

Witness Name: Ms Suzanne Palmer

Statement No.: WITN0224_02

THE POST OFFICE HORIZON INQUIRY

EXHIBIT WITN0224_02

On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 10:38 am, Sue Palmer <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi my name is Suzanne Palmer , I was prosecuted by the post office, had a three day trial, I pleaded not guilty and was found not guilty. The post office wouldn't reinstate me , I lost my home of 22 years , my business, the newspaper printed I was guilty. The postmasters who have had their convictions overturned are receiving compensation which they wholeheartedly deserve. What I would like to know is where is mine . I went through exactly the same process. This cannot be fair ? I feel I've had my stomach ripped out TWICE . There must be compensation for those who were prosecuted. Suzanne Palmer

Sent from my iPhone



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Sue Palmer

Email: **GRO**

Paul Scully MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

**Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy**
1 Victoria Street
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Our ref: MCSL2021/19325

1 December 2021

Dear Sue,

Thank you for your email dated 3 August, regarding compensation for those affected by the Post Office Horizon system. I sincerely apologise for the delay with the response. This has only recently been brought to my attention.

I understand the serious impact that issues arising from faults with the Horizon IT system and the Post Office's management of these issues, have had on affected postmasters' lives and livelihoods. The Government recognises the distress that postmasters and their families have suffered since faults with the Horizon system began, with some having their livelihoods and businesses taken away and some convicted of crimes which we now know they did not commit. The Post Office has accepted that it got things wrong and has apologised. However, Government has been clear that this apology must only be the start of a process that leads to real and fundamental change in the Post Office.

I recognise that you were part of the Group Litigation Order (GLO) against Post Office Limited. In December 2019, Post Office Limited and claimants in the GLO reached a substantive settlement of £57.75m. Post Office Limited also issued an apology and this concluded the civil case against the company. I understand the strength of feeling by postmasters like yourself who only received a portion of the £57.75m settlement paid by Post Office. However, a full and final settlement was reached between the claimants in the GLO and the Post Office. There is nothing further the department can do at this time.

Thank you again for writing in.

Yours sincerely,

GRO

PAUL SCULLY MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets
Minister for London

On Thursday, December 2, 2021, 7:36 am, Sue Palmer <[redacted]> wrote:

Dear Paul

Since I received your reply email which you dictated ,and dismissed mine 3 months after I sent it , perhaps we could have a face to face meeting so you can explain how you came to the decision that some people who were prosecuted are more important than others compensation wise . Only the outcome was the same for me guilty/ not guilty. Many thanks Suzanne Palmer

[redacted] GRO
[redacted] GRO
On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 10:38 am, SCULLY, Paul <[redacted]> wrote:

Paul Scully MP

Member of Parliament for Sutton and Cheam

Thank you for your email. This acknowledgement has been triggered automatically.

I receive a large amount of correspondence each day, but I will aim to respond as soon as I can.

If you are a constituent, please ensure that you have included your full name and postal address in your email. If you have not, please resend with this information as there is a strict Parliamentary rule that MPs can only act on behalf of their own constituents.

You may also find the answer to your query by looking at my 'Quick Help Guide' by visiting www.scully.org.uk.

If you're not sure who your MP is, you can find out through the House of Commons website: <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/>

I aim to respond to all correspondence within 14 days. If you have not received a reply by then, please do not hesitate to contact my office with a reminder.

Thank you for taking time to contact me.

Regards

Paul

Paul Scully

Member of Parliament for Sutton and Cheam

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: GRO

www.scully.org.uk | [@scullyp](mailto:pscullyp)

I send out occasional bulletins updating constituents on what I am doing as an MP and will add your name to this list unless you ask not to receive them.

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Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Suzanne Palmer

By email: **GRO**

Paul Scully MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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Our ref: MCB2021/29017

13 January 2022

Dear Suzanne,

Thank you for your emails of 1 and 2 December, in response to my letter to you dated 1 December, about compensation for the issues caused by the Post Office Horizon system.

I understand the strength of feeling of you and your colleagues who participated in the group litigation and only received a portion of the £57.75m awarded. I recognise that as a group, you have performed a massive public service by exposing the wrongdoings within the Post Office. I have met some of your colleagues and I recognise your deep frustration at the fact that because the group agreed that the settlement with the Post Office would be a full and final one. Without your group's work the scandal would not have been exposed, the Inquiry would not have been launched and fundamental change in the Post Office would not have been delivered.

The Government has recently announced that it will fund Post Office so that it can make full and final compensation payments to postmasters whose historical Horizon-related criminal convictions have been overturned. This is a major step in helping resolve the issues created by the Horizon IT scandal. The Post Office proposes to follow a process of Alternative Dispute Resolution to reach full and final settlements with postmasters. Members of the Group Litigation Order (GLO) who have had criminal convictions overturned are eligible for compensation as part of the overturned criminal conviction settlements. The Compensation is open to all those who were prosecuted, including those not convicted and will be determined based on individual circumstances.

Thank you again for writing in. I will continue to work with sub-postmasters on this to see what we can do.

Yours sincerely,

GRO

PAUL SCULLY MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets
and Minister for London



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Suzanne Palmer

By email:

GRO

Paul Scully MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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Our ref: MCB2021/29017

02 February 2022

Dear Suzanne,

Following my letter of 13 January 2022, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you again following my last letter, to clarify a point which might have created a misunderstanding.

I stated that members of the GLO who have had criminal convictions overturned by the courts are eligible for compensation as part of the overturned criminal conviction settlement process, I then went on to explain that in addition to those members of the GLO, compensation is also open to individuals who were prosecuted but not convicted and that such claims would be determined on individual circumstances. I wanted to clarify my explanation that because of the terms of the settlement, this does not refer to members of the GLO who were prosecuted but not convicted.

The position in relation to members of the GLO who were prosecuted but not convicted is different to those who were convicted under the terms of the settlement agreement. The position of people who form part of this group is that they have already fully settled their claims against Post Office Ltd. I recognise your deep frustration at the fact that because the group agreed the settlement with the Post Office that it would be a full and final one.

That said, as I stated in my last letter, all members of the GLO performed a massive public service by exposing the wrongdoings within the Post Office. As I said in my appearance at the BEIS Select Committee on 12 January 2022, I will continue to work with subpostmasters in the GLO to see what can be done. My officials recently met with representatives of the GLO participants to understand the harms they have experienced.

Yours sincerely,

GRO

PAUL SCULLY MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets
Minister for London

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 6:50 pm, Sue Palmer <GRO> wrote:

Dear Paul Scully

Further to this letter I have received from you

There is no misunderstanding, I specifically asked you why I was excluded from the intrim payment scheme when I had been prosecuted but found not guilty. Your reply was that I can be included, you always new that I was part of the 555 , you are now backtracking on your letter , I don't like being treated like I'm stupid, that's what the post office did to me . Because I stood my ground because I knew I'd done nothing wrong, I'm now being penalised again.

Suzanne Palmer

Sent from my iPhone