

# BERR

Department for Business  
Enterprise & Regulatory Reform

**Pat McFadden MP**

Minister for Employment Relations  
& Postal Affairs

The Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: DM/112034  
Your ref: WILS023/090022

9 February 2009

*Dear Jacqui,*

Thank you for your letter of 9 January on behalf of your constituent, Mr Julian Wilson of **GRO**, about financial discrepancies at the Astwood Bank Post Office.

Since March 2001, Government's role in Royal Mail Group - which includes Post Office Ltd (POL) - is that of a shareholder in a public limited company. Under the Postal Services Act 2000, Parliament gave Royal Mail greater commercial freedom and Government established an arm's length relationship with the company so that the Board could run the business as it decides best to meet the market developments and changing customer needs. Operational decisions, which include decisions relating to the running of individual Post Office branches are a matter for Post Office Ltd.

I understand that Glenn Chester of POL has written to you regarding the investigations at the Astwood Bank branch. As you are aware, POL have procedures in place to deal with issues of this nature and I am assured that the appropriate action has been taken.

I am informed that Mr Wilson resigned from his position in September 2008 and was, therefore, not invited to be interviewed by POL regarding this matter. In the circumstances I do not believe there is anything more that I can usefully add.

*Yours,*

**GRO**

**PAT MCFADDEN**

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