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NOT FOR WIDER CIRCULATION
Solicitor to the Inquiry
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By email: Solicitor: **GRO**

26 March 2025

Dear Solicitor to the Inquiry

POST OFFICE HORIZON INQUIRY: RULE 9 REQUEST (68)

1. We write regarding Rule 9 Request Number 68 ("**Rule 9(68)**") dated 18 March 2025.
2. The purpose of this letter is to provide Post Office's response to Rule 9(68), noting that the Inquiry did not request a witness statement. Post Office sets out its approach to Rule 9(68) below:
 - a) Rule 9(68) requests that Post Office provide a list of the names and dates of passing of Post Office Subpostmasters who have taken their own lives where Post Office is aware or has been informed that the family of the deceased has attributed this to Horizon related shortfalls.
 - b) Post Office is primarily alerted to a Subpostmaster's death by suicide, which has been attributed to Horizon related shortfalls, via the Horizon Shortfall Scheme ('HSS'), when a family member of the deceased raises this in connection with a claim for wrongful death. Post Office collates this information once received in the HSS. The Independent Advisory Panel ('IAP') determines whether there is a causative link between Horizon shortfalls and the Subpostmaster's death. For the purposes of this response, Post Office has provided the names of all deceased Subpostmasters whose family have made a claim for wrongful death arising from suicide, irrespective of whether the IAP has upheld this aspect of their claim. Not all of these cases have been finally determined by the IAP.
 - c) As requested, Post Office has only provided the names and dates of death of Subpostmasters. As such, the list provided does not include those deceased who, for example, did not hold a direct contract with Post Office, or were family members of the Subpostmaster. Post Office is aware of some cases in these categories. Further, as requested, Post Office has only provided the names of those who died by suicide (as claimed by their family). The list provided does not include those who, for example, have died following an illness, or exacerbation of an illness, connected to a Horizon related shortfall, as alleged by a family member in a wrongful death claim.
 - d) The cases listed below all came to the attention of Post Office via the HSS, save for that of **IRRELEVANT**. Post Office is only aware that **IRRELEVANT** family has alleged that he took his life by suicide, related to a Horizon related shortfall, from media articles. As such unfortunately Post Office does not have further information beyond what has been publicly reported, although Post Office understands that **IRRELEVANT** Estate will now be eligible to

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make a claim via the Horizon Convictions Redress Scheme run by Department for Business and Trade.¹

- e) In responding to Rule 9(68), Post Office has focussed its efforts on the HSS and the Overturned Convictions process ('OC') as the most likely repositories of relevant information. Post Office has undertaken reasonable and proportionate enquiries to confirm if it holds any other relevant information beyond that held in HSS and OC, but has not, in the time available, conducted manual checks or forensic searches across the entire business.

3. The deceased Subpostmasters falling with scope of Rule 9(68) are listed below:

	Name of deceased Postmaster	Date of death by suicide
1.	Martin Griffiths	11 October 2013
2.	IRRELEVANT	IRRELEVANT
3.	IRRELEVANT	IRRELEVANT
4.	IRRELEVANT	Unknown ²
5.	Michael Mann	22 October 2013
6.	IRRELEVANT	Unknown

4. Finally, Post Office respectfully requests that the Inquiry notify Post Office if it intends to publish, or share with Core Participants, the names of the deceased listed above. Family of the deceased may have provided information to the HSS in confidence and Post Office would wish to consider further how best to manage these highly sensitive cases in the event that further dissemination is intended.
5. If the Post Office can assist further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Burges Salmon LLP Fieldfisher LLP

BURGES SALMON LLP and FIELDFISHER LLP

¹ Post Office notes that DBT may hold information relevant to this Rule 9 via the schemes they administer.

² The family member of the deceased has not yet provided the date of death.