



Dr M Alexander

[REDACTED]

04 March 2020

**Ref: 8958**

Dear Dr Alexander,

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request which we received on 05 February 2020.

The FOI Act gives you the right to know whether we hold the information you want and to have it communicated to you, subject to any exemptions which may apply. It is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. This means that any information disclosed under the FOI Act by definition becomes available to the wider public.

***Request (emboldened and in italics) and Response appear below:***

- 1. Please can the CPS advise how complaints it received in total about any private prosecutor misconduct between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2019?***

***This is with reference to the following CPS guidance:***

***<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/private-prosecutions>***

- 2. Between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2019, how many reports did the CPS receive of alleged misconduct by Post Office Ltd as a private prosecutor?***
- 3. Does the CPS hold easily accessed, central, digital information on the sources of concerns about misconduct by Post Office Ltd as a private prosecutor?***

In response to questions one to three, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not hold the information requested.



**4. Has any government department ever asked the CPS to examine any private prosecution by Post Office Ltd?**

**5. Has the CPS ever taken over a private prosecution by the Post Office?**

In relation to questions four and five, the CPS does not collect data that constitutes official statistics as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Our response is based upon our collated manual records that may be subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

While this is not a complete list, as of 25 February 2020 our records indicate, there are five recorded cases of private prosecutions referred to the CPS where the Post Office was the Private Prosecutor. None of these cases were referred to the CPS by a government department. It should therefore be noted that out of these five recorded cases, the CPS took over and discontinued two private prosecutions by the Post Office.

Furthermore, please note that these figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the CPS.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response. The internal review will be handled by a member of CPS staff who has not been involved with your original request.

[IMU@cps.gov.uk](mailto:IMU@cps.gov.uk)

Information Management Unit (FOI Appeals)  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9EA

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N. Mgbajah-Baranski  
**Information Management Unit**  
**020 3357 0788**  
[IMU@cps.gov.uk](mailto:IMU@cps.gov.uk)