



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date
23 July 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00290

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**"Post Office"**) on 25 April 2025, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (**"FOIA"**). We previously extended this case whilst we considered the public interest test for section 43(2), relating to commercial interests.

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

"The information that I request is as follows:

The total cost of external Law Firms employed by Post Office Limited, and any subsidiary or associated companies, for the time period of September 2014 to the current Financial Year end date (March 2025) for Post Office Limited. The information requested is in relation to the external engagement on the Group Litigation, the subsequent establishment and administering of various Compensation Schemes, legal advice relating to compliance with the Horizon Issues Judgment and representation at the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry.

I trust that you will be able to provide the information requested in a timely manner and look forward to a response within the stipulated 20 day timeframe.

A simple update to Freedom of Information Request/Response Ref.

FOI2024/00047 dated 20th August 2024 will suffice and assist in meeting the 20 day deadline.”

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

Please find a table in Annex A, detailing the total costs incurred by Post Office Limited for the period from 27 March 2024 to 31 March 2025. This time period aligns with the Post Office’s end of financial year, which concluded on the 5 April 2025. These totals are fees both billed and estimated to have been incurred during the time parameters of your information request, based on the information available. Once externally audited they show the same representation of spend as in our Annual Report and Accounts.

The costs presented relate specifically to:

- The Group Litigation.
- The establishment and administration of compensation schemes.
- Legal advice concerning compliance with the Horizon Issues Judgment.
- Representation at the Post Office Horizon IT (“**POHIT**”) Inquiry.

In the spirit of transparency and to bring this response in line with our previous FOIA response, under reference FOI2024/00047, we are including but not limiting costs to the above activities. Therefore, we have included any legal spend which may fall within the wider interpretation of this FOIA request.

You can find the response to FOI2024/00047 published on the Post Office corporate website at the following link:

https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/media/40bm4w3g/foia-response_foi2024_00047_redacted.pdf

Please be aware that the table in Annex A includes all law firms who acted on behalf of Post Office, where they carried out one or more of the above activities. Thus, not all law firms carried out all of the above activities on behalf of Post Office.

Please note that the figures do **not** include:

- Costs associated with the original implementation of the Horizon system or its subsequent replacements.
- Internal costs for in-house legal personnel involved in the above matters.

The reported amounts reflect expenses borne directly by Post Office. These include external legal fees, disbursements (such as payments to counsel and other external experts or service providers), and irrecoverable VAT at 10%.

It is important to note that individual barristers involved in the matters outlined above are paid via disbursements processed through the instructing law firms, rather than being paid directly by Post Office. Locating the total amount paid to each barrister would require a manual review of all individual invoices.

In the interest of transparency and to avoid invoking the cost of compliance limit under exemption section 12 of the FOIA we have instead provided the total amounts paid to each law firm or Chambers.

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/>

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

Annex A

Law Firms	Total amount (£'000)
1 Crown Office Row	1
Ashfords	33
Brodies LLP	132
Burges Salmon LLP	18,891
Herbert Smith Freehills	24,526
Peters & Peters	8,246
Pinsents	941
Womble Bond Dickinson	26
Chattertons	5
DLA Piper UK LLP	17
Farrer & Co LLP	1
Innovo Law Ltd	50
Norton Rose Fulbright LLP	12
Simmons & Simmons LLP	283
Stephenson Harwood LLP	2