

Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

Financial Report 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

Dated: October 2025

Updated October 2025 - Late payments added for venue hire from Government Property Agency. You can find the previous version in the 'Archived Documents' section on the Inquiry's 'Key Documents' webpage.

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Notes on financial figures

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate. However, these figures have not been compiled by accountants and are only intended to give an overview of the level and elements of expenditure over the course of the Inquiry's work.

The figures are not the equivalent of company accounts.

Further financial information about the Inquiry can be obtained from the relevant financial reports from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the Inquiry's sponsor departments.

If errors are discovered after publication, the Inquiry will republish a corrected version of the accounts.

All figures are exclusive of VAT. All VAT charged on these figures is non-recoverable from HMRC. The financial year runs from April to March.

These figures attempt to show when the work that was charged for was carried out.

In some cases, this will be different to when the invoice was raised or when the amount was paid to the supplier.

The Expenses section reflects all expenses relating to core participants, Inquiry staff, and others.

For any queries about this document, please email
POSecretariat@PostOfficeHorizonInquiry.org.uk

Explanation of financial categories

Salaries and professional fees of core Inquiry staff

This section lists the salaries of employed civil servants (who make up the Secretariat team and most members of the solicitor legal team to the Inquiry), as well as the professional fees of the Chair, Counsel, and independent assessors.

Professional fees may also include costs other than the salary of an individual, such as support staff or chambers' fees. The cost of temporary staff contracted directly by the Inquiry to work on core Inquiry functions are also listed in this section.

Hearings

This section lists all fees related to venue hire, audio visual services, witness support services, and other services related to holding hearings. Transcription services were at one point billed separately but have now been incorporated as part of the audio-visual services costs.

Core Participant legal fees

This section shows the costs of legal representatives for some Core Participants to the Inquiry whose fees are paid by the Inquiry in line with the Costs Protocol provisions relating to legal representation at public expense.

External document review lawyers

This section shows the costs of the external law firm which assists with document review of materials provided to the Inquiry.

Expert witnesses

This section lists the cost of expert witnesses commissioned to provide evidence to the Inquiry. This includes the costs of Mr Charles Cipione of AlixPartners, Mr Duncan Atkinson KC (supported by Catherine Brown), and Dame Sandra Dawson (supported by Dr Katy Steward).

Other

This lists other costs to the Inquiry, including:

- Website design, build, development, maintenance and hosting costs;
- The cost of specialist software and software platforms;
- Witness tracing costs;
- Experts in compliance with relevant requirements (e.g. data protection);
- Media monitoring costs;
- Stationery and office equipment costs;
- Expenses paid to Inquiry staff, Core Participants and witnesses. This can include travel, accommodation, and meals depending on how long it would take them to travel to the Inquiry hearing.

Financial Year 2023-24

These figures are exclusive of VAT.

Salaries & professional fees

£9,892,065.40

Chairman and assessors

£1,716,791.24

Secretariat

£1,518,299.50

Legal

£5,323,897.57

Counsel

£1,333,077.09

Hearings

£4,063,917.50

Venue Hire

£3,370,016.17

Audio visual support

£603,425.00

Witness Support

£70,810.83

Other

£19,665.50

Core Participants

£6,150,586.62

External lawyers

£5,523,680.12

Expert witnesses

£260,545.83

Other expenses

£879,714.40

Website Costs

£20,520.24

Software and IT support

£662,298.43

Witness Tracing

£14,100.00

Compliance Support

£86,095.86

Media monitoring

£3,704.93

Stationary/ Office Equipment

£14,198.22

Expenses

£78,796.72

TOTAL

£ 26,770,509.87