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WhatDoTheyKnow

## Grant Funding Agreement with NFSP

[Sandra Tizzard](#) made this Freedom of Information request to [Post Office Limited](#)

**Automatic anti-spam measures are in place** for this older request. Please [let us know](#) if a further response is expected or if you are having trouble responding.

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The request was **refused** by [Post Office Limited](#).

Sandra Tizzard 18 February 2024

[Delivered](#)

Dear Post Office Limited,

Dear Post Office Limited,

In the NFSP Annual Review 2023 (<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/6...>), it states:

"Via the updated Grant Framework Agreement, the role of the NFSP as the voice of UK post offices, have been made clear. It is now documented that the NFSP negotiate postmasters' remuneration, challenge PO polices on behalf of postmasters, represent them where there is a contractual dispute with PO and provide support in relation to a postmasters associated retail business."

Could you please advise

With what legality can the NFSP negotiate postmasters remuneration being that it is not an independent or registered trade union, nor does it hold the required collective bargaining agreement necessary to negotiate on behalf of a collective body?

When the updated GFA was signed and supply a copy of it?

If the updated agreement has still not been signed please give the reason for delay and supply copies of all correspondence between the NFSP and PO Ltd regarding this agreement for the period 1st January 2022 and the current date.

Have either the NFSP or PO Ltd given any indication or notice that the GFA is to be terminated?

Many thanks

Yours faithfully,

Sandra Tizzard

information.rights@postoffice.gro, Post Office Limited 19 February 2024

Our ref: FOI2024/00309

Dear Sandra Tizzard,

Thank you for your request for information which was received on 18th February. Your request is being considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Act requires that a response must be given promptly, and in any event within 20 working days. We will therefore reply at the latest by 15th March.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Regards,

Data Protection and Information Rights Team

100 Wood Street,

London,

EC2V 7ER

information.rights@postoffice.gro, Post Office Limited 15 March 2024

Dear Sandra Tizzard

We are writing in respect of your information request, FOI2024/00309. At present our view is that some of your request falls within the scope of the qualified exemption at section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), relating to Commercial Interests

As permitted by section 10 of the FOIA, Post Office Limited ("Post Office") requires further time to consider the public interest test in relation to this exemption. An extension is permitted until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. Having considered the FOIA Code of Practice, Post Office considers that an extension of 20 working days is appropriate in this instance and will therefore aim to respond to you by 17th April.

Regards

Data Protection and Information Rights Team

100 Wood Street,

London,

EC2V 7ER

[1][[email address](#)]

Post Office Limited is committed to protecting your privacy, information about how we do this can be found on our website at [www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/privacy)

References

Visible links

1. [mailto:\[email address\]](mailto:[email address])

information.rights@postoffice.co.uk, Post Office Limited 21 March 2024

**1 Attachment**

FOIA Response FOI2024 00309.pdf

70K [Download](#) [View as HTML](#)

Dear Sandra Tizzard,

Please find the response attached relating to your Freedom of Information request.

Regards,

Data Protection and Information Rights Team

100 Wood Street,

London,

EC2V 7ER

Sandra Tizzard 23 March 2024

[Delivered](#)

Dear [\[email address\]](#),

Thank you for response.

I am requesting an internal review as I believe, under ICO guidance, that Post Office Ltd has not demonstrated that disclosure regarding the legal basis being used to allow them to negotiate collectively on behalf of all Subpostmasters, with the NFSP, whether they be members of a non unionised trade association or not, would be prejudicial to business interests.

Neither has it demonstrated that the release of correspondence regarding the negotiation of a new Grant Funding Agreement with the NFSP would also be prejudicial to business interests, being that this is a renegotiation to extend an existing such agreement document which is in the public domain. The agreement is a non-competitive funding arrangement using public funds. Justice Fraser, in the 2019 High Court Litigation 'Bates & Others v Post Office Ltd,

ruled that the NFSP is fully dependent on Post Office funding and is therefore considered to be a non independent association.

Please provide evidence that the public interest test was conducted in this case.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Tizzard

information.rights@postoffice.gro Post Office Limited 27 March 2024

Dear Sandra Tizzard,

Thank you for contacting us with your request for an internal review.

This has been assigned to a caseworker (our ref: IR2024/00503).

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Data Protection and Information Rights Team

100 Wood Street,

London,

EC2V 7ER

information.rights@postoffice.gro Post Office Limited 6 September 2024

#### 1 Attachment

FOI Internal Review Outcome IR2024 00503 FINAL.pdf

95K [Download](#) [View as HTML](#)

Dear Sandra Tizzard,

I am writing in response to your request for information, received on 23rd March.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Information Rights Team

100 Wood Street,

London,

EC2V 7ER

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