

Minister Hollinrake weekly note 15/01/2024**Last week**

- Following the airing of the ITV drama Mr Bates vs The Post Office, the public and the press interest in Post Office Compensation increased greatly.
- On Monday, I met with the Lord Chancellor and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to discuss options for speeding up compensation payments. This meeting focused on options for overturning convictions en-masse and therefore enabling many more postmasters to be eligible for compensation through the Overturned Convictions scheme. I updated parliamentary colleagues on the topic via an oral statement on Monday evening.
- On Tuesday, I met with the Small Business Commissioner before continuing my engagement with key stakeholders and MPs on Post Office compensation and convictions. My Private Office and the Postal Affairs team worked in unison with No10 colleagues to get advice to the PM on both the overturning of convictions and the GLO Fixed Sum award. I had a second meeting with the Lord Chancellor on Tuesday evening and engaged with the Shadow Cabinet later that day also.
- On Wednesday I represented the Government on the morning media round, which focused on Post Office issues. Work on the announcement continued right up until PMQs, where the PM announced that we would be legislating for the overturning of postmaster convictions and implementing a Fixed Sum Award for the GLO cohort. I elaborated on the PMs announcement by answering an Urgent Question on the subject. I then went and met with the Post Office Compensation Advisory Board, to discuss the announcement. The board - Lord Arbuthnot, Chris Hodges, Richard Moorhead and Kevan Jones MP - were all supportive of the action we'd taken. I did a number of interviews with media outlets on Wednesday evening.
- On Thursday, I met with Chris Elmore MP to discuss his PMB and had a discussion with Ryan and my Private Office to discuss our return to No10's commission on the top 5 priorities for SMEs.

This week

- On Monday I will be preparing for my Select Committee appearance, which will focus on the Post Office Horizon Scandal. I'll be attending the Deep Dive on SMEs.
- On Tuesday I'll face the Business and Trade Select Committee, where we expect they'll focus their questioning on the announcement on the 10th of January. I'll also be meeting the Chief Executive of Airlines UK to discuss drip pricing within the sector.

- On Wednesday I'll have my routine meeting with the National Federation of Subpostmasters, Post Office Limited and HMG colleagues. I'll also be meeting with Ryanair, participating in the Levelling up IMG and meeting with Minister Davies to discuss the Lilac Review.
- On Thursday I'll be Participating in a roundtable with the National Enterprise Network, meeting with Helen Dickinson of the British Retail Consortium and also meeting James Lowman of the Association of Convenience Stores.