



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date
2 June 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00312

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**"Post Office"**) on 2 May, 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:

"From 2000 to the present day, please give the number of full-time, qualified lawyers (ie solicitors, barristers or legal executives) employed by the Post Office in-house at the end of each calendar year. Please also break this down in terms of those employed in the criminal and civil teams."

We can confirm that Post Office does hold some information within the scope of your request, which has been captured by financial year, rather than by calendar year. Please note, Post Office separated from the Royal Mail Group on 1 April 2012, and so we do not hold information prior to the 2011-12 financial year.

A manual search of our human resources systems was carried out for job titles that match specific keywords, which included "legal", "lawyer" and "counsel", where the role holder was likely to be a UK-qualified lawyer. We have not searched for employees that may be a UK-qualified lawyer, but who were not employed in a legal role at Post Office. We have also excluded any legal roles where the employee would not be a UK-qualified lawyer, such as paralegals and trainees.

As the information is a snapshot of a specific date, the data would not take into account employees in legal roles who joined and left Post Office within the same financial year.

Please find the table below, which provides the number of in-house lawyers as of 31 March, for each year between 2012 and 2025.

Date	Number of In-house Lawyers	Number of In-house Criminal Lawyers
31/03/2012	8	0
31/03/2013	13	Fewer than 5
31/03/2014	13	Fewer than 5
31/03/2015	10	0
31/03/2016	12	0
31/03/2017	15	0
31/03/2018	17	0
31/03/2019	15	0
31/03/2020	13	0
31/03/2021	18	0
31/03/2022	25	0
31/03/2023	40	0
31/03/2024	53	0
31/03/2025	42	0

Where there are fewer than 5 employees in a specific role category, the information has been 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 because it is highly likely that individuals within these categories

would be identified, and they would not reasonably expect their personal data 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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