

WITNESS: NICHOLA ARCH

STATEMENT NO: WITN0122_04

EXHIBIT: WITN0122_01/4

POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

EXHIBIT 4

The following documentation comprises the exhibit referenced as exhibit 4
in the witness statement of Nichola Arch referenced WITN0122_01.



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Siobhan Baillie MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Paul Scully MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

**Department for Business, Energy & Industrial
Strategy**
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

Our ref: MCB2021/27084
Your ref: SB19787

01 December 2021

Dear Siobhan,

Thank you for your email dated 9 November, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Ms Nichola Arch GRO about compensation for postmasters.

I understand the serious impact that issues arising from faults with the Horizon IT system, and the Post Office's management of these issues, have had on affected postmasters' lives and livelihoods, and I was very sorry to read Ms Arch explain the impact that this has had on her life. The Government recognises the distress that postmasters and their families have suffered since faults with the Horizon system began, with some, such as Ms Arch, having their livelihoods and businesses taken away and some convicted of crimes which we now know they did not commit. The Post Office has accepted that it got things wrong and has apologised. However, Government has been clear that this apology must only be the start of a process that leads to real and fundamental change in the Post Office.

I recognise that Ms Arch was part of the Group Litigation Order (GLO) against Post Office Limited. In December 2019, Post Office Limited and claimants in the GLO reached a substantive settlement of £57.75m. Post Office Limited also issued an apology and this concluded the civil case against the company. I understand the strength of feeling by postmasters who only received a portion of the £57.75m settlement paid by Post Office. However, a full and final settlement was reached between the claimants in the GLO and the Post Office.

Thank you again for taking the time to write in. I appreciate that this may not be the response Ms Arch was hoping for, but I hope it explains the Government's position and is helpful to you.

Yours ever,

GRO

PAUL SCULLY MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets
and Minister for London