



Information Rights Team
Post Office Limited
Ground Floor
Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
London EC2Y 9AQ
033 3665 3951
Your reference:
Our reference: FOI2021/00484

Ms Eleanor Shaikh
request-761921-c93cfa41@whatdotheyknow.com

24 June 2021

Dear Ms Shaikh,

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2021/00484

I am writing in response to your request received by Post Office Limited ("**Post Office**") on 3 June 2021 for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**"), as set out below:

"On 22nd March 2021 during proceedings at the Court of Appeal, a six-page disclosure note provided by the Post Office was discussed. The document gave details of Post Office Board Minutes and associated reports from 1999-2000 (see below, p13-19). <https://www.postofficetrial.com/2021/03/...>

In this evidence it was apparent that the Post Office Board decided to defer acceptance of Horizon (and therefore its roll-out) from an original date in August 1999 until at least 24th January 2000.

The reasons for doing so were varied but included a number of high severity incidents around 'stability of the system' and 'quality of accounting data'.

Please can you disclose all communications between the Post Office and the DTI (July 1999-January 2000) in which these deferrals were made known to the sponsor department and the reasons Post Office gave for the delays in its acceptance and roll out of Horizon."

Post Office has carried out reasonable and proportionate searches for the communications that are responsive to your request. However, POL has been unable to locate any of the requested communications. 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.

Post Office notes that the communications that are responsive to your request would have taken place over twenty years ago. Post Office also notes that communications between Post Office and the Department for Trade and Industry ("**DTI**") might 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 any such communications. If you would still like to obtain copies of communications, then you may wish to consider submitting a FOIA request in similar terms to BEIS. You may also wish to make enquiries of the National Archives, but again, Post Office makes no assurances that the material is held by the National Archives.

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
Post Office Limited
Information Rights Team
Ground Floor
Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
London
EC2Y 9AQ
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
<https://ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely,



David Sinclair
Information Rights Team
information.rights@postoffice.co.uk
<http://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/secure-corporate/about-us/access-to-information/>
@postofficenews

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