

Jo Swinson MP for

Department
Parliamentary Under Secretary for
Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs

BIS

Our ref: 306899

Your ref: JDP/AP/lt

Dr John Pugh MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

17 September 2012

Thank you for your letter of 20 August to Norman Lamb, about the independent review by forensic accountants, of a number of individual cases raised by former subpostmasters, who raised concerns about the Post Office's Horizon system with their MP. I am replying as this matter now falls within my portfolio.

I should first note, that Post Office Ltd (POL) continues to express full confidence in the robustness and integrity of its Horizon system and related accounting processes. Over the past ten years, many millions of branch reconciliations have been carried out with transactions and balances accurately recorded on Horizon, by more than 25,000 different subpostmasters in total.

Nevertheless, in the light of discussions earlier in the summer with James Arbuthnot MP and a number of other MPs with ex-subpostmaster constituents, who had raised concerns about Horizon, POL agreed to an external review of a number of individual cases that had been raised with them by MPs.

The external review of specific individual cases is being undertaken by a firm of forensic accountants and, to ensure impartiality, James Arbuthnot has reviewed and approved the appointment. I understand that the review process is now under way and I have asked to be kept informed of developments.

JO SWINSON MP

GRO

1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
www.bis.gov.uk

Enquiries **GRO** Minicom **GRO** Contact us www.bis.gov.uk/contact-us