



Date
23 January 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/01627

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**"Post Office"**) on 20 December, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (**"FOIA"**).

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested in your email, shown verbatim in bold below with our answers in turn:

"1) The total amount of taxpayers' money spent defending the post office at the inquiry into the wrongful prosecution of its workers."

In terms of the "inquiry" we are interpreting the question as asking for total cumulative spend responding to the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry, which is £176.7m up to the end of December 2024. For clarity, Post Office is a core participant of the Horizon IT Inquiry and legal/operational expenditure is to meet its duty as a core participant including associated witnesses rather than defend.

"2) The total amount of taxpayers' money spent prosecuting its workers between 1999 and the current date."

The information that you have requested is available from the Post Office Corporate Website in the page 'FOIA requests and responses' at the following links:

https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/media/wuxpyunx/foia-response_foi2024_00779_redacted.pdf

https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/media/pwyem2tk/foia-response_foi2024_00230_redacted.pdf

As the information is reasonably accessible to you by other means, under section 21 of the FOIA, Post Office are not required to provide a copy of the information with this response.

“3) The total amount of taxpayers' money spent defending compensation claims brought by former employees between 1999 and the current date. Best estimates of these totals are acceptable.”

We have interpreted the term ‘taxpayers’ money’ in the question as referring to the specific funding provided by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) since April 2023. The total amount up to the end of December 2024 is £138m. For clarity, this figure is not in relation to “defending” compensation claims, but how much Post Office has spent on settling the compensation claims.

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