



Date

11 June 2024

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00625

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

“Please may we request the disclosure in full of the report detailing the investigation into speak up allegations against Nick Read, CEO and announced today - including the recommendations.”

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

However, we are withholding the report under section 31(1)(c) of the FOIA, relating to where disclosure would be likely to prejudice the administration of justice. This exemption is engaged because providing the information will likely prejudice an ongoing litigation to which the information is relevant and to which Post Office is a party.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of this report as this enhances transparency about the ways of working within Post Office.

On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding information where disclosure would be likely to prejudice the administration of justice. In this case, disclosure could undermine the ongoing litigation to which the report relates, as information released under the FOIA could enable any litigant to bypass litigation disclosure provisions.

Please note that Post Office has already released a public statement that provides some information in connection with this independent investigation. We believe this helps to serve the public interest in this matter, and this article can be found at the following link:

<https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/en/governance/key-reports-statements/post-office-comment-on-investigation-into-speak-up-allegations/>.

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