# Paula Vennells Faces Inquiry Over Horizon IT Scandal in London



**Paula Vennells Appears at Horizon IT Inquiry in London**

On Wednesday, 65-year-old former Post Office Chief Executive Paula Vennells arrived at Aldwych House in London to give evidence regarding the Horizon IT scandal. This marks her first public comments on the controversy in almost a decade. Vennells, who served as CEO from 2012 to 2019, is scheduled to testify over three days.

The inquiry, led by Sir Wyn Williams, focuses on the faulty Horizon accounting system used by the Post Office, which led to the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of subpostmasters between 1999 and 2015. The system, developed by Fujitsu, inaccurately showed financial discrepancies at the branches, resulting in significant legal consequences for subpostmasters.

Vennells has been urged by victims of the scandal to "come clean" about her involvement. She previously denied any knowledge of miscarriages of justice related to Horizon. However, recent evidence, including an email from 2013, contradicts her past statements, showing she was aware of potential wrongful convictions.

Amid mounting criticism, Vennells returned her CBE in January 2023, which she had received in 2019 for her services to the Post Office and charity. The inquiry is examining whether Vennells and others deliberately misled authorities about the Horizon system's issues.

As proceedings continue, the Metropolitan Police are investigating potential fraud offenses, and Fujitsu witnesses are under scrutiny for perjury. The final report from the inquiry is expected next year.