

**From:** Secretary of State DBT (DBT)/[O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=73D1B78651B9426CB175E1B86FB7588D-1724E4D2-17]

**Sent:** Tue 30/07/2024 10:39:22 AM (UTC)

**To:** Minister THOMAS (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Harry FALLOWFIELD (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO

**Cc:** Jason CHEUNG (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; David BICKERTON (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Carl CRESWELL (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Brooks-White Jobshare; [REDACTED] GRO; Rob BRIGHTWELL (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Charlotte HEYES (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Monique EBEL; [REDACTED] GRO; Hattie SIMPOLE-CLARKE (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Richard HOWARD (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Eleri WONES (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Blunden-Minnett; Jobshare; [REDACTED] GRO; Ellen WASDEN (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Keegan ARLOTT (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Olivia COUTTS-HOWES (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Helena RARATY (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Harriet CLARKE (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Stephanie COSSOM (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Liam BUTLER (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Submission - Horizon Shortfall Scheme - Fixed Sum Awards - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Thank you all,

SoS has reviewed and agreed with Min Thomas' steers.

Warmest,  
Jason

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

**From:** Minister THOMAS (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO

**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 3:25 PM

**To:** Harry FALLOWFIELD (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Secretary of State DBT (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO

**Cc:** Jason CHEUNG (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; David BICKERTON (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Carl CRESWELL (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Brooks-White Jobshare <[REDACTED] GRO>; Rob BRIGHTWELL (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO; Charlotte HEYES (DBT); [REDACTED] GRO

GRO Monique EBELL (DBT)  
 ; Hattie SIMPOLE-CLARKE (DBT)  
 GRO Richard HOWARD (DBT)  
 GRO Eleri WONES (DBT)  
 GRO Blunden-Minett.Jobshare GRO  
 GRO Ellen WASEN (DBT)  
 GRO Keegan ARLOTT (DBT)  
 GRO Olivia COUTTS-HOWES (DBT)  
 GRO Helena RARATY (DBT)  
 GRO Harriet CLARKE (DBT)  
 GRO Stephanie COSSOM (DBT)  
 GRO Liam BUTLER (DBT)  
 GRO

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Submission - Horizon Shortfall Scheme - Fixed Sum Awards - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

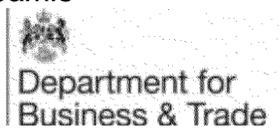
Hi Harry,

Thank you for attending the meeting today – for the benefit of the chain, the Minister was content with recommendations a), b), c) and e) in the sub, but has asked not to delay the introduction of the fixed sums award outlined in recommendation d).

@Secretary of State DBT (DBT) Jason please let me know if you/SoS have any further comments on this or if the team are ok to proceed.

Happy to chat if needed.

Best,  
Jamie



Jamie Cunningham | Private Secretary to the Minister for Services, Small Business  
 Department for Business and Trade | Private Office Group  
 Old Admiralty Building | London | SW1A 2DY  
 Phone: GRO | Email: GRO

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

**From:** Harry FALLOWFIELD (DBT) GRO  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4:36 PM  
**To:** Minister THOMAS (DBT) GRO  
**Cc:** Jamie CUNNINGHAM (DBT) GRO; Jason

CHEUNG (DBT) [GRO]; Georgina GRANT [GRO] (DBT)

[GRO]; David BICKERTON (DBT)  
; Carl CRESWELL (DBT)

[GRO] Brooks-White Jobshare [GRO]

[GRO]; Rob BRIGHTWELL (DBT)

[GRO] Charlotte HEYES (DBT)  
; Monique EBELL [GRO] (DBT)  
; Hattie SIMPOLE-CLARKE (DBT)

[GRO] Richard HOWARD (DBT)

[GRO] Eleri WONES (DBT)

[GRO] Blunden-Minett Jobshare < [GRO]

[GRO]; Ellen WASDEN (DBT)

[GRO]; Keegan ARLOTT (DBT)  
; Olivia COUTTS-HOWES (DBT)

[GRO]; Helena RARATY (DBT)

[GRO] Harriet CLARKE (DBT)

[GRO]; Stephanie COSSOM (DBT)

[GRO] Liam BUTLER [GRO] (DBT)

[GRO]

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Submission - Horizon Shortfall Scheme - Fixed Sum Awards - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Thanks Jamie,

Yes – Carl, Beth and I will attend. Let me know if you need anything else in advance.

Harry

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

**From:** Minister THOMAS (DBT) [GRO]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 3:19 PM

**To:** Harry FALLOWFIELD (DBT) [GRO]

**Cc:** Jamie CUNNINGHAM (DBT) [GRO]; Jason

CHEUNG (DBT) [GRO]; Georgina GRANT [GRO] (DBT)

[GRO]; David BICKERTON (DBT)  
; Carl CRESWELL (DBT)

[GRO] Brooks-White Jobshare [GRO]

[GRO]; Rob BRIGHTWELL (DBT)

[GRO] Charlotte HEYES (DBT)  
; Monique EBELL [GRO] (DBT)  
; Hattie SIMPOLE-CLARKE (DBT)

[Redacted] GRO >; Richard HOWARD (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO Eleri WONES (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO >; Blunden-Minett.Jobshare [Redacted] GRO  
[Redacted] GRO >; Ellen WASDEN (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO >; Keegan ARLOTT (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO >; Olivia COUTTS-HOWES (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO Helena RARATY (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO >; Harriet CLARKE (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO >; Stephanie COSSOM (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO >; Liam BUTLER (DBT)  
[Redacted] GRO

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Submission - Horizon Shortfall Scheme - Fixed Sum Awards - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

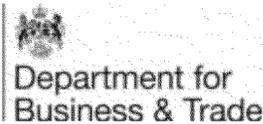
OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Hi Harry,

Thanks for sending this through – the Minister had reviewed and has asked if an official would be free to discuss options B, C and D in more detail on Thursday at 1.30pm. Please can you let me know who would be free to lead this discussion?

Happy to chat through anything if needed.

Best,  
Jamie



**Jamie Cunningham** | Private Secretary to the Minister for Services, Small Business  
**Department for Business and Trade** | Private Office Group  
Old Admiralty Building | London | SW1A 2DY  
Phone: [Redacted] GRO | Email: [Redacted] GRO

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

**From:** Harry FALLOWFIELD (DBT) [Redacted] GRO  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2024 5:57 PM  
**To:** Minister THOMAS (DBT) <[Redacted] GRO>; DBT Ministerial Submissions <[Redacted] GRO>  
**Cc:** Jamie CUNNINGHAM (DBT) [Redacted] GRO Jason CHEUNG (DBT) [Redacted] GRO >; Georgina GRAN [Redacted] GRO (DBT) [Redacted] GRO >; David BICKERTON (DBT) [Redacted] GRO >; Carl CRESWELL (DBT) [Redacted] GRO >; Brooks-White Jobshare [Redacted] GRO

GRO ; Rob BRIGHTWELL (DBT)

**GRO** ; Charlotte HEYES (DBT)  
; Monique EBEL (DBT)  
> ; Hattie SIMPOLE-CLARKE (DBT)

GRO ; Richard HOWARD (DBT)

GRO ; Eleri WONES (DBT)

GRO ; Blunden-Minnett.Jobshare **GRO**

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**GRO** ; Harriet CLARKE (DBT)  
> ; Stephanie COSSOM (DBT)

GRO ; Liam BUTLER (DBT)

GRO ; Harry FALLOWFIELD (DBT)

GRO

**Subject:** Ministerial Submission - Horizon Shortfall Scheme - Fixed Sum Awards - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Hi Jamie, Jason,

With thanks to those in copy, please find attached Ministerial Advice seeking agreement to implement the £75k Fixed Sum on the Horizon Shortfall Scheme (HSS). This is for consideration by 1) Minister Thomas and 2) Secretary of State.

We will be submitting Accounting Officer advice on this issue to the Permanent Secretary shortly, following final clearances. AO clearance is required before proceeding. We will also provide advice in the next few days on the proposal for an independent appeals process for the HSS. We expect both issues to be raised by Kevin Hollinrake during next week's redress announcement.

**Lead private secretary:** Jamie Cunningham

**Submission title:** FOR DECISION: Horizon Shortfall Scheme Fixed Sum Awards

**Timing:** We would be grateful for a swift readout. Post Office has received regular correspondence from postmasters awaiting payment of the £75k fixed sum following the March announcement and we expect it to be raised during next week's redress announcement.

**Summary:** This note seeks your agreement on delivering a fixed sum award to provide redress to postmasters participating in the Horizon Shortfall Scheme.

**Recommendation:** That Ministers agree to:

- a) Implementing your predecessors' announcement to introduce a Fixed Sum

Award of £75k to HSS claimants, to bring the scheme in line with the GLO scheme.

- b) Capping awards at £50k where postmasters reject the Fixed Sum and are offered a lower amount, with no option to return to the Fixed Sum.
- c) Not providing legal advice to claimants to consider the offer of a fixed sum.
- d) Consider whether to delay the introduction of the Fixed Sum Award until we have clarity from HMT on funding for HSS Appeals, noting that this could take several weeks or months.
- e) Note the revised application process set out in paragraph 17.

**Annexes:** Annex A – Financial Impact

**Cleared by:** Carl Creswell – Director, Post Office and Business Engagement

Let me know if you have any questions. Happy to discuss.

Many thanks,  
Harry

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