

## THE POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

### IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

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#### UK GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS' RESPONSE TO THE CHAIR'S REQUEST DATED THE 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

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1. Following the Preliminary Hearing on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and in response to the announcement of the Chair of the same date, UK Government Investments (UKGI) hereby confirms that that it will waive privilege in respect of its legally privileged material relevant to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, dated from the date of the first pilot of the Horizon IT System to the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, for the purposes of the Inquiry.
2. UKGI is committed to supporting the Inquiry's work and recognises that a waiver of privilege is likely to enable the Inquiry to perform its task most effectively. As a provider of documents to the Inquiry, UKGI will also welcome the opportunity to comment upon the content of any of its documents that are proposed for disclosure, in accordance with the Inquiry's protocols<sup>1</sup>.
3. It may be of assistance to the Inquiry to know that the quantity of UKGI's own privileged material is very limited. UKGI is aware that Post Office Limited (POL) and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) hold further privileged material of their own, to which UKGI may have been made privy, in its shareholder role. UKGI will await confirmation from POL and BEIS as to whether a waiver of privilege in respect of their privileged materials will be provided. UKGI should explain at this stage, however, that its ability to provide evidence on matters relating to that material would be constrained, if a waiver of privilege is not given by those core participants.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.postofficehorizoninquiry.org.uk/key-documents/protocol-redaction-anonymity-and-restriction-orders>

4. UKGI trusts that this response adequately addresses the Chair's request, but if any further clarification is required, UKGI will be happy to provide it.

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

NEIL SHELDON Q.C.

ISABEL McARDLE

PAUL MERTENS