

**POST OFFICE LTD CONFIDENTIAL: INVESTIGATION,
PERSONNEL****POLTD/0506/ 0336****Theft/False Accounting****Name:** Oyeteju Adedayo**Rank:** Subpostmaster **Identification Code:** 3**Office:** Rainham Road SPOB **FAD Code** 098 941**Age:** **GRO** **Date of Birth:** **GRO****Service:** 6 Years 4 Months **Date Service Commenced:** 20/05/1999**Personnel Printout:** At Appendix: C**Nat Ins No:** **GRO****Home Address:** **GRO****Suspended/Contract for Services** 5 September 2005 on the authority of Contracts and Service Manager Carol Ballan**Suspended:****To be prosecuted by:** Royal Mail Group (including Post Office Ltd)**Designated Prosecution Authority:** Tony Utting, National Investigation Manager**Discipline Manager:** Keith Long Contracts and Service Manager**Discipline Manager**

The brief circumstances leading to the suspension and interview of the offender named in the preamble are as follows;

On Monday 5 September 2005 Branch Auditor Mr Deepak VALANI attended Rainham Road Sub Post Office Branch (SPOB) FAD 098 941 to conduct a routine cash and stock verification audit. The audit resulted in a shortage of £52,864.08, after which this section was informed.

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Mr VALANI reported that the Subpostmaster of Rainham Road SPOB Mrs Oyeteju ADEDAYO had informed him, prior to the commencement of the audit, that the accounts would be approximately £50k short.

Arrangements were made that morning for Investigation Manager Mr Adrian MORRIS and I to attend Rainham Road SPOB. On arrival at the office I introduced my colleague and myself to Mrs ADEDAYO and explained the nature of the enquiry. Mrs ADEDAYO agreed to a voluntary interview.

At 14.18 on 5 September 2005 at Rainham Road SPOB I commenced a taped recorded interview with Mrs ADEDAYO. Also present was Mr MORRIS. Following the introductions Mrs ADEDAYO was cautioned. Mrs ADEDAYO refused the offer of a solicitor and a friend.

Mrs ADEDAYO has been employed at Rainham Road SPOB since May 1999. Also employed at the office is a frail elderly lady named Joan who manages the post office for the majority of the time. Mrs ADEDAYO only works on Wednesdays to complete the balancing, which is done with Joan. Mrs ADEDAYO maintained that she would only work in the post office during the week to cover Joan, if she had an appointment.

At the start of the interview Mrs ADEDAYO was given the opportunity to explain why there was a shortage of £52k in the post office accounts. She explained that when she purchased the business 6 years ago she borrowed £50k from friends/family on the understanding that when she became financially settled she would repay the loan. She further explained that when her creditors became aware that she had sold her previous property (Berkshire) in 2003 they began to put pressure on her.

By June 2005 Mrs ADEDAYO claimed that her creditors were no longer willing to wait and the situation turned "nasty". She claimed that her plan was to request more time from them in order for her to re mortgage the flat above the post office for £50k and repay the loan. Since this proposal was unacceptable to them Mrs ADEDAYO claimed that she approached Joan and informed her of her predicament. She then decided to use £10k of post office funds as an interim payment until the re mortgage of the property was finalised. Her plan was to then repay £10k to the post office and repay £40k to her creditors. Again, unwilling to wait, her creditors returned on two further occasions during July and August 2005 when she again used post office funds to repay the loan, £20k being given to them on each occasion. She

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explained that as the office is self-sufficient she did not have to order extra cash; instead she returned less cash to the cash centre.

When Mrs ADEDAYO was asked about any alternative arrangements that she had considered for repaying the loan, she stated that a short-term loan would have been too expensive. Mrs ADEDAYO admitted that she could have repaid the loan from the sale her Berkshire property but instead purchased a house in Chatham, as the living conditions in the flat above the post office did not meet the needs of her family.

Mrs ADEDAYO was also asked how she benefited from using the post office funds. She claimed that her only benefit was being rid of her creditors. She understood however, that by using post office funds she had saved herself the cost of a short-term loan and therefore had benefited.

During the interview Mrs ADEDAYO stated that she had considered contacting the retail line to inform them of her predicament. When asked why she did not contact them, she stated that she feared losing her job.

Mrs ADEDAYO was showed the cash accounts for cash account periods (CAP's) 10, 15 and 20 (weeks ending 1 June 2005, 6 July 2005 and 10 August 2005 respectively). She admitted that the cash figures declared on the cash accounts had been inflated and were therefore false figures. She admitted that she signed the cash accounts and understood the significance of this.

Mrs ADEDAYO acknowledged that the money belonged to the post office but claimed that she did not steal the funds with a criminal mind; her intention was to repay the post office. She confirmed that she was aware of section twelve of the Subpostmasters contract that forbids the use of post office funds.

Towards the end of the interview Mrs ADEDAYO was asked to explain what the individual letters on the hand written cash declarations represented. Mrs ADEDAYO explained that the letter for example "T" refers to "Taken". She claimed that the figure alongside the letter T includes the amount of cash she had used and also included the cash held in the office. When she was asked to explain the other letters that appeared on the hand written cash declarations she maintained that they did not really stand for anything but were there to indicate where the cash was being held in the office.

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Mrs ADEDAYO gave authority to examine her bank accounts and the relevant form was left with her to complete. To date this has not been received.

At the end of the interview Mrs ADEDAYO was asked if she was in a position to repay the £50k. Mrs ADEDAYO stated that as soon as the re mortgage is finalised she will repay the full amount of the audit discrepancy. She also stated that she would forward relevant paperwork to show that she applied for a re mortgage in June 2005. To date this has not been received.

I have since prepared a summary of the interview, a copy of which is associated with this report.

Mrs ADEDAYO was unwilling to provide the names and details of her creditors; she had no proof of a loan and did not obtain any receipts for the £50k she repaid. She informed us that Joan had never seen her creditors as Mrs ADEDAYO, on the three occasions that her creditors came to the office, took the cash to them as they were waiting in a car outside the office.

I have since examined further hand written cash declarations contained within the weekly documents and the letters that are used are always the same. On some of the declarations there appear to be names in brackets instead of an individual letter.

During the interview Mrs ADEDAYO stated that £7k to £10k would normally be held in the office on a Wednesday evening and that anything above that amount would be returned to the cash centre. During the audit cash accounts for CAP's 10 to 22 (26 May 2005 to 24 August 2005) were retrieved. The cash figures declared on each cash account is in excess of £10k. I have therefore requested the cash accounts from Chesterfield (24 March 2005 to 25 May 2005), which might give an indication as to how long the shortage has been in the account.

This report is submitted for your information and for any action deemed necessary at this stage.

Natasha Bernard

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PERSONNEL
Investigation Manager
GRO
8 September 2005