



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

Your reference:  
Our reference: FOI2022/00384

John O'Sullivan  
request-867455-e927655f@whatdotheyknow.com

10 August 2022

Dear Mr O'Sullivan,

### **Freedom of Information Request – FOI2022/00384**

I am writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 6 June, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”).

In your email you have requested the following information:

*“Can you please confirm if Post Office staff who are called to give evidence to this Inquiry have or will be given legal assistance in preparing statements?”*

*How many have been so called?*

*Has the Post Office contacted any former employees or members of other Organisations to offer help and advice in drawing up statements for this Inquiry?”*

We can confirm that Post Office holds the information you have requested, and we are able to provide some of this information to you.

Post Office staff who have been called to give evidence to the Inquiry, will be given legal assistance. Post Office has not contacted any former employees or members of other organisations proactively to offer help and advice.

We have and will respond to former employees who contact Post Office, providing appropriate information which enables them to assist the Inquiry’s work. This does not include provision of legal advice or involvement with drawing up any statements they may wish to make, and Post Office has shared its approach with the Inquiry.

However, we are withholding the number of staff called to give evidence under section 32(2)(b) of the FOI Act, which relates to any document created by a person conducting an inquiry or arbitration, for the purposes of the inquiry or arbitration.

Disclosure of this information would constitute a breach of the Chair’s General Restriction Order (‘GRO’), dated 24 November 2021. Paragraph 11 of the GRO prohibits the disclosure of “*any information and documents included within*” a request pursuant to Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006, and this includes the information you have requested.

The GRO can be found at the following link:

<https://www.postofficehorizoninquiry.org.uk/key-documents/general-restriction-order-24-november-2021>

Section 32(2)(b) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test to be carried out.

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 Team  
Post Office Limited  
Ground Floor  
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20 Finsbury Street  
London  
EC2Y 9AQ  
[information.rights@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:information.rights@postoffice.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Andy Jennings  
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/>

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