



# Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Services Directorate  
Department for Business, Energy &  
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Our ref: FOI2021/19989

08 November 2021

Dear Mr O'Sullivan,

Thank you for your email of 15 August where you requested the following information:

*“Can you provide details of meetings held with POL involving Government representation during Jo Swinson’s tenure as Minister with responsibility for Postal Affairs? What briefings would Jo Swinson have received on taking up her Ministerial role concerning POL prosecuting SPM's and the robustness of Horizon?”*

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

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

Your request can be understood as two questions, each of which are addressed in turn below.

1. *Can you provide details of meetings held with POL involving Government representation during Jo Swinson’s tenure as Minister with responsibility for Postal Affairs?*

From our initial assessment, it is clear that we will not be able to answer your request without further clarification.

Under section 1(3) of the Act, a public authority which receives a request for information need not comply with it unless any further information, reasonably required to locate the information, is supplied.

We require further information from you in order to identify and locate the information you have requested. In particular, it would be useful to know what meeting details you are requesting, e.g. dates, titles, notes of meetings. Also, what Government representation you are referring to, a specific topic matter relating to the meetings, along with a specific time frame.

We will be able to begin to process your request once you have supplied us with the further information required, but we are unable to do so until this clarification has been provided.

2. *What briefings would Jo Swinson have received on taking up her Ministerial role concerning POL prosecuting SPM's and the robustness of Horizon?*

We have searched for written briefings for Jo Swinson relating to Post Office Horizon at the point of her taking up the role of Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs, which included responsibility for Post Office and postal policy. This role commenced in September 2012. A search of our records from 1 August 2012 – 30 November 2012 has resulted in one written briefing relating to Post Office Horizon, which has been attached.

### **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  
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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