



Restricted: For Committee use only

Business and Trade Committee

Wednesday, 15 July 2026

Blair McDougall MP
Minister for Small Business and Economic Transformation
Department for Business and Trade

Dear Blair,

Subject: Horizon Convictions Redress Scheme - Delayed interim payments

I write to seek your response to reports of delays to interim payments under the Horizon Convictions Redress Scheme (HCRS). The Committee has been told that some sub-postmasters are not receiving interim payments within the timescales communicated to them by the Department, affecting claimants on both the fixed-sum and full-assessment routes.

It is deeply concerning that sub-postmasters may be facing further delays in accessing redress for which they have already waited so long. The Committee is particularly troubled by reports that these delays are causing financial hardship for some claimants who have already suffered the consequences of wrongful convictions.

Please could you respond to this letter setting out:

1. Whether it remains the Department's policy to make interim payments within the timescales previously communicated to claimants;
2. The cause(s) of these delays; and
3. The steps the Department is taking to ensure that sub-postmasters do not face any further unnecessary delay in receiving the redress to which they are entitled.

Given the seriousness of these reports, I would be grateful for a response as a matter of urgency by **Wednesday 22 July**.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair of the Business and Trade Committee