WITNESS: JOSEPHINE HAMILTON

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POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

FIRST WRITTEN STATEMENT OF JOSEPHINE HAMILTON

THIS STATEMENT IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO THE RULE 9 REQUEST OF

THE PUBLIC INQUIRY DATED 29/10/2021 TO ADDRESS THE HUMAN IMPACT OF

THE FAILINGS OF THE HORIZON IT SYSTEM

I, MRS JOSEPHINE HAMILTON, Date	of Birth GRO	of GRO
GRO V	vill say as follows:-	

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- 1. My date of birth is **GRO**. I am 64 years old and grew up in Fleet, Hampshire (between the ages of 7- 19) with my 2 younger brothers and both parents. Growing up, my father was in the RAF. He held the position of Flight Lieutenant. He was well respected and a lovely man.
- 2. I left school during my A 'Levels and started working in army personnel research whilst obtaining an ONC in science. GRO and I met when I was 17 years old and married when I was 19.

- 3. I live with my husband **GRO**; he is **GRO** and a freelance gardener and has been since 2002. I currently work as a domestic cleaner and dog walker five days a week, obtaining work through word of mouth. It keeps me ticking over with an income. We have always both worked.
- 4. We live with two dogs, and I also have a horse. I spend a great deal of my free time looking after my horse as well as the neighbour's horses in return for free grazing. Sadly, I can no longer ride my horse, as he has arthritis in his feet. I go walking and keep myself fit with online pilates.
- 5. GRO and I have two sons: GRO and three grandchildren. My son GRO lives close by with my two grandchildren. GRO lives in Birmingham with my other grandchild, and he is a Detective for West Midlands Police.
- 6. Around 1980, GRO and I moved in with my parents to save a house deposit. Unfortunately, during this time my grandparents were no longer able to look after themselves. My Nan had GRO and my Granddad had GRO he could no longer care for her. The family decided to come together to jointly look after them. We pooled our resources and moved into a bigger property all together. I was very close to my Nan and wanted to help my mum look after her. It worked really well. We ended up with 4 generations in the house as I was nursing my Nan through my pregnancies. We were a very close family and would do anything for one another. Unfortunately, both of my parents have now passed away. I was very close to them, and I miss their presence every day. Over the years they provided a phenomenal amount of financial and emotional support.

7. **GRO** and I see the grandchildren as much as we can but live a simple life. I can't recall the last time we had a holiday; this was longer than 30 years ago when the children were small.

POST OFFICE HISTORY

- 8. Prior to taking up employment with the Post Office, I had worked in various jobs. I had been a care assistant and ran a public house. I qualified with a HGV licence in 1985. After this, I ran a haulage business with my husband. I drove a tipper for 12 years and then undertook general long-distance haulage for 8 years. Sadly, due to various reasons this business took a turn for the worst and it was then that we both needed a change of employment. I had some experience of the service sector as I had run a public house in the past and I had always been involved in my local community and knew other members of the community well.
- 9. Some members of the local community in South Warnborough asked me to run the village shop. The shop was a co-operative run by the local community. The local community was concerned that if the village shop closed, then the Post Office would also close. The Post Office was situated within the shop.
- 10. At the time I did not have the money to purchase the shop, someone in the local community group lent me the sum of £5,000 and the Sub-Postmaster of the Post Office, GRO, lent me another £5,000. I used this to purchase the shop's stock. In October 2001, I took over the shop on a 40-year lease at a price of £36,000. I did not have the capital to pay this upfront and I was paying this as we went along. I expected to clear the full sum eventually.

- 11. The Shop was a general store which sold food, drink and other household items, but mainly newspapers to order. Eventually, I opened a delicatessen which led to builders asking for baguettes to be made, from there I made takeaway rolls and eventually bought a coffee machine. I had to take on a part time staff member to help out.
- manager GRO | December 2001, and I was then asked to take over as the Manager.
- 13 GRO condition worsened in the summer of 2003 and in October 2003, I became the Sub-Postmistress. I continued to also run the shop and the delicatessen. By this time the café was starting to take shape and I had around 3 tables which I also serviced.
- 14. I was not aware of any issues at the Post Office when I took it over. There had been a shortfall in the sum of £270 at some point before the final/closing audit, this was when GRO was running things. I know that GRO had paid this discrepancy.
- 15. I only became aware of others having the same problem when people started ringing me, because of media coverage in February 2008 onwards. It wasn't until late 2009 when a group of us came together, that I realised the extent of what was going on. I had always been told by the Post Office I was the only person that had problems with Horizon.

CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS AND ANY PROCEEDINGS/CONVICTION

16. I had never had any experience of running a Post Office before.

- 17.1 received 4 half days on site training in 2001, before chip and pin had been rolled out and everything went electronic.
- 18. Between 25 December 2001 and 1 January 2002, I was visited by a Trainer from the Post Office. There were very few customers in the Post Office over this time and so the Trainer gave me limited training. For example, I never carried out a balance check.
- 19. Around the time when I became Sub-Postmistress, a chip and pin machine was installed, and this is when I started to experience significant unexplained shortfalls. I had no paper records of transactions. The first discrepancy occurred on 2 December 2003, when a shortfall showed up in the sum of £2,082 which the Post Office had put into the suspense account.
- 20. On 24 December 2003, I called the Helpline to ask them how to take this amount out of the suspense account. I was given instructions by the Helpline which increased the shortfall to £4,188.53 and I told them that I was very concerned about this and asked to speak to the Area Manager who was called Colin Woodbridge.
- 21. On 30 December 2003, the cash balance had reduced considerably, the stamp total had reduced by 46p and three £5 Commemorative Coins had been excluded. I do not know how these reductions occurred as I had not amended them.
- 22. I paid various discrepancies as explained below.
- 23. A Fujitsu engineer replaced the base of the Horizon unit at least three times as they said the system was not sending them the correct information. I didn't ever think to question this. In hindsight I should have taken this further given the problems that I was experiencing.

- 24. At the beginning of 2006, I was getting very worried and stressed about the continuous shortfalls and discrepancies on Horizon. I could no longer afford to pay for any more shortfalls. I began to feel like I was going mad and that it was entirely my fault.
- 25. The Post Office then told me that they were concerned by the large amount of cash I was holding on the premises. They asked me to return £25,000 which of course I didn't have, but for some reason the account was showing. I remember at this point speaking and crying with a friend, the situation had become unmanageable and she told me that I needed to get out.
- 26. I contacted the union. The situation had become unbearable, so in March 2006, my National Federation of Sub-Postmaster's representative told me she would request an audit, at this time she also told me to instruct a criminal lawyer. She also told me to go to the GP.
- 27. My GP had signed me off work for a month, as I was so stressed and worried with depression, this was all from the situation with the shortfalls. I couldn't afford to take a month off work, so I continued anyway.
- 28. After the audit was completed, two Investigators came to my house. I believe the investigators were called Graham Brander and Elaine Ridge. They told me that there was a large cash discrepancy and requested an explanation. I was not able to give one and explained that I had experienced a huge number of problems with Horizon and with balancing the account. I told them that I could not understand the system. They told me that I was the only person who had experienced problems with Horizon.
- 29.1 believe at this point I was suspended (9 March 2006), the investigators also started looking around the room as if to value my items. It was horrible. They

- only stopped looking because my mum told them the house belonged to her and they weren't entitled to anything.
- 30. After the auditor and investigators left, I went into the shop and found that they had taken pretty much everything from the Post Office. Including all of the paperwork. They had left £500 worth of vehicle tax stamps on the side of the counter and a pile of commemorative stamps. I am not sure whether these amounts were taken into account with the audit or not.
- 31. The Post Office arranged for someone else to take over the running of my Post Office on the Monday following the audit. This was **GRO** he ran the Post Office under his Hook PO title. He had the keys, and I wasn't allowed to go into the Post Office. He then paid rent of £2 per week. He then changed it into an outreach.
- 32. A month after the audit, on 12 April 2006, I received a letter from the Post Office inviting me to an interview. I attended an interview with the Post Office's investigators on 5 May 2006. I was lucky in that I had instructed a criminal solicitor by then. The investigators were very intimidating and cautioned me before the interview. I presented the investigators with a statement which I had prepared for the interview and upon the advice of my solicitor, responded "no comment" to every question put to me. I remember being very scared and angry at the same time.
- 33. On 23 May 2006, I received a letter from the Post Office stating that it was considering terminating my contract.
- 34. On 6 June 2006, I received another letter from the Post Office stating that the audit revealed a shortfall in the sum of £36,644.89. No breakdown was given for this amount.

- 35. On 16 June 2006, my contract with the Post Office was terminated.
- 36. Following the termination of my contract, I received a summons for a single count of theft and was charged by the Post Office with theft of £36,644.89.
- 37.1 attended Aldershot Magistrates Court on a few occasions, the first I believe was on 6 December 2006. I pleaded not guilty to the charge.
- 38. My case was transferred to Winchester Crown Court and I attended on 3 occasions: 12 March 2007, 19 November 2007 and I was sentenced on 4 February 2008.
- 39. In November 2007, my Criminal Solicitor advised me that the prosecution had offered a plea bargain on the basis that if I pleaded guilty to 14 counts of false accounting and agreed to repay the shortfall in full then they would drop the theft charge. My Solicitor advised me that this was a good deal and would probably avoid me going to prison, however, there was no guarantee of that.
- 40. I was not allowed to mention problems with Horizon in mitigation.
- 41. On the advice of my Solicitor, I pleaded guilty to 14 counts of false accounting, agreed to repay the shortfall and also agreed that I wasn't to mention Horizon and the issues that I had there. However, I still knew that I had not done anything wrong and hoped that the Post Office would find the shortfall. I now have a document that says that there was no evidence of theft or deliberate cash inflated figures. They would have had this document at the time, they just chose not to disclose this. This in particular makes me so angry.
- 42.On the day of the sentencing on 4 February 2008, I was still not sure if I was going to go to prison or not. I remember saying farewells to my family and friends before I left for court. I packed a bag of clothes just in case I was sent to prison. I remember taking 14 pairs of underwear because I had been told by

a probation officer that there was a 75% chance of going to prison and I would not be allowed any visitors for the first 14 days. It was a very stressful, worrying and upsetting time. I raised £30,000 by way of re-mortgage, the rest was raised through the village and having their support. This was raised through whip rounds and people's generosity. I had a massive amount of support in the court, there were over 74 people from the village that came to court, including the vicar.

- 43. I was sentenced to a Supervision Order for 12 months. This involved me having to attend a weekly meeting with a Probation Officer in Farnborough. This arrangement changed to a fortnightly meeting and then to a monthly meeting. By about 7 months after the sentencing hearing, I was told that I would no longer need to attend the meeting due to good behaviour.
- 44. I also had to pay court costs in the sum of £1,000.
- 45. My conviction was overturned on 23 April 2021 in the Court of Appeal.

THE HUMAN IMPACT

46. The human impact which the failings of the Horizon IT System have had and continue to have upon me and my family are set out in the remainder of this statement. The section headings follow the particular questions posed by the Inquiry.

WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING REQUIRED TO MAKE GOOD APPARENT SHORTFALLS SHOWN BY THE HORIZON IT SYSTEM?

47.1 was expected to repay monies. Initial errors before my conviction were deducted from my salary or re-paid through re-mortgaging and borrowing

- money from friends. I wasn't given a choice here. I couldn't mention the remortgaging to them at this time.
- 48. The further costs associated with the conviction were at a completely different level. The post office was repaid £50,644.89 in total. I am still paying for these consequences now.
- 49. After my conviction to pay off the shortfall and our debts, my husband, my mum and dad and I sold a piece of our garden to a developer. We had planned to build on this part of the garden, as it already had an existing garage.
- 50. We successfully obtained planning permission and sold the piece of garden to a developer GRO for £127,000. Our garden was quite big being over a quarter of an acre.
- 51. This was a significant loss to us in having to sell this plot of land when we did.

 We just needed to raise cash quickly and have absolutely lost out in the long term. I did not have a private pension and this in effect was our pension plan.

 GRO and I had planned to build a property on the land when I retired and move into it and sell our existing property which is the GRO.
- 52. The £127,000 was paid into my mums account in 2009. I think from recollection £50,000 was for my mum and dad and £50,000 was for me and GRO. The £27,000 had been swallowed up to include payment of fees and architects' fees. We installed heating and a replacement boiler in the house and bought an old car and the rest was swallowed up by the Post Office and financing our larger mortgage. At the time I wasn't earning enough to cover the monthly repayments. It felt like robbing Peter to pay Paul.

WHAT WERE THE COSTS OF MAKING GOOD ALLEGED SHORTFALLS SHOWN BY HORIZON?

- 53. On 21 January 2004, my Area Manager visited me and could not explain the discrepancy. The figure had reached £3,191.00 which I was told that I would have to pay. As I did not have the funds, the Post Office agreed to deduct this sum from my wages.
- 54. Over 2004 and 2005, the situation with the shortfalls continued:
 - a) I paid a shortfall of £724.34 which was paid out of my wages.
 - b) I paid a further shortfall of £188.31 in September 2005.
 - c) A shortfall of £9,000 then occurred, which I funded from re-mortgaging my personal property and from a loan of approximately £3,000 which I borrowed from a friend. This happened around 2005, but I would need to check the exact details and dates here.
- 55. It was a struggle. I repaid in excess of £13,000 over 2004 and 2005.
- 56. In order to repay the shortfall found at the audit, we sold a piece of land in our garden to a developer (further explained in paragraph 49).

HOW WERE YOU AFFECTED WHEN ALLEGED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHORTFALLS OR DISCREPANCIES SHOWN BY THE HORIZON IT SYSTEM?

57. During the time the Post Office was closed after the audit, people were continuously asking me questions about when it was going to reopen. It was a highly stressful time, so I told them there was something wrong with the computer system. I was so worried and stressed that I cannot recall everything that was said to me by the investigators and past events seem blurred.

- 58.1 felt sick and embarrassed too. I was left with continuous worry and stress about what the Post Office was going to do next. It felt like a nightmare. I felt emotional, extremely upset, and ashamed. No one listened to me, I felt confused over what had happened and like I was kept in the dark. It was a very frightening experience.
- 59.1 tried to remain calm and stoical but my self-esteem and general confidence has been hugely affected.
- 60.1 had been to the GP not only because of the stress and anxiety, but also because I had a pain in my arm and chest. This was scary, everything was overwhelming. They gave me and ECG and they told me that it was stress related. The stress was obviously from the situation.

WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SHORTFALLS AND DISCREPANCIES SHOWN BY THE HORIZON IT SYSTEM?

- 61. The result of the discrepancies was a lengthy criminal prosecution and a conviction. I was made out to be a criminal and in the eyes of the law and society I was. From thereon I had a criminal record.
- 62. Following my suspension/termination, conviction, loss of post office salary and payment of monies to the post office and costs, I did what I could to keep the retail side going.
- 63. The Probation Officer had told me to do everything to try and keep the shop, as the warning was that I wouldn't secure employment with a criminal record. I still had the lease on the building.
- 64. Over time, the café side of the shop got bigger and I was told that I needed ventilation in the kitchen. I had to do improvements in the kitchen and borrowed

money for this from a friend, so I could keep it going. It became too much with all of the work and the responsibility and eventually I ran out of puff.

WHAT WERE YOUR FINANCIAL LOSSES CAUSED BY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST YOU IN RELIANCE UPON HORIZON DATA?

- 65.1 sold the business in May 2014. I had just had enough and wanted to be free of the business and everything that had been associated with it. When I sold the shop it just broke even. I sold it for £30,000 which included all the stock and fixtures and fittings.
- 66. Financially, things have been hard. My husband still must do gardening work, this is on top of receiving his pension to bring some money into the house. He should not have to be in this position. He should be enjoying retirement.
- 67. This is the same for me. I need to work. We still have a huge mortgage.
- 68. We had to sell the piece of land in our garden to pay for the shortfalls and to keep the mortgage going. We did everything possible to keep our home over this. We did have to re-mortgage our property to fund this. The interest rates at the time were around 7%. We were using credit cards with huge interest rates in addition.
- 69.1 paid £1,000 in legal costs after my trial.
- 70.1 remember at the time because of my criminal record my mum had to declare that I had a criminal record to the house insurance. This caused the insurance to increase. The shop insurance and the car insurance also increased because of this.
- 71. In 2010 **GRO** and I entered into a debt plan since we could not service the debts at this stage. I was paying amounts of interest on these debts which were

just crippling. Some good news is that significant debts that were owed to Wells Fargo have been written off and no longer need to be paid since they simply moved out of the UK and wrote to me in July 2017 to confirm that they were writing off the debt.

72. My mum went into a debt plan two years later. We had been using my mum's credit cards. My mum's debt plan got written off when she died. We couldn't get a grant for a wet room for my mum, even though we had applied. They told us that the income was too high, but all of the outgoings were to pay off my credit cards.

WHAT EFFECT DID IT HAVE TO BE ACCUSED OF COMMITTING CRIMINAL OFFENCES AS A RESULT OF SHORTFALLS AND DISCREPANCIES SHOWN BY THE HORIZON IT SYSTEM?

- 73. On my solicitor's advice, I pleaded guilty to 14 counts of False Accounting. I wasn't guilty and I can't describe how difficult it was to plead guilty to crimes I did not commit. I cannot describe how difficult it was to reconcile this in my own mind. I was forced into an intolerable situation, and I felt as though my "nose was being rubbed in it". The humiliation, worry, confusion and fear were all very present. I still live with a lot of those feelings.
- 74. On the day of sentencing I was not sure if I was going to go to prison. I said farewell to my family and friends. The experience was just awful, I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy. I couldn't explain the missing money, I found myself wanting to scream. The whole thing was a living nightmare. I wept when the Judge indicated that he was not considering a custodial sentence. I was so relieved.

- 75. I feel hurt at the injustice of it all and I now feel so angry about the events of the past 18 years. As a family, we have had to survive this horrendous ordeal, having to beg and borrow money from wherever we could. We have had to live with huge amounts of debt hanging over our heads constantly worrying about money and creditors.
- 76. I have not been able to stop for one day. I am drained and tired. I have lost the best years of my life. These years have been stolen from me and from my family. I feel worn down, but I am so angry about what happened. The Post Office lied and there was a massive cover up. I had to resolve to fight for my own justice but the stress and fatigue that has come with this is unimaginable. It has taken its toll.
- 77. When I think back, I wonder how **GRO** and myself have managed to get through such turbulent times. On so many occasions I felt hopeless about the future and having such a lack of control over events was frightening. I was powerless. My whole family was involved, I felt like a burden and feel guilty for that.
- 78. When I found out that I wasn't the only one, I felt indescribable anger. In particular, when I found out they had hidden the report pre-sentencing which could have cleared the charges beforehand. It makes me furious, the anger burns. People should be accountable, but I understand this is unlikely. The Post Office is an institution, a corporate machine. But I question why anyone would do that, it's just incomprehensible that they chose to ruin people.
- 79.1 have since been diagnosed as having suffered with an adjustment disorder and mixed anxiety and depressive disorder, all subsequent to the events since 2003.

- 80. I am currently undergoing psychological treatment after this was recommended by a Consultant Psychiatrist. The symptoms that come with this I recognise as poor concentration and have difficulty in reading a book for example. I comfort eat and find that my mind is constantly overactive. It goes over and over in my head, I can't resolve it and it's so frustrating. I almost feel as though I've been violated. I can't rest or relax and find it difficult to sleep, this results in no more than 4 hours sleep on an average night. I feel anxious about my health and my family's health. I worry most days to the point where this feels constant. I feel guilty about everybody else that can't or won't get compensated. Those that stood beside me and won't see any meaningful compensation.
- 81. My reputation was damaged beyond repair, and this causes me considerable pain and embarrassment even today. The national and local newspapers covered my conviction, so I had to deal with this adverse publicity. It has been very damaging. People lose faith after a conviction and whilst I had a lot of support from the local community, I could feel this fading.
- 82. Originally, I had been asked by members of the local community to run the village shop and eventually I took on the running of the Post Office too. I held a prominent position in the local community and people trusted me. Despite all the support I had received from the Community, the situation with the Post Office and my conviction significantly damaged my reputation in the village. It had been a fall from grace for a pillar of the community.
- 83. I'm sure that I was the subject of village gossip, the whole thing was degrading.

 I did have friends that stood by me but there would have been others who didn't know me so well.

WHAT WERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING CONVICTED OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE AS A RESULT OF SHORTFALLS AND DISCREPANCIES SHOWN BY THE HORIZON IT SYSTEM?

- 84. The consequences are far reaching. There have been financial losses as explained above. Then there have been the smaller things such as I was asked to leave my granddaughters class at school. I wasn't allowed to be left with her or the class due to my criminal record. This was embarrassing all around. I was only helping to make Easter bonnets. Thinking back, this was heart-breaking.
- 85.1 feel that my life, as well as my husbands and parents' wellbeing were also stolen away by the Post Office. It was not just me that suffered.
- 86. My parents were deeply involved in helping financially and emotionally. They helped to keep the shop afloat, they gave up money and took out loans. They supported me as much as they could. I believe the stress of it all caused them to become ill. They both suffered with a stroke within three months of each other and both subsequently passed away after battling cancer.
- 87. My parents had to live through all of the horror with me, and they passed away before my conviction was formally quashed and I was vindicated. They passed away in debt.
- 88. Following my conviction, I continued with the shop. I had no choice. With my criminal conviction, I could not have found any alternative employment. Had the whole situation with the Post Office and shop not occurred, we would have carried on working in the post office, shop and cafe until retirement and then developed the piece of garden we had to sell.
- 89. Since I sold the shop, I have only carried out casual work, such as cleaning and dog walking. I would have loved to have gone back into care work and work

with children, but as a result of my criminal conviction this was impossible. I now work for people who know and trust me. I have had to do what I can to survive.

WHAT EFFECT DID THESE ISSUES HAVE UPON YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES AND LOCAL COMMUNITY?

- 90. The situation with the Post Office has had an effect on the relationships within my family.
- 91.I feel guilty about dragging my parents through the mud with me. I feel guilty that I was emotionally unavailable for my children and husband at times. My son being in the Police Force had to declare me as a criminal every time he moved roles, due to the background checks.
- 92. During the Court proceedings I received so much overwhelming support from my local community. My village vicar gave me a character witness statement and over 70 members of the community attended the sentencing hearing to support me. You could see that the Judge was very surprised to see so many people at the hearing. It wasn't usual.
- 93. Yet, despite all of the support which I had received from my community, the situation with the Post Office and my conviction significantly damaged my reputation in the village. This causes me considerable pain and embarrassment even today.

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECT WHICH THESE ISSUES HAD UPON THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY?

- 94. I do blame my mum and dad having strokes on the stress. They were so healthy and hearty and fit. I believe that they would have lived into their 90's had it been a different matter and had they not had to watch me go through things.
- 95 **GRO** is just tired, he's always tired because we are still working to pay the mortgage. We have missed out on the nicer side of life. There has been little joy and light heartedness. We couldn't afford to go anywhere or do anything. We had an old banger of a car. Life was harder than it should have been.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 96.1 cannot find the words to express my feelings after an 18-year battle with the Post Office and its criminal treatment of its sub postmasters.
- 97. Finding I was not alone was such a relief. Sitting together, finding solace in each other as we told our stories and realising we had all been treated in the same appalling way, lit a fire inside me and drove me forward to where I am today. That fire still burns brightly.
- 98. Where am I? So far, I've endured two gruelling High Court trials which the sub postmasters won comprehensively, my conviction has been quashed and yet the fight is still ongoing.
- 99. The fact that a post office investigator wrote "there was no evidence of theft or deliberate cash inflated figures" then stood by and watched me be charged in court with theft and ultimately convicted for false accounting makes my blood boil. I was violated financially ruined, my reputation in tatters. Eighteen years have been stolen from me, to say nothing of the money that was taken and the

wider impact on those close to me. My parents went to their graves without knowing that I would ever be exonerated - that can never be rectified.

100. The Post Office has blood on their hands - they have destroyed thousands of lives and I believe the web of lies and deceit spans much further than the Post Office, to Government and beyond. And after all that, I know that I am LUCKY, yes lucky to have had a criminal conviction. Perverse as it sounds, I am in a much better position than most - the group from the GLO who were ruined but not prosecuted now have a battle to try and recover their litigation costs. This is wrong on every level. We are in 2021. How can this scale of cover up and corruption go on? Lord Justice Coulson likened the Post Office to a "Mid Victorian factory owner" in its treatment of the sub postmasters. Now is the opportunity for the Post Office and the Government to stand together and do the right thing - have a conscience and make amends for their misdemeanours. I, for one, will not stop fighting for justice and restitution for the wider group. Surely, I have fought for long enough...

Statement Of Truth						
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.						
Signed:	Position Or					
GRO	Office Held:					
Print Full	Date of signature: Jan 13, 2022					
Name: JOSEPHINE HAMILTON						

FILE REFERENCE: GRO