



Date
26 September 2024

Post Office
100 Wood Street
London EC2V 9ER

Your Ref:

Classification:
Public

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Request – FOI2024/01170

We are writing in response to your email received by Post Office Limited (**"Post Office"**) on 21 August, 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:

"The Team formerly known as the Post Office Security Team has been named Network Crime and Risk Support Team to more accurately reflect what the team does."

Given that team no longer investigates can you tell me the following information -

- **The name of the team which undertake investigations into criminality committed by Postmasters and their staff.**
- **The full team structure from Director level down.**
- **The job title of each member of the team.**
- **The grade of each team member.**
- **A brief overview of what each team member does.**
- **The salary of each team member.**
- **Whether any ex-Post Office Investigators or ex Auditors work for that team."**

We can confirm that Post Office does hold the information you have requested, and we have provided our answers to your questions (in bold) below.

'The name of the team which undertake investigations into criminality committed by Postmasters and their staff.'

We can confirm that the Law Enforcement Engagement Team ("LEET") refer potential criminal matters to the police, to conduct a full investigation. In determining whether to report a matter to the police, the LEET will conduct preliminary enquiries and analysis.

'The full team structure from Director level down.'

We can confirm there is a structure of three levels with a Director, Senior Managers, and team members.

'The job title of each member of the team.' 'The grade of each team member.'

We are withholding this information under section 40 of the FOIA, relating to personal data. Please see below for details.

'The salary of each team member.'

We are withholding the salary of each team member under section 43(2) of the FOIA which relates to information which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning details of the current Post Office salary of each team member, as this helps promote transparency in Post Office business and reassurance about the way public money is being spent.

On the other hand, there is a strong public interest in withholding the information as it would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial interests of Post Office. This is because disclosing information about current pay scales showing annual salaries, would harm the negotiation capabilities of Post Office with internal and external candidates. Salaries are also determined on a case-by-case basis and so providing the information you have requested, would give competitors of Post Office a commercial advantage in knowing what salaries Post Office offer. It would therefore not be in the public interest to disclose this information.

Post Office has also determined that the information should be 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 job title, grade, to be disclosed in relation to this request for information as they may become identifiable.

'A brief overview of what each team member does.'

The 'LEET' carry out the following activities:

- Oversee and conduct investigations.
- Liaise with law enforcement, including sharing information and evidence as necessary.
- Conduct analysis of transactions looking for explanations.
- Prepare witness statements to provide to law enforcement.

'Whether any ex-Post Office Investigators or ex Auditors work for that team.'

We can confirm no former Security Team members are in the team.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

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