

[REDACTED]

Date  
10 May 2024

[REDACTED]

Post Office  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

**Classification:**  
Public

Dear [REDACTED]

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00480

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 21 March, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We sincerely apologise for the delay in responding.

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

**“I would like to know how many sub-postmasters were issued cautions linked to the Horizon IT system between 1999 and 2015. Could the data also be categorised per year.**

**Or how many cautions have been issued by the Post Office? (if this request needs to be more specific).**

**Victims who received cautions, with no right of appeal, have been included in the new Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill. I believe it is in the public interest to know how many this could involve.”**

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information within scope of your request. The response below relates to your first question.

Based on the data available to us, as of 23 April 2024, 158 postmasters were issued with cautions between 1999 and 2015, either directly by Post Office or by another body (for example, the Police) with the involvement of Post Office. Please see Annex A at the end of this letter for the yearly breakdown of these cautions.

Given some of these records are over 25 years old, we cannot be certain about the accuracy or completeness of the data. We are, therefore, unable to confirm whether every postmaster that received a caution between 1999 and 2015 has been captured. We are also unable to determine whether all of the cautions received by postmasters, were based on evidence relating to the Horizon IT system.

Where we cannot confirm the actual dates on which the cautions were issued, we have included the cautions where the underlying cases were opened within the date parameters of your request and categorised them, for the purpose of responding to your request, as having been issued within the corresponding year.

Please note that Post Office continues to manually review historic investigation case files. We have provided the information we currently hold, as attempting to locate and retrieve further data within scope of your request, would likely hit the cost limits under section 12 of the FOIA. Given this review is ongoing, it is possible that the information we are providing you in this response letter may be superseded as the review progresses.

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/>

**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](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy)**

## Annex A

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of cautions	20	12	17	11	10	12	14	5	7	5	16	15	8	3	0	1	2