

**From:** Lord Arbuthnot [GRO]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent re Postmasters under CCRC review  
**Date:** 21 November 2018 at 10:21  
**To:** justin.hawkins [GRO]  
**Cc:** nickwallis [GRO]



Dear Mr Hawkins

Mr Wallis has sent me a copy of the email he sent to you which is below. I have to say that he makes a very strong point. I would worry that any decision not to reopen these criminal cases, before the allegations have been examined in the cases that are currently before the court, might be subject to judicial review – and certainly would be if the current cases went against the Post Office.

Yours sincerely,

James Arbuthnot

**From:** The Rt Hon Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom  
Senior Consultant, SC Strategy

**T:** [GRO]  
[GRO]

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nick Wallis <[GRO]>  
**Subject:** Urgent re Postmasters under CCRC review  
**Date:** 21 November 2018 at 06:40:55 GMT  
**To:** HawkinsJ <[GRO]>

Hi Justin

Hope all is well. I am just writing to let you know I have been detailing the ongoing group litigation civil trial Bates and others v Post Office at the High Court here: [www.postofficetrial.com](http://www.postofficetrial.com)

I believe that evidence disclosed to the trial and particularly yesterday's evidence produced under cross-examination could have a massive bearing on the decision by the CCRC of whether or not to refer the cases former Postmasters it is dealing with to the Court of Appeal.

Please could you ensure that the relevant person(s) at the CCRC *does not make any*

*decision about referral* until they have seen the transcripts of this trial, which I have been told will be released to me before the end of the month and should be available to you on demand.

The claimants QC has drive a coach and horses through the integrity of Horizon, the training and support given to Subpostmasters by the Post Office, the near impossibility of Subpostmasters being able to identify the source of problems with the system, the likelihood that some Subposmasters were charged for losses caused by Post Office mistakes and the pressure they were put under to repay supposed debts before any investigation into their likely source had been conducted.

This all has significant implications for the Subpostmasters who made the wrong decision (without any whiff of criminal intent), which then eventually led to their prosecution and ruin.

I really really don't see how the CCRC can make an announcement on whether it is minded to refer these Postmaster cases to the Court of Appeal without waiting to see the transcripts in this trial and the forthcoming Horizon trial (part of the same group litigation *Bates v Post Office*) in March next year.

Happy to talk this through with you if you like - I am in court today and tomorrow, but will be free on Friday - GRO

From what I have heard - and I have been in court every day - several dozen appalling miscarriages of justice may have taken place.

Thanks

Nick

On 3 Jun 2016, at 16:28, HawkinsJ <GRO> wrote:

OK thanks Nick. Have a good weekend.

Justin Hawkins  
Head of Communication  
Criminal Cases Review Commission

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**From:** Nick Wallis [GRO]  
**Sent:** 02 June 2016 21:13  
**To:** HawkinsJ  
**Subject:** Re: CCRC Qs

Hi Justin

Let's have a chat about this next week if that's okay. I've managed to overbook myself this week and don't have a moment to think. Much quieter next week.

Hope all is well with you.

Cheers

Nick

On 2 Jun 2016, at 16:30, HawkinsJ <GRO> wrote:

Hi Nick, I hope all is well.

I hope you don't mind my asking you a couple of questions about your work on Horizon. We are trying to identify a couple of particular documents that were mentioned in your Panorama about the system. We have access to a great deal of material from the post office and quite possibly already have these, but we are trying to identify them more accurately.

John Sweeney refers to a minute of a meeting between Post Office Limited and Fujitsu before Seema Misra's trial. The minute described a computer bug which "made money disappear and could cause a loss of confidence in the Horizon system". Although John acknowledged that the bug did not affect Mrs Misra's branch, he suggested that it still undermined the integrity of the Horizon system more generally. Can you tell us anything that will help us identify the specific minute in question? Do you recall whether Panorama saw it and, if so how they came by it, and if not, how they learned of its existence? Also, 26 minutes into the programme John Sweeney refers to an (internal?) Post Office Ltd document which suggests they were only charging with theft in order to help recover money (i.e. 'overcharging'). Can you tell us anything that will help us find this document?

Any thoughts most welcome.

Regards

Justin.

Justin Hawkins  
Head of Communication  
Criminal Cases Review Commission

The Criminal Cases Review Commission

**GRO**  
Telephone: **GRO**  
Fax: **GRO**

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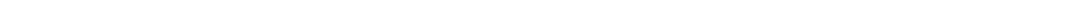
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Nick Wallis

**GRO**  
[@nickwallis](mailto:@nickwallis)  
[www.nickwallis.com](http://www.nickwallis.com)



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The Criminal Cases Review Commission

**GRO**

Telephone: **GRO**

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Nick Wallis

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