

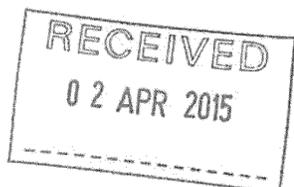
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Ms J Swinson MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Business Innovation and Skills,
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Your ref:
Our ref:

31 March 2015



Dear Ms Swinson,

Post Office Horizon Computer System

As you may be aware, the Criminal Cases Review Commission ("the Commission") is the independent statutory body charged with investigating alleged miscarriages of criminal justice in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Commission was created by the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 and, in order to assist in the exercise of its functions, the Commission was given the statutory power to require the production or preservation of any material in the possession or control of a public body (sections 17 and 22 of the Act).

The Commission has recently received a number of applications from individuals who allege that their convictions are unsafe as a result of issues with the Post Office Horizon system.

The Commission believes that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills may have documents or other material which would assist the Commission in the exercise of its functions. The Commission does not require sight of that material at this stage, but I should be grateful if you would ensure that any such material is preserved. Where the Commission directs a person to preserve material this means that it must not be destroyed, damaged or altered before the direction is withdrawn.

The duty to comply with a requirement under section 17 of the Act is not affected by any obligation of secrecy or other limitation on disclosure. However, it may reassure you to know that section 23 of the Act makes it an offence for members or employees of the Commission to disclose information other than in accordance with the provisions of section 24 of the Act.

I have enclosed a formal notice, issued under section 17 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995, for your records. I should be very grateful if you would confirm receipt.

5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham B3 2PW, DX 715466 Birmingham 41
e:info@GRO t:GRO f:GRO w:www.ccrcc.gov.uk

The Commission recognises that this may cause the Department some inconvenience and we are grateful for your co-operation, however you are under a legal obligation to comply with this notice.

If for any reason you are unable to do so, please contact us immediately.

Yours sincerely

GRO

Amanda Pearce
Casework Group Leader



CCRC Ref: Post Office (Horizon)

Name of Public Body: Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

I confirm that:

- all documents and other materials relating to the Post Office Horizon system have been preserved.

The appropriate contact person regarding this material is:

Contact Name:

Contact No.

Signed

Print Name

Date

Please return this form to:

Amanda Pearce,
Criminal Cases Review Commission, 5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham, B3 2PW.



Legal requirement to preserve material for the Criminal Cases Review Commission

To: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Commission believes that you are the "appropriate person" for the purposes of section 17 Criminal Appeal Act 1995 who has possession or control of documents or other materials which may assist the Commission in the exercise of its functions.

This notice now requires you to preserve all material relating to the Post Office Horizon system.

The Commission makes a direction under section 17(2) Criminal Appeal Act 1995 that the documents and/or other materials must not be destroyed, damaged or altered. This direction takes priority over any weeding/destruction policies until this direction is withdrawn by the Commission.

You now have a statutory duty to provide copies of all documents and other materials specified above.

Your duty to comply with this requirement is not affected by any obligation of secrecy or other limitation on disclosure (including any such obligation or limitation imposed by or by virtue of an enactment) which would otherwise prevent the production of the document or other material to the Commission or the giving of access to it to the Commission. You may however notify us, in accordance with section 25 of the Criminal Appeal Act, that information contained in the material is not to be disclosed by the Commission without your prior consent

Signed:

GRO

on behalf of the Commission

Dated: 31 March 2015