

Annex E: Extracts of email correspondence regarding the Post Office Query

Message 1:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 3:50 PM
To: [REDACTED] [private-eye.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@private-eye.co.uk)>
Cc: DSIT Press Office [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Post Office - Simon Blagden

Hi [REDACTED]

As stated in the background information that we shared, Simon's involvement in Fujitsu was raised by officials at the time of his appointment, as you would expect as part of the recruitment process. It was established that Simon served as Chair of Fujitsu Telecommunications from 2004 to 2019, with Post Office Horizon software provided by Fujitsu Services - a separate organisation with a separate board. We don't have anything further to add.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Message 2:

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@private-eye.co.uk>

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 1:16 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Post Office - Simon Blagden

Thanks [REDACTED]

As you say this was an appalling episode, so questions concerning Simon Blagden's involvement are critical and I hope you'll agree it's important to answer them.

I asked *how* you established he had no involvement in the Post Office scandal. You merely say "it was established" what his board positions were. This is a long way from proving he had no involvement. Fujitsu's own material shows that he was part of Fujitsu's wider UK leadership beyond the telecommunications role. (See here <https://www.fujitsu.com/ie/Images/CSR-board-members-2013.pdf>).

Did you ask Mr Blagden, for example, whether he had ever met Post Office officials? I have been told that he did.

I hope you understand why I need to come back on this and would be grateful for a fuller response to the points above.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Message 3:

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 January 2024 12:31

To: [REDACTED] [private-eye.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@private-eye.co.uk)>

Cc: News Desk [REDACTED] DSIT Press Office
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Post Office - Simon Blagden

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your query. Please see our response below, including some background information.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

A DSIT spokesperson said:

"Simon Blagden served as Chair of Fujitsu Telecommunications from 2004 to 2019, with Post Office Horizon software provided by Fujitsu Services - a separate organisation with a separate board.

"The Post Office scandal was an appalling miscarriage of justice which Simon was in no way involved in."

Background:

- Simon's involvement in Fujitsu was raised by officials at the time of his appointment, as you would expect as part of the recruitment process. It was established that Simon served as Chair of Fujitsu Telecommunications from 2004 to 2019, with Post Office Horizon software provided by Fujitsu Services - a separate organisation with a separate board.

Message 4:

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@private-eye.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@private-eye.co.uk)>

Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:23 PM

To: News Desk [REDACTED]

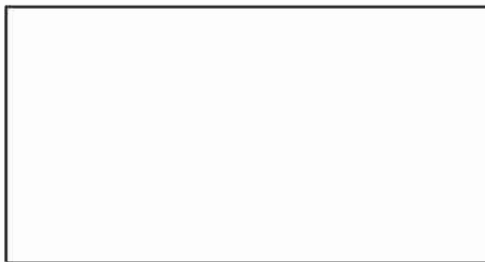
Subject: Re: Post Office - Simon Blagden

[REDACTED]

Here's the story. It refers to "the government" saying he was "in no way involved". I assume as the department responsible for the Post office you would be the part of the government they're referring to.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/10/rishi-sunak-announces-plan-to-pass-law-quashing-horizon-post-office-scandal-convictions>



[Horizon scandal: hundreds of post office operators to have convictions quashed](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/10/rishi-sunak-announces-plan-to-pass-law-quashing-horizon-post-office-scandal-convictions)

Move is designed to draw line under scandal but legal experts say it 'must never be seen as a precedent'
www.theguardian.com

Best Wishes,
[REDACTED]

Private Eye

Message 5:

From: News Desk [REDACTED]

Sent: 18 January 2024 20:17

To: [REDACTED] private-eye.co.uk; News Desk

Subject: RE: Post Office - Simon Blagden

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

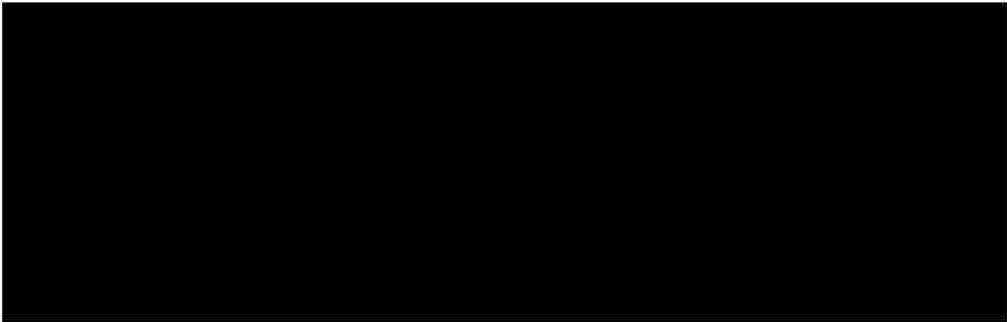
Would you be able to link me to the specific statement from us that you are referring to so I can look into this?

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]



Department for
Business & Trade



Message 6:

From: [REDACTED] [private-eye.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@private-eye.co.uk)>

Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:34 PM

To: News Desk [REDACTED]

Subject: Post Office - Simon Blagden

Last week, in response to the Guardian writing about Simon Blagden, former chairman of Fujitsu Telecommunications and director of Fujitsu UK, you said he had nothing to do with the Horizon IT contract.

Could you please confirm you were accurately reported on this and say briefly how you established this?

I'd be grateful for a response on Friday or Monday please.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
Private Eye
[REDACTED]