

Message

**From:** Evelyn Hocking [GRO]  
**on behalf of** Evelyn Hocking [GRO]  
**Sent:** 09/01/2024 13:55:41  
**To:** Andrew Mortimer [GRO]  
**Subject:** FW: Strictly Privileged & Highly Confidential - Post Office  
**Attachments:** Ministerial consideration of POL's role in appeals [PP-DOCS.FID71323]; RE: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40); RE: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40); Re: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)

Could you look at this re the Governance piece and I will get you to join a call with Nicola at 2.30

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**From:** Simon Recaldin [GRO]  
**Sent:** 08 January 2024 00:30  
**To:** Benjamin Tidswell [GRO]  
**Cc:** Evelyn Hocking [GRO]  
**Subject:** FW: Strictly Privileged & Highly Confidential - Post Office

Ben

FYI – see below and attached feedback from P&P please let me know if you think I should share with Lorna and Brian as well.

More balanced feedback to my suggestion below provided by Diane, Richard and Nick attached.

Thanks

Regards

Simon

**Simon Recaldin**  
**Remediation Unit Director**  
**Post Office Ltd | 100 Wood Street | London | EC2V 7ER**  
**Tel:** [GRO]  
**Email** [GRO]

**The information classification of this email is confidential unless otherwise stated**

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**From:** Simon Recaldin  
**Sent:** 07 January 2024 22:06  
**To:** Ben Foat [GRO]; Richard Taylor [GRO]; Nick Read [GRO]  
**Cc:** Diane Wills [GRO]; Chris Brocklesby [GRO]; Nicola Munden [GRO]; Michelle Storey [GRO]; Stuart Lill [GRO]  
**Subject:** RE: Strictly Privileged & Highly Confidential - Post Office

All

I think we should all be aware of the attached received tonight from P&P.

It is not marked as advice nor has it been requested and is sent proactively by a very collaborative and concerned partner.

In case of legal sensitivities I have taken the liberty of taking externals off copy and think the above subject matter should apply please. I have said the same to the people who it has been sent to too.

For awareness on the back of this, in a note to Carl I have sent tonight re ideas for speeding up compensation, I have strongly recommended that the Secretary for Justice is briefed by P&P – a similar briefing went down well with the AB in terms of them understanding the dilemma Post Office face and where subsequently the AB turned their attention away from Post Office and more to the MoJ and CCRC.

No doubt speak tomorrow.

Regards

Simon

**Simon Recaldin**  
**Remediation Unit Director**  
**Post Office Ltd | 100 Wood Street | London | EC2V 7ER**  
Tel: [GRO]  
Email: [GRO]

**The information classification of this email is confidential unless otherwise stated**

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**From:** Ben Foat <[GRO]>  
**Sent:** 07 January 2024 13:14  
**To:** Simon Recaldin <[GRO]>; Richard Taylor <[GRO]>; Nick Read <[GRO]>  
**Cc:** Diane Wills <[GRO]>; Chris Brocklesby <[GRO]>; Tom Allison <[GRO]>  
**Subject:** Strictly Privileged & Highly Confidential - Post Office - Fraud

All

All options/ideas should be welcomed and considered.

My initial advice:

1. The media reports have confirmed that Met Police have been conducting an investigation since 2020. [REDACTED]

2. POL does **not have any special private prosecution powers**. Therefore, if there is any review into private prosecutions then it would likely be a broader examination of private prosecutions given the POL scandal with perhaps law reform recommendations that may curtail them in some way or at least introduce further controls around independences and or disclosure obligations.

3. [REDACTED]



4. We should **review Project Bramble and the Simon Clarke advice** (Gareth Jenkins issue ie knowing of bugs and that not coming to light during the prosecutions or civil recovery process). I have subsequently become aware that the POL Board was aware of this at least back in February 2019 – apparently my predecessor had a conversation with board – thanks to my review of documents though I'm not a party to them which is a different issue for another time).
5. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. **Governance** – it is not clear to me how these issues going forward are being managed. I would suggest a workstream reporting (Simon, Diane, myself, Richard, -happy for others to be added) to a strategic executive team AND to board.
8. **Comms** – we will need to issue comms to the company given the extensive reporting this weekend to provide some reassurance we are aware of a Met Police investigation and we are pleased that more people have come forward and we continue to progress compensation etc. I would flag an excellent LinkedIn post by Lee Taylor (retail director) addressing the ITV drama.

Kind regards  
Ben



**Ben Foat (He/Him)**

**Group General Counsel**

100 Wood Street

London

EC2V 7ER

Email: [REDACTED] GRO

**Personal Assistant:** [REDACTED] GRO

Email: [REDACTED] GRO

*I work flexibly – so whilst it suits me to email outside normal working hours, I do not expect a response during that time.*

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**From:** Simon Recaldin <[REDACTED] GRO >  
**Sent:** 07 January 2024 10:24  
**To:** Richard Taylor <[REDACTED] GRO >; Nick Read <[REDACTED] GRO >  
**Cc:** Diane Wills <[REDACTED] GRO >; Chris Brocklesby <[REDACTED] GRO >; Ben Foat <[REDACTED] GRO >; Tom Allison <[REDACTED] GRO >  
**Subject:** Re: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)

All

All understood.

Clearly something is happening as the PM confirmed it.

As Lee Castleton said - perception or otherwise - we are part of the problem. 'It's a war'.

To Diane's point, we're only defending appeals on the basis of the law/Hamilton which is completely correct.

As Hudgell says if the government decide to change the rules to speed things up/exonerate - like the £600k - that's fine and we would of be course be supportive. So why don't we get in early and welcome any review?

Reversing this, would we not be criticised for not welcoming such a review?

Please not wishing to be disruptive as not the best qualified in such strategic matters just trying to ensure we have as many angles covered as possible.

Regards

Simon

Simon Recaldin  
Remediation Unit Director  
Post Office Ltd | 100 Wood Street | London | EC2V 7ER

Tel: [redacted] GRO  
Email: [redacted] GRO

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**From:** Richard Taylor <[redacted] GRO >  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 7, 2024 10:04:58 AM  
**To:** Simon Recaldin <[redacted] GRO >; Nick Read <[redacted] GRO >  
**Cc:** Diane Wills <[redacted] GRO >; Chris Brocklesby <[redacted] GRO >; Ben Foat <[redacted] GRO >; Tom Allison <[redacted] GRO >  
**Subject:** RE: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)

Simon

I am not aware that there is a formal review being conducted by the Justice Secretary. The Sunday Times uses terms like "exploring" and "looking at" different issues e.g. approach to private prosecutions, all based from a single source. This is how Government regularly responds to news stories receiving political scrutiny. It allows, for example, the Prime Minister on the Laura Kuenssberg show to state that something is happening.

As you say we can only operate within the law. I recommend that our overall approach, particularly to criminal appeals, is to be consistent that this is a matter for the courts.

We can, as we have, use every opportunity to call for more people to come forward.

Let's discuss further.

Thanks  
Richard

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**From:** Simon Recaldin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 07 January 2024 09:43  
**To:** Nick Read <[REDACTED]>; Richard Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Diane Wills <[REDACTED]>; Chris Brocklesby <[REDACTED]>; Ben Foat <[REDACTED]>; Tom Allison <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)

Nick

Probably a bit radical but we could also proactively welcome the Justice Secretary's review of how to exonerate/compensate the 700.

This would emphasise that Post Office can only work within the law hence only 93. If Alex Chalk can find another way we would welcome this.

Given the current environment and the position of the AB I can't see how DBT/the Minister could/would not support.

This would also support the current helpful momentum that appears to be focused on government.

It would also nail any misconceptions that we don't want to pay, are dragging our feet and when we do pay we are being tight.

A bit strategic for me but an opportunity?

Regards

Simon

Simon Recaldin  
Remediation Unit Director  
Post Office Ltd | 100 Wood Street | London | EC2V 7ER

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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**From:** Nick Read <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 6, 2024 2:42:25 PM  
**To:** Richard Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Diane Wills <[REDACTED]>; Simon Recaldin <[REDACTED]>; Chris Brocklesby <[REDACTED]>; Ben Foat <[REDACTED]>; Tom Allison <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)

Sounds good, thank you.

**Nick Read**  
Group CEO

**EA:** [REDACTED]

100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 7AN

[postoffice.co.uk](http://postoffice.co.uk)



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**From:** Richard Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 06 January 2024 13:48  
**To:** Nick Read <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Diane Wills <[REDACTED]>; Simon Recaldin <[REDACTED]>; Chris Brocklesby <[REDACTED]>; Ben Foat <[REDACTED]>; Tom Allison <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)

Yes – will align latest data and lines to these points; and consideration of tactics to persuade journalists to include.  
Thanks  
Richard

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**From:** Nick Read <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 06 January 2024 13:32  
**To:** Richard Taylor <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Diane Wills <[REDACTED]>; Simon Recaldin <[REDACTED]>; Chris Brocklesby <[REDACTED]>; Ben Foat <[REDACTED]>; Tom Allison <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: Media coverage for The Post Office: The Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)  
**Importance:** High

Richard,

A brief summary of today's media coverage would suggest we need to do a little more to ensure there is no lasting danger of 'bleed' into today's POL.

- Mealy-mouthed POL apology
- Slow/little compensation for the 700
- POL lawyers believe some are exaggerating losses
- Won't compensate those that don't come forward
- Inquiry delay is due to POL/its legal team
- Lawyers are dragging their feet on disclosure
- Horizon contract extension – why ?!

I want to get ahead of the curve, please. Can we produce one pagers on the issues described above in preparation for next week. What are the facts, how would we respond, what is the reality (as opposed to the perception). The risk of slow compensation and disclosure failure is the real challenge. I have heard both Diane and Simon articulate strong defences/rebuttals over the weeks (at QSR in Diane's case and at the Board from Simon). Please capture these facts.  
We will need this for Monday. Richard, please may you coordinate from the subject matter experts.

Thank you  
Nick



**Nick Read**  
Group CEO

EA: **GRO**

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**From:** Onclusive <[GRO](#)>  
**Sent:** 06 January 2024 06:41  
**To:** Onclusive <[GRO](#)>  
**Subject:** Media <[GRO](#)> Post Office, 06012024 (06:40)

**Caution:** This email has been sent by an external contact. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, please use the "Report Phishing" button.



**THE POST OFFICE - 06/01/2024**

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## **ALL COVERAGE**

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## **POST OFFICE - NATIONALS**

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### **Met examining 'potential fraud' over Post Office Horizon scandal**

*The Daily Telegraph, 06/01/2024, p.4, Daily Telegraph Reporter*

Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed amid the Horizon IT scandal. More than 700 Post Office branch managers were handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. It has been described as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history and a public inquiry into it is ongoing.

[Article](#)

### **Post Office injustice**

*The Daily Telegraph, 06/01/2024, p.17, Unattributed*

Tim Oldfield writes, 'The Post Office Horizon scandal (Letters, January 5) is outrageous. If the Government can't do something about it urgently, what is it there for? Please compensate all the affected sub-postmasters, deliver immediate justice to the victims, aggressively pursue the Post Office executives responsible - and do it now.'

[Article](#)

### **Letters: Navy recruitment failures leave Britain vulnerable at a time of growing danger**

*The Daily Telegraph Online, 06/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

Tim Oldfield writes, 'The Post Office Horizon scandal (Letters, January 5) is outrageous. If the Government can't do something about it urgently, what is it there for? Please compensate all the affected sub-postmasters, deliver immediate justice to the victims,

aggressively pursue the Post Office executives responsible - and do it now.'

[Article](#)

### **It's high time Adam Crozier accounted for his role in the Post Office scandal**

*The Daily Telegraph Online, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

It is years since the appalling truth about the Post Office submasters scandal began to emerge. Yet it is hardly a surprise that questions still continue to be asked about what is now confirmed as one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in British history. An ongoing public inquiry led by Sir Wyn Williams is now the focus of the inquisition. The premiere this week of ITV's dramatisation of the scandal, Mr Bates vs The Post Office, has prompted viewers to ask about the omission of former Royal Mail chief Adam Crozier from the four-part drama.

[Article](#)

### **Letters: There can be no further delay in justice for the Horizon scandal victims**

*The Daily Telegraph Online, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

Letter: Malcolm Parkinson writes, "Sir Ed Davey, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, claims to have been misled by Post Office executives over the Horizon scandal when he was postal affairs minister (report, January 4). We should expect ministers to follow their instincts, not roll over at the least resistance. Sir Ed is now putting himself forward as a potential prime minister, but he is quite obviously not up to the role."

[Article](#)

### **My Week The party leader WhatsApp group\***

*The Times, 06/01/2024, p.32, Unattributed*

Sir Ed Davey says, 'Seeing as we're all here, I hope we can agree not to score points over the horrible Post Office thing.'

[Article](#)

### **The party leader WhatsApp group\***

*The Times Online, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

Sir Ed Davey says, 'Seeing as we're all here, I hope we can agree not to score points over the horrible Post Office thing.'

[Article](#)

### **What the Post Office did to me and other Horizon victims was criminal**

*The Times, 06/01/2024, p.34, Damian Whitworth*

There are many moving moments in ITV's series about the Post Office scandal, but one of the most affecting is when Jo Hamilton turns up in court for sentencing. The sub-postmaster, wrongly accused of stealing £36,000, enters the courtroom to find it packed with people from her Hampshire village who are outraged by the prosecution, convinced of her innocence and determined to demonstrate their support.

[Article](#)

### **Jo Hamilton: What the Post Office did to Horizon victims was criminal**

*The Times Online, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

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[Article](#)

### **Post Office and the miscarriage of justice**

*The Times, 06/01/2024, p.26, Unattributed*

Andrew Edgar writes, "Sir, That the Post Office has acted in a reprehensible manner has been evident for a very long time. However, the ITV programme Mr Bates vs the Post Office (letters, Jan 5) brings home the devastating consequences of the actions, deceit, destruction of documents and deliberate obfuscation of a mighty corporation for honest individuals. Even taking into account that some of the scenes may have been added into the drama, the essential facts, actions and horrific consequences are there for all to see."

[Article](#)

### **Times letters: Post Office and the miscarriage of justice**

*The Times Online, 06/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

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[Article](#)

### **How despair tore through families of postmasters**

*The Times, 06/01/2024, p.5, Tom Witherow*

A daughter who developed a severe eating disorder after her family was bankrupted in the Post Office scandal is part of an attempt to win compensation for traumatised family members. Millie Castleton, 28, was admitted to hospital with anorexia after the Post Office's



prosecution of her father caused her mental health to plummet. The supply teacher, from Burniston, near Scarborough, was spat at by other pupils at school and attacked, leaving her "terrified" to take the school bus. Her weight fell to 5st.

[Article](#)

### **An Endless Scandal**

*The Times*, 06/01/2024, p.27, Unattributed

They say you shouldn't make a drama out of a tragedy. Thank God that in this case they have. The four-part ITV series on the Post Office Horizon scandal is a taut, coruscating indictment of official complacency, deceit and wilful obstructionism that has enraged many of the 3.6 million viewers and made an overwhelming case for an immediate settlement of the wrongs caused by what has become the greatest miscarriage of justice in England in modern times.

[Article](#)

### **The Times view on the Post Office: An Endless Scandal**

*The Times Online*, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed

Sir Ed Davey, now leader of the Liberal Democrats and the postal affairs minister in the coalition government from 2010 to 2012 when the scandal was coming to light, now claims he was "deeply misled" by senior Post Office executives who tried to stop him from meeting campaigners. It is all very well for him now to say he regrets not doing more. But is it not the job of a minister to investigate a scandal in his domain? The public inquiry, due to last three years, is already a year behind schedule. The blame again lies with the Post Office and especially its legal team.

[Article](#)

### **What the Post Office did to me and other Horizon victims was criminal**

*The Times (Scotland)*, 06/01/2024, p.34, Damian Whitworth

Hamilton, 66, says she does not believe that Paula Vennells, who was chief executive of the Post Office from 2010 to 2019, was directly involved in prosecutions, but thinks she should have tackled the problem and ensured justice and compensation for those wrongly convicted. "Instead of getting to the bottom of it all and putting it right, she fought us in the High Court. And if she had stopped it, my mum and dad would have seen me get my conviction quashed and we wouldn't have had more years of misery."

[Article](#)

### **Post Office faces police inquiry over IT scandal**

*The Times*, 06/01/2024, p.1, Catherine Baksi; Tom Witherow; Jonathan Ames

The Post Office is under criminal investigation over the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters, Scotland Yard confirmed for the first time last night. Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed in the handling of the Horizon IT scandal. Between 1999 and 2015, the Post Office prosecuted at least 700 postmasters over allegations of fraud, theft and false accounting based on evidence from the faulty computer system. Hundreds were bankrupted or jailed and at least four took their own lives.

[Article](#)

### **Horizon scandal: Police investigate Post Office 'potential fraud'**

*The Times Online*, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed

The Post Office is under criminal investigation over the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters, Scotland Yard confirmed for the first time on Friday evening. Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed in the handling of the Horizon IT scandal. Between 1999 and 2015, the Post Office prosecuted at least 700 postmasters over allegations of fraud, theft and false accounting based on evidence from the faulty Horizon computer system.

[Article](#)

### **Need to know**

*The Times (Scotland)*, 06/01/2024, p.44, Unattributed

The Post Office is under criminal investigation over the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters, Scotland Yard has confirmed. Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" in the handling of the Horizon IT scandal.

[Article](#)

### **Gilded lives of the Post Office scandal bosses that prove penitence is only for the little people**

*Daily Mail*, 06/01/2024, p.28, Guy Adams

As chief executive of the Post Office from 2012, Paula Vennells presided over the biggest miscarriage of justice in British history, resulting in countless ruined lives, not only Post Office staff but their families. Along the way, she's been accused of various appalling professional oversights, many of which are chronicled in the ITV drama, where she is played by The Crown star Lia Williams.

[Article](#)

### **Fraud probe into Post Office fiasco**

*Daily Mail (Scotland)*, 06/01/2024, p.9, Unattributed

THE Post Office is under criminal investigation for fraud following the wrongful prosecution of sub-postmasters. More than 700 staff were accused of crimes on the basis of evidence gathered by the Horizon IT system. A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police told The Times officers are 'investigating potential fraud offences' relating to 'monies recovered from sub-postmasters as a result of prosecutions or civil actions'.

[Article](#)

### **Gilded lives of the Post Office scandal bosses that prove penitence is only for the little people**

*Daily Mail (Scotland), 06/01/2024, p.28, Guy Adams*

As chief executive of the Post Office from 2012, Paula Vennells presided over the biggest miscarriage of justice in British history, resulting in countless ruined lives, not only Post Office staff but their families. Along the way, she's been accused of various appalling professional oversights, many of which are chronicled in the ITV drama, where she is played by The Crown star Lia Williams.

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### **The gilded lives of the Post Office scandal bosses that prove penitence is only for the little people... A new ITV drama has enraged the nation. Wait until you read what happened**

*Mail Online UK (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Sir Ed Davey's journey to the leadership of Britain's third party began in 2010, when he was appointed Minister for Postal Affairs in the coalition government. Davey wrote back, primly informing Bates that this staggering miscarriage of justice was 'an operational and contractual matter' for the Post Office. The future Lib Dem leader concluded: 'I do not believe a meeting would serve any useful purpose.'

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### **Gilded lives of the Post Office scandal bosses that prove penitence is only for the little people**

*Mail+ (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

THE scandalous persecution of hundreds of innocent sub-postmasters, wrongly accused of theft, false accounting and fraud, and cruelly dragged through the courts, was brought to life in this week's hit ITV drama Mr Bates vs The Post Office.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Police launch fraud probe into IT scandal at Post Office**

*Daily Mail, 06/01/2024, p.4, Cameron Charters*

THE Post Office is under criminal investigation for fraud after the wrongful prosecution of subpostmasters, Scotland Yard confirmed last night. More than 700 staff had their lives ruined between 1999 and 2015 when they were accused of crimes on the basis of evidence gathered by the faulty Horizon IT system. A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police told The Times detectives are 'investigating potential fraud offences' relating to 'monies recovered from sub-postmasters as a result of prosecutions or civil actions'.

[Article](#)

### **Police to probe Post Office over "potential fraud offences" in wake of Horizon scandal that resulted in more than 700 subpostmasters wrongfully convicted for "stealing"**

*Mail Online UK (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

The Post Office is under criminal investigation for fraud after the wrongful prosecution of sub-postmasters. Scotland Yard confirmed last night that the organisation is being investigated by detectives for alleged fraud offences over their handling of the Horizon scandal. For more than two decades, former Post Office staff fought to clear their names. Now they are in a position where those responsible for their suffering are under investigation.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Police launch fraud probe into IT scandal at Post Office**

*Mail+ (Web), 06/01/2024, Unattributed*

The Post Office is under criminal investigation for fraud after the wrongful prosecution of sub-postmasters, Scotland Yard confirmed last night.

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### **Police investigate "potential fraud offences" during Horizon IT scandal**

*Mail Online UK (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon IT scandal. More than 700 Post Office branch managers were handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. It has been described as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history and a public inquiry into it is ongoing.

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### **"She must have no moral compass at all": Victims of the Horizon scandal take aim at ex-Post Office chief Paula Vennells as they relive the anxious wait to be arrested and facing up to losing everything when they were wrongly accused of theft and fraud**

*Mail Online UK (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Victims of the Horizon scandal have taken aim at ex-Post Office chief Paula Vennells as they relive the anxious wait to be arrested when they were wrongly accused of theft and fraud. More than 700 postmasters and postmistresses were wrongly accused of theft, fraud and false accounting between 1999 and 2015 as a result of the faulty Horizon IT system.

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### **Mr Bates vs The Post Office star Amy Nuttall calls for boss to be stripped of their CBE following "utterly heartbreaking"**



**scandal**

*Mail Online UK (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Mr Bates vs The Post Office star Amy Nuttall has branded the real life scandal 'utterly heartbreaking' and backed a petition for the company's former boss Paula Vennells to be stripped of her CBE. The actress, 41, played Lisa Castleton in the four-part ITV series, which followed the story of hundreds of subpostmasters wrongly prosecuted for theft by the Post Office due to a faulty IT system.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

**POST I.T. FRAUD PROBE**

*The Sun, 06/01/2024, p. 26, Unattributed*

THE Post Office is under criminal investigation for the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters. Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at whether fraud offences were committed in the handling of the Horizon IT scandal. It says it is focusing on money clawed back as a result of prosecutions and civil action. However, it is unclear whether the probe relates to individual staff or the Post Office as a corporate entity.

[Article](#)

**FRAUD PROBE Post Office under criminal investigation for wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters**

*The Sun Online, 06/01/2024, p. 1, Unattributed*

THE Post Office is under criminal investigation for the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters. Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at whether fraud offences were committed in the handling of the Horizon IT scandal. It says it is focusing on money clawed back as a result of prosecutions and civil action. However, it is unclear whether the probe relates to individual staff or the Post Office as a corporate entity.

[Article](#)

**FRAUD PROBE Post Office under criminal investigation for wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters**

*Scottish Sun Online, 06/01/2024, p. 1, Unattributed*

THE Post Office is under criminal investigation for the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of sub-postmasters. Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at whether fraud offences were committed in the handling of the Horizon IT scandal. It says it is focusing on money clawed back as a result of prosecutions and civil action. However, it is unclear whether the probe relates to individual staff or the Post Office as a corporate entity.

[Article](#)

**Post Office under criminal inquiry over potential fraud**

*The Guardian, 06/01/2024, p. 4, Safi Buge*

The Post Office is under criminal investigation over "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon scandal, the Metropolitan police have confirmed for the first time. Officers are "investigating potential fraud offences arising out of these prosecutions", for example "monies recovered from sub-postmasters [operators] as a result of prosecutions or civil actions", Scotland Yard said yesterday evening.

[Article](#)

**Post Office under criminal investigation for potential fraud over Horizon scandal**

*The Guardian.com (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

The Post Office is under criminal investigation over "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon scandal, the Metropolitan police have confirmed for the first time. Officers are "investigating potential fraud offences arising out of these prosecutions", for example "monies recovered from sub-postmasters [operators] as a result of prosecutions or civil actions", Scotland Yard said on Friday evening.

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**Prosecutions are on the Horizon**

*Daily Express, 06/01/2024, p. 18, Richard; Judy*

Alan Bates was a Llandudno postmaster who was the first to smell a rat. Thanks to him, the Post Office's wrongful persecution, prosecution and prohibition of more than 700 entirely innocent post office operators has long been a matter of record. These hardworking pillars of their local communities were harassed, hustled and harried for allegedly stealing thousands of pounds from their employers.

[Article](#)

**The Horizon Post Office scandal is beyond a disgrace, fumes Richard Madeley**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Alan Bates was a Llandudno postmaster who was the first to smell a rat. Thanks to him, the Post Office's wrongful persecution, prosecution and prohibition of more than 700 entirely innocent post office operators has long been a matter of record. These hardworking pillars of their local communities were harassed, hustled and harried for allegedly stealing thousands of pounds from their employers.

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**Police inquiry over 'potential fraud' in Post Office scandal**

*The Daily Express (London), 06/01/2024, p. 13, Nicola Methven*

Detectives are investigating "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon IT scandal. More than 700 Post Office branch managers were convicted after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. It has been described as the biggest British miscarriage of justice.

[Article](#)

#### **Police investigating "potential fraud offences" after Post Office Horizon scandal**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Detectives are looking into "potential fraud offences" committed during a Post Office scandal that saw 700 people handed criminal convictions due to faulty IT software. The Horizon accounting system appeared to show money was missing from Post Office outlets. As a result, at least 700 branch managers were prosecuted after allegations of fraud, theft and false accounting between 1999 and 2005.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **Post Office scandal petition blows up hours after ITV drama as 500,000 show support**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A petition launched in the wake of the Post Office scandal has quickly amassed tens of thousands of signatories. More than 500,000 people have said Paula Vennells, the company's former chief, should be stripped of her CBE, with support growing rapidly overnight. The number of people giving the 38 Degrees petition their backing exploded almost overnight, surging from 100,000 to its current total of 505,963.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **Top pollster pinpoints major clue Rishi Sunak has given away exact general election date**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey, who is under pressure over his role on the Post Office Horizon scandal, accused the PM of "bottling it". Mr Sunak set out his expectations for a later election after Labour started claiming a spring vote is the "worst kept secret in Parliament" in a ploy to prepare the way for allegations the PM is "squatting" in Downing Street.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **Ed Davey's credibility "hanging by thread" with MPs furious at role in Post Office scandal**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Pressure is growing for Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey to be forced to answer questions at a public inquiry over his role in the cover-up of the Post Office scandal which saw hundreds of sub-postmasters prosecuted and imprisoned. The issue hit the headlines after ITV broadcast *Mr Bates v the Post Office*, the tragic story of one of the sub-postmasters whose life was destroyed by the false allegations that they had taken thousands of pounds off the Post Office.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **'Give all Post Office scandal victims fair compensation'**

*Daily Express, 06/01/2024, p.13, Nicola Methven*

*Mr Bates vs The Post Office* star Julie Hesmondhalgh has urged outraged viewers of the ITV drama to write to their MP and demand compensation for victims. Her plea is passed on from Alan Bates (played by Toby Jones), the heroic subpostmaster who has fought for the truth for more than 20 years. Between 1999 and 2015, the Post Office prosecuted hundreds of subpostmasters based on information from faulty accounting system Horizon. Some wrongfully went to prison.

[Article](#)

#### **'Give all Post Office scandal victims fair compensation'**

*Daily Express (Scotland), 06/01/2024, p.3, Nicola Methven*

Carol Vorderman said that it was time to make changes to the British legal system so the likes of Post Office chief executive Paula Vennells could be held to account. "We understand so much more now about the depths to which those who govern will sink in order to protect only themselves," she said.

[Article](#)

#### **Mr Bates vs The Post Office fans baffled over MP's unexpected cameo "He's an actor now?"**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

The former Chancellor portrayed himself during episode three of the programme when he gave The Post Office's former CEO Paula Vennells a tough line of questioning on a Select Committee. Zahawi was on a Select Committee in 2015 which inspected alleged issues with the "faulty" Horizon IT system The Post Office used between 1999 and 2015.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **Should ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells lose her CBE? Have your say**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

British businesswoman and former Anglican priest Paula Vennells served as CEO of the Post Office from 2012 to 2019, a time when the organisation repeatedly denied there were issues with the Horizon system. She went on to be awarded a CBE for "for services to the Post Office and to charity" in 2019. In 2021 she issued an apology for the scandal saying: "I am truly sorry for the suffering



caused."  
[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Mr Bates" Amy Nuttall backs petition to strip ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells of CBE**

*Daily Express (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Mr Bates vs The Post Office star Amy Nuttall is one of the many thousands backing a petition to strip ex Post Office boss Paula Vennells of her CBE after the highly-publicised scandal unfolded in ITV 's new drama. The 64-year-old was the chief executive of the Post Office from 2012 to 2019 and was awarded a CBE at the end of her reign. The ITV four-part series, focused on former subpostmaster Alan Bates (played by Toby Jones), has been described as "the most widespread miscarriage of justice in British legal history" after more than 700 people who were wrongly accused of theft, fraud and false accounting due to a faulty computer system called Horizon.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Met's officers in Post Office 'fraud probe'**

*The Daily Mirror, 06/01/2024, p.7, Susie Beever*

POLICE are looking at potential fraud offences in the Post Office IT scandal. More than 700 branch managers were accused of wrongdoing after faulty Horizon software made it appear cash was missing. The Met said officers were probing "potential fraud offences arising out of these prosecutions". They could relate to "monies recovered from sub-postmasters as a result of prosecutions or civil actions".

[Article](#)

### **Met Police probing Post Office over "potential fraud offences" during Horizon scandal**

*Mirror.co.uk (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

More than 700 Post Office branch managers were handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. Scotland Yard said on Friday evening officers were "investigating potential fraud offences arising out of these prosecutions", for example "monies recovered from sub-postmasters as a result of prosecutions or civil actions".

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### **CBE for Post Office boss says it all about our honours system**

*The Daily Mirror, 06/01/2024, p.21, Brian Reade*

Brian Reade says, "Lady Michelle Mone, still a member of the Lords despite admitting she lied about her links to a firm that made £60million off taxpayers from PPE that was never used. And Paula Vennells, who led the Post Office from 2012-2019 when more than 700 sub-postmasters were wrongly prosecuted for theft, fraud and false accounting due to a flawed computer system which resulted in many of them being jailed or made bankrupt."

[Article](#)

### **CBE for Post Office boss says it all about our honours system**

*The Daily Mirror (Ulster), 06/01/2024, p.28, Brian Reade*

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[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **'I exposed the Mr Bates vs Post Office scandal 15 years ago - no one would listen'**

*Mirror.co.uk (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Rebecca Thomson says, "When I first spoke to former sub-postmaster Lee Castleton the first thing that struck me was his desperation. The trials and tribulations he suffered – like hundreds of other sub-postmasters – are breaking the hearts of millions of viewers watching this week's ITV real-life drama Mr Bates Vs The Post Office , in which he is played by Will Mellor. Serious problems with the Post Office's Horizon accounting software, supplied by Japanese firm Fujitsu in 1999, were wrongly being blamed on innocent staff."

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Petition to strip ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells of CBE soar above 330k after ITV drama**

*Mirror.co.uk (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A petition demanding ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells is stripped of her CBE has gained tens of thousands of signatures overnight - skyrocketing from 100,000 to over 300,000 in a matter of hours. The urgent demand comes after ITV drama Mr Bates vs The Post Office examining the IT scandal that led to hundreds of workers' lives being ruined and some wrongfully convicted shed light on the scandal once again. More than 700 branch managers were prosecuted between 1999 and 2015, in what has been described as the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **And now ..justice tice**

*The Daily Mirror, 06/01/2024, p.34, Nicola Methven*

The drama has led to calls for new legislation so that those responsible for the scandal, such as Post Office CEO Paula Vennells, played by Lia Williams, can be brought to justice. Carol Vorderman, who handed Alan a Mirror Pride of Britain award last year, said: "We understand so much more now the depths to which those who govern will sink to protect themselves."

[Article](#)

#### **And now ..justice tice**

*The Daily Mirror (Ulster), 06/01/2024, p.30, Nicola Methven*

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#### **ITV Mr Bates vs The Post Office viewers make same demand after `disgusting` ending**

*Mirror.co.uk (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

The four-part mini-series documents one of Britain's greatest miscarriages of justice, which was sparked by the Post Office's introduction of computer system Horizon in 1999. The accounting programme was rolled out across the country but it wasn't long before sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses started reporting issues, including Alan Bates, who famously led a class action suit against the Post Office in the 00s.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **"ITV"s Mr Bates vs The Post Office has ignited the fury of a nation"**

*Mirror.co.uk (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Thousands were wrongfully accused of fraud after millions went missing due to the failure of a £1billion Japanese computer system. Hundreds were convicted and went to jail. Four took their own lives. The dark story of the Great Post Office Robbery-That-Never-Was cried out to be told.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **Mr Bates Vs The Post Office star urges viewers to demand compensation for victims**

*Mirror.co.uk (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

In the final instalment, largely set in the courtroom, viewers saw the bittersweet victory in which Alan Bates and his supporters proved that they were innocent and victims of a Post Office and Fujitsu cover-up. They won £58m but once the legal fees had been paid there was £12m left - and shared between the 555 it amounted to around £20,000.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

#### **Met Police investigates Post Office over 'potential fraud'**

*The Independent Daily Edition, 06/01/2024, p.12, Ted Hennessey*

Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon IT scandal. More than 700 Post Office branch managers were handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. It has been described as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history and a public inquiry into it is ongoing.

[Article](#)

#### **Police investigate Post Office over `potential fraud offences` during Horizon IT scandal**

*The Independent (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Metropolitan Police detectives are looking into "potential fraud offences" committed during a Post Office scandal that saw 700 people handed criminal convictions due to faulty IT software. The Horizon accounting system appeared to show money was missing from Post Office outlets. As a result, at least 700 branch managers were prosecuted after allegations of fraud, theft and false accounting between 1999 and 2005.

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#### **SCANDALOUS Mr Bates vs The Post Office fans break down at 'disgusting' finale – fuming 'no show has ever made me this angry!'**

*The Sun Online, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*



Mr Bates vs The Post Office fans admit they broke down in tears after watching the "disgusting" series finale while and have voiced their anger about how terribly the subpostmasters were treated by the Post Office. The four-part series starring Toby Jones, Julie Hesmondhalgh and Monica Dolan concluded on ITV last night. Mr Bates vs The Post Office chronicled the true story of the massive Post Office scandal, where more than 700 branch managers, known as subpostmasters, were convicted of stealing.

[Article](#)

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### **Met cops probe PO scandal**

*Daily Star, 06/01/2024, p.2, Unattributed*

Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon scandal, it emerged last night. More than 700 Post Office branch managers were handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu software made it appear money was missing from their outlets. The scandal has been dramatised in ITV's Mr Bates vs The Post Office.

[Article](#)

### **Police open investigation into "potential fraud" at UK Post Office**

*FT.com (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed* [Sign into FT.com](#)

Police have opened an investigation into the UK Post Office, as the state-owned business faces further probes into its role in the Horizon IT scandal.

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### **Horizon scandal: Police investigate Post Office over 'potential fraud offences'**

*iNews (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed during the Post Office's Horizon scandal. More than 700 Post Office branch managers were handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. Scotland Yard said on Friday evening officers were "investigating potential fraud offences arising out of these prosecutions", for example "monies recovered from sub-postmasters as a result of prosecutions or civil actions".

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### **My husband went to prison over the Post Office scandal ? we lost everything**

*iNews (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Between 1999 and 2015, the Post Office prosecuted more than 700 of its sub-postmasters over supposed false accounting or fraud. Shortfalls in cash had been recorded by the new Horizon computer system – but it had software errors and defects. People's livelihoods were ruined, some were sent to prison and at least one person is reported to have taken their own life as a result. Siema Kamran, 48, worked as a sub-postmistress from November 2001 to September 2003. Her husband, Kamran Ashraf, was a Post Office manager.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Horizon scandal petition to strip Paula Vennells of CBE**

*Morning Star Online (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Almost 500,000 people have signed a petition demanding that former Post Office chief executive Paula Vennells be stripped of her CBE. The disgraced executive oversaw the wrongful sackings of more than 500 postmasters and postmistresses accused of theft and fraud because of a fault in the Post Office's Horizon computer system. Horizon identified the "loss" of hundreds of thousands of pounds from the accounts of individual Post Offices.

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### **Metropolitan Police investigate Post Office over "potential fraud offences" during Horizon scandal**

*Evening Standard (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Police are investigating the Post Office for "potential fraud offences" Metropolitan Police detectives are investigating the Post Office over "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon scandal. The scandal saw more than 700 Post Office branch managers handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing.

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*Financial Times*, 06/01/2024, p.11, Unattributed [Sign into FT.com](#)

Post Office Money is featured in the article.

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### SAVINGS

*Financial Times*, 06/01/2024, p.11, Unattributed [Sign into FT.com](#)

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### SAVINGS RATES

*The Daily Telegraph*, 06/01/2024, p.7, Unattributed

Post Office Money is featured in the article.

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### Bank offers "excellent" 4.7% interest rate on three-year fixed savings account

*Daily Express (Web)*, 05/01/2024, Unattributed

Zenith Bank is offering a three-year fixed rate savings account paying 4.7 percent interest , earning an "excellent" Moneyfactscompare rating. The account can be opened with a minimum £1,000 investment by savers aged 18 and over and interest is paid on the anniversary. But while Zenith Bank may be offering an appealing deal, it isn't currently topping the table. Post Office Money is offering a three-year fix with an Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) of five percent.

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## POST OFFICE - NATIONALS - TRAVEL

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### The best family holidays for children of every age

*The Daily Telegraph*, 06/01/2024, p.15, Unattributed

"Clients don't want villas anymore because they feel it means they are doing too much on holiday. But this is the best of both worlds. And I think Portugal does it better than anywhere else," says Emma Barnett of Tots Too. Many of the country's hybrid resorts are in the Algarve, a region that is the cheapest place to take a holiday in the Eurozone, according to the Post Office's 2023 Holiday Money Report.

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## POST OFFICE – REGIONALS – NETWORK OPERATIONS

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### Post office temporarily shut after raiders strike

*Express and Star (City)*, 05/01/2024, p.9, Unattributed

A post office in the Black Country has temporarily closed after cash was taken in a New Year's Day burglary. The break-in took place at the Post Office branch on Union Street in Tipton at around 1.30am on Monday. A Post Office spokeswoman did not confirm when the site was expected to reopen, but said staff are working to restore it "as soon as possible". A statement issued by Post Office said: "We are supporting the operator of the branch, who is assisting the police in their efforts."

[Article](#)

### Tipton post office temporarily shut after burglars take cash in New Year's Day break-in

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**Tonbridge Post Office opens permanent branch in town centre to replace temporary castle unit which began trading**



**following high street closure of WHSmith***KentOnline (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A town's Post Office which has been plagued with problems has finally found a permanent home. The difficulties for the Tonbridge branch began when it had to move out of WHSmith in the High Street in July 2022. Post Office's network provision lead Emily Clive said: "We are delighted there is now a permanent Post Office in Tonbridge again and with longer opening hours."

[Article](#) | [Link](#)**Councillor's plea over closure of post office***Yorkshire Post, 06/01/2024, p.7, Unattributed*

A councillor is pressing Post Office bosses for clear answers over the future of his ward's local branch. Calderdale Councillor George Robinson has written to Post Office chiefs about Hipperholme Post Office's closure and is urging residents to sign a petition lobbying for it to be reopened. His letter to the Post Office outlines its importance for the community, urging them to take steps to reopen the branch, and encouraging them to outline what is actually happening now and what will happen next.

[Article](#)**Fears post office will not reopen***Newcastle Journal, 06/01/2024, p.9, Unattributed*

Halt whistle's post office is set to close at the end of the month following the resignation of the serving postmaster. In a letter to customers seen by the Local Democracy Reporting Service, the Post Office has insisted the branch in Belford House on Main Street will only be closed "temporarily" from January 30. However, it added that the "opportunity" could be taken to establish an "alternative type of service".

[Article](#)**POST OFFICE - REGIONALS**[All Articles](#)**Post Office scandal is a lesson for us all***Yorkshire Post, 06/01/2024, p.12, Unattributed*

William Loneskie says, "It is actually frightening to see the way the Post Office Investigation Branch behaved like the Stasi, and the way postmasters and postmistresses were treated. Between 2000 and 2014 more than 700 were wrongfully convicted of stealing cash. One Surrey postmistress was sentenced to 15 months in prison when she was pregnant. Others committed suicide. All were bankrupted."

[Article](#)**Post Office CEO should lose CBE***Eastern Daily Press, 06/01/2024, p.28, Unattributed*

The excellent series of programmes Mr Bates vs the Post Office on ITV1 this week has raised massive public outrage at the way the Post Office treated some of their most loyal and trustworthy sub-postmasters. There is now a petition calling for Paula Vennells, former CEO of the Post Office to have her CBE rescinded.

[Article](#)**Scandal which still stains our justice system***Blackpool Gazette, 06/01/2024, p.11, Mike Hill*

The screening this week of a new drama about the Post Office scandal has once again turned the spotlight on one of the most shameful episodes of recent British history. ITV's Mr Bates vs The Post Office is based on the real-life story of postmaster Alan Bates and the legal battle he led and won, paving the way for dozens of convictions to be overturned in what has become known as the Horizon IT scandal.

[Article](#)**Minister hints at backing CBE call***Northern Echo (North Edition), 06/01/2024, p.2, Unattributed*

MPs in the North East and North Yorkshire have voiced their horror in the wake of a drama series illuminating "the biggest miscarriage of justice in the country". Mr Bates vs. The Post Office has enraptured the nation this week, retelling the story of the British Post Office, where a faulty IT system, Horizon, led to life-devastating prosecutions of fraud, theft and false accounting for postmasters.

[Article](#)**Police investigate 'potential fraud offences' during Horizon IT scandal***Dorset Echo (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Metropolitan Police detectives are looking at "potential fraud offences" committed during the Horizon IT scandal. More than 700 Post Office branch managers were handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. Scotland Yard said on Friday evening that officers are "investigating potential fraud offences arising out of these prosecutions", for example "monies recovered from sub-postmasters as a result of prosecutions or civil actions".

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*Wrexham Leader (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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*Southern Daily Echo (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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*The Courier and Advertiser (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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*Bournemouth Daily Echo (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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*Press and Journal (Aberdeen) (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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*Shropshire Star (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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*Herald Scotland Online, 05/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

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[Article](#)

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*Northern Echo (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

The Met has already been looking into potential offences of perjury and perverting the course of justice in relation to investigations and prosecutions carried out by the Post Office. Two people have been interviewed under caution but nobody has been arrested since the investigation was launched in January 2020. After ITV aired a drama into the scandal, Mr Bates Vs The Post Office starring actor Toby Jones, 50 new potential victims have approached lawyers, it has been said.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

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*Glasgow Evening Times (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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**'I want them to hold their hands up - admit they were wrong'***Western Daily Press (Late City), 06/01/2024, p.3, Paul Greaves*

A former West Country subpostmaster who was jailed as part of the Post Office IT scandal has described the profound impact the ordeal has had on her life. Janine Powell burst into tears when a judge jailed her for 18 months in 2008. During her prison stint, she was forced to spend up to 23 hours a day in her cell due to staffing shortages. Janine was working at a branch in Tiverton when she was wrongly accused of stealing £74,000.

[Article](#)**Scandal which still stains our justice system***Lancashire Evening Post, 06/01/2024, p.13, Mike Hill*

The screening this week of a new drama about the Post Office scandal has once again turned the spotlight on one of the most shameful episodes of recent British history. Jacqueline ran the business with her family and when the Lancashire Post office was in Fulwood I was a frequent visitor to the Post Office as they ran a great sandwich counter. It was always nice to call into what was a genuine family business with Jacqueline and her husband and three adult children all behind the counter working hard to make the operation a success.

[Article](#)**ITV drama on Post Office drama shocks***Pembrokeshire Herald, 05/01/2024, p.7, Unattributed*

VIEWERS in Pembrokeshire were left in disbelief during the latest episode of the gripping ITV drama, "Mr Bates vs The Post Office," which shed light on the alleged tampering of the secure £1 billion IT system by Fujitsu staff. The series, based on the real-life saga of postmaster Alan Bates, portrayed how innocent subpostmasters, accused due to the faulty Horizon system, faced charges of theft, fraud, and false accounting.

[Article](#)**Post Office drama highlights travesty***Evening News (Norwich), 06/01/2024, p.24, PETER RIDDLE*

The excellent series of programmes Mr Bates vs the Post Office on ITV1 this week has raised massive public outrage at the way the Post Office treated some of their most loyal and trustworthy sub-postmasters. There is now a petition calling for Paula Vennells, former CEO of the Post Office to have her CBE rescinded.

[Article](#)**Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer reveal their views amid calls for ex-Post Office boss to lose CBE***Birmingham Live (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer have refused to intervene in a row over whether a former Post Office boss should be stripped of her CBE. Paula Vennells oversaw the Post Office while it routinely denied there were problems with its faulty Horizon IT system. It meant postmasters were wrongly accused of fraud in what has been dubbed as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history. Demands for the Honours Forfeiture Committee to remove Ms Vennells CBE resurfaced after ITV's new drama into the scandal, Mr Bates vs The Post Office, aired.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)**Mr Bates vs The Post Office: The real trauma of the Horizon Post Office scandal in Yorkshire***Yorkshire Post (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

When he was standing in the dock at the High Court nearly 20 years ago, subpostmaster Lee Castleton truly believed truth would prevail. But as a gripping ITV drama showed this week, instead, after a two-year legal fight he was bankrupted, pursued for £321,000 costs by the Post Office, who it seems wanted to punish him for his temerity in standing up to their might. Lee, 55, who was played by Will Mellor in Mr Bates versus the Post Office - younger, thinner maybe, but every bit as passionate - still believes that truth will triumph.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)**ITV Mr Bates vs the Post Office "start petition" after final episode and say "it's only right"***Birmingham Live (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

ITV Mr Bates vs the Post Office viewers have demanded Paula Vennells be stripped of her CBE as they revive a petition. 40,000 have signed a Change.org petition calling for the CBE to be removed following the latest ITV drama, which stars Toby Jones in the leading role. "The EX CEO Paula Vennells who decided to resign days before the first substantial judgement was released by the High Court has since been awarded a CBE, a position in the cabinet office of government and also chairs one of the largest NHS Groups (Imperial NHS)," said the creator.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)**Mr Bates vs The Post Office: Bradford man praises ITV show***Telegraph & Argus (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A BRADFORD man who was caught up in the Post Office Horizon scandal has backed a petition calling for a former boss to be stripped of her CBE. The Horizon scandal, which has been described as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history,



saw more than 700 Post Office branch managers handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Mr Bates v the Post Office: Horizon IT scandal saw powerful authorities hunt innocent sub-postmasters like prey - prosecutions must follow**

*Yorkshire Post (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Back in March 2022, with the story still not receiving the level of attention its scandalous content deserved, a headline ran in this newspaper that said: Post Office Horizon IT scandal has all the hallmarks of Putin's Russia - as Official Secrets Act used against innocent postmasters. That was just one of a number of articles commissioned and published in these pages, as the true size and scale of what is this country's most ignominious, notorious, infamous miscarriages of justice ever.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Bolton actress joins calls for former Post Office to lose her medal after ITV drama**

*Bolton News (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Bolton actress Amy Nuttall is the latest to join calls for former Post Office boss to lose her CBE over the scandal which saw more than 700 Post Office branch managers handed criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing. The scandal is described as one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in British history and is currently the subject of a powerful ITV drama, Mr Bates Vs The Post Office starring Amy.

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### **Thirsk minister calls for ex-Post Office boss to give up CBE**

*Northern Echo (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

MPs in the North East and North Yorkshire have voiced their horror in the wake of a drama series illuminating "the biggest miscarriage of justice in the country". Mr Bates vs. The Post Office has enraptured the nation this week, retelling the story of the British Post Office, where a faulty IT system, Horizon, led to life-devastating prosecutions of fraud, theft and false accounting for postmasters. Kevin Hollindrake, MP for Thirsk, and Postal Services minister in his role in the business department, called for the ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells to hand back her CBE.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **"The last words my wife said to me were "that bloody Post Office" - Bankrupt Brighouse postmaster's Horizon hell**

*YorkshireLive (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A subpostmaster from Brighouse is still fighting for compensation from The Post Office after he went bankrupt following the Horizon scandal. In 1999, Stefan Fountain, now 66, was made redundant from his job at an engineering firm after the company was sold. As a result, he decided to buy a Post Office after taking out a bank loan and completing training in how to run the office.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **West Country sub-postmaster describes "hurt" and dark times in prison**

*Bristol Post (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A former West Country sub-postmaster who was jailed as part of the Post Office IT scandal has described the profound impact the ordeal has had on her life. Janine Powell burst into tears when a judge jailed her for 18 months. During her prison stint, she was forced to spend up to 23 hours a day in her cell due to staffing shortages. Janine was working at a branch in Tiverton when she was wrongly accused of stealing £74,000, reports Devon Live.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Post Office is much more than a mail service**

*Belfast Telegraph (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Like many long-standing companies, the Post Office has had to change remarkably over the years to remain financially viable. For those who weren't all that aware of the scandal of the early 2000s, which continued for 15 years — and, with hindsight, it didn't receive anything like the publicity it needed at the time — TV viewers have been brought right up to date thanks to ITV's Mr Bates vs The Post Office. In a statement from the National Federation of Subpostmasters, Gary Massey who runs Castlereagh Post Office in Belfast, warned that any such action would only further punish those who are trying to make a living.

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[Article](#) | [Link](#)**Sunak declines to back calls for ex-Post Office boss to lose CBE***Northern Echo (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer have both resisted backing calls for a former Post Office boss to lose her CBE over the Horizon scandal. Demands for the Honours Forfeiture Committee to remove the honour from Paula Vennells have emerged again after ITV aired a new drama into the scandal, which has been described as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)**Sunak declines to back calls for ex-Post Office boss to lose CBE***The National (Scotland) (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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[Article](#) | [Link](#)**Man denies threats at Post Office***Cumberland News (City), 05/01/2024, p.11, Unattributed*

A trial has been scheduled for a 33-year-old Carlisle man who is accused of threatening a person while at Morton Post Office. Gary Ferguson, from Stonegarth, Morton, formally denied the allegation when he appeared before magistrates at the city's Rickergate court. He was told he must return to the court for a trial on the afternoon of February 5. He was granted bail on condition that he does not approach the alleged victim and does not go to the Newlaithes Avenue Post Office.

[Article](#)**Bank services 'vital' to neighbourhoods***John O Groat Journal, 05/01/2024, p.15, John Davidson*

A SURVEY of older people across Scotland has highlighted the importance of bank and post office branches closer to their home. Almost a third of people questioned said that 20-minute neighbourhoods would not work in their community due to a lack of available local services and facilities. Age Scotland's Big Survey 2023 asked older people about the Scottish Government proposal, currently under consideration, which aims to allow everyone access to essential goods and services within a 20-minute journey from home.

[Article](#)**Mr Bates vs The Post Office: The innocent Greater Manchester sub-postmaster whose life was destroyed by the Horizon scandal***Manchester Evening News (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

For years, hundreds of innocent people running Post Office branches were wrongly accused and convicted of crimes they didn't commit. Errors caused by flawed computer accounting system Horizon saw discrepancies in the books at Post Offices across the country. For years, hundreds of innocent people running Post Office branches were wrongly accused and convicted of crimes they didn't commit. Errors caused by flawed computer accounting system Horizon saw discrepancies in the books at Post Offices across the country.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)**SPECIAL REPORT "It is such a massive miscarriage of justice, so blatant in terms of what happened." The Post Office scandal, the TV drama and the people behind the headlines PAGES 14 AND 15***Yorkshire Post, 06/01/2024, p.11, Unattributed*

Caption: "Special report "It is such a massive miscarriage of justice, so blatant in terms of what happened." The Post Office scandal, the TV drama and the people behind the headlines.

[Article](#)**Justice is catching up with real villains of Post Office scandal***The Scotsman, 06/01/2024, p.23, Brian Wilson*

Sir Ed Davey, now Liberal Democrat leader, was in the dock of public opinion this week for failure to act while he had Ministerial responsibility for the Post Office between 2010 and 2012. He claimed to have been "deeply misled by Post Office executives" and presumably his own officials, as intermediaries. That should be tested not only in the case of Ed Davey but every Minister who had the same responsibility as the scandal developed. To what extent, and at what level, were civil servants colluding with Post Office top brass to keep politicians in ignorance, for fear of the grisly truth being uncovered?



[Article](#)**'They should hold their hands up and say: we were wrong'***Western Morning News (Devon), 06/01/2024, p.10, Paul Greaves*

A former sub-postmaster from Devon who was jailed as part of the Post Office IT scandal says the TV drama about the shameful miscarriage of justice is like seeing her own extraordinary life story played back to her. Janine Powell says ITV's *Mr Bates vs The Post Office* is "exactly how it was". Janine was working at a branch in Tiverton when she was wrongly accused of stealing £74,000. Her life fell apart as she was sacked, arrested, charged and convicted at a trial in Exeter in 2008. S

[Article](#)**Drama highlights shock and injustice suffered by so many***Western Morning News (Devon), 06/01/2024, p.20, Unattributed*

Running a community Post Office is far from an easy job, with varied responsibilities, complicated administration and multiple demands. But for Janine Powell it was a role she embraced wholeheartedly when she became sub-postmaster at Cowleymoor Post Office in Tiverton back in 2005. Moving in above the outlet with her children she was "eager to serve the people of my community," adding: "It was my hometown. I was a sociable and confident person and enjoyed the interaction with the public." She was excited about her new role and confident she could make it work.

[Article](#)**The heroism and the suffering in a scandal beyond compare***Yorkshire Post, 06/01/2024, p.14, Alex Wood*

A Government Minister says he is "very hopeful" that individuals involved in the Post Office cover up scandal will face prosecution. Thirsk and Malton MP Kevin Hollinrake, who is Postal Affairs Minister, spoke amid mounting public outrage over revelations in ITV's drama *Mr Bates vs the Post Office* which has shown distressing scenes of suicide and self-harm among subpostmasters falsely accused of stealing when a faulty IT system was to blame.

[Article](#)**Victim tells of trauma in scandal at post office***Yorkshire Post, 06/01/2024, p.1, Unattributed*

Actor Toby Jones stars in *Mr Bates Vs The Post Office*, which aired on New Year's Day, while former Bridlington sub postmaster, Lee Castleton, played by Will Mellor in the programme, says he 'lost everything' as a result of the now-notorious Horizon accounting software, which made it appear as though money was missing. This week postal services minister Kevin Hollinrake called on former Post Office boss Paula Vennells to hand back her CBE, and said he hoped that individuals involved in the Post Office cover-up scandal will face prosecution.

[Article](#)**'People have found courage the fight goes on'***The Scotsman, 06/01/2024, p.4, Martyn McLaughlin*

Myra Philp, who was among those who had their lives turned upside down by the Post Office's actions, said she hoped the four-part TV drama would expedite the fight for justice. She pointed out that since the programme began, dozens of those affected had applied for compensation. Nick Read, the current Post Office chief executive, said it had paid over £120m in compensation to date. He said: "We hope that the ITV drama will raise further awareness and encourage anyone affected who has not yet come forward to seek the redress and compensation they deserve."

[Article](#)**Subpostmasters respond to negative comments following ITV drama***Worcester News (Web), 06/01/2024, Unattributed*

Following backlash triggered by an ITV drama, subpostmasters have urged people to continue supporting post offices in Worcestershire. A social media outpouring of criticism against the ITV drama series, '*Mr Bates vs The Post Office*', has put the livelihoods of local postmasters at risk. The four-part show outlines the grievous Horizon scandal and has incited several viewers to boycott post offices nationwide.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)**My wife's last words were: 'That bloody Post Office'***Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 06/01/2024, p.4, Sebastian McCormick*

A SUB-POSTMASTER is still fighting for compensation from the Post Office after he went bankrupt following the Horizon scandal. In 1999, Stefan Fountain, now 66, was made redundant from his job at an engineering firm after the company was sold. As a result, he decided to buy a Post Office after taking out a bank loan and completing training in how to run the office.

[Article](#)**'Still time to come forward'***Huddersfield Daily Examiner, 06/01/2024, p.5, Unattributed*

AT the end of December, the Post Office published their latest set of compensation data relating to the victims of the Horizon IT scandal. A Post Office spokesperson added: "We are acutely aware of the human cost of the scandal and are doing all we can to right the wrongs of the past, as far as that is possible. Both Post Office and government are committed to providing full, fair and final compensation for the people affected. To date offers of compensation totalling more than £138m have been made to around 2,700 postmasters, the vast majority of which have been agreed and paid. Interim payments continue to be made in other cases which have



not yet been resolved."

[Article](#)

### And now ..justice tice

*Daily Record, 06/01/2024, p.30, Nicola Methven*

THE stars of Mr Bates vs The Post Office have appealed to viewers outraged by the scandal to help get justice for the victims. In the ITV drama, Toby Jones plays sub-postmaster Alan Bates, who spent 20 years fighting for people falsely accused of fraud because of the faulty Horizon computer accounting system.

[Article](#)

### Viewers fume after watching Mr Bates vs The Post Office

*Lancashire Evening Telegraph (Web), 06/01/2024, Unattributed*

Viewers have been left feeling furious, and fundraisers have been launched, after watching an ITV drama that stars an actress. Mr Bates vs The Post Office which started on Monday night (January 1), tells the story of Alan Bates (Toby Jones) as he and other sub-postmasters and postmistresses fight to clear their name after being wrongly accused of theft, fraud and false accounting due to a defective IT system.

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### Bank closure will 'hit town charities'

*New Milton Advertiser, 05/01/2024, p.6, Chris March*

From 28,000 customers in New Forest West, they said 133 people were using the branch monthly. The representative advised that all Halifax customers can withdraw and deposit cash for free over the counter and pay in cheques at the post office next door. But at the recent F&GP meeting Cllr Keith Craze pointed out post offices had limits on the amount of cash paid in. "My concern is for local charities that still receive cash donations," he said.

[Article](#)

## POST OFFICE - TRADE

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### Post Office Horizon inquiry warrants police investigation: Report

*Asian Voice, 06/01/2024, p.2, Unattributed*

A public inquiry into the Horizon IT scandal at the Post Office has provided sufficient evidence for police to investigate senior staff, according to lawyers representing postmasters wrongly convicted due to faults in the Horizon computer system. Hundreds of postmasters were erroneously prosecuted and convicted between 1999 and 2015. In the ongoing public inquiry, postmasters have asserted that senior Post Office staff were aware of the system's flaws or chose to ignore them.

[Article](#)

### Post office breaks cash withdrawal record amidst cost of living crisis

*Asian Voice, 06/01/2024, p.5, Unattributed*

Post Office witnesses recordbreaking £62 million cash withdrawal before Christmas, amidst rising cost of living. Media reported a recordbreaking cash withdrawal of over £62 million from Post Office branches across the UK just before Christmas. This figure surpassed last year's record of £51 million on the same day. The surge in cash transactions underscores the significant increase in the cost of living over the past couple of years, with inflation reaching a 41-year high of 11.1% last year but declining to 3-9% in November.

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## POST OFFICE - ONLINE & WIRES

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### Post Office scandal: I was on suicide watch in the same prison as Rose West when I was wrongly accused of stealing #60,000 from the Post Office - this has never just been about compensation, it's about justice

*This Is Money (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Janet Skinner, 52, from Hull, has spoken of her ordeal, having been falsely accused of stealing £60,000 from the Post Office she ran - resulting in the loss of her home and a stint in a drug-infested prison where she was forced to rub shoulders with child killers. The mother served three months of a nine-month sentence following a roundup of 230 former postmasters and postmistresses jailed in one of the greatest miscarriages of justice in Britain's recent history.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### Post Office scandal: Minister suggests for former Post Office boss gives up CBE

*Yahoo! UK and Ireland (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

MPs in the North East and North Yorkshire have voiced their horror in the wake of a drama series illuminating "the biggest miscarriage of justice in the country". Mr Bates vs. The Post Office has enraptured the nation this week, retelling the story of the British Post Office, where a faulty IT system, Horizon, led to life-devastating prosecutions of fraud, theft and false accounting for postmasters. Kevin Hollindrake, MP for Thirsk, and Postal Services minister in his role in the business department, called for the ex-

Post Office boss Paula Vennells to hand back her CBE.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Mr Bates vs The Post Office viewers demand ex-boss is stripped of CBE as petition signatures reach 450k**

*OK! Magazine (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A petition demanding ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells is stripped of her CBE has soared to nearly 500,000 signatures in recent days. The urgent demand from viewers comes after the ITV drama series *Mr Bates vs The Post Office* focusing on 'the greatest miscarriage of justice in British legal history' - aired on ITV and ITVX on New Year's Day.

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### **Mr Bates vs the Post Office: what's the real story of the Post Office scandal?**

*Yahoo! UK and Ireland (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

When Alan Bates arrived in Llandudno, in 1998, it was with the intention of making a fresh start. Together with his long-term partner Suzanne, the pair had invested their life savings into buying a Post Office branch in the sleepy village of Craig-y-Don. In 1999 he, along with thousands of other subpostmasters, received training in the new Horizon IT system introduced by the Post Office. It was the end result of a failed experiment – originally, Horizon was intended to be a swipe card system, designed to pay out pensions and benefits from Post Office branches. Begun in 1996, it was eventually scrapped in May 1999, and had cost roughly £700m in taxpayers' money.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Petition to strip ex-Post Office boss of CBE honour rockets after ITV drama ? 8-min read In this article: Paula Vennells British businesswoman and Anglican priest**

*Yahoo! UK and Ireland (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

*Mr Bates vs The Post Office* looks back at the scandal which resulted in more than 700 Royal Mail staff members prosecuted between 2000 and 2014 based on incorrect information on the service's computer system. Sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses were wrongly accused of theft, fraud and false accounting, some of whom were subsequently convicted and jailed. Vennells, who served as Royal Mail CEO from 2012 to 2019, oversaw the organisation whilst it routinely denied there were problems with its Horizon IT system. She was awarded a CBE "for services to the Post Office and to charity" in the 2019 new year honours list.

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **Post Office misled me about scandal, insists Ed Davey**

*BBC (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Sir Ed Davey is facing further pressure over his handling of the Post Office IT scandal when he was postal affairs minister in the coalition government. In May 2010, the Liberal Democrat leader refused to meet Alan Bates, the sub-postmaster who led the campaign to expose the scandal, saying he did not believe it "would serve any purpose". He has now said he was "deeply misled by Post Office executives".

[Article](#) | [Link](#)

### **It's high time Adam Crozier accounted for his role in the Post Office scandal**

*Yahoo! UK and Ireland (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

It is years since the appalling truth about the Post Office submasters scandal began to emerge. Yet it is hardly a surprise that questions still continue to be asked about what is now confirmed as one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in British history. An ongoing public inquiry led by Sir Wyn Williams is now the focus of the inquisition. The premiere this week of ITV's dramatisation of the scandal, *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*, has prompted viewers to ask about the omission of former Royal Mail chief Adam Crozier from the four-part drama.

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### **Breaking Post Office investigated by police over "potential fraud offences"**

*Sky News (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

The Metropolitan Police is investigating "potential fraud offences" arising from the Post Office pursuing prosecutions of hundreds of postmasters. The police confirmed on Friday that they were looking into the handling of the Horizon IT scandal - "such as the monies recovered from subpostmasters as a result of prosecutions or civil actions". They are also separately looking into "potential offences of perjury and perverting the course of justice" in an investigation that was launched in January 2020.

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the four-part drama.

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### **Post Office scandal: TV drama prompts sub-postmasters to come forward**

*BBC (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Fifty new potential victims of the Post Office Horizon IT scandal have contacted lawyers after ITV broadcast a drama about the case this week. Neil Hudgell, a lawyer acting for claimants, told the BBC that the new enquiries include former sub-postmasters who were given convictions. Some 54 cases have resulted in a conviction being upheld, people being refused permission to appeal or the person appealing withdrawing from the process, according to the Post Office.

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### **Police investigate Post Office over "potential fraud offences" after wrongful prosecution of subpostmasters**

*Yahoo! UK and Ireland (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

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### **Post Office scandal: Met Police investigate "potential fraud offences"**

*BBC (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

More than 700 Post Office branch managers were accused of wrongdoing after faulty accounting software made it appear money was missing. The Met said it was investigating possible fraud offences from these cases. Neil Hudgell, a lawyer who acts for claimants, told the BBC that some of those seeking advice were former sub-postmasters who were prosecuted by the Post Office.

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### **4 patients die after a fire breaks out at a hospital in northern Germany**

*Yahoo! UK and Ireland (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer have both resisted backing calls for a former Post Office boss to lose her CBE over the Horizon scandal.

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### **People in Clapham are calling on the Post office not to close the branch**

*ITV.com (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Residents in South London are rallying against the closure of their area's only Post Office. The Clapham Common branch is at risk of closure in the coming weeks, as the proposal of a building redevelopment offers the chance for the business to break its lease. The fallout of the Horizon scandal has cost the Post Office millions of pounds, and cost-cutting measures are part of why the service could driven out of Clapham.

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### **Sussex man suffers PTSD over Post Office scandal**

*BBC (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

A former Sussex sub-postmaster wrongfully convicted during the Horizon Post Office scandal has described his treatment as "worse than murder". Sami Sabet ran three post offices - two in Shoreham and one in Portslade - and was convicted of false accounting in 2009. He was one of more than 700 people convicted in what became known as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in British Legal History, when it became clear the Post Office's accounting software was to blame.

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### **This week's best savings rates**

*Your Money (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

For three-year fixed bonds, Post Office Money has a Growth Bond (Issue 57) with a rate of 5.00% AER. An initial investment of £500 is needed to get going, while if you want early access this account is not for you. Further additions are also not permitted on the deal which needs to be opened in branch or by post, although it can be managed online.

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### **Breaking Police investigate Post Office over "potential fraud offences" after wrongful prosecution of subpostmasters**

*Sky News (Web), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

Former subpostmasters and subpostmistresses were held liable by the Post Office for financial discrepancies thrown up by its computerised accounting system Horizon. Faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing from their outlets. The Metropolitan Police is investigating the Post Office over "potential fraud offences" after the wrongful prosecution of



subpostmasters.  
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### Petition to strip ex-Post Office boss of CBE reaches over 400,000 signatures after ITV drama

*The London Economic (Blog), 05/01/2024, Unattributed*

The new ITV drama covers the events behind the Post Office scandal , which saw numerous postmasters wrongly prosecuted between 1999 and 2015 for theft, false accounting, and/or fraud after mysterious financial losses kept appearing in village post office tills. Mr Bates vs The Post Office follows the story of Alan Bates, who along with his partner Suzanne Sercombe in 1998, used life savings to buy a Post Office branch in Llandudno, North Wales. In the wake of this, the real-life Bates has called for the Post Office's CEO from 2012 to 2019, Paula Vennells, to be stripped of her CBE.

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