

Office

**SUMMARY OF FACTS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 21.3(1)(b)
OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE RULES 2005**

POST OFFICE LIMITED v SUSAN JANE RUDKIN

The Defendant is 53 years of age (Date of Birth GRO) and was employed as a Post Office Assistant at Ibstock Post Office for a period of 7 years and 10 months prior to her suspension from duty on the 20th August 2008.

On the 20th August 2008 Post Office Network Auditors visited Ibstock Post Office to conduct a verification of assets audit, where they were admitted to the Office by Susan Jane Rudkin, wife of the Postmaster who requested a private word with the Auditor Paul Field. She informed him that the safe would be around £40,000 short.

As a result the Auditor contacted Post Office Limited Investigation Office with regard to the audit deficiency. As a result Post Office Limited Investigation Officers attended the Ibstock Post Office.

Enquiries confirmed that Michael Rudkin had played no part in the running of the Post Office for over a year and had left this to Susan Rudkin, his wife. The Office has three Horizon terminals and employs five part-time staff and is situated within a newsagents and general dealers in a rural village on the outskirts of Leicester. There is also a Sorting Office on the premises which is a base for 14 postmen.

Post Office Limited Investigation Officers contacted Mr Rudkin who subsequently attended the Post Office, where they were met by Mr Rudkin, where the Officers introduced themselves to him, explained the nature of their enquiries. Post Office Limited Investigation Officers also met Paul Field the Auditor who handed to them a signed Admission Statement by Mrs Rudkin and they were informed that the deficiency in the account was £43,856.89 which was mainly due to the shortage in the cash of £43,761.17.

Mrs Rudkin was subsequently interviewed on tape under caution where she declined legal representation and also a friend in line with Post Office Limited policy although her son was allowed to sit in the interview as moral support. During interview she explained that her husband was heavily involved in the National Federation of Subpostmasters which took him away from the Business and she felt that the pressure of running the private business, the Post Office and the household finances had got too much for her. She said that the Post Office had been experiencing losses and she had been inflating the cash on hand to cover it up. She also said that she had been taking cash from the Post Office and paying it into their Lloyds Bank Business Account to cover bills. Although it was not possible to establish an exact date when the theft started but she said that she had been under pressure

since the robbery at the Office in January 2006. She said that she felt embarrassed to tell her husband about the situation and felt that she had let him down. When asked about the cash declarations she said she kept her running total of the shortage and just added this amount onto the daily figures. She was adamant that no one else knew what she was doing and on the occasions that other staff members declared the cash she would overwrite the figures. She admitted stealing the money from the Post Office and was not at present able to repay it.

In the event of conviction there will be an application for compensation of £43,856.89 and a contribution towards prosecution costs and Investigation costs.

Documents enclosed herewith:-

- 1 Copy Summary of Tape Recorded Interview.
- 2 Copy Form GS001.
- 3 Copy Admission Statement.
- 4 Copy Record of Shortages in Account.
- 5 Copy Search Forms.
- 6 Copy Audit Reports.
- 7 Copy Summary of Weekly Balances and Cash Declaration on the 19th August 2008.
- 8 Copy Notebook Entry.