



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

Your reference:  
Our reference: FOI2022/00770

John O'Sullivan  
request-922259-c78a5e91@whatdotheyknow.com

19 December 2022

Dear Mr O'Sullivan,

### **Freedom of Information Request – FOI2022/00770**

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited ("**Post Office**") on 20 November, in which you asked:

*"This is a direct quote from yourselves answering a FOI request" According to Post Office's current records, the number of postmasters convicted potentially using evidence from the Horizon system (in some cases alongside other evidence) is 476. This number includes cases in which Post Office acted as prosecutor and also those in which prosecutions were brought by other agencies. The prosecutions took place between 1999, when the original Horizon system was introduced, and 2015 when Post Office prosecutions related to Horizon ceased, rather than being limited to the time period 2000-2005"*

*What reassurances did POL seek from Fujitsu or others that Horizon data alone would pass an evidentiality test and be of sufficient quality and integrity?*

*Why did POL stop prosecutions based solely on Horizon evidence and why did POL not look again at the 476 cases it had conducted in this manner?"*

Post Office considers that your email does not contain a request for recorded information. Although your request can be in the form of a question, rather than a request for specific documents, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") does not oblige an authority to answer a question if this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgment that is not already recorded, which applies to the question you have raised.

We would once again like to refer you to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance on how to access information from a public authority, which can be found at the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information>

Yours sincerely,

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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