



Post Office Limited  
Post Office Customer Support  
Finsbury Dials  
20 Finsbury Street  
EC2Y 9AQ

Kevan Jones MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

1 August 2019

Dear Mr Jones,

I am writing further to your recent questions to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). As your questions relate to operational matters for the Post Office, I have been asked to reply. The questions and responses are set out below.

***To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2019 Question 275136, when Herbert Smith Freehills was added to the list of law firms enlisted to provide legal support to Post Office Limited. [278413]***

***To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what tendering process was followed prior to inclusion of Herbert Smith Freehills in the list of law firms able to provide legal services to Post Office Limited. [278414]***

The Post Office receives legal services from a legal panel of the following six law firms: Linklaters LLP, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, Pinsent Masons LLP, DAC Beachcrofts LLP, Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP and Ashfords LLP. These firms are also permitted to subcontract to others within the terms of the tender process and their T&Cs.

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP does not form part of the legal panel. They are however instructed on the Group Litigation matter. Litigation is an exemption under the Public Procurement Rules given the nature of the work. That said, Post Office considered a number of firms, including firms from the panel, in determining which firm would be appropriate in the circumstances, with Herbert Smith Freehills LLP being ultimately appointed.

I hope this information is helpful but if there is anything you need to make this more useful please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Al Cameron".

Al Cameron  
Interim Chief Executive