

GLO Compensation Scheme Advisory Board
Report of second meeting, held on 6 February 2023

Members present: Prof. Christopher Hodges (Chair); Lord Arbuthnot; Kevan Jones MP, Prof. Richard Moorhead.

Also present: Carl Creswell (BEIS), Eleri Wones (BEIS), Rob Brightwell (BEIS).

Project Review

1. BEIS updated members on the project's progress.
 - Agreement had been reached with claimants' lawyers on a tariff for reasonable legal costs. This would be published shortly.
 - Procurement of claims facilitators and legal advisors were proceeding to plan. The BEIS internal team would shortly be at full strength.
 - Good progress was being made in discussions with claimants' lawyers and the Post Office about the practical arrangements through which the Post Office will disclose documents to claimants.

Scheme documentation

2. The meeting reviewed
 - The Scheme Registration Form, which will provide the information about claimants which will trigger disclosures by the Post Office. This had been discussed with claimants' lawyers. [Post-meeting note: it has now been published along with the tariff of reasonable legal costs (see above) and a privacy notice at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compensation-scheme-for-group-litigation-order-case-postmasters>];
 - The draft Application Form, revised in the light of comments from claimants' legal representatives;
 - The draft Scheme Principles and Guidance and supporting Q&A, which were to go to claimants' lawyers for comment shortly and would be published, with the application form, within a few weeks.
3. Members noted that the guidance said that awards should be fair, as well as respecting legal principles, and asked that the former point should be emphasised.
4. Members also asked for some clarification of the draft guidance in the interests of non-lawyers reading it. For instance it should deal more clearly with the issue of missing evidence, and should make clearer that claims can be made on behalf of deceased postmasters.
5. The Advisory Board agreed that GLO postmasters should be strongly encouraged to get independent legal advice, at no cost to themselves. BEIS confirmed that this was their intention.
6. Members made a number of other detailed comments on the documents. BEIS will take these into account as the documents are finalised.