

Mr Martin O'Neill MP
Chairman
Trade and Industry Select Committee
7 Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 3JA

Alan Bates



tel: GRO
9th September 2004

Dear Mr O'Neill

Until November 2003 I was the subpostmaster of Craig-y-don Post Office and I am writing to you to bring to your attention a case where Post Office Limited failed in their attempt to illegally alter the terms of my contract.. Subsequently this resulted in them terminating their contract with me 'without giving a reason' and they then walked off with the whole of our life savings and future livelihood.

The file enclosed gives documentary evidence to support this claim, though it is littered with numerous 'red herrings' by them to try and spin away from the core issue. They have repeatedly refused, over a number of years, to address a very simple issue at the centre of this matter. The letter written to my MP Mrs Betty Williams dated 15th December 2003 clearly identifies the problem.

The issue of liability this raises not only affected me, it affects every Subpostmaster in the country and Post Office Limited have taken the decision to deny any rights to Subpostmaster on this matter.

I am hoping, in providing this file to your committee, that you will be able to obtain answers to the questions Post Office Limited have spent so much time ignoring, they do need asking and they certainly need answering. They refused to answer them to my MP, they refused to answer them to the Minister, but at the end of the day Post Office Limited operates with Government approval, and that includes approval of the way they operate and run the business. I really cannot believe that elected officials would knowingly approve of their action of condemning every subpostmaster in the country to unlimited liabilities.

On the 26th June 2004 we placed our business property and home up for sale. We really did not want to, but it is the only way we can see of raising the money to fund a court case against Post Office Limited. We have been told that it may take between 18 – 24 months to sell, but in the meantime we would very much appreciate anything your committee can do.

I will of course provide any further details you require and will attend any meetings if necessary.

Your sincerely

Alan Bates