



UK Bank Lloyds' cover-up put economy at risk, says banker.

Stephen Clements was forced to quit his job for alleging that there was a deliberate cover-up at the Lloyds Banking Group. He claims that the issue of computer failings that could have stopped Lloyd's customers accessing their accounts were swept under the rug, a tribunal has heard.

Bank boss Clements alleges there was a deliberate cover-up to stop the flaws being dealt with, since repairing the problem would have cost £200million and damaged the bank's reputation. In testimony, Clements said that the glitch would have dwarfed the crisis that cast serious doubts on the reputation of the Royal Bank of Scotland in June last year, when customers could not obtain cash after computer systems failed.

The 51-year-old told his executive that failure to deal with the problem risked 'destabilising the economy'. But after reading Mr Clements' report, Jonathon Shawcross, the Bank's Director of Security and Fraud, told him to 'burn the paper and never bring it out again', the Central London Employment Tribunal heard.

Mr Clements, of Bristol, quit his £130,000-a-year post as head of business continuity at the bank in July 2012, after bosses threatened to move him to another post because of his age.

Clements has filed a suit against Lloyds for £1million in losses. So far the bank denies all his claims. The tribunal continues.

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