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21 October 2024

Dear Ms Buckley-Salmon,

Scottish Horizon Victims

Thank you for your letter of 3 October 2024 addressed to myself and to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs on behalf of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters ("NFSP").

Earlier this year I wrote to your Chief Executive Officer, Mr Calum Greenhow, outlining my commitment to achieving justice for those who may have been impacted by the Horizon IT issues in Scotland.

By way of an update, the convictions of eight Scottish sub-postmasters have now been quashed following referrals by the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission to the High Court of Justiciary. The assistance by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service ("COPFS") to the Court in these appeals was critical to their outcome. Further, work is currently underway in Scotland to notify those individuals whose convictions have been quashed by the Post Office (Horizon System) Offences (Scotland) Act 2024. COPFS continues to collaborate with its criminal justice partners to assist the Scottish Government in achieving the successful implementation of this legislation. In addition, COPFS continues to support the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry ("the public Inquiry") in its ongoing work to examine this matter of significant public interest.

It has been brought to my attention that on 26 September 2024, Mr Greenhow gave evidence to the public Inquiry stating that the NFSP had received no response from either I or the Cabinet Secretary to his request for a meeting to discuss this issue with him. I was surprised and disappointed that Mr Greenhow went as far as to comment that he considers I obfuscated his request.



As you have referenced in your most recent letter, on 14 May 2024 the Scottish Government wrote to you to confirm that both I and the Cabinet Secretary would be happy to meet with Mr Greenhow and asked that the NFSP contact the Cabinet Secretary's office so that suitable dates for a meeting could be identified. Regrettably, it appears that through a misdirection of your email response to this offer, arrangements for this meeting were not progressed. No further correspondence was directed by you to my own Private Office.

I recognise the important role that the NFSP plays in championing the interests of sub-postmasters across the UK and communicating to its members the actions of key state institutions in response to this issue. I would therefore like to renew my offer to the NFSP for a meeting with Mr Greenhow. As I am sure any meeting would involve a discussion of the work being undertaken by the Scottish Government, my view is that this should be a joint meeting with the Cabinet Secretary. To ensure swift organisation of a meeting, my officials have liaised with the Cabinet Secretary's office and have confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary will host the meeting. The Cabinet Secretary's office will therefore contact you directly, but should there be any issues, the Private Secretary can be contacted at this email address: cabsecforjha@GRO

You will no doubt recognise that the work of the public Inquiry is fundamental to understanding how the Horizon scandal unfolded across the United Kingdom and to inform the public of the work being done to provide redress to those who have suffered as a result. I strongly refute the comments made by Mr Greenhow to the public Inquiry regarding my response to his request for a meeting. I can therefore advise that my officials will be writing to the public Inquiry to provide clarification and correction.

Yours sincerely,

GRO

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DOROTHY BAIN KC
LORD ADVOCATE**