



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

Your reference:
Our reference: FOI2021/00634

Eleanor Shaikh

request-774513-2056438c@whatdotheyknow.com

10 August 2021

Dear Eleanor Shaikh,

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2021/00634

I am writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 15 July, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”).

In your email you have requested the following information:

Minutes of the 20 July 1999 POCL Board meeting state:

‘Ministers were meeting on 21 July to discuss Horizon and it would be important to ensure that the Post Office Minister, Ian McCartney was fully aware of the Board’s concerns. This would best be communicated through a letter from the Chief Executive [John Roberts]’.

Please can you disclose the letter which was sent to Ian McCartney from POCL to which these minutes refer. Please can you also identify all recipients of this communication.

Post Office has carried out reasonable and proportionate searches of our records, however, we have been unable to locate a copy of the letter or any information relating to the recipients. In line with the Code of Practice issued under Section 45 FOIA and other ICO guidance¹, POL has concluded that, on the balance of probabilities, the requested information is not held.

Post Office notes that the requested letter dates from over twenty years ago. Post Office also notes that a letter between Post Office and the Postal Minister might be held by the Department for Trade and Industry’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 letter. If you would still like to obtain a copy of the 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.

¹ https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1169/determining_whether_information_is_held_foi_eir.pdf

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

I am sorry I could not provide you with the information you requested on this occasion, 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 Team
Post Office Limited
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](#)

Post Office Limited is committed to protecting your privacy, information about how we do this can be found on our website at www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy