



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date
19 November 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 7ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00382

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**"Post Office"**) on 3 June 2025, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (**"FOIA"**).

We sincerely apologise for the length of time it has taken to provide this response. Unfortunately, the accounting process has changed over the last 10 years in Post Office, which has made providing the information far more challenging than we expected.

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

"In August 2024, the Post Office responded to a Freedom of Information request from the publication, "The Lawyer" and provided details of the payments it had made to fifteen law firms and two barristers' chambers between September 2014 and March 2024.

I am also writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and would ask you to provide the breakdown of these payments and to update the information to the end of March this year.

Please would you confirm whether these amounts included the payment of the legal fees for your former Chief Executive, Paula Vennels and what they amounted to."

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

Please see the table below, which details the costs incurred by Post Office between 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2025. When calculating the costs, Post Office has used its purchase order system, associated accounting general ledger and other records. Amounts represent invoices received from law firms.

Law Firm	Total amount (£'000)
1 Crown Office Row	18
4 Pump Court	22
Ashfords LLP	8
DAC Beachcroft LLP	1,306
Brodies LLP	258
BTO Solicitors LLP	1
Burges Salmon LLP ⁽¹⁾	38,536
Cameron McKenna	67
Cartwright King Limited ⁽²⁾	638
Chattertons Solicitors	5
DLA Piper UK LLP	17
Farrer & Co	7
Herbert Smith Freehills LLP ⁽¹⁾	185,959
Innovo Law Ltd	268
Linklaters	1,196
Matrix Chambers	78
Monckton Chambers	12
Norton Rose Fulbright	1,816
Peters & Peters Solicitors LLP	45,559
Pinsent Masons	928
Simmons & Simmons LLP	236
Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP	24,774

⁽¹⁾ The costs relating to Burges Salmon LLP and Herbert Smith Freehills LLP contains amounts for Post Office's Counsel representation to the Inquiry alongside other disbursements mentioned below.

⁽²⁾ Cartwright King Limited went into liquidation in 2022, the new current company has not worked with or received payment from Post Office.

The total provided relates to the Group Litigation Order (“**GLO**”), including the pre-dating mediation, the post GLO period, the establishment and administration of compensation schemes, legal advice concerning compliance with the Horizon Issues Judgment, and representation at, or work relating to the Post Office Horizon IT (“**POHIT**”) Inquiry.

These amounts include irrecoverable VAT, which ranged from 9%-10% depending on the financial year.

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

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 which would hit the section 12 FOIA cost limit.

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 costs of independent witness relating to the POHIT Inquiry.

Regarding payments made to cover the POHIT Inquiry legal fees of former Post Office Chief Executive, Paula Vennells, one payment was to Kennedys Law LLP for the sum of £25,000 in 2021; and one payment was made to Mishcon de Reya for the sum of approximately £115,000 in 2022.

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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