

Witness Name: Stephen BRADSHAW

Statement No: WITN04450300

Dated: 15 March 2024

**POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY**

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**THIRD WITNESS STATEMENT OF STEPHEN BRADSHAW**

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I, STEPHEN BRADSHAW, will say as follows;

1. This witness statement is made to assist the Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry following my oral testimony on 11 January 2024.

**Witness statement for criminal prosecution**

2. I was questioned at length about POL00120723, a witness statement signed by me and dated 20 November 2012. During my testimony I provided that this statement was not drafted by me, although I did sign it.

3. Having reflected on this witness statement, my recollection is that it this was essentially a template. These templates were standardised and were akin to position statements or corporate statements.
4. As I provided in my testimony I am not an IT expert and so would not have been qualified to give a statement or evidence on the reliability of Horizon, rather I was adopting the corporate position. I had no reason to believe that the advice I was receiving from the lawyers who were engaged to do this work for the Post Office were wrong. I was in no position to challenge the advice and so I did my job and signed the statement. Given my position in the organisation I wasn't able to question the advice that Horizon was accurate.

#### **ARQ Data**

5. Another witness was asked by counsel for Mhari McDougal, Mr Henry, about my role in interviews.<sup>1</sup> In particular it was suggested that I had responsibility for assessing requests for ARQ data, and that I was the gatekeeper for ARQ requests. Mr Henry questioned me during the hearing of my evidence but he didn't put this allegation about me to me. If he had put this allegation to me I would have been able to explain that I was not any sort of 'gatekeeper' of ARQ data. I was able to request ARQ data through the usual channel, which was the casework team, just like everyone else. I didn't have any special responsibility for assessing ARQ data requests and I was surprised to see it suggested that I was some sort of gatekeeper. I can't remember any occasion on which I requested ARQ data directly from Fujitsu. I never had any kind of gatekeeper role.

#### **The Parcel Lift**

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<sup>1</sup> Transcript for 23 January 2024, page 120, lines 4-21.

6. I was also asked questions about Rita Threlfall. It was claimed that I put her in a small parcel lift. This is incorrect. I would never do something like that. Ms Threlfall was placed in a lift specially designated for wheelchair access. I have attached photos to this statement. The fourth photo shows that this lift is approved for up to 5 people. It is not a parcel lift. It is an ordinary lift for people. Please see WITN04450301, WITN04450302, WITN04450303, and WITN04450304.

**My position in the organisation**

7. I have been surprised at some of the comments about my former role when reading through closing statements from counsel. I want the Inquiry to understand what my role in the Post Office was. As an investigation manager (as I was at the time) I wasn't involved in managing other people. It was the investigation that I was managing. This was a role that many people in the organisation carried out – when I started in this role there would have been around 40 other people with the same title. From my perspective I was at the bottom rung of the organisation. I had no special role or input at any higher level, and have been surprised to see my name used in the same breath as much more senior people in the organisation.

**Statement of Truth**

8. I believe the content of this statement to be true.

Signed:

**GRO**

Dated:

15 MARCH 2024

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