

Bundler 1

From: Judy Balderson GRO
Sent: 30 April 2014 23:38
To: Martin Smith
Cc: Carole Butler
Subject: Rugeley 264242

Hi Martin

I wonder if you could help me please. I currently doing some work as part of the second sight review with Carole Butler Case Review Handler. We are looking at Rugeley branch and Mr Carl Adrian Page who was Subpostmaster between Feb 1997 and Jan 2003.

In July 2005 at Dudley Crown Court Mr Page pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to defraud the Post Office along with a co- defendant Mr Whitehouse (a customer) and a charge of theft. The case involved huge volumes of currency, initially Irish Punts and then Euros and US Dollars which were sold at preferential rates. Both men were found not guilty of the conspiracy charge but the jury failed to reach a verdict on the theft charge.

Mr Page at a later hearing pleaded guilty to theft of £94,000.00 and was given a custodial sentence.

I have spoken to Post Office security but apart from a debarment notice due to the time scales they could not supply anything to assist us with our enquiries.

My first question is to ask if you have anything on this case but given the age everything may of course have been destroyed.

Could you also advise me on the following please, if you are able. Mr Page states that at the second trial there was one single charge of theft of £282,000.00 and just before the trial commenced the Prosecuting counsel made an offer to the defence to change the amount that was allegedly stolen from £282,000.00 to £94,000.00 as it was known that if the alleged amount was less than £100,000.00 the likely custodial sentence would be 2 years or under. Mr Page was allegedly also advised that he would be a candidate for open prison. He did change his plea to guilty and received a custodial sentence of which he served 6 months in prison 3 months on a tag. Is this plausible?

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help

Regards Judy

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