

# Postmasters impacted by Horizon who may have been made bankrupt

**Update: October 2022**

## **Information for former bankrupts**

### **Historical Shortfall Scheme**

The Insolvency Service has been working closely with the Post Office in relation to the complex claims submitted by former bankrupts to the Historical Shortfall Scheme.

If you were previously subject to a bankruptcy order and claimed under the Historical Shortfall Scheme, you will shortly receive offers of compensation from the Post Office's independent advisory panel.

On receipt of this offer, a representative of the Official Receiver will contact you to discuss the compensation offers.

### **Group Litigation Order – Interim payments**

Where the Official Receiver is trustee in bankruptcy, a representative of the Official Receiver will shortly contact you to discuss the interim payments due under the Group Litigation Order.

Any queries should be directed to [Horizon.Cases@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:Horizon.Cases@insolvency.gov.uk).

The Court of Appeal and Crown Court have quashed the convictions of a number of former postmasters who were prosecuted using evidence from Post Office's Horizon IT system, which is now known to have been unreliable.

The Post Office has contacted postmasters it has previously prosecuted to assist them in potentially appealing their convictions, should they wish.

We are also aware that in some instances, postmasters were made bankrupt by the Post Office Limited, which have may have been as a result of the financial discrepancies reported, incorrectly, by the Horizon IT system.

Furthermore, due to the financial impact of the situation, some postmasters may have petitioned for their own bankruptcy or made a bankruptcy application to Office of the Adjudicator.

The Official Receiver, acting as the Trustee/Trustee ex-officio in bankruptcy, is now undertaking enquiries to identify these cases, in order to investigate whether these bankruptcy orders should be reviewed.

If you have been subject to a bankruptcy / adjudicator or sequestration order since 2000, resided in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, and

believe you were impacted by the Horizon discrepancies, please contact the Insolvency Service via [Horizoncases@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:Horizoncases@insolvency.gov.uk).

Please ensure you provide the following information:

- full name;
- date of birth;
- contact details;
- court / bankruptcy reference number relating to your bankruptcy (if available);
- where your bankruptcy / adjudicator or sequestration order was made, i.e. England/Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland; and
- a brief overview of how you were affected.

Please note if an Insolvency Practitioner has been appointed as your Trustee in bankruptcy or you were subject to an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) then please direct any queries to the Insolvency Practitioner appointed.

If you are currently subject to a Debt Relief Order and within the 12-month moratorium period, please contact the Official Receiver dealing with your case.

If you were subject to a bankruptcy / sequestration order in Scotland or Northern Ireland, we will forward your details to the appropriate bodies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

If you have previously contacted us on this matter via the inbox referenced above, please note we are currently working through the enquiries received and you will receive a response in due course.