



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date  
16 October 2024

Post Office  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref: FOI2024/00307

**Classification:**  
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/01276

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

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

**“Lastly as you steered me to Simon Recaldins evidence of a year ago has the Post Office been able to establish a % figure for just how much SPM prosecutions increased following the roll out of Horizon?”**

We are aware that the context to your current email relates to an information request you submitted on 22 February 2023 (ref: FOI2023/00096) and that was discussed during Simon Recaldin’s evidence in Phase 4 of the Post Office Horizon IT (“**POHIT**”) Inquiry on 29 September 2023. This asked (verbatim):

**Can you say how many SPM's you prosecuted between 1990 and 1999?  
Can you say how many SPM you prosecuted between 2000 and 2009?  
What is the % increase in the latter figure? What % of 1990-1999 convictions were overturned? What % Of the latter figure were overturned?”**

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested. As your request is asking for the percentage increase in prosecutions in relation to the

roll-out of the Horizon IT system, we note the following which impacts the figures we have provided:

1. We have included only cases between 1990 to 2000 which were pre-Horizon prosecutions (i.e., where Horizon was not installed at branch when the offence took place), and are cases that would have relied on data equivalent to Horizon, had Horizon been installed at the time that the offence took place (i.e., are similar offences or similar conduct in nature to those that were prosecuted with Horizon evidence after being installed in branch).
2. We have only included cases between 2000 to 2009 which were post-Horizon installation prosecutions that relied in whole or in part on Horizon data.
3. The figures provided includes postmasters, those whose roles could not be identified and other individuals who were prosecuted in the requested period (e.g. assistants and clerks), and is not limited to postmasters.
4. Only Post Office related prosecutions have been included (i.e. those that were prosecuted by Post Office Limited or Royal Mail Group Limited prior to the separation of the two entities in April 2012), rather than prosecutions undertaken by other prosecutors during the relevant time periods.
5. All such cases have been included, regardless of their outcome, including acquittals, convictions, possible convictions, prosecutions that were discontinued or dropped for other reasons, as well as unknown post-charge outcomes. All cases that did not result in a decision to charge (e.g., investigations that resulted in no further action or that resulted in a caution) have been excluded.
6. The figures have been calculated according to the date on which an investigation started, although the prosecution might have occurred in a later year. This is the simplest way to identify cases within the time period of your request, as information as to the date of charge is not always known. Please note also that the numbers between 1990 to 1999 and separately 2000 to 2009 also include cases where the date on which the investigation started is not known, but it is known that the investigation commenced at some point within that respective decade.

7. Overall, given the historical nature of the data concerned, with some dating back 34 years, we cannot be certain about the accuracy or completeness of the information we have provided, especially regarding pre-1999 cases.
8. Please note that Post Office continues to receive material from third parties regarding cases. Consequently, the numbers provided in response to this request may change and are correct only as of 15 October 2024, based on current information known to Post Office.

*The number of Horizon-equivalent prosecutions between 1990 and 2000? 333*

*The number of prosecutions using Horizon data between 2000 and 2009? 633*

*The percentage increase between periods? 90%*

Please note, we believe the percentage figure provided does not necessarily reflect the actual change in prosecutions due to the roll out of the Horizon IT system, given the limitation of the data, particularly pre-1999, and the issues raised above.

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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