

Ms Eleanor Shaikh

020 7270 5000
foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

26 October 2020

Dear Ms Shaikh

Ref: FOI2020/34813

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your enquiry of 28 September 2020, which we have considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

You asked for the following information:

"Thank you for your recent response to my FOI request (FOI 2020/31556) regarding reporting links between yourself and UKGI.

I would be most grateful if you would release minutes of the meetings you acknowledge at which discussions took place regarding the cost implications of Post Office's Litigation.

Ideally this would be from the time of the approval of the Group Litigation Order in March 2017 until the present. If this is too wide a time-frame for the scope of a FOI request, the period of the active litigation November 2018-December 2019 will suffice"

Following a search of our records, we can confirm that HM Treasury does hold information within the scope of your request.

UKGI's performance against their objectives is monitored via regular meetings between HM Treasury and UKGI, mainly via Quarterly Shareholder Meetings (QSMs). Each QSM is primarily intended to be weighted towards being a forward-looking and risk-based analysis of progress against the UKGI Budget and Objectives.

Discussions regarding the Post Office were recorded in the minutes of QSMs in October 2017, November 2019, and March 2020. The relevant extracts from the minutes can be seen below.

October 2017

"PD noted the BEIS budget bid for Post Office issues."

November 2019

"RR noted the increased risk of the Post Office Limited."

March 2020

"Attendees then discussed Post Office Limited (POL). Attendees noted the importance of the UKGI NED on the board, and the upcoming Spending Review. Attendees discussed the

previous POL Spending Review settlement and the tensions that arose during this, and the desire for a smooth process this time around.”

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Unit

Copyright notice

Most documents HM Treasury supplies in response to a Freedom of Information request, including this letter, continue to be protected by Crown copyright. This is because they will have been produced by Government officials as part of their work. You are free to use these documents for your information, for any non-commercial research you may be doing and for news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, will require the permission of the copyright holder. Crown copyright is managed by The National Archives and you can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright material at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/information-management/re-using-public-sector-information/uk-government-licensing-framework/crown-copyright/>

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you can request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ or by emailing us at the address below. Any review request must be made within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

Email: foirequests@hmtreasury.gov.uk

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner will not make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by HM Treasury which is outlined above.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF (or via their website at: <https://ico.org.uk>).