

From: info <REDACTED>
Subject: Response to Freedom of Information request
Date: 20 March 2019 at 16:40:06 GMT
To: Minh Alexander <REDACTED>

Dear Dr Alexander

I write in response to the information request you made in your email received 27 February 2019 by reference to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Please find the answers to your questions below:

- 1) **How many requests the CCRC has received from subpostmasters or former subpostmasters to review prosecutions against them by the Post Office?** 35. Every CCRC application represents one individual.
- 2) **How many individuals do these requests represent?** See above.
- 3) **What are the range of sentences that were handed down to the subpostmasters or former subpostmasters, which the CCRC is being asked to review?** Sentences in relation to the applications we have received have ranged from imprisonment (ten cases) of up to two years, suspended prison sentences (12 cases) to fines and community service or a combination of the last two types.
- 4) **How many of the above subpostmasters or former subpostmasters have asked the CCRC to examine flaws or potential flaws in the Post Office's Horizon computer system, as contributory or primary factors in wrongful prosecutions?** Please see the following taken from our Annual Report 17/18. "We continue to deal with the overarching issues in 30 applications from former Postmasters/mistresses convicted of offences such as theft and false accounting, having been prosecuted by the Post Office. The theme relevant to those applications is a suggestion that difficulties with the 'Horizon' computer system and/or with the training and support provided in using the system were the cause of the facts that led to the convictions." At the time of the publication, we had 30 applications and have since received five more but the issues remain the same in all 35 cases.
- 5) **When did the CCRC first receive a request from a subpostmaster or former subpostmaster to review a prosecution by the Post Office?** We received the first application on 17/03/2015
- 6) **Has the CCRC completed any reviews of requests from subpostmasters or former subpostmasters, and if so, how many?** No reviews have been completed as of yet. We have kept our applicants regularly updated about progress on their cases. Most recently we informed them, and have confirmed to the media, that the Commission planned to wait for the first judgment of the High Court in the Group Litigation (the 'Common Issues' trial) which was finally handed down on Friday 15th March, and would then take a view on whether the CCRC should also wait for the second High Court judgment (regarding the 'Horizon trial') which is ongoing.

Yours sincerely

Information Team
Criminal Cases Review Commission

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request, in the first instance you may approach the Commission's Data Protection Officer in writing at Criminal Cases Review Commission, 5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham, B3 2PW. Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF, enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

From: Minh Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 February 2019 16:16
To: info
Subject: Requests for review of prosecutions by the Post Office against subpostmasters

Dear Sir,

Requests for review of prosecutions by the Post Office against subpostmasters

Please advise:

- 1) How many requests the CCRC has received from subpostmasters or former subpostmasters to review prosecutions against them by the Post Office? 35
- 2) How many individuals do these requests represent? 35
- 3) What are the range of sentences that were handed down to the subpostmasters or former subpostmasters, which the CCRC is being asked to review?
- 4) How many of the above subpostmasters or former subpostmasters have asked the CCRC to examine flaws or potential flaws in the Post Office's Horizon computer system, as contributory or primary factors in wrongful prosecutions?
- 5) When did the CCRC first receive a request from a subpostmaster or former subpostmaster to review a prosecution by the Post Office? 17/03/2015
- 6) Has the CCRC completed any reviews of requests from subpostmasters or former subpostmasters, and if so, how many? No

Yours sincerely,

Dr Minh Alexander

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