

# THE EVIDENCE GAZETTE

WHEN LAWYERS PUT THE CLIENT BEFORE THE TRUTH • POST OFFICE HORIZON INQUIRY

**"The truth is that human beings engaged in a deliberate conspiracy to convict innocent people in criminal courts or destroy them in the civil courts — and then to cover it up"**

## SKY NEWS & INQUIRY

SKY NEWS  
**sky news** Post Office 'attempted to pervert the course of justice', lawyer alleges in new submission to inquiry

SKY NEWS — EDWARD HENRY KC  
Mr Henry told Sir Wyn Williams, "The truth is that human beings engaged in a deliberate conspiracy," he further claimed, "first to convict innocent people either in criminal courts or to destroy them in the civil courts - and then to cover it up."

SKY NEWS  
Mr Henry said that sub-postmasters were "stigmatised as troublemakers, incompetent or dishonest" and their cries of help were "dismissed".  
"Such heartlessness came from the top", he continued.

SKY NEWS  
"They advance every possible legal argument regardless of merit"

SKY NEWS — OBTAIN JUDGMENT WITHOUT RELIABLE EVIDENCE  
He added: "It allowed POL to obtain judgment for a debt, and the consequent costs order, without producing reliable evidence that the debt was owed."

SKY NEWS — MALICIOUSLY INTENDED  
The lawyer then said: "There is evidence that this course of conduct was also maliciously intended to pervert the course of justice,

## POST OFFICE HORIZON IT INQUIRY

SIR WYN WILLIAMS — FINAL REPORT VOL. 1  
**INQUIRY**  
Statement made on 10 March 2025  
**UK Parliament**  
The Secretary of State commented after Friday's meeting that we must never forget the lives ruined by the Horizon scandal and no amount of redress can take away that pain. But, as I am sure members of this House agree, justice can and must be done. This Government is determined to hold those responsible to account, and will continue to make rapid progress on

UK PARLIAMENT — 10 MARCH 2025  
people experienced reputational impacts or **sadly** passed away  
Sir Wyn Williams has published Volume 1 of his final report, which examines the **"disastrous"** human impact

## LEGAL FUTURES & SRA

LEGAL FUTURES  
**legalfutures**

LEGAL FUTURES — LEE CASTLETON / MR BATES VS THE POST OFFICE

Lee Castleton, whose story was one of those featured in ITV's drama, *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*, told lawyers in the audience of a Legal Services Board conference yesterday that "you are all regulators".

He explained: "Every one of you can call anyone out. If somebody in your practice or coworker or whomever is doing something that they shouldn't be doing, call them out. Tell them. You're all able to do that."

LEGAL FUTURES — SRA CHIEF EXECUTIVE & SELF-REGULATION

"It shouldn't be that you need a regulator to tell you what is right and what isn't right. You are all human beings."

SRA chief executive Paul Philip agreed that "each and every lawyer has a role in self-regulation".

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

MS HEATHER WILLIAMS  
**FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF MS HEATHER WILLIAMS**  
94. The Post Office action against me devastated my life. I should have been running a successful business, providing well for my family, and enjoying life.

JANET SKINNER  
**FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF JANET SKINNER**  
2. Between 1 January 2004 and 31 January 2005, I made 116 calls to the National Business Support Centre (the "Horizon helpline"). There was no investigation of those calls. I was ignored completely. I was always ignored by the Post Office,

## WHAT THE INQUIRY FOUND ABOUT LAWYERS

LAW SOCIETY GAZETTE — FEB 2024  
Tim Moloney KC, instructed by Hudgeell Solicitors, said the inquiry had been shown that lawyers working for the Post Office were 'underqualified, undertrained and ill supervised'.

IOD POLICY PAPER  
One said: "I think the irresponsible use of lawyers and irresponsible behaviour of lawyers ... is a central issue in the POL scandal. I think they went beyond the rules. This led to evidence being sifted and concealed and presented in misleading ways, almost routinely."  
"We hope that following the inquiry, all those who were wrongly prosecuted will be exonerated and compensated for their loss whilst those involved in bringing the prosecutions will be brought to justice in the criminal courts."

GAZETTE  
**Cook-Up and Cover-Up**

GAZETTE  
"he knew must be untrue" to defend the Horizon system.

GAZETTE  
obfuscation created by so much of the witness evidence'

GAZETTE  
appeared to put the interests of the business before

## JUDGES & COURTS

LAW SOCIETY GAZETTE — FORMER DPP  
Judges failed postmasters who were wrongly convicted in at least a dozen cases in the country's biggest miscarriage of justice, a former director of public prosecutions has said.

LAW SOCIETY GAZETTE  
He told the conference: "Surely a judge would have poked a bit more deeply into this rather than thinking "I've got a full list, I want to get on with the next case!"

LAW SOCIETY GAZETTE  
In a 'show trial', 'the judge unfortunately fell for it'.

COUNSEL MAGAZINE  
Marshall criticised the Court of Appeal in *Hamilton* for "having done nothing more than the **bare minimum** that was required to determine — and adjudicate upon — the outcome of the appeals."<sup>(147)</sup>

COUNSEL MAGAZINE  
Some of those interviewed praised representatives, with these positive experiences tending to involve lawyers who were starting out in their careers. One sub-postmaster said their representative was 'young, vibrant, ambitious, cared, and wanted to win — perhaps different to other lawyers who might perhaps be more jaded'.

## MORE INQUIRY FINDINGS

IOD  
"shouldn't listen to lawyers all the time".

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expert evidence had been discredited, s

GAZETTE  
equally unapologetic for his part

GOV.UK / SRA  
'serious breach' of SRA rules.

SRA  
their professional obligations and failed to take obvious steps to meet the requirements of fairness, justice

GAZETTE  
people experienced reputational impacts or **sadly** passed away

## REGULATORS & POLICE

**sky news** **BAR STANDARDS BOARD** **Gazette**

SRA — 12 MARCH 2026  
"Those who have failed to do so should expect serious consequences. We will take action to protect the public and maintain trust in the profession."

BAR STANDARDS BOARD — 21 FEB 2025  
Standards Board (BSB) has continued to assess the available evidence of potential breaches of professional obligations by barristers involved in the Post Office cases and related litigation.

NPCC  
**NPCC** "Our ongoing goal is the pursuit of justice."  
National policing team in place for next stage of Post Office Horizon criminal investigation

## HUMAN COST & COURTS

SKY NEWS  
Victims not only faced prison but financial ruin. Others were ostracised by their communities, while some took their own lives.

COURT OF APPEAL  
The Court of Appeal held that the Post Office failed to disclose the full and accurate position.

LAW SOCIETY GAZETTE  
He said of his role: "I was not a prosecuting barrister for the Post Office. I was never a prosecuting barrister for the Post Office. I was instructed to prosecute one case, the case of Samra. That case got to trial on 1st July and I stopped it, and I then stopped every other case from being prosecuted thereafter."

GAZETTE — CARTWRIGHT KING  
people experienced reputational impacts or **sadly** passed away

## THE PARALLEL — IRAMA PTE LTD & IAN RUSH MBE

**5 YEARS**

Irwin Mitchell LLP advanced one defence for five years: insolvency set-off — no rent was owed. The court-appointed administrators wrote directly to Irwin Mitchell in January 2021 stating no set-off had ever been agreed, that the position was **"entirely incorrect and misleading,"** and demanded withdrawal. Irwin Mitchell did not withdraw it. The same defence was filed in every court document for five years. Costs over **£400,000** awarded against Irama. The **£65,000 merits have never been heard.**

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