

From: The Rt. Hon. James Arbuthnot, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th December 2014

Adrian Bailey MP
Chair, Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Adrian,

Please may I put before you for consideration the possibility of your Committee's doing an inquiry into the Mediation Scheme run by Post Office Ltd in relation to the subpostmasters and the Horizon accounting system?

It is a saga which has been running for years, but recent developments mean that I have decided that I should no longer lead the group of MPs who have been campaigning to have some form of redress for the subpostmasters. I took this decision because I shall not be standing at the next election, but it has been brought forward by some months by my loss of faith in the Post Office Board's commitment to a fair result. It would not be overstating it to say that I believe the Post Office is doing its best to sabotage its own Mediation Scheme. I attach two letters, one from the CEO of the Post Office to me, and my reply to her, which give you an idea of the issues involved. My place will be taken by Kevan Jones, to whom I am copying this letter.

I appreciate that this is not brilliant timing for your committee. But a subpostmaster who is having a house repossessed, or who is in danger of losing the right to sue the Post Office through lapse of time, cannot worry about our election timetable.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever

GRO