

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair
Business and Trade Committee

Sent via email

2 July 2025

Dear Mr Byrne,

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 2025.

The CCRC has received in total 31 pre-Horizon applications. We are also looking at four Horizon cases which are not covered by the recent legislation.

Of the 31 pre-Horizon cases, one review has been completed and a committee of three Commissioners decided not to refer the case for an appeal because there was independent evidence of theft. Twenty-seven cases are assigned to Case Review Managers and under active review, and three cases, which were received only recently, are in the preparatory stages. (In one of those cases, we have yet to find any evidence that the applicant has a conviction.)

I use the term 'pre-Horizon', rather than Capture, because the challenge the CCRC faces at the moment is determining whether cases involved the use of Capture at the time of the alleged offences. The CCRC is in regular contact with Post Office Limited (POL) to obtain evidence. We have issued section 17 notices requiring them to produce material and we have received some case papers in most, but not yet all, cases. (The age of the cases means that it may not be possible to obtain the complete investigation and prosecution file and in some cases POL may have no material).

The information that POL has provided to date in relation to the use of Capture does not, in most cases, show whether it was installed and in operation at the time of the alleged offending. Of the 30 cases now under review, we have evidence to indicate the use of Capture at the relevant time in only three cases, and there are three cases where evidence indicates that Capture was never in use. We also have information in one case that another potentially faulty IT system, the Automated Payment System (also known as APT) was in use at the time of the alleged offences. We understand from POL that work is ongoing to review a significant amount of data which may contain further information about the use of Capture (and other systems) at particular branches and by sub-postmasters.

In the absence of reliable information from Post Office Limited, we will need to rely on applicants' recollections. We are therefore engaged with their legal representatives to

obtain information, and possibly statements, from the applicants, from which we hope to have enough information to be able to infer whether Capture was in operation.

The CCRC is also in regular contact with the Department for Business and Trade and we regularly update our sponsor department, the MOJ.

Although I am unable to provide a firm timetable for the completion of these cases, I assure you that we are aware of the urgency and doing our utmost to progress the cases as effectively as possible, including actively encouraging other parties to provide information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pearce', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Amanda Pearce
Interim Chief Executive

Cc Rt Hon Andy Slaughter MP, Chair of the Justice Select Committee