# Former Post Office CEO Paula Vennells Faces Tough Questions at Horizon IT Inquiry



Former Post Office CEO Paula Vennells continued her testimony on the second day of the Horizon IT inquiry at Aldwych House, central London, on Wednesday. Vennells, aged 65, faced questioning from Jason Beer KC, representing the inquiry, about her role in the wrongful prosecution of over 700 subpostmasters between 1999 and 2015 due to faults in the Fujitsu-developed Horizon IT system.

During her previous day in the witness box, Vennells issued an apology to the victims, admitting that her mistakes would "live with me forever." Despite expressing remorse, she maintained that she did not believe there had been any miscarriages of justice until after leaving the Post Office in 2019. She acknowledged being misled by her colleagues about the IT system's integrity and denied any conspiracy to cover up the issues.

Furious subpostmasters, including Alan Bates, founder of the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance, dismissed Vennells' emotional outbursts as insincere. Bates described her testimony as watching "figure skating on the head of a pin" but found some satisfaction in seeing her on the stand.

A significant moment came when Vennells broke down while recalling the suicide of Martin Griffiths, a subpostmaster who took his own life after being wrongly accused of theft. Despite her tears, many subpostmasters and campaigners remained unmoved, criticizing her for not addressing the issues sooner.

The inquiry, chaired by Sir Wyn Williams, will continue to scrutinize Vennells' knowledge and actions during her tenure as CEO from 2012 to 2019.