

Bond Dickinson

[TO GO ON POST OFFICE HEADED PAPER]

Mrs Berlin
[ADDRESS]

[date]

Dear Mrs Berlin

SUBJECT

I write in relation to the above matter and further to our exchange of correspondence back in July, culminating in your letter to me dated 30 July 2013.

I am now in a position to confirm that Brian Altman QC has completed his review of POL's strategy and process for reviewing past/current prosecutions given the findings of the Second Sight interim report to which I referred in my letter to you dated 26 July 2013 and am now in a position to give you an update.

As you would expect, Mr Altman's review has been thorough, leading to a detailed report, and I am pleased to confirm that overall, his view is that the review (being carried out on behalf of POL by an external firm of criminal specialist solicitors) is fundamentally sound, and he has not detected any systemic or fundamental flaws in the review process, or in the evidence arising from it. He has however highlighted that because the review is a continuing process, and POL has a continuing duty of disclosure, both POL and the external firm of solicitors must be prepared to keep under review, and reconsider, past case reviews and disclosure decisions.

To give you some detail, the process involves reviewing all cases (both Crown Court and Magistrates' Court) going back to 1 January 2010 (this being the earliest date on which Horizon Online was migrated into all post office branches and is a start date which Mr Altman QC considers to be logical, proportionate and practicable in light of the known circumstances). Essentially the scheme involves POL's solicitors identifying every case within the above mentioned review period in which the primary or main evidence against the defendant was based on Horizon data. This is done by a sift review process. Once such a case is identified, senior in-house prosecutors at the external firm of solicitors carry out a full case review to determine the question "Had POL been possessed of the material contained within the Second Sight interim report during the currency of any particular prosecution should/would POL have been required to disclose some or all of that material to the defence?"

To date POL's external solicitors have carried out a sift of [X] case files, second sifted [Y] cases, fully reviewed [Z] cases (in which disclosure was advised in [AA] cases), and has discontinued [BB] cases. The process is not yet complete and I understand that there are [CC] cases yet to fully review.

I appreciate that the above is a short precis of a very extensive procedure and should you have any further questions/require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Susan Crichton
For and on behalf of
the Post Office Limited