



# Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Services Directorate  
Department for Business, Energy &  
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Our ref : FOI2022/01378

**11 August 2022**

Dear Ms Shaikh,

Thank you for your email of 19 January in which you requested the following information:

"In evidence submitted by your Department to the BEIS Select Committee's Post Office Inquiry, it was stated that in September 2015: 'The Post Office Minister commissions POL's new Chair to undertake a review of POL's Horizon system and handling of postmaster issues'.

Please can you:

- i) disclose the terms of reference and preliminary findings of the review;
- ii) disclose all correspondence between the department and the Post Office concerning this review, its findings and reasons for its premature cessation;
- iii) disclose correspondence concerning this review between ShEx/UKGI and the department, or between ShEx/UKGI and the Post Office to which the department was party."

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you require; and
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

With apologies for the delay, we can confirm that BEIS holds 24 documents in the scope of your request, all of which are enclosed. We have concluded that, in this case, there is strong public interest in disclosing these documents which outweighs any potential interest in withholding them. Personal identifying data has been withheld under section 40 of the Act and material which is out of scope of your request has been redacted.

Section 40(2) exempts information from disclosure if that information constitutes personal data of someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would contravene any

of the data protection principles at Article 5 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). In this case, we believe disclosure would contravene the data protection principle in Article 5 (1) (a) of the UK GDPR which provides that Personal Data shall be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject (‘lawfulness, fairness, transparency’)”.

Section 40(2)(a) and section 40(3)(a)(i) apply to information whose disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the UK GDPR. This exempts information constituting the personal data of living individuals, the release of which would be in breach of the Department's obligations in respect of the Data Protection Principles as set out in Article 5 of the UK GDPR.

## **Appeals procedure**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights & Records Unit. It would be helpful if you can tell us why you are dissatisfied with the response to your request so we may address this during the internal review.

Information Rights & Records Unit  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
Email: [FOI.Requests@beis.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.Requests@beis.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Complaints can be made to the Information Commissioner via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>.

Yours sincerely,

**Services Directorate**