



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date
5 June 2025

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00325

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**“Post Office”**) on 8 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:

“I am requesting that the Post Office remove a redaction applied to document which has been released by UKGI under FOI 1220141 (link below).

An email of Tom Cooper of 21 June 2020 (Annex B) reads:

‘Although not a definitive account - and it may well be we will never get one because many of the Board meetings consisted of verbal briefings - the report supports the idea [REDACTION] There is a list in the report. This behaviour seems to have pre-dated Tim Parker’s appointment as Chairman.’

According to UKGI’s response, received today, the Post Office is upholding this redaction on the grounds of its Legal Professional Privilege despite the fact that the body of the document is not protected by LPP and the underlying material which I am requesting to see makes reference to ‘an idea’ which cannot in itself be protected by LPP.

I am not asking for disclosure of the report to which this email refers (which may well be protected by LPP), I am seeking disclosure of this particular sentence."

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested. However, we have determined that this should be withheld under section 42(1) of the FOIA, which relates to information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained. This is a qualified exemption and therefore the public interest test has also been considered.

Post Office has considered a variety of factors for and against disclosure. Factors in favour of disclosure, includes the public interest in transparency, particularly given the ongoing Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry, as that provides the public with a further understanding of how Post Office works, including in its decision making.

However, Post Office notes the strong inherent public interest in preserving legal privilege. The information you have requested is a description of a report, the substance of which, is a repetition of privileged legal advice given to Post Office and has not been waived. It is not in the public interest for advice between legal advisors and clients to be shared in an open forum, such as through the FOIA.

We therefore consider, in all the circumstances, the factors in favour of maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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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