



[Redacted]

Date  
20 December 2024

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Post Office  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:  
Public

Dear [Redacted],

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00305

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 18 February, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to this request.

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

**“In response to an article in The Times, DBT Secretary of State, Kemi Badenoch, has today disclosed that an internal investigation into the conduct of Post Office’s ex-Chair, Henry Staunton, was blocked by him.**

**Please can you disclose all internal correspondence which concerns Post Office’s internal investigation into ‘very serious allegations’ regarding Henry Staunton’s conduct. Please include correspondence which relates to Henry Staunton’s actions in blocking these investigations.”**

We can confirm that Post Office does hold some of the information you have requested as provided in the attached document, titled, “FOI2024/00305\_DisclosureRedacted.pdf”.

We have found no information or correspondence to suggest or show that Henry Staunton took any action to block the investigation in question.

In dealing with this request, we have only included entirely internal correspondence and to manage the size of the attached document, we have removed duplicated correspondence. We have removed any information not directly relating to your request from the attached document, as out of scope. It is worth noting that the investigation was carried out on behalf of Post Office by an external barrister.

We have withheld some information under section 42 of the FOIA, which exempts information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained. This is a qualified exemption and, therefore, the public interest test has also been considered. Post Office is satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption by withholding the privileged information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

In reaching this conclusion Post Office has considered a variety of factors for and against disclosure, including the public interest in transparency. Against these factors Post Office notes, in particular, the strong inherent public interest in preserving legal privilege which it considers, in all the circumstances, outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

We have also withheld some information (which includes information we believe Mr Staunton used during his interview that was sent to a Post Office email address in order to print it off) 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 the personal data because the Post Office staff named in the attached document are junior and would not reasonably expect their names, roles and contact details to be disclosed in relation to this request for information. The information fully withheld is entirely Mr Staunton's personal thoughts and opinions, again, which would not be expected to be disclosed under this request for information.

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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