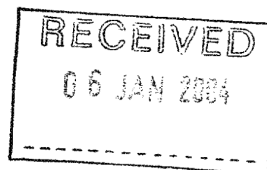


R.T.
10 P

Betty Williams MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA



05.01.04

Your ref: C2331/41413

Dear Ms Williams



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Thank you for your letter of 23rd December 2003, addressed to Allan Leighton, enclosing a copy of a letter from your constituent Alan Bates - ex-subpostmaster at Post Office®, Craig-y-don branch.

Mr Bates raises a number of issues, many of which were addressed in my letter of 1st December. I stand by all the points I made in that letter.

I also stand by my comment that at the heart of Mr Bates' concerns is his belief that the Horizon system is corrupt. A position substantiated, I believe, by the comments Mr Bates makes on his website postofficevictims.org.uk

These things said, Mr Bates quite obviously has a deep-seated belief that he has been treated unjustly by Post Office Ltd. In an attempt to bring this matter to a conclusion, I am asking an independent member of my senior management team - Sandy Stephen, Head of Area for Scotland - to review the case in its entirety.

I will write to you again once that review has been completed.

Yours sincerely

GRO
Richard Barker
General Manager, Commercial Network

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GRO

