

13 March 2024

Naomi Long MLA  
Minister for Justice

DOJ.MinistersOffice@justice-ni.gov.uk

Dear Naomi

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

Thank you for your previous correspondence on this matter.

I note and share your disappointment that the UK government's plan to introduce legislation to reverse the convictions of sub-postmasters will apply in England and Wales only. This has now been confirmed by the UK government in their announcement today of the proposed Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill.

On behalf of my clients, I am grateful of your indication that you firmly believe that sub-postmasters who are affected by unjust convictions should receive swift justice and equitable treatment in line with their counterparts in the rest of the UK.

My clients and I greatly appreciate your efforts thus far to seek UK wide legislation from Westminster to enact the reversal of convictions.

We note your comments in respect of postal services being a reserved matter, however, as you are aware, Section 8 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 allows the Northern Ireland Assembly to legislate for reserved matters and excepted matters if there is consent from the Secretary of State.

In all the circumstances, I would be grateful if you could confirm that it is your intention to seek consent from the Secretary of State to introduce an equivalent Bill to the Northern Ireland assembly.

Yours faithfully



Michael Madden  
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