...ce relationship
...rely ...hibit the future free and
...change of views, thereby prejudicing the
...t function". It might certainly prejudice the
reputation of Morse or Hartnett, but we may never
know which.

AT LAST some encouraging news for subpostmasters who have been sacked, sued and even jailed over shortfalls that show up on the Post Office's Horizon computer system (see *Eyes* 1298, 1299 & 1300).

The interim report of a review of the IT system, following a campaign by Tory MP James Arbuthnot, sets out a raft of failings. These include the brutal way the Post Office investigated financial errors; unreliable hardware; the absence of training or support for subpostmasters on a system said to be more complex than that at a high street bank; and an unfair business model which automatically makes subpostmasters responsible for any discrepancy.

These failings have led to false accounting prosecutions as inexperienced individuals with unexplained discrepancies have been faced with either reporting false figures or losing their business, with nowhere else to turn.

Arbuthnot has applauded the Post Office on the open way in which, through this review, it has allowed the flaws to be exposed. But the next big test is whether scores of people who have lost their livelihoods and sometimes liberty will win any redress.