

**Horizon Compensation Advisory Board**  
Secretariat: Department for Business and Trade  
Old Admiralty Building  
London  
SW1A 2DY

Nigel Railton  
Chair  
Post Office  
Group CEO  
100 Wood Street  
London, EC2V 7AN

1 May 2026

Dear Nigel,

### **Post Office Objections to Appeals Against Convictions**

I am writing on behalf of my colleagues on the Horizon Compensation Advisory Board: Lord Arbuthnot, Lord Beamish and Professor Richard Moorhead.

We are most concerned at the news that the Post Office is objecting to some applications in the Court of Appeal to overturn convictions, recently relating to Capture cases.

Our view is that such action presumably reflects technical legal advice but the outcome gives entirely the wrong impression to the public and especially to those victims whose appeals are concerned.

Please could you explain the reasons for such objections? To the extent that they are based on legal advice that the Court of Appeal may expect the prosecuting authority (the Post Office) to adopt an adverse stance so that the Court has the benefit of assessing contrary views, we regard that as inappropriate in the context of this scandal, and suggest that the Court should be asked to review the position. It would also be helpful to have the authorities on which the views stand.

Alternatively, is there some other reason? We certainly believe that where cases have been independently investigated and brought by the Criminal Cases Review Commission it is entirely inappropriate, given the background to the Horizon and Capture scandals, for the Post Office to continue to raise any objection to an appeal against conviction.

Whatever the reason, we note the entirely understandable public reaction, which we fully share, that, whether the reasons may be technical or not, it is inappropriate and harmful for the Post Office to object to overturn applications.

Thank you for your swift attention to this.

Yours sincerely,

*Christopher Hodges*

Christopher Hodges OBE PhD MA FSALS FRSA  
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Chair, Horizon Compensation Advisory Board