



Department for Business Innovation & Skills

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By email: Richard Peterson
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19 March 2014

Dear Richard Peterson

This is in response to your email of 6 March 2014 where you wrote:

As owner are you aware that Post Office Limited have used tax payers money to make five payments to the National Federation of Subpostmasters (NFSP) These payments cover items such as the expenses and costs of the NFSP attending road shows held for subpostmaster's, the cost of NFSP meetings, workshops and extraordinary NFSP member communication costs related to the Network Transformation Programme. Payments made in the 2012/2013 financial year were £69,850 on 24 April 2012, £250,000 on 26 April, £22,000 on 18 July and £8,400 on 06 September. A further payment of £500,000 was made on 27 December 2013.

Are you aware Post Office Ltd makes facilities payments annually to the NFSP of £175K.

Your email does not contain a request for recorded information held by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS). Where a 'request for information' does not contain a specific request for copies of information held by BIS, the Department deals with the request as a 'normal course of business' enquiry rather than a formal request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

BIS is aware that Post Office Ltd makes payments to the National Federation of Subpostmasters (NFSP) that cover items such as the expenses and costs of the NFSP attending road shows held for subpostmasters, and the cost of NFSP meetings, workshops and extraordinary NFSP member communication costs that are related to Post Office Ltd's Network Transformation Programme.

A new commercial strategy, including changes to the Network Transformation Programme that was the result of intensive negotiation and dialogue over many months between Post Office Ltd and the NFSP, was voted on by representatives of subpostmasters in November 2013 at a special conference. The Government supports the Network Transformation Programme, and activities that promote the successful delivery of the programme, which is absolutely vital to the long-term future of a sustainable and vibrant Post Office network.

Yours sincerely,

**Post Office Network Team
Shareholder Executive**