



Information Rights Team  
Post Office Limited  
Ground Floor  
Finsbury Dials  
20 Finsbury Street  
London EC2Y 9AQ  
033 3665 3951  
Your reference:  
Our reference: FOI2021/01010

Ms Eleanor Shaikh  
request-810301-d99b2818@whatdotheyknow.com

9 December 2021

Dear Ms Shaikh,

### **Freedom of Information Request – FOI2021/01010**

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

*"According to the July 1999 document 'Accounting, Funding and Tax Implications of the 24 May 1999 Horizon Agreement' archived at the Postal Museum, a letter was sent from DTI Secretary of State, Stephen Byers, to the Post Office Chair on 23 May 1999 with details of funding arrangements for the Horizon project.*

*I would be most grateful if you would disclose this letter."*

Post Office has carried out reasonable and proportionate searches for the letter referred to in your request. However, POL has been unable to locate the requested letter. In line with the Section 45 FOIA Code of Practice (see for example paragraph 1.12) and other ICO guidance<sup>1</sup>, POL has concluded that on the balance of probabilities, the requested information is not held.

Post Office notes that the letter responsive to your request dates from 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 a copy of any letter, 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.

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 above or via email - [information.rights@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:information.rights@postoffice.co.uk) stating your reasons for your internal review request.

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<sup>1</sup> See eg [https://ico.org.uk/media/1169/determining\\_whether\\_information\\_is\\_held\\_foi\\_eir.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/1169/determining_whether_information_is_held_foi_eir.pdf)

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'DS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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