

Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s9; MC Act 1980, ss 5A(3)(a)
and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r 70)



Statement of Nigel ALLEN

Age if under 18 Over 18 (If over 18 insert 'over 18')

This statement (consisting of Two pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe true.

Dated the 03 Day of January 2007

Signature N Allen

I am the person named above and have been employed by the Post Office for approximately 22 years. I am currently employed as a Contract & Service Advisor based in Bournemouth. Although over recent years my job title has changed I have been involved in dealing with Subpostmaster contractual issues since September 2001.

I am responsible for a number of Sub Post Office Branches (SPOB) within the Post Office network. The area that I cover can change from time to time, although on 09 March 2006 the Post Offices that I was responsible included those in the Reading (RG) postcode area.

I can confirm from business records that on 09 March 2006 the Postmaster of South Warnborough SPOB was a Mrs Josephine Hamilton, who had been in post since 21 October 2003.

I conducted an interview with Mrs Hamilton on 17 September 2003 and she was subsequently appointed Subpostmaster of South Warnborough SPOB. During the interview, I would have ascertained whether Mrs Hamilton required any training. From looking at the Training Requirements For Incoming Subpostmasters form that I completed following the interview I can see that against item 2, it indicates by an X in the NO box that no training was required. I now produce a copy of that form as item NA/01 and I have signed an exhibit label bearing that item number.

As Subpostmaster, Mrs Hamilton was responsible for the general day to day running of the office. All Sub Postmasters on appointment are bound by a contract with Post Office Ltd.

Signature

N Allen

Signature witnessed by

Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s9; MC Act 1980, ss 5A(3)(a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r 70)

Continuation of statement of Nigel ALLEN

Section 12 of the Sub postmaster's contract deals specifically with the treatment of Post Office Ltd cash and stock and how to deal with deficiencies in the Post Office accounts.

Section 12.3 states that " The Sub Postmaster is expressly forbidden to make use of the balance due to Post Office Limited for any purpose other than the requirements of the Post Office service; and he must, on no account apply to his own private use, for however short a period, any portion of Post Office Limited funds entrusted to him. He must also be careful to keep the Post Office money separate from any other monies. Misuse of Post Office Limited cash may render the offender liable to prosecution and, or, the termination of his Contract of Appointment."

At 12.4 it is stated "The Sub Postmaster must ensure that accounts of all stock and cash entrusted to him by Post Office Limited are kept in the form prescribed by Post Office Limited. He must immediately produce these accounts, and the whole of his Sub Office cash and stock for inspection whenever so requested by a person duly authorised by the Regional General Manager."

At 12.12 it is stated "The Sub Postmaster is responsible for all losses caused through his own negligence, carelessness or error, and also for losses of all kinds caused by his assistants. Deficiencies due to such losses must be made good without delay."

Stated at 12.13 is "The financial responsibility of the Sub Postmaster does not cease when he relinquishes his appointment and he will be required to make good any losses incurred during his term of office which may subsequently come to light."

I now produce a photocopy of section 12 of the Sub postmaster's contract as item NA/02 and have signed an exhibits label bearing that item number.

Signature N Allen

Signature witnessed by