



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Secretary of State for Business & Trade
President of the Board of Trade
Minister for Women & Equalities
Department for Business and trade
Old Admiralty Building
Admiralty Place
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2DY

4 September 2023

Dear Kemi,

RE: Accelerating Post Office Horizon Compensation

1. Thank you for your letter of 9 August regarding the acceleration of Post Office Horizon Compensation.
2. I am wholly committed to ensuring that postmasters receive the full and fair compensation that they rightly deserve.
3. I am deeply concerned by the risks posed to the successful delivery of the Group Litigation Order (GLO) compensation scheme, especially given the serious concern expressed by the Williams' Inquiry in its Interim Report. I understand that the CST recently wrote to Minister Hollinrake offering further HMT support and engagement.
4. I am receptive to measures which will increase the likelihood of successful delivery and I understand that your department is looking to secure legislation to remove the current deadline. I also understand that my officials are engaging with yours in relation to the scheme's admin budgets.
5. In relation to the specific proposal for fixed sum awards on the GLO scheme, while successful delivery is paramount, we must also have regard to our responsibility for the public finances and to ensuring that the treatment of claimants on each Horizon compensation scheme is fair to that of their peers.
6. As you note, making fixed sum awards on the GLO would incur significant repercussive risk and cost, including to the Horizon Shortfall Scheme. Given the extent of this risk and its high likelihood of crystallisation, I would encourage you

to explore the full breadth of other options to advance the ultimate objective of timely and successful delivery of full and fair compensation.

7. I am grateful for the continued work of you, Minister Hollinrake, and your officials to compensate and ensure fair and consistent treatment for all the victims of the Horizon IT Scandal.
8. I am copying this letter to The Chief Secretary to the Treasury and to Kevin Hollinrake MP.

Best wishes,



GRO

RT HON JEREMY HUNT MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer