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Dear Nick,

Post Office Accounts

Thank you for your letter of 10 May. I appreciate you taking the time to write and apologise on behalf of the Post Office.

I also welcome the investigation that Amanda Burton is undertaking into the incident, in her role as the incoming Chair of the Post Office Remuneration Committee. I have set the expectation that this investigation should complete within two weeks, to allow us all to have clear sight of all the facts, particularly the evidence case that was used to assess that the Inquiry sub metric for 2021/22 had been 'achieved'. UKGI have confirmed that Amanda will work to this timetable, and I am grateful for this. We have also been approached by the Business and Trade Select Committee, who will I am sure be keen to see the results of the investigation too.

You will have heard Minister Kevin Hollinrake say in the House of Commons on 10 May that our department is going to separately commission an independent review of the governance around Post Office remuneration. This will take account of the issue of corporate best practice that you mention in your letter. We are in the process of appointing the lead of this review, which will run in parallel to Amanda's investigation, and we will share information with you about this soon. This review is more likely to focus on whether there are significant safeguards built into the process than removing bureaucracy. I will be grateful for your full commitment to share information with the reviewer once they take up that role.

This has been an unfortunate episode and I am determined to ensure that we establish the facts and allow the investigation and review to complete their work before we reach conclusions about next steps. I appreciate your engagement as we take forward the investigations and any follow-on actions.

Best wishes,

THE RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP
Secretary of State for Business & Trade and President of the Board of Trade
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