

Post Office exec paid for years after leaving

Finance boss, 59, set to receive most of **GRO** salary until he is 65 under special retirement deal

By James Warrington

THE finance boss of the Post Office will continue to receive most of his salary for years to come despite stepping down after more than a year of sick leave amid the Horizon IT scandal.

The Telegraph has learned that Alisdair Cameron is expected by colleagues to receive the majority of his salary until he reaches retirement age, under a

"medical retirement" package agreed by the Post Office. The latest available accounts show Mr Cameron, 59, was paid a **GRO** salary and a further **GRO** in bonus payments in the year to March 2023.

If he receives two thirds of salary until he reaches 65, it would amount to more than **4.6**. The Post Office, which is state-owned, and solicitors for Mr Cameron declined to comment on the details of his agreement.

Mr Cameron took over as chief financial officer of the Post Office in 2015 and served under former boss Paula Vennells before she was replaced by Nick Read in 2019. He previously held senior roles at British Gas.

However, Mr Cameron has been on medical leave since last May and has not attended any board meetings since that date.

The company last week announced that Preetha McCann, former finance director at Selfridges, will take up the role of interim chief financial officer following his departure. Mr Cameron's absence from the Post Office came amid claims he had clashed with the chief executive, Mr Read.

The Telegraph revealed earlier this year that the two executives had fallen out, with one source blaming a "clash of personalities". The source said Mr Read "couldn't stand working with Mr Cameron" and had asked the Govern-

ment to authorise a pay-off for the finance chief, but this was declined.

Mr Cameron declined to comment on the terms of his departure.

A Post Office spokesman said: "Mr Cameron has retired from the Post Office. Any payments made to a former member of the board will be reported in compliance with our legal or regulatory obligations."

The Post Office has been plunged into a leadership crisis as it tries to battle the fallout from the Horizon IT scandal, with a number of senior figures absent.

Mr Read recently faced a string of allegations about his behaviour, including that he oversaw a culture of misogyny. However, a recent independent report by a barrister cleared him of any wrongdoing.

In his evidence to the Post Office Inquiry earlier this year, Mr Cameron issued an apology to the hundreds of sub-postmasters who were wrongly convicted of fraud and theft because of errors in the company's Horizon computer systems.

He said: "Our culture within [the Post Office] was too often that of a victim: everything was worse than it used to be, it was all someone else's fault and nothing could be done."

Nigel Railton, who was appointed as Post Office chairman last month after his predecessor, Henry Staunton, was sacked, has launched a strategic review of the company in an effort to turn its fortunes around.

The Post Office last week also announced that Neil Brocklehurst, who succeeded Mr Railton as co-chief of lottery operator Camelot, will join as interim chief operating officer.



Alisdair Cameron has stepped down after more than a year of sick leave amid 'a clash of personalities'