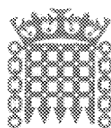


From: The Rt. Hon. James Arbuthnot, M.P.

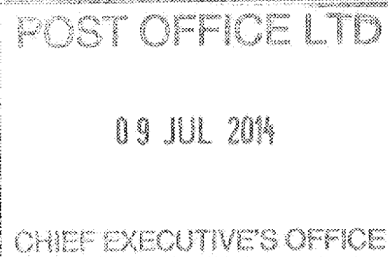


HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8 July 2014

Paula Vennells  
Chief Executive  
Post Office  
148 Old Street  
London EC1V 9HQ

PV  
1900



*Dear Paula,*

Thank you for your letter of 2 July 2014, which reached my office this morning.

I understand your reticence about reporting anything further to MPs than is covered by the Annex to your letter. I will circulate this to the group who will, I suspect, be disappointed that no further news can be offered.

What I propose to write to them via email is as follows:

"I had hoped that we could schedule a meeting before summer during which the Post Office might offer us an update on how the mediation scheme is progressing. To this end I have been in correspondence with Paul Vennells, the Chief Executive. I attach an update from her office, which I have just received.

It appears that not a great deal can be added to what was said in our last meeting. I see no point in trying to push for a meeting which offers no further detail than we heard at the last.

I understand and am concerned that the investigations and reviews are taking longer than any of us anticipated. It is possible (though I have not been told so) that the Post Office considers that nothing can be said about any individual case until something can be said about all of them. Perhaps there is a risk in the mind of Sir Anthony Hooper that to release the result of one case might create pressure on another.

I intend to press the Post Office on this point, to reconfirm the need to give us all some substantial information, and to come back to you with a further update in September.

I hope you might be content with this approach."

I plan on sending this at the end of this week. If you would like to suggest any amendments, could you do so by close of play Thursday 10 July please?

*Yours ever*

**GRO**

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