



Business and Trade Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 8586 - Commonsbtc@parliament.uk - www.parliament.uk/CommonsBTC - [@CommonsBTC](https://twitter.com/CommonsBTC)

Nick Read
CEO, Post Office
[By email]

28 February 2024

Dear Mr Read

Post Office and Horizon: Ensuring full and fair redress

Thank you for appearing before the Business and Trade Committee on 27 February at its session on providing full and fair redress for sub-postmasters impacted by the Horizon Scandal.

As you are already aware, former Post Office Chairman, Henry Staunton, alleged during the session that your HR Director wrote an 80-page 'speak up' document regarding your conduct. He also alleged that there is evidence in this document that you wished to resign from your post as the Chief Executive Officer.

In order for the Committee to scrutinise these allegations, I am writing to you to formally request a full, unredacted copy of this document.

As you may be aware, the Committee has the "power to send for persons, papers and records", where it deems it necessary to exercise it. That power is set out in Standing Order 135(1) of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons. I note that in previous cases persons failing to comply with such requests have been found to be in contempt of Parliament.

To facilitate Select Committee scrutiny by Parliament, I expect a response to this request by **2pm on Thursday 29 February 2024**.

The Committee has a general presumption in favour of publication of documents, which will apply in this case. Please send the Committee a full (unredacted) version of the 80-page report and a redacted version suitable for publication. The Committee also intends to publish this letter.

Further updates from yesterday's session

Mr Recaldin stated during yesterday's evidence session that there is no cap on 'reasonable legal fees' for claimants on the Horizon Shortfall Scheme. He agreed to update the Committee on when that cap was lifted. You also agreed to write to the Committee regarding the Post Office's use of 'Without Prejudice' on offer letters.

The Committee would appreciate a response to these questions by the end of the week. A [full transcript of the session](#) is available on the Parliament website should you need to refer back to these agreed requests in more detail.

If any of the above requests require clarification, please contact the Clerk of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Liam Byrne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair of the Business and Trade Committee