



Department for
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& Industrial Strategy

Mr Alan Bates
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Dear Alan,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 April in response to my letter of 30 March, regarding the Post Office Group Litigation. I really appreciated the time that you and your colleagues took on 18 March to brief me on the issue and your experiences. It is clear from speaking with you, Dierdre and Rajinder that the dispute and subsequent trial relating to the Post Office Horizon IT system has had a significant impact on affected postmasters and their families.

However, as I said in my previous letter, the Government cannot accept any requests for payment as it was not party to the litigation, which has now been settled. I understand that this will be disappointing.

As we discussed in our meeting, I fully recognise the important role postmasters play in communities across the country, none more so than in these challenging times. We are currently experiencing the biggest public health emergency in living memory and postmasters are vital in the UK's response to the pandemic, especially their support to vulnerable customers across the UK, for which they have my heartfelt thanks.

Finally, let me reassure you that the Post Office and its relationship with postmasters continues to be of the utmost importance, now more so than ever, and I will be meeting David Jones MP to discuss the Post Office in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

PAUL SCULLY MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Corporate Responsibility
Minister for London