

22 February 2024

Our Ref: CRA/C9089/MJM

Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister  
GD 36 Stormont Castle  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3TT

By email also: [info@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:info@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

Dear Madams,

**Re: Legislation to overturn Post Office Horizon convictions**

I represent around thirty clients who have been affected by the Post Office Horizon scandal, including Lee Williamson. Mr Williamson currently has an appeal ongoing before the Court of Appeal.

As you will be aware, earlier today the UK government minister for Enterprise, Markets, and Small Business, Kevin Hollinrake, made a ministerial statement to announce that new primary legislation will be introduced to make sure that those convicted as a result of the Horizon scandal are swiftly exonerated and compensated. Mr Hollinrake's announcement stated that the new legislation will only apply to England and Wales and that the Northern Ireland Executive will have to introduce legislation to effect the overturning of convictions.

Mr William's case was last before the Lady Chief Justice on 12<sup>th</sup> January, when the court adjourned the case in order to see the proposals for new legislation. The case is next listed for Review on 24<sup>th</sup> April for an update on the new proposals.

In addition to Mr Williamson, I have at least three further clients who have Post Office Horizon convictions who have not yet had their convictions overturned, and who may benefit from new legislation. My remaining clients who were affected by the scandal, but do not have convictions, are making applications for compensation with the various government schemes.

I am aware the Scottish First Minister, Humza Yousaf, on 10<sup>th</sup> January, wrote to the Prime Minister to express the intention of the Scottish Parliament to legislate for overturning Post Office convictions.

I would be obliged if the Executive could provide an update on any response to today's announcement by Mr Hollinrake, and clarification as to whether the Executive intends to propose similar legislation to quash Post Office Horizon convictions. Further, could clarification be provided as to whether the Executive would have a similar timeframe as the UK government's aim for new legislation before the Summer Recess?

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I look forward to your reply, and welcome any information that would be useful for updating the Court of Appeal in Mr Williamson's case.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Madden', written in a cursive style.

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