

IN THE POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY UNDER THE INQUIRIES ACT 2005

SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF UK GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS ON ISSUES OF COMPENSATION

Introduction

1. These submissions are made on behalf of UK Government Investments (UKGI), in response to the invitation of the Chair dated the 10th May 2022.
2. UKGI is grateful to the Inquiry for having been given the opportunity to address the issues that are to be considered by the Inquiry at the preliminary hearings that are to take place in July 2022.
3. Whilst these submissions do not address those issues directly, as they are primarily matters for which the Post Office Limited (POL) and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) are responsible, UKGI nevertheless considered that it may be of some assistance to the Inquiry, to briefly explain its role and involvement in the various compensation schemes and processes.

UKGI's role and involvement

4. UKGI supports BEIS in its handling of the compensation schemes and wider processes, including in its interactions with POL, as part of its role as shareholder representative for POL. UKGI also regularly meets with and provides challenge to POL on operational and strategic issues concerning compensation, including in relation to:

- i. the Historical Shortfall Scheme (HSS), in respect of which, a UKGI representative attends meetings of the BEIS Steering Committee as an observer; and
 - ii. compensation in relation to postmasters whose convictions have been quashed by the appeal courts and/or may have a claim for malicious prosecution against POL, in respect of which, a UKGI representative attends meetings of the BEIS POL Overturned Criminal Convictions Board as an observer.
5. UKGI does not have a role in relation to the delivery of compensation to the Group litigation claimants.
6. Furthermore, UKGI attends the POL Board subcommittee responsible for challenging POL's Historical Matters Unit - the Historical Remediation Committee - via the attendance of the Shareholder Non-Executive Director on the POL Board and a UKGI observer.
7. More detailed information concerning UKGI's involvement in these issues has recently been set out in the Government's response to the BEIS Committee's interim report on 'Post Office and Horizon - Compensation'. A copy of this response is attached as Appendix A to these submissions, to which the Inquiry is respectfully referred.

Conclusion

8. UKGI hopes that the above summary and the attached document are of assistance to the Inquiry in understanding its involvement in the various compensation schemes.
9. UKGI is committed to assisting the Inquiry in any way that it can, as the Inquiry progresses.

1 June 2022

NEIL SHELDON Q.C.

PAUL MERTENS