



[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Date  
16 August 2024

Post Office  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

**Classification:**  
Public

Dear [Redacted],

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/00165

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 20 January, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”). We sincerely apologise for the delay in our response.

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

**“Please supply the names of any person not employed or contracted by PostOffice Ltd after 1 Jan 2020 to whom Post Office Ltd has contributed payments in respect of lawyer or legal fees relating to research, witness statements or evidence to the Post Office Horizon Inquiry.”**

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested. As of 14 August 2024, contribution payments in respect of lawyer/legal fees relating to the Post Office Horizon IT (“**POHIT**”) Inquiry have been made to four ex-Post Office employees (those employed and subsequently left before 1 January 2020).

We can confirm that former Post Office Chair Alice Perkins, and former Post Office General Counsel, Susan Crichton, are two individuals within scope of your request.

We have withheld two further names 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 the information relates to former Post Office employees considered at junior grades, and who would not reasonably expect their name to be disclosed in relation to this request for information.

Under our section 16 FOIA duty to provide advice and assistance, we can confirm that some former Post Office employees are covered under the standard Directors and Officers Insurance Policy. Therefore, any payment(s) made by Post Office in respect of lawyer/legal fees relating to the POHIT Inquiry, would be direct to the insurer rather than to any former employee.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints)

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Team  
[information.rights@postoffice.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy)**