

Witness Name: Philip Kevin Boardman

Statement No.: WITN0479_02

Exhibits: Nil

Dated: 8 November 2022

POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF PHILIP KEVIN BOARDMAN

I, *MR PHILIP KEVIN BOARDMAN*, will say as follows:

1. This witness statement is made to clarify and supplement my first witness statement dated 4 August 2022 (**First Witness Statement**).
2. Having again reviewed one of the exhibits to the First Witness Statement, titled 'End to End Re-Architecture Feasibility Study Business Requirements' dated 21 February 2003 (WITN0479_01/1), I wish to make changes to paragraphs 19 to 21 of the First Witness Statement as set out below. To illustrate these changes, any additions I have made to the First Witness Statement are shown in bold and underlined, and any deletions are bold and struck through.

19. *At the time I was engaged to work on the Programme, it was explained to me that the key driver for the Programme was Post Office's business needs following a decision by **various government departments, which included Inland Revenue and** the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), concerning the payment of benefits. These drivers were explained by Stephen Hirst, Post Office's Finance Director/Chief Financial Officer and Sue Harding, Post Office's overall manager for the Programme, in initial meetings.*

20. The DWP **and other various government departments** paid benefits by issuing weekly Giro cheques to benefits recipients, which could be retrieved at Post Office branches. ~~The DWP~~ **These government departments** would also advance the funds that were required for Post Office to pay out the Giro cheques issued to benefits recipients, which provided Post Office with a source of cash flow. Post Office also relied in part on the footfall of these customers for its business.
21. The DWP **and other various government departments** had decided to stop paying benefits by issuing Giro cheques to benefits recipients, and would instead pay benefits directly into recipients' bank accounts. ~~The DWP~~ **These government departments** had also decided to cease ~~its~~ **the practice of pre-paying Post Office the funds needed to pay benefits recipients. Instead, the DWP** **Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)** would allow Post Office to take out a loans from the ~~DWP~~ **DTI** on commercial terms and at commercial interest rates, **for which they would require a robust statement of cash holding as security (WITN0479 01/1).**

Statement of Truth

I believe the content of this statement to be true.

Signed: 

Dated: 8th November 2022