



Information Rights Team  
Post Office Limited  
Ground Floor  
Finsbury Dials  
20 Finsbury Street  
London EC2Y 9AQ  
033 3665 3951  
Your reference:  
Our reference: FOI2020/00977

Mr Tim McCormack  
request-711895-3183dd5c@whatdotheyknow.com

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Dear Mr McCormack,

### **Freedom of Information Request – FOI2020/00977**

I am writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited ("**Post Office**") on 9 December, which I am dealing with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**").

In your email you have requested the information set out below. I can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested.

**a) Please provide me with copies of the documentation that requested this facility from BEIS. I understand that there may be commercial sensitivity however you must provide with at least the date that the request was made.**

Conversations commenced with UKGI in Summer 2017 but the signed version was dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**b) we know the amount but I also want to know the restrictions placed on the use of this facility by BEIS.**

The facility was at a commercial rate and therefore is not subject to EU State Aid Rules, as a result there were no restrictions placed on the use of the facility. However, this facility has never been used by POL since the facility was set up. If it was to be used it would be to fund short-term, emergency cash inventory (notes/coins in our Network).

**c) please provide me with copies of correspondence between POL and Commercial Banks requesting a £50m Same Day Liquidity Facility. The name of the bank and the date it was requested would be suffice.**

It is standard practice to reach out to current banking partners to request benchmarking on pricing. We currently have relationships with NatWest, Barclays and Lloyds.

**d) on or about the 4th April this year POL would have received in cash the amount of £50m from BEIS in respect of the Network Subsidy. This amount is severely restricted in its use by EU State Aid rules as you know so clearly you wouldn't have used this amount to cover the possibility that a Cash Truck might be held up in a traffic accident so please provide me with details of the replacement £50m facility that I presume BEIS provided following the expiry of the previous one on the 4th April 2020.**

Addressing the need for access to same-day cash was an ongoing workstream between BEIS and POL. The issue was first brought to the Post Office Board (and as a result to UK Government Investment and BEIS's attention) in summer 2017. The £50m was extended to March 2021. We are currently working on extending it out further.

**e) Please provide me with details of the EU State Aid application you made in connection with this new £50m facility.**

Please see answer to **(b)** above.

If you have any queries about this response, please contact me. Do remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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](mailto: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,



Jackie Lawrence  
Information Rights Team  
[information.rights@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:information.rights@postoffice.co.uk)  
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