



John O'Sullivan  
[request-1012299-  
93381d84@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-1012299-93381d84@whatdotheyknow.com)

Date  
5 September 2023

Post Office  
100 Wood Street,  
London, EC2V 7ER

Classification:  
Public

Dear John O'Sullivan,

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2023/00459

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 3 August, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”).

In your email you have requested the information shown in bold below:

**“In response, Kate Gallafent KC, representing the Post Office, said: “The allegation made in the application is that the Post Office is continuing in what is alleged to be a pattern of late and partial disclosure of documents as well as obfuscating attempts by others to obtain them. We emphatically deny this.”Can you say how many times Ben Foat,Nick Read and any other POL executives have been called back to the Horizon Inquiry to explain problems with disclosure?Can you further say how many times the Inquiry has asked POL for particular documents is 11 the correct figure or is it higher?Are the large number of delayed FOI's examples of obfuscation and how many currently have not been completed in accordance with legislation?”**

Post Office has refused your request for information because it falls within section 14(1) of the FOIA. Under section 14(1), Post Office is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

This exemption applies because Post Office considers that this request does not have a serious value or purpose, in accordance with the Information Commissioner's guidance in dealing with vexatious requests, which can be found at the following webpage:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi-eir-and-access-to-information/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/dealing-with-vexatious-requests-section-14/>

To provide further context, between 1 January 2023 and 1 August 2023, you submitted 55 FOI requests and Internal Reviews in total. These figures do not include your recent requests which are not asking for recorded information under FOIA and to which we have passed on to the appropriate business area to answer. The burden that these requests are placing on Post Office is unreasonable and is taking resource away from our essential work supporting Postmasters deal with the most difficult trading environment in several years.

We are therefore not obliged to consider your request further and, in accordance with section 17(6) FOIA, will not respond to further requests of a similar nature or on the same topic.

Under our section 16 FOIA duty to provide advice and assistance, if you have any questions relating to the Horizon IT Inquiry, including witness appearances and statements, please go to the Inquiry website which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.postofficehorizoninquiry.org.uk/>

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 within 40 working days of receipt of this response stating your reasons for your internal review request or alternatively, by emailing [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  
[www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints)

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/>

**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](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy)**