



Date
27 March 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00019

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**Post Office**) on 12 January, 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:

“In Sir Alex Chisholm's Witness Statement to the Post Office Inquiry

(<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.postofficehorizoninquiry.org.uk%2Fvidence%2Fwitn00180100-sir-alex-chisholm-kcb-witness-statement%23%3A~%3Atext%3DAttachments-%2CWITN00180100.pdf%2C-Evidence%2520information&data=05%7C02%7Cinformation.rights%40postoffice.co.uk%7Cca31cc0d3d5049e63b4908dd32f46f50%7C6b3c4bb26f2645af97b3fdd2a7a60f9%7C1%7C1%7C638722747634329652%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOIjoiTWFpbcIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oKCy00u9Zz7xZF%2Bx%2FdZClt%2FUNvbi69bHh6efcwVbSDs%3D&reserved=0>) he

references the following letters:

1) Letter from Alex Chisholm to Nick Read dated 6th September 2019

Re: Accountable Person: Instruction From BEIS Permanent Secretary To The CEO Of Post Office Ltd on Accountabilities and Responsibilities.

(Inquiry Ref. POL00288398)

2) Letter from Alex Chisholm to Alisdair Cameron dated 9th June 2019
Re: Accountable person: Instruction from BEIS Permanent Secretary to the CEO of Post Office Ltd on Accountabilities and Responsibilities (Inquiry Ref. UKG100010163)

3) Sir Alex Chisholm also states in his oral evidence referencing this type of Letter from a Perm Sec to the CEO of Post office Limited" "That would have been done for Paula Vennells who was appointed before my time as Accountable Officer".

Please be kind enough to disclose the 3 above referenced Letters from Perm Secs to the CEOs of Post Office Limited."

We can confirm that Post Office does hold some of the information you have requested. Please find attached letter 1 **"FOI2025_00019-Letter from Alex Chisholm to Nick Read (signed 6 sept)_Redacted"** and letter 3 **"FOI2025_00019-190103_Letter_ActoPV_Redacted"**. Despite extensive searches we have been unable to locate letter 2 so this information is not held.

A small amount of information has been withheld from letters 1 and 3 under sections 40(2) and 40(3A) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to other persons. These sections exempt personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR").

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because the individuals involved would not reasonably expect their contact details to be disclosed in relation to this request for information.

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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