# UK government to make initial £10,000 recognition payments to Post Office sub-postmasters



The UK government has announced plans to provide initial 'recognition' payments to those affected by the Post Office Capture scandal, prior to awarding full compensation. This initiative primarily concerns former sub-postmasters and their families who have been identified as victims of the faulty computer system used in the 1990s. The amount for these initial payments has not yet been finalised, but sources suggest it could be around £10,000. A report released last year indicated that this problematic software likely caused significant accounting errors. Currently, a redress scheme is being established for those impacted, with expectations that it could be operational by the end of summer 2023, as reported by Sky News.

In the coffee industry, Starbucks is planning significant changes under the leadership of its new CEO, Brian Niccol, appointed last September. The company aims to increase the hiring of baristas and extend their working hours while scaling back on automation strategies. This shift comes in response to disappointing financial results, which exceeded the company’s own lower-than-expected projections. Niccol's mandate includes revitalising the brand amidst the challenges of rising prices and decreased consumer spending, as highlighted by the BBC.

In another significant corporate development, the £3.6 billion takeover of Royal Mail by Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky has received the green light from shareholders. This approval, announced by EP, positions the deal to complete the first instance of foreign ownership in the company's over 500-year history. The takeover, initially agreed upon in May 2022, secured endorsement from 80% of the group’s share capital by Wednesday afternoon. Notably, the EP Group is required to uphold the Universal Service Obligation (USO), ensuring the delivery of letters six days a week and parcels five days a week, in accordance with the stipulations of the agreement reported by the Standard.

On the international front, the European Union has issued a warning regarding the potential time limitation of any future agreement aimed at reducing bureaucratic hurdles for UK food and drink exports. This ultimatum is linked to demands for long-term access to British fishing waters, leveraging negotiations as both parties approach a deal to recalibrate post-Brexit relations in light of the upcoming summit on May 19. The restriction of any veterinary agreement duration would introduce uncertainty for UK exporters, thus complicating future trade dynamics, as detailed in coverage from the Financial Times.

In the realm of children's health, a coalition comprising 40 health and child advocacy organisations has urged the UK government to take immediate action to safeguard infants and young children. This call follows the revelation from a study conducted by Leeds University, which identified that major brands are marketing baby food products that are high in sugar and lacking in nutritional value. The research, featured in a BBC Panorama investigation titled "The Truth About Baby Food Pouches," analysed 632 products aimed at infants and toddlers under the age of three, prompting concerns about the adequacy of regulations in this sector, as highlighted in reporting by the Standard.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/398ea8cc-aa2d-4dab-b48e-4d980bc20327> - This article discusses the ongoing efforts to provide full compensation to victims of the Post Office Horizon scandal, highlighting the challenges in the compensation process and the need for systemic reform.
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/fc867e34-ae2a-4f29-874d-4d47d2162869> - This piece reports on Starbucks' recent financial performance and strategic initiatives under CEO Brian Niccol, including plans to increase barista hiring and reduce automation, in response to declining profits and sales.
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4. <https://www.ft.com/content/a5af80c5-954c-43b1-93fd-3f4282bfecc8> - This report details the UK government's identification of over £800 million in historic state pension underpayments affecting more than 130,000 pensioners, primarily women, due to administrative oversights.
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