

**From:** Minister THOMAS (DBT) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4C651F085E554C728BBBD6AAD83908A3-3466A768-42]

**Sent:** Thur 25/07/2024 2:02:22 PM (UTC)

**To:** Liam BUTLER (DBT) [GRO] DBT Ministerial Submissions [GRO]; Secretary of State DBT (DBT) [GRO] Minister Thomas Correspondence (DBT) [GRO]

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

**Subject:** RE: Ministerial Submission - Horizon Shortfall Scheme - HSS Appeals Mechanism - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

**Attachment:** 20240724 - Submission to Ministers on HSS Appeals Process - OFFSEN.docx

**Attachment:** 20240723 - Letter from GT to CST on Horizon Shortfall Scheme.docx

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Hi Liam,

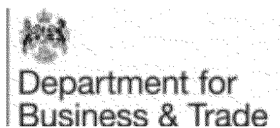
Hope all is well.

The Minister has reviewed and is content with the recommendations in this sub. He is also content to send the attached latter which I have tweaked slightly.

@Secretary of State DBT (DBT) Jason, please let me know if you/SoS is happy with this and **once confirmed** @Minister Thomas Correspondence (DBT) Eve please can you format and esig the attached letter and send to HMT.

Please note that Minister Thomas is also not unfortunately not a Rt Hon.

Best,  
[GRO]



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OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

**From:** Liam BUTLER **GRO** (DBT) <**GRO**>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 5:42 PM  
**To:** Minister THOMAS (DBT) <**GRO**>; DBT Ministerial Submissions <**GRO**>  
**Cc:** **GRO**; **GRO**; Jason CHEUNG (DBT) <**GRO**>; David BICKERTON (DBT) <**GRO**>; Carl CRESWELL (DBT) <**GRO**>; Brooks-White Jobshare <**GRO**>; Harry FALLOWFIELD (DBT) <**GRO**>; Rob BRIGHTWELL (DBT) <**GRO**>; Charlotte HEYES (DBT) <**GRO**>; Monique EBELL **GRO** (DBT) <**GRO**>; Hattie SIMPOLE-CLARKE (DBT) <**GRO**>; Richard HOWARD (DBT) <**GRO**>; Eleri WONES (DBT) <**GRO**>; Blunden-Minett Jobshare <**GRO**>; Ellen WASDEN (DBT) <**GRO**>; Keegan ARLOTT (DBT) <**GRO**>; Olivia COUTTS-HOWES (DBT) <**GRO**>; Helena RARATY (DBT) <**GRO**>; Harriet CLARKE (DBT) <**GRO**>; Stephanie COSSOM (DBT) <**GRO**>  
**Subject:** Ministerial Submission - Horizon Shortfall Scheme - HSS Appeals Mechanism - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Hi **GRO** Jason,

With thanks to those in copy, please find attached Ministerial advice seeking agreement for officials to develop an appeals mechanism for the Horizon Shortfall Scheme (HSS).

We will be submitting Accounting Officer advice on this issue to the Permanent Secretary

shortly, following final clearances. AO clearance is required before proceeding.

As highlighted in the advice, the Secretary of State or Minister Thomas will need to send a letter to CST to request funding. We have attached a copy of that letter to this e-mail.

**Lead private secretary:** GRO

**Submission title: FOR DECISION: Horizon Shortfall Scheme Appeals Mechanism**

**Timing:** A decision is required urgently to ensure that an announcement can be made ahead of the next Inquiry hearings in September, illustrating HMG's proactiveness and a willingness to action the recommendations of the Horizon Compensation Advisory Board and the Business and Trade Select Committee.

**Summary:** This note recommends introducing an independent, government-administered appeals process for the Horizon Shortfall Scheme (HSS).

**Recommendation:** That Ministers agree to officials:

- Developing a government resourced and administered independent appeals process for the HSS with the aim to introduce this as quickly as possible.
- Working with HM Treasury to obtain funding for this process.
- Aiming to make an announcement on launching a scheme ahead of the Post Office IT Inquiry hearings in September 2024.

**Annexes**

**Annex A:** Background information on the HSS and criticisms it has faced

**Annex B:** Financial Estimates and Risks associated with Option 1 – additional information

**Cleared by:** David Bickerton, Director General, Business Group

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

**Department for Business and Trade**

Liam Butler

Senior Policy Advisor, Post Office Compensation Team

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