

The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
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Dear Liam,

Publication of the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry Report

I am writing to inform you of the publication of Part 1 of the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry Report, which centres on the profound human impact of the Horizon scandal and the essential question of redress for those affected.

This report is a significant milestone, providing a detailed account of the personal and financial suffering experienced by postmasters, their families, and communities throughout the country. Many postmasters faced wrongful accusations, financial ruin, irreparable damage to their reputations and, in numerous cases, personal trauma and loss. The Inquiry has meticulously documented these individual stories, highlighting the scale of hardship, distress, and injustice endured over many years.

The Government recognises the critical importance of acknowledging this suffering and ensuring that every person impacted receives full and fair compensation. In response to the Inquiry's findings, we are committed to continue to swiftly implement the comprehensive redress schemes. Immediate priorities include expediting compensation payments, supporting affected individuals through clear processes, and ensuring that all claims are addressed with compassion, transparency, and urgency.

Post Office Horizon – Redress for Family Members

I am also writing to inform you that I am today announcing the intention to provide redress to family members of postmasters affected by issues with the Horizon system.

We know that family members of postmasters suffered gravely as a result of the Horizon scandal. I have met some of those affected, and read the stories of others, and am convinced that it is right that we should act.

We propose that redress should be available to close family members who have suffered a personal injury. They will also be able to claim losses consequential upon it. Contemporaneous written evidence of that injury will be required, other than in exceptional circumstances.

Over the coming months, my officials will seek input from key stakeholders, including from the Lost Chances for Subpostmasters' Children group, as they develop the details of these proposals and the process for assessing claims. I would like that process to be as light-touch as possible, especially for smaller claims.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gareth Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GARETH THOMAS MP

Minister for Services, Small Business and Exports
Department for Business and Trade