



First Minister, Ms O'Neill

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Deputy First Minister, Ms Little-Pengelly

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Dear First Minister and Deputy First Minister

I am writing to you as the Chief Executive Officer of the National Federation of SubPostmasters (NFSP), a professional not-for-profit trade association representing post office operators responsible for approximately 8,500 post office branches throughout the UK.

The recent ITV drama 'Mr Bates vs The Post Office', highlighted the largest miscarriage of justice in the history of the UK. Since then, the Postal Minister, Kevin Hollinrake, has announced that those Postmasters who have had their convictions overturned will be able to choose between accepting a fixed-sum award of £600,000, or having their losses individually assessed. Unfortunately, Postmasters in Northern Ireland currently are not included within this scheme, which is dependent on the Northern Ireland executive progressing their approach to exonerating all victims. We believe, in Northern Ireland, approximately 28 prosecutions of SubPostmasters have been identified as 'unsafe'.

In addition, Minister Hollinrake has stated that, "to ensure equality, those victims of the Horizon Shortfall scheme who have already settled their claims for less than £75,000 will be offered a top-up to bring the total redress to this amount". Again, this does not cover Postmasters in Northern Ireland.

It beggars belief that a scandal that has been caused by the UK Post Office, and supported by the UK Government is not treating all victims equally.

Over and above those prosecutions, SubPostmasters throughout Northern Ireland fell victim to 'shortfalls' showing on the now discredited Horizon system and were subject to investigations, audits and demands for payments by the Post Office of apparent shortfalls showing on Horizon.

It is believed that many tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of pounds were paid by Northern Irish SubPostmasters to the Post Office as a result of those investigations and audits in order to avoid threatened legal action.

To offer our support and insight, we would be very happy to discuss the issues stated regarding the Post Office Horizon Scandal. Further, we would appreciate a broader discussion on the threats facing the viability of the current network - perhaps you would consider sponsoring an open awareness day in the Long Gallery Room involving MLAs and regional Subpostmasters?

Yours sincerely,

Calum Greenhow, CEO NFSP