

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

Monisha Shah,  
Legal Services Board,  
2nd Floor, 2 Redman Place,  
London, E20 1JQ

17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Ms Shah,

### **Bar Standards Board: Investigation Powers**

Congratulations on your appointment. As you may know, colleagues and I on the Horizon Compensation Advisory Board provide independent advice to Ministers on oversight of the delivery of various compensation schemes for victims of the Horizon and Capture scandals involving the Post Office. Our members are the Rt Hon Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom, the Rt Hon Lord Beamish, Professor Richard Moorhead and myself.

Current statistics indicate that various compensation schemes are on track to agree and deliver compensation to the vast majority of roughly 15,000 Horizon and Capture victims within the current year. Actions in relation to the accountability of individuals and organisations may, in contrast, not be commenced until after the publication of the final Report of the Public Inquiry, so perhaps not during the current year. No doubt it is in the interests of victims and of justice that such actions as should and can be taken are done so without delay.

We have held useful meetings with the Metropolitan Police, the Solicitors Regulatory Authority, and Bar Standards Board and the Financial Reporting Council as bodies engaged in ongoing work ensuring accountability, which we see as an important part of ultimate redress for Post Office victims. We note the press release by the SRA of 12 March 2026 recording its activities in this space. We are also pleased to note your own *Statement of policy on upholding professional ethical duties* of 26 March 2026. We understand a similar statement may be forthcoming from the BSB.

One important technical point has arisen that we would like to draw to your attention is the BSB appears to be hampered in obtaining evidence since they have no power to compel individuals to produce evidence, unlike the statutory powers available to the SRA. This is not just an unhelpful disparity but appears to be a significant omission in the toolbox of effective regulatory powers. The absence of such a power – and other powers perhaps – may at least be expected to delay appropriate proceedings, and possibly even to defeat the delivery of justice in individual cases. This is a problem that we understand has been understood for some time and of broader import than Post Office cases.

We would welcome your thoughts on rectifying the position and when it might occur.

We are happy to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

*Chris Hodges*

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