



Date
27 June 2024

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Classification:
Public

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00601

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 14 April, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

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

“Please can you disclose Post Office Board Minutes from January 2009 to December 2009 inclusive.”

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information that you have requested. Please see attached document, titled “FOI2024_00601_POL 2009 Board Minutes_Redacted.pdf” which contains all Post Office board meeting minutes held between January 2009 and December 2009.

We have withheld some of the information within the disclosable document under the exemptions at section 43 of the FOIA, relating to commercial interests, and section 40 of the FOIA, relating to personal information.

Section 43(2) is engaged as disclosing the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Post Office and third-party organisations. This exemption is qualified and therefore a public interest test must be carried out to determine if it is in the public interest for it to be maintained. The factors that both support and that negate publication are set out below.

We recognise that there is a public interest in full disclosure of the Post Office Board minutes, as this helps promote transparency in how the Post Office Board conducts their business and enables the public to better understand the ways of working in Post Office, including how decisions are made.

On the other hand, the information you have requested includes sensitive dialogue relating to pension conversations which is still relevant to Post Office's current situation as this is something that is constantly reviewed with our Trustees. Disclosure of the information would not be in the public interest as Post Office would be unable to operate in a fair marketplace thus leading to harm commercially.

We have also withheld personal data within the information 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 staff involved would not reasonably expect their names, job roles and/or signatures to be disclosed in relation to 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.

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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