



[Redacted]
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Date
10 September 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [Redacted],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00518

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited ("**Post Office**") on 24 July 2025, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**"). We previously extended this case whilst we have considered the public interest in section 43, relating to commercial interests.

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

**"Please could I request a breakdown of the total costs attributed to Herbert Smith Freehills for the period Sept 2014 to March 2025 - £188 Million.
As follows:**

- 1. Involvement in the Bates vs POL GLO Case including negotiating the Settlement Deed**
- 2. Setting up the HSS Scheme**
- 3. Setting up the OCS Scheme**
- 4. Administering the HSS & OCS Schemes.**
- 5. Representing POL at the Public Inquiry**
- 6. Assisting POL Executive and other Inquiry Witnesses with Statements. etc.**
- 6. Any other cost centre**

Please also be kind enough to confirm if the £15 Million contract awarded in Oct 2024 to handover to Pinsent Masons/others is included in the £24,526,000 for the f/y 2024/25."

We can confirm that Post Office does hold information within scope of your request. However, due to the way that the financial information is recorded on our systems,

we are unable to provide the breakdown in the way that you have requested. We have, therefore, provided the information to 'best fit' the categories you requested.

The updated financial figures provided reflect accruals accounting and include disbursements (such as payments to Counsel and other external experts or service providers) and irrecoverable VAT, in line with the presentation of legal expenditure in the Post Office's Annual Report and Accounts. Please note that figures covering the period from April 2024 to March 2025 remain unaudited and are subject to revision until the finalisation of the accounts later this year.

Costs Commentary	Approximate Cost (£m)
Involvement in the "Bates vs Post Office" Group Litigation Order ("GLO") Case, including negotiating the Settlement Deed	6
Short period following the GLO and before its formation of the Horizon Shortfall Scheme	4
Assisting Post Office Witnesses with Statements during the Post Office IT Horizon ("POHIT") Inquiry	3
Legal support as recognised legal representative of Post Office during POHIT Inquiry	83
Supporting Peters and Peters LLP in the formation of the Criminal Cases Review Commission workstream	2
Involvement in the Overturned Convictions workstream	17
Involvement in Horizon Shortfall Scheme	72
All other costs, including Central, Operations and Post Office Process Review	6

Approximately £7.8m of the referenced £15m contract was incurred during the 2024/25 financial year, however, please note this is still subject to audit.

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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