

'We're on it...we want to make it right', PM insists

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backed the campaign yesterday, with No.10 saying he would 'strongly support' any decision by the Honours Forfeiture Committee. An online petition to the parliamentary body on 38degrees.org.uk last night hit 1,150,000.

The Post Office is owned by the government, which has so far paid £150million compensation to 3,000 people. On a trip to Accrington, Mr Sunak said: 'We are on it and we want to make this right.'

'We will do everything we can to make this right for the people affected. It is simply wrong what happened. They shouldn't have been treated like this.'

The petition says: 'Evidence has been produced that the Post Office engaged in a mass cover up. Having been handed a CBE for services to the Post Office, and moved out into other senior positions in government and healthcare, it is only right that this award is now withdrawn.'

Ms Vennells - promoted to CEO in 2012 - went on to chair an NHS Trust but quit in December 2020 and spent a year as a non-executive board member of the Cabinet Office. The mother-of-two has said nothing since the drama aired over

four nights, prompting 50 more victims to come forward. Toby Jones played Alan Bates, 69, who led the campaign after refusing to pay for losses caused by the Horizon computer system in 2003 and losing his North Wales business. He was one of 3,500 investigated.

He was awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours but has so far refused it, saying: 'While Paula Vennells still held her CBE for services to the Post Office it would be a slap in the face to victims.'

The Post Office - which brings prosecutions - has a say in appeals. Only 93 convictions have been overturned so far.

Justice secretary Alex Chalk met Post Office minister Kevin Hollinrake yesterday to discuss helping victims clear their names. Labour leader and former CPS chief Sir Keir Starmer called for 'remaining convictions to be looked at en masse'.

A public inquiry is taking place into the scandal and the Metropolitan Police say they are investigating possible crimes of fraud by false prosecution.

But Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey is facing calls to explain why he refused to meet campaigners as postmaster general in the 2010 coalition government. He has said he was 'misled' by Post Office officials.