



Post Office Limited
Finsbury Dials
20 Finsbury Street
London
EC2Y 9AQ

Baroness Neville-Rolfe
Parliamentary Secretary of State
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

21 June 2016

By Post and Email (mpst.neville-rolfe@postoffice.co.uk) **GRO**

As you will be aware, a group of 91 postmasters has filed proceedings in the High Court against Post Office Limited. I therefore wanted to update you on the impact this has on my review of Post Office's handling of postmasters' complaints.

This update (and the work which underpins it) reports on legal advice provided to Post Office Limited, including with respect to the High Court litigation, and is therefore confidential and subject to legal professional privilege. I am sharing this with you given the common interest you have as our Minister in Post Office's response to the postmaster complaints and litigation, and in maintaining the confidentiality of our legally privileged material.

You will recall that following my appointment as Chairman of Post Office Limited, I undertook a review into POL's handling of the longstanding complaints from postmasters with a view to determining, in particular, the question of what more could now reasonably be done to address these complaints.

In my letter to you of 4 March 2016, I outlined the detailed work being undertaken on the advice of my legal team. The nature of that work is complex, costly and time consuming. Nonetheless, good progress has been made in all areas and I had hoped that by now I would be in a position to draw my investigation to a close.

However, given the High Court proceedings to which I refer above, Post Office Limited has received very strong advice from Leading Counsel that the work being undertaken under the aegis of my review should come to an immediate end, and instead address the issues through equivalent work taken forward in the litigation. Acting in accordance with the duties I owe to Post Office Limited as a director and its Chairman, I have therefore instructed that the work being undertaken pursuant to my review should now be stopped.

We have the opportunity to discuss this matter, and others, during the course of our forthcoming meeting on 19 July. In the meantime, should you have any questions, both myself and our General Counsel, Jane MacLeod, would be happy to address these.

Tim Parker
Chairman