



[Redacted]

Date
20 June 2024

[Redacted]

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [Redacted],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00706

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 25 April, 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:

“This is email is a formal Freedom of Information request for disclosure of amounts spent by Post Office Limited on fees with the following accounting and legal firms in the following periods:

A. Period of information requested - each of the financial years ending March 2000 to March 2023

B. Firms with whom expenditure incurred by Post Office Limited:

1. Accountancy firms

PWC (PriceWaterhouseCoopers)

EY (Ernst & Young)

KPMG

Deloittes

2. Forensic accountants

Second Sight

3. Solicitors

Womble Bond Dickinson (and previously as Bond Pearce and Bond Dickinson)”

Whilst we hold the information sought, we do not hold it in a readily accessible format and therefore in accordance with our duties under section 16 of the Act, we have provided the table in Annex 1 at the end of this letter, showing information from 2014 to 2023 that contains the total sums paid to each firm.

It is worth noting that Post Office and Royal Mail Group separated in 2012, and Post Office’s finance system only holds information going back to 2014.

Although Royal Mail are not subject to FOIA, you may wish to contact them to see if they hold any of the requested information. You can call the Royal Mail Customer Services on 08457 740 740 or visit them online at:

<https://personal.help.royalmail.com/app/webforms/contact/c/310>.

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/>

Post Office Limited is committed to protecting your privacy, information about how we do this can be found on our website at www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy



Annex 1

Amounts paid in pounds (£) to the named company, per financial year including the law firm's own fees, disbursements (i.e., fees paid to counsel and/or any other external expert or service provider in relation to the advice, etc) and VAT.

Company Name	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Deloitte	2,086,720	2,557,721	1,065,639	1,004,065	697,761	1,392,580	851,851	1,605,189	787,443
Ernst & Young	75,992	651,260	1,479,646	617,855	757,025	0	7,486	0	159,734
KPMG	248,636	1,996,728	1,716,109	568,562	1,635,829	470,438	1,487,888	9,943,947	3,064,903
PriceWater-houseCoopers	279,905	456,059	329,989	434,693	653,872	1,026,944	861,852	1,535,873	1,825,255
Second Sight	461,598	262,270	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Womble Bond Dickinson*	1,871,292	2,730,301	2,971,203	4,365,445	9,961,932	13,598,781	5,171,468	2,377,033	1,483,873

*includes any previous company names