KC MP**  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary  
of State for Justice

Mr Nick Read  
100 Wood Street  
London, EC2V 7AN

Email: [REDACTED]@postoffice.co.uk

**MoJ ref:** SUB 112145

30 January 2024

Dear Mr Read,

### **POST OFFICE CONVICTIONS AND COMPENSATION**

Thank you for your letter of 9 January regarding the Post Office convictions and compensation.

On Wednesday 10 January, the Prime Minister announced the Government will introduce primary legislation in the coming weeks to quash all convictions that were based on the erroneous Horizon evidence and/or the poor behaviour of the Post Office investigation and prosecution teams, behaviour you describe in your letter as 'abysmal'. This blanket exoneration will clear the names of post-masters and mistresses and make sure they can access the compensation they deserve as quickly as possible. Once this legislation is passed and convictions have been quashed, individuals will be entitled to at least £600,000 in compensation to rebuild their lives.

Fairness is at the heart of our justice system and there can be no doubt that innocent post-masters and mistresses have suffered an intolerable, exceptional and unprecedented miscarriage of justice at the hands of Post Office Ltd. These are truly exceptional circumstances, and we must right this wrong quickly, ensuring those convicted can be fairly and swiftly compensated.

This is why the Government has chosen to legislate for a blanket quashing of convictions, rather than doing so on a case-by-case basis. This necessarily means we will not be able to make an assessment of an individual's guilt or innocence. The Government therefore has to accept the risk that some postmasters who committed a crime will have their convictions overturned and will be eligible for compensation. The Government has concluded on the unique facts of this case that such a risk must be accepted to ensure timely justice for the many postmasters who have been so seriously wronged. The principle that underpins our decision is that of the great legal scholar Sir William Blackstone who said "better that ten guilty persons escape, than that one innocent suffer". That said, I and my officials are working with our colleagues in the Department for Business and Trade, who will own the forthcoming legislation, on potential ways to reduce the risk of fraudulent claims without putting unnecessary barriers in the way of genuine victims claiming compensation.

I am grateful for your ongoing support and for Peters & Peters continued engagement. I am aware that my officials are in touch with Post Office Ltd and appreciate the assistance your officials are providing.

Thank you again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely,



**RT HON ALEX CHALK KC MP**

**LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**