



Information Rights Team
Post Office Limited

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Our reference: FOI2020/00186

Mr Nick Wallis
request-658605-f2d3d9bc

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22 May 2020

Dear Mr Wallis,

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2020/00186

I am writing in response to your letter received by Post Office Limited ("**Post Office**") on 9 April 2020, which I am dealing with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**").

Your request was as follows:

"Please supply, by year, the number of prosecutions of:

- a) Subpostmasters,***
- b) their assistants or***
- c) Post Office workers (eg those in Crown Post Offices)***

brought by the Post Office/Royal Mail since 1990.

Please ALSO supply, by year, the number of criminal convictions which resulted from these prosecutions".

We do not hold all of the information which pertains to your request. The information we do hold is set out in the table below. However, this data is likely to be incomplete and therefore should be treated with caution, for the following reasons:

1. The table below is based solely on information held by Post Office Limited, and does not therefore reflect information (if any) that may be held by Royal Mail, to which your request also refers.
2. The request covers a very lengthy period of time extending back 30 years.
3. Data relating to convictions between 1991-2006 in particular has been compiled from extremely limited available material.
4. The table excludes cases where the data held by Post Office is inconclusive as to whether the prosecution was brought by any other organisation, or whether it resulted in a conviction.

In addition, although you have asked for information on both prosecutions and convictions, the table contains information on convictions only. This is because Post Office does not hold a sufficiently complete set of data for prosecutions which did not result in a conviction, again reflecting the length and aged period of the request.

The below table sets out the number of prosecutions brought for which we hold records and have been able to determine that there was a conviction. To date, we have been unable to locate any records before 1991. There are 104 cases where Post Office holds information recording that the defendant was convicted, but not the date of that conviction, for which the year has been listed as "Unknown".

Year	Postmaster	Assistant	Employee	Unknown	Total
Unknown	36	29	20	19	104
1991	2				2
1992					
1993	2		2		4
1994	2	2	1		5
1995		1			1
1996	3	1	2		6
1997	5	3	2		10
1998	8	7	4	1	20
1999	25	20	4	1	50
2000	25	20	12		57
2001	36	29	13		78
2002	27	20	9		56
2003	25	8	18		51
2004	18	11	7	2	38
2005	22	11	13		46
2006	35	11	5		51
2007	20	14	6		40
2008	22	15	8		45
2009	45	20	7	2	74
2010	38	11	5		54
2011	38	1	6	3	48
2012	36	5	5	1	47
2013	22	2	3		27
2014					
2015	2	1		1	4
2016					
2017					
2018					
2019					
2020					
Total	494	242	152	30	918

In accordance with its duties as former prosecutor, Post Office is conducting a post-conviction disclosure exercise to identify and disclose material in all historical cases relating to Horizon data, not just those reviewed by the CCRC, that might cast doubt on

the safety of convictions. Some of the convictions referred to in the table above from 1999 onwards will be within the scope of this exercise.

We continue to make full disclosure of documents to the CCRC and will be, similarly, assisting the appeal courts regarding the cases that have now been referred to them.

I hope the information I have been able to provide on this occasion is useful, however 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 below stating your reasons for your internal review request.

Information Rights Manager
Post Office Limited
Information Rights Team

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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

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Telephone: **GRO**
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

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Kerry Moodie
Information Rights Team

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