

James Arbuthnot MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

22 March 2013

Dear James

In advance of your meeting with MPs on Monday to discuss the Second Sight investigation, I thought it might be helpful if I set out my reflections at this stage in the process, particularly given that we decided that it would not be appropriate for the Post Office to attend.

The first point to reiterate is that we remain absolutely committed to supporting the investigation, and will continue to do everything we can to help Second Sight gather the evidence they need to arrive at a robust set of conclusions. If there are areas identified where we need to make improvements we will act on them as a matter of urgency.

Given the importance of this process, I am very pleased by the way in which Second Sight, the JFSA and the Post Office have developed strong working relationships as the investigation has progressed. I am very grateful to you and everyone involved for facilitating this collaborative approach.

I understand that the purpose of Monday's meeting is for Second Sight to provide an update on the process and outline how they propose to marshal the complex evidence base to arrive at a set of conclusions by summer recess. I know that you and Second Sight share my concern that it would be premature to attempt to draw conclusions from the evidence gathered to date, particularly given that the sequencing of the investigation means that we have not yet had an opportunity to submit our own evidence on the reported issues. Clearly this needs to be a facts-based investigation that allows all relevant parties to submit information on the matters under review.

Once Second Sight have completed the first stage of the process of assimilating the

information submitted by sub-postmasters, we will then respond to this as quickly as possible to ensure they have all the evidence they need to arrive at their final conclusions. We would be very happy to meet with you and your colleagues closer to summer recess to discuss the resulting report.

Yours sincerely

GRO

**Alice Perkins, Chairman
Post Office Ltd**