



[REDACTED]

Date  
30 January 2025

[REDACTED]

Post Office  
100 Wood Street  
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

**Classification:**  
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

## Freedom of Information Request – FOI2025/00003

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (“**Post Office**”) on 2 January, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“**FOIA**”).

In your email, you have requested the information shown verbatim in bold below:

**“I would like to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:**

**Please carry out electronic searches of Post Office emails using the following keywords: (1) “Leighton” and “Horizon”; and (2) “Leighton ” and “prosecut\*” (the \* captures any variations of the word that starts with “prosecut”, so for example, “prosecute” or “prosecution”).**

**Please limit the above searches to the period 2001 to 2009. If further refinement is required so as not to exceed the time or cost limit, please limit this to 2008 to 2009.**

**In the event that you exercise an exemption on any of the above data, please could you supply me with the dates of any correspondence.**

**There is a clear legitimate public interest in this disclosure. Allan Leighton held a senior position during a period when concerns about Horizon were raised and postmasters were prosecuted based on faulty data.”**

Given that you have not specified what information you are requesting and have simply asked us to “**carry out electronic searches of Post Office emails using the following keywords: (1) “Leighton” and “Horizon”; and (2) “Leighton ” and “prosecut\*”**” we have interpreted your request to mean that you want information that include the keywords you have mentioned.

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested. Following searches of our electronic records, we have established that six documents attached to emails contained the keywords you requested: (1) “Leighton” and “Horizon”; or (2) “Leighton ” and “prosecut\*”. We have only considered information within scope if it relates to Alan Leighton rather than any other person with the same surname.

We have extracted the instances where these keywords appeared in each of the six documents, combined them into one document and considered the rest of the information in those documents as out of scope, as they do not relate to either Alan Leighton, or Horizon.

Please find attached document titled, “*FOI2025\_00003 Extracted information in scope\_Redacted*”, which contains the information you have asked for.

A small amount of information has been withheld under sections 40(2) and 40(3A) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to other persons. These sections exempt personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (“**GDPR**”).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because Post Office staff involved would not reasonably expect their names, or roles to be disclosed in relation to this request for information

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of this response, you do have a right to request an internal review. You can do this by writing to the address above within 40

working days of receipt of this response stating your reasons for your internal review request or alternatively, by emailing [information.rights@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:information.rights@postoffice.co.uk).

If, having requested an internal review by Post Office, you are still not satisfied with our response you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints)

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Team  
[information.rights@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:information.rights@postoffice.co.uk)  
<https://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/en/governance/access-to-information/access-to-information/>

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