Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

Horizon Compensation Advisory Board

Report of thirty-fourth meeting held on 27 October 2026

Members present: Prof. Christopher Hodges (Chair); Lord Arbuthnot; Lord Beamish; Prof. Richard Moorhead

Also present: Rob Brightwell; Marcia King; Amanda McMenamin; Eleri Wones (all Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade – "BIST")

Apologies: Carl Creswell (BIST)

1. **Acknowledgements**
   - The Board reflected on their recent meeting with Ministers from BIST, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Cabinet Office and looked forward to further meetings in future. They acknowledged significant and welcome progress on funding police investigations. They would continue to engage on regulatory gaps with the Government and the regulators.
   - The Board reiterated their belief of the need for an independent and wide-ranging review of prosecutions by the Department for Work and Pensions.
   - The Board reiterated their firm conviction that Capture, DWP and other Horizon-related convictions were best addressed by legislation to overturn them and again drew attention to the position in Scotland that had recognised and dealt with more of the anomalies there.
   - The Board also reiterated their firm conviction that overturning Capture-related convictions is the most just course of action, noting the scheduled hearings at the Court of Appeal not expected until next year.
   - The Board welcomed the 21 October Written Ministerial Statement setting out the latest developments on Post Office Redress. This included:
     - The setting of closure dates for redress schemes. The Horizon Convictions Redress Scheme (HCRS) will closure to new submissions from 31 July 2027 and the Capture scheme will close to new applications from 31 March 2027;
     - The Shortfall Independent Review, ensuring that where Post Office considers there is insufficient evidence to make a fixed-sum offer, that decision will be independently reviewed before a claim is rejected;
     - A route to appeal for individuals who have previously made a fixed sum offer claim under the Horizon Shortfall Scheme but who consider their award to have been undervalued; and
     - An independent investigation into pre-Horizon software.

2. Scheme Statistics

- The Board discussed progress across the redress schemes set out in the Department's monthly publication. It asked that future data provided to the Board should highlight cases outstanding and issues needing to be addressed to resolve problems and close the schemes. It welcomed progress across all schemes. It agreed to seek further discussions with claimants' lawyers to help identify any remaining barriers to completion.
- The Board reiterated its support for each of the schemes having defined final closure dates to encourage applicants to submit claims as soon as possible.

3. AOB

- The Board expressed their strong concern that Fujitsu has not yet made a financial contribution to the costs of the scandal.
- The Board also discussed the Financial Reporting Council's work investigating Ernst & Young's role in the scandal and remarked that they would continue to keep abreast of this matter.
- The Board welcomed the PAC's report on the future of redress. They strongly supported the recommendation for the creation of an independent body to deliver redress, and hoped to see a positive Government response.