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SMITH
FREEHILLS

Strictly private and confidential

Paul Marshall
Cornerstone Barristers
2-3 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn
London
WC1R 5JH

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP
Exchange House
Primrose Street
London EC2A 2EG
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F
E
GRO
www.herbertsmithfreehills.com

Our ref
2076/31043483

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By email to pmarshall

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Dear Mr Marshall

Your client: Vipinchandra Patel

Our client: Post Office Limited ("Post Office")

1. We are writing with regard to the announcement on 10 January 2024 that the Department for Business and Trade ("DBT") will be bringing forward legislation to overturn the convictions of all those convicted in England or Wales on the basis of Post Office evidence given during the Horizon scandal and allow for the recovery of compensation. DBT will also be engaging with the Scottish and Northern Irish Administrations in respect of convictions in their jurisdictions. More details of the announcement made to Parliament can be found at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-10/debates/3DDD9684-C08D-4E5E-AF73-CF85839412AB/PostOfficeHorizonScandal>.
2. As we foreshadowed in our 16 January letter, Post Office and DBT have actively been considering the approach to the existing so-called "Public Interest" cases in light of this development.
3. Notwithstanding that the proposed legislation is yet to be enacted, given Mr Patel has already had his conviction overturned, DBT has confirmed that he will now be treated as eligible to claim compensation in the same way as other Claimants whose convictions have been overturned.
4. Mr Patel will now therefore be able to either accept the £600,000 DBT Up Front Offer or proceed to a full assessment of his non-pecuniary and pecuniary claims and receive compensation accordingly.
5. Additionally, we note that Post Office is considering the interim payment application dated 26 July 2021 that was sent to our firm by Mr Patel's previous legal representative, and we will revert as soon as possible in this regard.
6. Post Office hopes this comes as welcome news to Mr Patel but please let us know if you have any queries or would like to discuss.

Yours faithfully

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

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