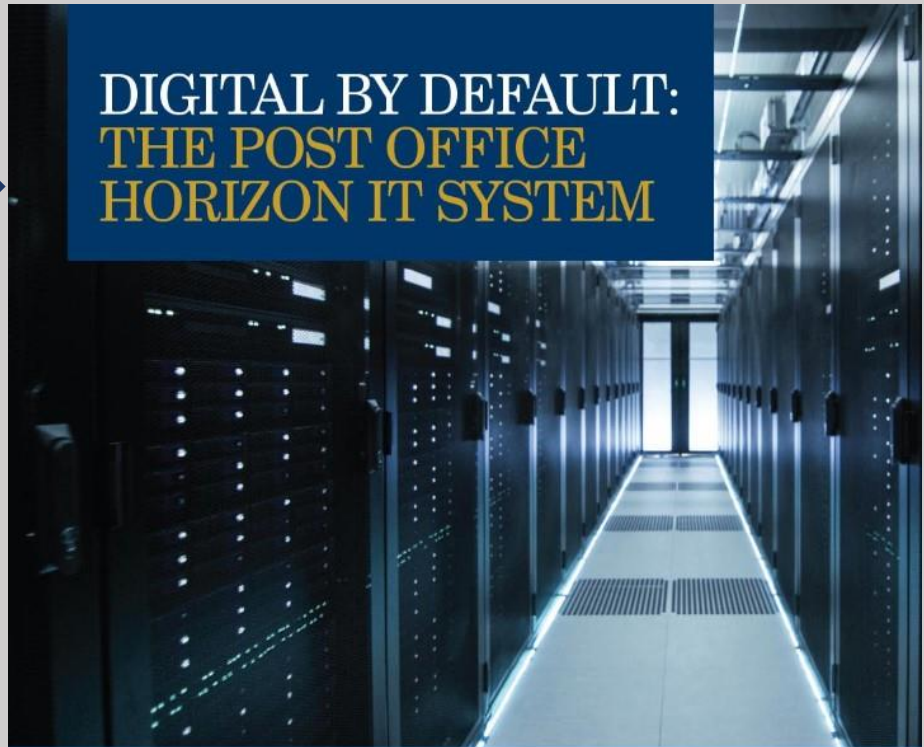


Digital by Default: Post Office Horizon IT System

Event Programme

21st may

DIGITAL BY DEFAULT: THE POST OFFICE HORIZON IT SYSTEM



Saturday 21 May 2022, 13.30
Gulbenkian Arts Centre
University of Kent



Public event with sub-postmasters and mistresses, journalists, legal and computer science experts.

The event is centred on the lived experiences of people directly impacted by one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in recent times.

Free to attend

Book via [Gulbenkian site](#)

Supported by the Kent Law School, the Division for the study of Law, Society and Social Justice (LSSJ), and the FutureHuman Fund.

University of
Kent

Division for the
study of Law, Society
and Social Justice

Kent
Law School

Saturday 21st May 2022

1.30-1.40 Welcoming Address

Dr Ida Petretta, University of Kent.

13.40-14.30 Subpostmasters and mistresses panel

Roundtable discussion with subpostmasters and mistresses.

Format: discussion and Q & A with the audience.

Chair: Professor Lydia Hayes, Head of Kent Law School.

Speakers:

Mr Pamrod Kalia (SPM), Mrs Nicki Arch (SPM), Mrs Seema Misra (SPM), Ms Tracy Felstead (SPM), Ms Janet Skinner (SPM).

14.30-15.00 Interval with refreshments

There will be a short interval with tea and coffee provided from 2.40 pm to 3.15 pm.

15.00-16.40 Legal and computer experts' panel.

Format: 20-minute presentations, followed by a discussion at the end.

Chair: Professor Bernard Richmond QC, University of Kent.

Speakers:

Ms Kathleen Donnelly and Mr Patrick Green QC, Henderson Chambers

Title: The Civil Litigation: Strength in Numbers

Professor Richard Moorhead, University of Exeter

Title: Mutual irresponsibility and Professional Misconduct in the Post Office Scandal

Ms Flora Page, 23ES Chambers and UCL

Title: Abuse of power and criminal cover-up

Professor Harold Thimbleby, University of Swansea

Title: The deeper IT scandal behind the Post Office Horizon scandal

20 minutes for discussion.

16.40-17.40 Journalists and publishers involved in breaking the story

Roundtable discussion with journalists and publishers reflecting on breaking the story.

Format: discussion

Chair: Ian Reeves, Head of the Centre for Journalism, University of Kent.

Speakers: Mr Karl Flinders, Computer Weekly, Ms Katie Glass, the Sunday Times, Tom Witherow, the Daily Mail, and Mr David Chaplin and Ms Helen Lacey from Bath Publishing.

17.40.-18.15 Q & A session

Lastly, there will be a Q & A with all panellists and the audience.

Chair: Professor Bernard Richmond QC, University of Kent

18.15-18.20 Closing address

The event ends.

Biographical notes

Legal and Computer Experts Panel

Ms Kathleen Donnelly and Mr Patrick Green QC

Title: The Civil Litigation: Strength in Numbers

Biographical Note:

Patrick Green QC and Kathleen Donnelly are barristers at Henderson Chambers. They acted for the 555 subpostmaster claimants in the High Court group litigation, who managed to do together what would have been impossible individually: securing two ground breaking judgments from Mr Justice Fraser, fending off Post Office's attempt to recuse the Judge and revealing the full scope of the scandal. Patrick and Kathleen will talk about the case from their perspective as advocates: the very real challenges it presented, and the turning points which resulted in the "existential threat" that Post Office feared becoming reality.

Patrick Green QC and Kathleen Donnelly have wide ranging civil and commercial practices, are specialists in group litigation, and are widely recognised in the legal directories. In 2020, Patrick won the Lawyer Awards "Barrister of the Year" for his work on the Post Office case and two landmark victories in the Supreme Court.

Professor Richard Moorhead

Title: Mutual irresponsibility and Professional Misconduct in the Post Office Scandal

Biographical Note:

Richard Moorhead is Professor of Law and Professional Ethics at the University of Exeter and Honorary Professor at UCL Faculty of Laws. With Rebecca Helm and Karen Nokes, work on the Post Office Scandal was influential in the widening and deepening of Sir Wyn William's Inquiry Post Office to look at the role of lawyers with the waiver of privilege. Interdisciplinary and empirical in approach, he has worked alongside economists, management scientists, and psychologists in such work, as well as with judges, Parliamentarians, policy-makers, and professional regulators and representatives. He has led many research projects on lawyers' ethics (for instance his 2018 book is on the Ethics of In-house Lawyers, with Vaughan and Godhino); litigants in person; quality in legal aid; the effects of funding regimes on lawyer behaviour; and, legal aid reform (community legal services, public defenders and contracting in particular). He was on the Data Evidence and Science Board at the Ministry of Justice and was a member of the Civil Justice Council, as well as the Legal Services Consultative Panel. Has advised three Select Committees legal aid inquiries and advises the Women and Equalities Select Committee on NDAs. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2019 and a fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts in May 2016. He sits on the editorial board of the International Journal of the Legal Profession, and the advisory boards of the Journal of Law and Society and Ethics and Behaviour.

Ms Flora Page

Title: Abuse of power and criminal cover-up

Biographical Note:

Flora Page is an experienced criminal barrister at 23ES Chambers and a PhD candidate at UCL. She prosecutes and defends in the most serious criminal cases, with a particular interest in fraud, which began with a period working at the Law Commission to develop the Bill which became the Fraud Act 2006. She has also worked at the Financial Conduct Authority, and her PhD research is developing a new regulatory approach to corporate misconduct.

She volunteered her expertise in criminal practice to assist the team led by Paul Marshall in the Post Office appeals. Paul and Flora collaborated in drafting the Grounds of Appeal which led to the ruling that the prosecutions had been an affront to the public conscience, and had effectively reversed the burden of proof.

Professor Harold Thimbleby

Title: The deeper IT scandal behind the Post Office Horizon scandal

Biographical Note:

Prof Harold Thimbleby is an internationally recognised professor of computer science - he has given 500 + invited talks in over 35 countries. He has been an expert witness in criminal cases involving IT, including one of the largest NHS criminal cases affecting 73 nurses who allegedly falsified patient records, but which he proved was due to an IT error. He has just completed a major story-based book on digital healthcare, Fix IT - See and solve the problems of digital healthcare (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Investigative Journalists Panel

Mr Karl Flinders

Karl Flinders has been a journalist for 25 years. He has been at Computer Weekly for 15 years of those.

He joined Computer Weekly as a reporter focused on the financial services sector, but took over the Post Office Horizon investigation in 2010 when a colleague, Rebecca Thomson, left.

Over the 12 years since he has been reporting every turn in the scandal and investigating the Horizon system and its robustness. Some of the articles he wrote, which exposed problems with the system, were used as evidence in the High Court litigation which finished in 2019.

Like the scandal itself, his investigations and coverage has moved way beyond the computer system at the heart of the problems. Post Office and government behaviour as well as the brave campaigning of subpostmasters have dominated his reporting of the scandal.

He has a degree in development geography and a post-graduate diploma in journalism. Initially, he worked for a politics magazine and had jobs in business journalism before joining Computer Weekly.

Karl was highly commended in the Press Gazette's 2020 British Journalism Awards for his work on the Post Office Horizon scandal.

Ms Katie Glass

Katie Glass is a columnist and feature writer. Her new column for Telegraph's Stella Magazine covers her journey from pre-wedded bliss in London to moving alone to Land's End to re-start her life during lockdown.

An established feature writer Katie specialises in long-form features and interviews. Often exploring issues affecting young people she has investigated County Lines, children who commit violent crimes, and online sexual extortion.

An award-winning travel journalist, her journey on the Trans-Mongolian railway was a viral Twitter sensation.

Her work regularly appears in UK publications including The Telegraph, The Sunday Times, The Evening Standard, The Sun, Condé Nast Traveller, The Spectator, Grazia and Elle Magazine. Internationally, Katie's work has featured in The Australian and Vanity Fair.

Katie regularly makes broadcast appearances. In 2020, she wrote and presented a Radio 4 documentary about discovering her Judaism and appeared in two documentaries discussing child murder cases. She founded women's networking and events space The Other Club and panel debate series First Edition Talks.