

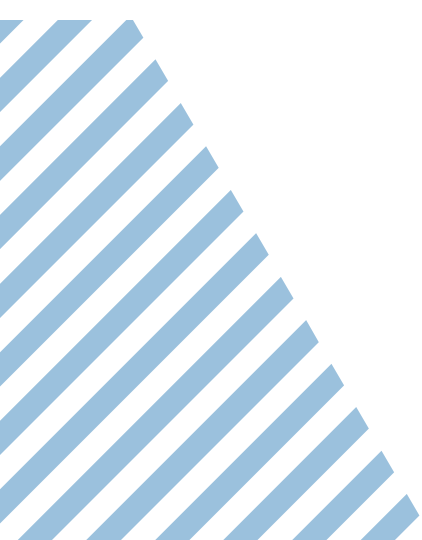


Hansard



WHAT IS HANSARD?

Official recording of parliamentary debates.



KEY IDENTIFYING ELEMENTS OF HANSARD

1. Name of debate
2. HC or HL
3. Volume
4. Column number

1. Name of Debate

3. Volume Number

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2. HC or HL

The screenshot displays the UK Parliament Hansard website interface. At the top, the UK Parliament logo is visible. Below it, the word 'Hansard' is prominently displayed. A green navigation bar contains the text 'House of Commons' and a breadcrumb trail: 'UK Parliament > Hansard > Commons: 28 April 2021 > Commons Chamber > Immigration'. The main heading is 'Immigration', with a sub-heading 'Volume 693: debated on Wednesday 28 April 2021'. A calendar widget shows 'APR 28 2021'. Below the heading, there are links for 'Download text', 'Previous debate', and 'Next debate'. The main content area shows a speech by 'Holly Lynch > (Halifax) (Lab) [V]' at '3.53pm'. A purple callout box on the right indicates 'Column 429'. A 'Share' button is also visible.

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Post Office Court of Appeal Judgment

Volume 811: debated on Wednesday 28 April 2021



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Statement

The following Statement was made in the House of Commons on Tuesday 27 April.

“On Friday 23 April, the Court of Appeal handed down its judgment to quash the convictions of 39 postmasters. This is a landmark judgment, and I know that colleagues on both sides of the House will join me in welcoming the court’s decision to quash those convictions. I will turn to what more needs to be done to address the wrongs of the past and to ensure that injustices such as this do not happen again, but I will begin by setting out the context for the judgment.

Over the years, the Horizon accounting system recorded shortfalls in cash in post office branches. The Post Office at the time thought that they were caused by postmasters, and that led to dismissals, recovery of losses and, in some instances, criminal prosecutions. A group of 555 of those postmasters, led by former postmaster Alan Bates, brought a group litigation claim against the Post Office in 2016. In late 2019, after a lengthy period of litigation, the Post Office reached a full and final settlement with claimants in the group.

It is clear from the findings of the presiding judge, Mr Justice Fraser, that there were real problems with the Horizon IT system and failings in the way that the Post Office dealt with postmasters who encountered problems or raised complaints in relation to Horizon. The findings of Mr Justice Fraser led the Criminal Cases Review Commission to refer the convictions of 51 postmasters for appeal: eight to the Crown Court and 43 cases to the Court of Appeal. The Crown Court quashed the convictions of six postmasters back in December 2020, and 42 further appeals were heard in the Court of Appeal in late March.

The Court of Appeal was asked in late March to decide whether the convictions of those postmasters were

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FINDING HANSARD



UK Parliament
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HOW TO CITE HANSARD

Outline:

HL Deb or HC Deb Date, Volume, Column.

Example:

HC Deb 28 April 2021, 693, 429.

This falls under **Section 3.4.2 Hansard and parliamentary reports** of the OSCOLA guide, **so the reference goes in the footnotes and bibliography.**