



The Lord Advocate & Cabinet Secretary for Justice & Home Affairs

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By email only

3 October 2024

Dear Lord Advocate / Cabinet Secretary

Scottish Horizon Victims - Your Reference: 202400410233

We write with regard to arranging a meeting to discuss the issues arising in terms of criminal prosecutions, exonerations and related matters for the Scottish Horizon victims.

We refer to our respective previous correspondence: our letter to the First Minister (16 January 2024); the letter from the Lord Advocate in response (11 March); our email to the Cabinet Secretary of 19 April; the letter from the Head of Criminal Justice at the Scottish Government in response offering a joint meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and Lord Advocate (14 May); and our emails in response to that letter seeking to make arrangements for the meeting (15 & 24 May and 12 July).

As referred to in the letter of 16 January 2024, the NFSP is a not-for profit trade association representing post office operators responsible for around 8,500 post offices across the UK, including in Scotland, hence our interest in the Horizon scandal matters and, for the purposes of our meeting, the victims in Scotland.

We wish to confirm that we very much welcome the opportunity to have a joint meeting with you as soon as possible.

We appreciate that when the NFSP CEO Calum Greenhow gave evidence to the Post Office Inquiry on 26 September he said that a meeting with the Lord Advocate had not yet been set up, notwithstanding the NFSP's confirmation that we did wish to meet. This was reported in the Sunday Post on 29 September. The report referred to the statement from the Lord Advocate's office that no reply had been received to the letter inviting us to a meeting. While we are unsure where the emails of 15 and 24 May and 12 July ultimately reached, our emails confirming agreement to a meeting were sent to the email address from which we had previously received emails and responses., including to our email of 19 April, and also from which the letter of 14 May inviting us to a meeting was sent.

We do hope we can move forward arrange the proposed meeting with you. We are aware one of the law firms representing an exonerated postmaster has also been in touch with your offices and, as we regularly liaise with them on the Horizon scandal issues, we would be happy to have a joint meeting, if that was suitable with you.

We would be grateful if you could confirm the email address or any other contact details which we should use when liaising to identify a mutually suitable date for the meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Buckley-Salmon
Public Affairs Manager