

12 February 2015

Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP  
Chairman  
Justice Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

We spoke briefly last night on a matter in connection with the Committee's current inquiry into the Criminal Cases Review Commission. My interest is with regard to cases connected with the Post Office where an individual has pleaded guilty to a charge and the case later turns out to be a miscarriage of justice. I have corresponded with the Chair, Richard Foster, about this and attach a copy of his response to me.

We discussed whether the CCRC might review such a case. You said that your understanding was that it was possible but only if the Appeals Court was prepared to accept the argument that a miscarriage of justice had in fact occurred. My question is: how would such a case get to the Appeals Court unless it had first been reviewed by the CCRC?

Second, we discussed the lack of clarity surrounding whether or not the CCRC can deal with private prosecutions. It would be good to see what the Inquiry findings are on this.