



[Redacted]

Date
22 August 2024

[Redacted]

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [Redacted],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00230

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited ("**Post Office**") on 31 January, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**"). We apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

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

"I would like to know:

How much the post office spent on the use of BTO solicitors in Scotland to assist your investigators involved in fraud/theft cases in Scotland?

When BTO was instructed and how long they were instructed for?

What assistance BTO provided to the Post Office."

We can confirm that Post Office does hold some of the information you have requested.

BTO were instructed to provide support and advice for Post Office Limited Scotland on aspects of Scottish criminal procedure when Post Office Limited was preparing potential prosecution cases to report to The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for their review as sole Prosecuting Authority in Scotland and their

consideration of any further procedure, they deemed appropriate or necessary in the public interest in discharge of their statutory function.

Post Office can see from our records, the earliest year BTO were instructed in was 2013, with the most recent year being 2018.

We have found a record of £32,445 in total (including VAT) being paid to BTO Solicitors for the years 2014-2018. Unfortunately, we have no additional information about this payment including whether it was made directly or by disbursement through another law firm. We are unable to find any purchase order or invoice for this payment. We therefore are unable to confirm if this payment was made to assist investigators involved in fraud/theft cases in Scotland.

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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