

Mrs E M Jackson

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Our ref

Your ref

Date 30 March 2001

Dear

Thank you for your letters, with enclosures, to the Prime Minister and of 1 and 15 March to Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, concerning your daughter, Mrs Wolstenholme, and the termination of her contract as subpostmaster at Cleveleys Modified Sub Post Office. Your letters have been passed to this Directorate in view of our interest in Post Office matters and I have been asked to reply. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

I should first explain that it has been the policy of successive Governments since 1969 that decisions relating to the day-to-day running of the postal businesses including contractual terms and arrangements with subpostmasters, are the responsibility of Post Office management. The Government's role in Post Office matters is confined to broad issues of general policy and overall financial control.

However, I have been in contact with Post Office Network (PON) headquarters and I understand that there was extensive contact between Mrs Wolstenholme and PON regional staff about a range of issues, including the possibility of your daughter making representations to the PON Sales and Service General Manager, Eric Logan.

Yours sincerely

Mike Whitehead
Postal Services Directorate