



[Redacted]

Date
25 June 2024

[Redacted]

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [Redacted],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00030

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 7 January 2024, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We sincerely apologise for the delay in responding.

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

“Can you please supply me with the number of yearly Prosecutions of sub Post Office Masters before Horizon installation in 2019 and afterwards upto end of scandal.”

Your subsequent clarification was:

“Would you kindly supply me with the number of prosecutions per year for the following period, 1995 through to 2015”

We have, therefore, interpreted your request as asking for the number of sub-postmaster (“postmaster”) prosecutions, per year, between 1995 and 2015, or where the role of the individual was unknown.

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested as presented in the table below:

Year	Postmaster Prosecutions
1990s*	6
1995	2
1996	11
1997	25
1998	46
1999	62
2000s**	6
2000	64
2001	48
2002	81
2003	62
2004	54
2005	51
2006	56
2007	38
2008	48
2009	57
2010s***	1
2010	37
2011	42
2012	51
2013	10
2014	6
2015	5
Total	869

*During the 1990s but where exact year cannot be established

** During the 2000s but where exact year cannot be established

***During the 2010s but where exact year cannot be established

In dealing with your request, we have been guided by the considerations below.

We have interpreted “prosecution” as any case about which Post Office is aware which resulted in a decision to charge an individual, regardless of the alleged offence and the prosecuting authority. It, therefore, includes alleged offences of varying

nature (e.g., robberies, burglaries as well those involving fraud, theft, and false accounting) prosecuted by Post Office, Royal Mail Group Limited, the Crown Prosecution Service, Department for Work and Pensions, and the Northern Irish and Scottish prosecutors.

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. It excludes 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).

Based on the limited data available to us as of 18 June 2024, in the period of 1999 to 2015, a total of 869 cases involving postmasters (by which we include sub-postmasters as well as other individuals whose roles at the time were unknown) were commenced that resulted in a prosecution. Please note that there were other individuals who held roles other than postmasters (e.g. assistants; clerks) who were also prosecuted within this period, who are not included in the figures above, as your request is limited to postmasters.

The yearly breakdown in the table above is based on the date on which the investigation started, although the outcome of the case might have occurred in a later year. This is the simplest way to identify cases per year, as information as to the date of charge or the eventual outcome in those cases is not always known.

Overall, given the historical nature of the data concerned, with some dating back 29 years, we cannot be certain about the accuracy or completeness of the information we have provided, especially regarding pre-1999 cases.

Please note that Post Office continues to receive material from third parties regarding prosecutions and convictions. Consequently, the numbers provided in response to this request are subject to change and are correct only as of 18 June 2024, based on current information known to Post Office.

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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