

## Michael Burd

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**From:** Elliot Jacobs <[GRO]>  
**Sent:** 24 June 2024 19:32  
**To:** Michael Burd  
**Subject:** Henry Staunton

 External email >

Dear Mr Burd,

I understand that you are acting for Mr Henry Staunton with regard to an inquiry from the Institute of Chartered Accountants . Apparently the Institute is basing their enquiry on a press article covering an Investigation instigated by the Post Office Legal department. This article alleges that Mr Staunton is a racist.

I worked alongside Mr Staunton as a Board Director for the year that he was in the company. He is not a racist if anything quite the contrary. He wanted better ethnic and gender representation on the Board and worked tirelessly to that end.

I am [GRO] and it has been a difficult time for me and my family over the last 12 months. Mr Staunton went out of his way to enquire after me and my family's health and could not have been more supportive. Mr Staunton is a very serious and experienced business person and it showed as he sought to tackle the huge issues facing the Post Office. Throughout he displayed complete integrity and exemplary behaviour.

I was not asked to comment on the report produced but it is well to note Mr Staunton was fired before the outcome of this investigation was known - a process that felt wholly wrong to me and not reflective of the experiences I have witnessed of his leadership.

Bearing in mind that I am one of three members of the Board from an [GRO] (along with Mr Darfoor and Mr Ismail) I was surprised not to be approached by the legal department during the investigation. (If I had been asked to comment I would have said that I disagreed with its findings).

I WILL BE APPEARING BEFORE THE INQUIRY IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE AND I AM ONLY WRITING THIS LETTER ON THE BASIS THAT IT WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT BE MADE PUBLIC BUT USED IN YOUR INTERNAL REVIEW.

Yours sincerely,  
Elliot Jacobs

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)