



Information Rights Team
Post Office Limited
Ground Floor
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20 Finsbury Street
London EC2Y 9AQ

Your reference:
Our reference: FOI2021/00304

Ms Eleanor Shaikh
request-746570-22f32390@whatdotheyknow.com

12 May 2021

Dear Ms Shaikh,

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2021/00304

I refer to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**") as follows:

"According to the DTI Committee Eleventh Report of 1999, an interdepartmental group named the Horizon Working Group was established in March 1998. A second Horizon Working Group was established on May 28th 1999 by DTI Minister of State Ian McCartney and lasted until at least July 2000. It may also be referred to as the Horizon sub-committee.

I would be most grateful if you would disclose minutes of the Horizon Working Group from May 1999 up to and including the acceptance of Horizon by Post Office on 26th October 1999. Please can you also identify attendees at the meetings including the DTI representative.

If permitted within the time/cost allocation of my FOI request, please can you also indicate when this Horizon Working Group ceased meeting?"

Post Office Limited ("**POL**") has carried out reasonable and proportionate searches for the minutes that are responsive to your request. However, POL has been unable to locate any of the requested minutes. In line with the Section 45 FOIA Code of Practice (see for example paragraph 1.12) and other ICO guidance¹, POL has concluded that on the balance of probabilities, the requested information is not held.

POL notes that the minutes that are responsive to your request relate to Horizon Working Group meetings held over twenty years ago. POL also notes that the Horizon Working Group was established by the Department for Trade and Industry ("**DTI**") and therefore any minutes are perhaps more likely to be held by the DTI's successor body, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ("**BEIS**"), albeit POL has not made any enquiries of BEIS in this regard and makes no assurances that BEIS holds the minutes. If you would still like to obtain copies of the Horizon Working Group minutes, then you may wish to consider submitting a FOIA request in similar terms to BEIS.

If you have any queries about this response, please contact me. Do remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

¹ See eg https://ico.org.uk/media/1169/determining_whether_information_is_held_foi_eir.pdf.

I hope the information I have provided on this occasion is useful, however 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 below stating your reasons for your internal review request.

Information Rights Manager
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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
<https://ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Lawrence
Information Rights Team
information.rights@postoffice.co.uk
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