



[Redacted]

Date
21 May 2024

[Redacted]

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [Redacted]

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00123

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 17 January 2024, 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:

“Please could you tell me the total amount of fees paid to the law firm Herbert Smith Freehills and its predecessor Herbert Smith in respect of all matters related to:

- 1. Claims against and prosecutions of sub-postmasters; and**
 - 2. Otherwise in relation to the Horizon IT system,**
- in each case since 1999.”**

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

Post Office appointed Herbert Smith Freehills (“**HSF**”) in April 2019 as a new legal adviser in respect of the Group Litigation Order, and so they were not involved in any claims or prosecutions against Postmasters.

Please see the below table showing the fees paid to HSF (and any predecessors) that include disbursements and irrecoverable VAT, in relation to matters relating to Horizon:

Financial year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Total Paid (£'000)	13,512	21,311	47,490	51,090

Please note, Post Office commissioned HSF for one project in 2017, but this was unrelated to the Horizon IT system.

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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