

Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry

Financial Report 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2023

Dated: August 2026

Updated August 2026 - 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 as of 2 November 2023. However, these figures have not been compiled by accountants and are only intended to give an overview of the level of expenditure over the course of the Inquiry's work. The amounts presented are not intended to be the equivalent of company accounts. Further financial information about the Inquiry's finances during its term can be obtained from either the financial reports for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy or the Department for Business and Trade. The Inquiry was established in 2020 by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy which acted as the Inquiry's sponsor department. This sponsor role has now been taken on by the Department for Business and Trade. If errors are discovered after publication, the Inquiry will republish a corrected version of this document.

This report is prepared based on the figures contained within invoices submitted to the Inquiry by suppliers, or by reference to internal records for non-supplier expenses. These costs are analysed based on the invoices and the costs split over relevant months in which they were incurred. There is a different approach taken by the departmental accounts, which analyses the same costs and uses an accruals basis for calculations. As these are different methods of collating financial information there are some differences in the figures shown in comparable documents. We expect that when the whole life costs of the Inquiry are analysed the total amounts will be the same, but whilst the Inquiry is ongoing certain amounts may be recorded in different financial years. The figures in this report in no way undermine or suggest the figures in the relevant departmental accounts are inaccurate, and vice versa.

All figures are exclusive of VAT.

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.

Expert witness costs do not include those arising from the GLD legal advice panel, which are included as part of the costs of the "legal" or "counsel" section of the secretariat costs.

The Expenses section reflects all expenses relating to Inquiry staff, Core Participants, witnesses and others.

For any queries about this document, please contact
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Explanation of financial categories

Salaries & 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 chairman, counsel, and the 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 Core Participants to the Inquiry whose fees are paid by the Inquiry under the costs protocol 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 cost of Mr Charles Cipione of Alix Partners and Mr Duncan Atkinson KC (supported by Catherine Brown).

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 2020-21

Salaries & professional fees of core Inquiry staff			£333,616.03
	Chairman and assessors	£39,028.88	
	Secretariat	£201,217.45	
	Legal team	£84,055.98	
	Counsel	£9,313.72	
Hearings			£26,728.80
	Facilitation	£25,450.00	
	Transcription	£1,278.80	
Total			£360,344.83

Financial Year 2021-22

Salaries & professional fees of core Inquiry staff			£2,013,799.15
	Chairman and assessors	£276,115.63	
	Secretariat	£521,518.74	
	Legal team	£996,851.60	
	Counsel	£219,313.18	
Hearings			£236,377.09
	Venue hire	£92,760.20	
	Audio visual support	£84,728.75	
	Witness support	£36,888.14	
	Facilitation	£22,000.00	
Core Participant legal fees			£645,568.51
External document review lawyers			£49,470.00
Other			£142,072.14
	Website costs	£57,259.17	
	Software and IT support	£50,270.04	
	Compliance support	£30,860.00	
	Media monitoring	£306.85	
	Stationery/Office equipment	£576.85	
	Expenses	£2,799.23	
Total			£3,087,286.89

Financial Year 2022-23

Salaries & professional fees of core Inquiry staff			£6,597,840.87
	Chairman and assessors	£1,240,161.13	
	Secretariat	£880,187.27	
	Legal team	£3,471,657.59	
	Counsel	£1,005,834.88	
Hearings			£2,158,005.03
	Venue hire	£1,479,750.91	
	Audio visual support	£651,592.15	
	Witness support	£26,661.97	
Core Participant legal fees			£3,905,856.50
External document review lawyers			£3,584,419.77
Expert witnesses			£1,542,151.80
Other			£741,387.03
	Website costs	£20,611.10	
	Software and IT support	£505,170.23	
	Witness tracing	£41,255.00	
	Compliance support	£97,664.54	
	Media monitoring	£3,499.16	
	Stationery/Office equipment	£10,869.62	
	Expenses	£62,317.38	
Total			£18,529,661.00