

 I am strongly of the opinion that in order to win the argument we have to focus it on what actually happened and not allow others to conduct the debate around speculation about what might have happened

### Horizon Integrity

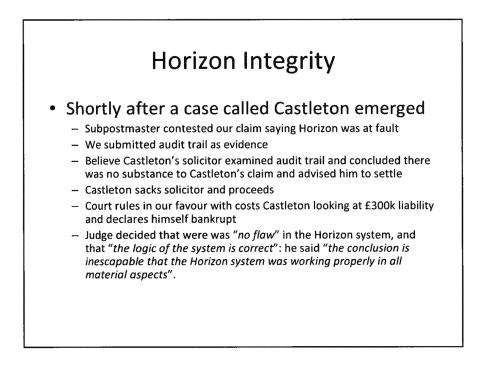
• History

- First involved in this in 2004

- Series of articles in the Subpostmaster magazine
- And a case referred to as Cleveleys came to the fore
  - Cleveleys (Subpostmistress Mrs Wolstenholme) arises
     around Horizon introduction
  - Dismissal in 2001
  - · Post Office pursued debt through the courts

Cleveleys

- Discrepancy contested
- Solicitor appoints "expert"
- Expert was not challenged or managed
  - Expert assumes status of "joint" expert
  - Produced a report which in my view exposed the expert as a "sham"
  - Nonetheless expert concluded that Horizon could have caused the discrepancy
- Did not have access to audit trail so couldn't refute
  - That is prove that what the expert said could happen didn't happen
- Settled out of court £187.5k (cost included)



- Castleton "killed" the noise until Computer Weekly ran an article in 2009
  - Even though the journalist conceded that there was little hard evidence
- Closely followed by an S4C programme
- Interest in the press
- And a glut of flag cases
- And interest from a growing number of MPs
- A small group of golden oldies
- But signs that a larger group rallying to the cause

### Horizon Integrity

- Solicitor engaged on no foal no fee basis
- Expert appointed who has made FOI enquiry

• What is Horizon integrity

 Claim that the system either in failure mode or through other means can create a difference between the machine calculated cash balance and physical cash

# Horizon Integrity Horizon is designed so that accounting integrity is maintained when it fails We are not defending the fact that it doesn't fail Attached pdf document explains how The audit file will show what happened If a transaction were "lost" this would be exposed through break in sequence numbers

- What explanations are there?
  - Subpostmaster has had hands in the till
  - Assistants have had hands in the till
  - Accounting error
    - Many of these can be picked up by back office checks - Cash entered as cheques or vice versa
    - Evidence that an NS&I cash withdrawal entered as deposit might not be picked up by NS&I

