

Date 21 October 2024

Post Office 100 Wood Street London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:



## Freedom of Information Request - FOI2024/01284

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited ("Post Office") on 21 September 2024, 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:

"Can you please provide the number & names of the post office branches that had "notice of termination of your Subpostmaster contract" sent to them as part of Network Transformation?"

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

For context, under Network Transformation, a Notice of Termination was only sent to Postmasters following consultations and their chosen option to leave the network.

We can advise that 2,559 Post Office branches requested to leave the network, the names of which are being withheld 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 as the former or current Postmasters would not reasonably expect their Branch names to be disclosed in relation to this request for information as this forms part of their personal data.

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 <a href="mailto:information.rights@postoffice.co.uk">information.rights@postoffice.co.uk</a>.

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 <a href="mailto:information.rights@postoffice.co.uk">information.rights@postoffice.co.uk</a> <a href="https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/en/governance/access-to-information/">information/access-to-information/</a>

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