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Dear Paula,

I have recently received a letter from Alan Bates, Chair of the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance ("JFSA") regarding the Initial Case Review and Mediation Scheme.

As you will be aware, the Government, as shareholder in Post Office Ltd, does not play a role in operational matters relating to Post Office Ltd, or the Working Group but is supportive of the aim to resolve concerns raised by subpostmasters and believes it is in the interests of all parties for that to happen in a timely manner, especially for those who have lodged applications with the Scheme.

In that spirit, I am forwarding to you correspondence from the JFSA that sets out their concerns about the operation of the Scheme and Post Office Ltd's engagement in the process. This is provided without prejudice, and I have informed Mr Bates that I would be sending his letter to you to respond. I have also sent a copy to Sir Anthony Hooper, independent Chair of the Working Group.

Yours,

GRO

JENNY WILLOTT MP