# Former Post Office Executive Paula Vennells Testifies in Horizon IT Scandal Inquiry



**Former Post Office Executive Paula Vennells to Testify in Horizon IT Scandal Inquiry**

On Wednesday, Paula Vennells, former Chief Executive of the Post Office (2012-2019), is scheduled to testify under oath at an inquiry into the Horizon IT scandal. The inquiry aims to uncover details about more than 700 subpostmasters wrongly prosecuted for theft, fraud, and false accounting between 1999 and 2015 due to errors in the Fujitsu-developed Horizon IT system.

The scandal, regarded as one of the UK's largest miscarriages of justice, involved the Post Office continuing prosecutions under Vennells' leadership, despite warnings from mediation scheme chairman, retired judge Sir Anthony Hooper.

Alwen Lyons, a former company secretary, began giving evidence on Tuesday. Vennells' testimony is highly anticipated, particularly following a leaked 2013 email and tape revealing she was aware of potentially wrongful convictions a year prior to halting prosecutions.

The Post Office, which has faced renewed scrutiny due to ITV drama Mr Bates Vs The Post Office, issued a public apology and reiterated its commitment to supporting the ongoing inquiry. The Government has announced compensation for the affected subpostmasters, including £600,000 for those with quashed convictions. Vennells, who returned her CBE post-scandal, has expressed her intent to assist the inquiry.