

Witness Statement

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



Statement of

Patricia BOWN

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 15th day of November 2004

Signature P.Bown

Before recently retiring I worked as a counter clerk at Riby Square Subpostoffice Grimsby. I held this position for around 8 years and retired on 23rd April 2004. Throughout my time at Riby Square the Subpostmistress was Gillian Blakey. My duties at Riby Square were the general counter duties such as serving customers and dealing with any queries and enquiries brought to me. I generally worked three afternoons per week these being Wednesday Thursday and Friday. At no time was I involved in what I would term as the back office work, this being the summarising of pensions and the despatching of giro cheques etc. At no time was I ever directly involved in inputting figures into the Horizon Accounting System to produce the weekly office balance. Normally each afternoon David Blakey would attend the office at around 4 o' clock. At this time he would begin to assemble the necessary information to produce what I would term as the daily office cut off. This would involve him gathering together from the staff members who were working the serving positions, the various pieces of paperwork (cheques, green giro cheques, pension and allowance dockets, etc) that needed to be sent off from the Subpostoffice on a daily basis. David Blakey would take these items to the end counter position and enter the relevant information on to the Horizon terminal before printing from the system the relevant listings and information to accompany the paperwork. Each Wednesday, when the Subpostoffice produced its weekly balance David Blakey would attend the office at the same time and again gather together the information from the staff at the counter positions. When I left the Subpostoffice at the end of my shift at around 5.40 pm Mr Blakey would normally be at the end counter position working on producing the office balance at the Horizon terminal. Towards the end of my time at Riby Square possibly in the last year, I was instructed to alter slightly the way in which the cash on hand figure was input in to my Horizon terminal on a Wednesday evening. Each day at the end of business, I would count the cash in my cash drawer and enter that amount into the Horizon system to confirm its existence in the accounts. Initially this was done every day, However as said this changed as, on a Wednesday I was asked that instead of inputting the figure on the

Signature P. Bown

Signature witnessed by P.Whitaker

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Continuation of statement of

Horizon system directly I was asked to put the figure on a piece of paper and give it to David Blakey. I can confirm that at no time throughout my career at Riby Square Subpostoffice was I made aware of any large losses, which the office was suffering, despite being approached on occasions by both Mr and Mrs Blakey when I felt that they needed to get their point across in relation to other matters. I can confirm that I have never stolen money from Riby Square Subpostoffice or falsified any entry on the Horizon Accounting System, or other accounting document.

Signature P. Bown

Signature witnessed by P. Whitaker